

SEAMEO TED Director Joining Asian Graduate Studies Summit (A-GRASS) 2026 in the Philippines

Tagaytay City, May 26-28, 2026



(Group Photo of All Participants)

As an advisory board member of Asian Pacific Consortium of Researchers and Educators (APCORE). **Dr. Songheang Ai**, director of SEAMEO TED participated in A-GRASS 2026 in Tagaytay City, Philippines with the theme “From Research to Responsibilities: Graduate Education, Innovation, and Collective Action for Sustainable and Resilient Societies”. The summit served as the platform scholarly exchange, policy-oriented dialogue, and institutional collaboration, attended by over 450 participants onsite and over 5,000 participants online. The summit had two master classes, two research booth camps, two keynote addresses, two panel discussions, two special sessions, and three parallel sessions as research paper presentations.



(Distinguished Guests, Speakers, and Co-Organizers)

Dr. Songheang Ai, as one of the panelists of the panel discussions, spoke at panel discussion titled “Strategic Direction of Graduate Education in the Context of Emerging Technologies”. His talk covered Introduction, Roles of Teachers, Research Agendas, Future of Jobs and Skills, and System and Policies. The strategic direction of graduate education can be the duration of courses (shorter), the courses (modular and stackable as micro-credentials), curriculum (from pure academic theories to applied sciences), and hybrid and AI-driven programs. The future jobs and skills can be AI-related jobs/skills such as machine learning specialists, business intelligent analysts, Fintech engineers, data analysts, etc. As the population shifted to aging, care economy jobs are increasing rapidly such as nurse, doctor, physical therapists, medical assistant, caregivers for the elderly, etc. Green economies also increased green transition and clean energy, consisting of solar panel installers, renewable energy engineers, circular economy specialists, etc.



(Dr. Songheang Ai's Presentation)



(Group Photo of Discussion Panelist with Co-Organizers)

From 29 to 31 May 2026, the activities of MoU signing, cultural visits, and campus tours to Mountain Province State University (MPSU) were undertaken for foreign participants of A-GRASS 2026. During the visit, the faculty members of MPSU and foreign participants have group discussions to talk about the research and development collaboration. All participants from Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Canada, and APCORE team performed cultural activities as dances and signing their traditional songs during dinner to enhance partnership and sharing unique cultures. As a good memory for all participants at MPSU campus, each participant was required to plant a tea tree. The participants had also visited and observed the process of making a variety of coffee at the campus and tasted different types of coffee. To watch and touch the mountain cloud, participants had to get up early in the morning (at 5:00 am) with a nice view of fog and white clouds.



(Planting Tea Trees)



(President of MPSU Delivering his Book)



(Group Discussions on Research and Development Collaboration)



(Cambodian Participants Watched the White Cloud Early Morning)



(Cloud Watching Activities)