

1. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND

The Search for SEAMEO Young Scientists (SSYS) is a gathering of young scientists all over the ASEAN region as a venue for sharing and dissemination of information on their scientific and mathematical research projects. It was initiated in 1997 and, since then, has been held every two years with a specific theme.

SSYS aims to encourage young learners to apply scientific and mathematical knowledge into technological problem-solving activities to address sustainable development. It plays a strong role in encouraging and involving young learners in projects which will generate much interest in science and mathematics. It also aims to increase the awareness of young learners about the relationship between science, mathematics, technology, environment, economy and society. It aims to foster camaraderie and networking among these young learners through science and mathematics congresses, exhibitions and competitions.

Moreover, SSYS is a platform that provides opportunities to enhance the vast potentials of youth through intellectual activity in conceptualising ideas, and through cooperative teamwork in organising those ideas into more tangible investigative research projects which will benefit the environment, society and economy.

In this Congress, the theme Sustainable Solutions for the Local Community has been adopted. Sustainable development is defined as the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland Commission, World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987). The three pillars of sustainable development are environment, society and economy.

Sustainable solution for the local community is application of knowledge to enhance the improvement of livelihood and condition of the community by the people living in it and interacting with it. This application that solves local problems should impact the community's general welfare and contribute to the society in general.

SSYS believes that education is essential in achieving sustainability and the youth, regarded as the hope of the future, has a crucial role to undertake to achieve this end.

2. OBJECTIVES

The SSYS is envisioned as a worthy intellectual venture and an effective medium to promote lifelong scientific and mathematical values, interests, skills, attitudes and motivation among the youth. It is hoped that through the SSYS, there will be an increase in societal well-being through quality science and mathematics education interspersed with technology, environmental, economic and societal awareness.

Specifically, SSYS aims to:

- 2.1 Encourage research and development in science and mathematics among young learners in SEAMEO and Associate Member countries;
- 2.2 Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences among students in SEAMEO and Associate Member countries;
- 2.3 Provide a venue for intellectual and social interactions among students and educators; and
- 2.4 Identify and give recognition to outstanding young science and mathematics researchers.