

RECSAM News

SEAMEO Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics

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8th Regional Congress

Search for SEAMEO Young Scientists (SSYS)

"Beyond 2012: Greening the Environment for a Sustainable Future"

6 - 9 March 2012, SEAMEO RECSAM, Penang, Malaysia

www.recsam.edu.my





Official Visit by SEAMEO Council President

H.E. BR. ARMIN Luistro FSC, Secretary of Education, Republic of the Philippines cum 45th SEAMEO Council President and his entourage accompanied by Dr. Tinsiri Siribodhi, Deputy Director (Administration and Communication) for SEAMEO Secretariat paid an official visit to RECSAM on 23 January 2011. The courtesy call was attended to by Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director and the management and professional staff. H.E. Br. Armin Luistro and his entourage were taken around for a tour of RECSAM, followed by updates on current development and the Centre's effort to further promote its name in science and mathematics education.



One for the album.

RECSAM Hosts RECSAM-ICASE 2011 Seminar



THE Joint RECSAM-ICASE Seminar 2011 took off on a sure footing with an apt theme of "Innovations in Science and Technology Education (STE) for the 21st Century". Held at RECSAM on 16 and 17 February 2011, the Seminar was attended by 63 participants with one keynote address and nine plenary sessions. The event jointly-organised by RECSAM and ICASE (International Council of Association for Science Education) also brought together like-minded educators and researchers from Nigeria, USA, Estonia, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil. Several key presenters of the 3rd ICASE World Conference were invited to present to participants the latest developments of Science and Technology Education (STE) for the 21st Century. Among the highlights were: context based approaches to STE, interdisciplinary science learning and inquiry-based approaches to science education practices. The Centre also hosted the ICASE Executive Members Meeting on 18 and 19 February 2011.

SEAMEO Council Conference

THE Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam, with support of the SEAMEO Secretariat, convened the 46th SEAMEO Council Conference at the Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam from 26 to 29 January 2011 with more than 150 participants from 18 countries comprising education ministers, high-level government education officials, and representatives from international organisations from the SEAMEO Member Countries, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, and partners. Representing RECSAM were Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director and Tn. Haji Ahmad Ramli, Deputy Director (Administration).

2010 / 2011 SEAMEO Service Award



Proud moment: Mr. Azmi (right) receiving the award from H.E. Pehin Abu Bakar Apong.

THE SEAMEO Service Award was conferred to 15 outstanding officers from the SEAMEO Regional Centres/Network and the Secretariat. The SEAMEO Service Award aims at providing annual recognition and appreciation to staff members of the SEAMEO Units who demonstrate exceptionally high level of achievement in work performance, innovation and creativity, professionalism and commitment that contribute to the success of the organisation's mission and goals. Recognised for his achievement and contribution to RECSAM, Mr. Azmi bin Sulaiman, General Assistant (Maintenance) from RECSAM International House received the notable award from H.E. Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam and President of the SEAMEO Council on 28 January 2011 in Brunei Darussalam.



Completion of Regular Courses

Fiscal Year 2010/2011 (4 - 29 April 2011)



RC-SS-135-1

Making Sense of Secondary Science Through Inquiry: Problem-based Learning at Work

A total of twenty five participants from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam successfully completed the course. There were 2 fee-paying participants from Thailand for this course.



RC-PM-135-2

Developing Mathematical Processes for Enhancing Sustainable and Responsible Learning in Primary Classrooms

Nineteen participants from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam successfully completed this course.



RC-SS-135-3

Learning by Doing: ICT Tools for Secondary Science Classrooms

Thirteen participants from the following SEAMEO member countries attended this course, namely, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.



RC-PM-135-4

Lesson Study: Improving Instructional Practices in Primary Mathematics Classrooms

This course received a total of 21 participants from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam. This training course also received one fee-paying participant from Thailand.

Certificate Presentation Ceremony

THE 135th Certificate Presentation Ceremony and Closing Ceremony of Regular Courses for F.Y.2010/2011 was held on 29 April 2011. The Ceremony was graced by H.E. Mr. Voradet Viravakin, Consul-General of Thailand in Penang who also presented the certificates and transcripts to the participants. He thanked RECSAM for conducting the courses and added that these courses were an eye-opener where educators gained immense knowledge and skills.

Mr. Voradet Viravakin (right) presenting certificate to a participant.





In-Country Training Courses

1 REALISTIC MATHEMATICS EDUCATION (RME) FOR MEANINGFUL LEARNING IN PRIMARY MATHEMATICS



⌘ **THE** Brunei In-Country Training Course for Primary Mathematics Teachers on Realistic Mathematics Education (RME) for Meaningful Learning in Primary Mathematics was held at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, from 17 - 20 January 2011. This 4-day course was organised by the Human Resource Development Division, and was coordinated by Mr. Awang Faisal bin Jackariah of the Human Resource Development Division. The course was facilitated by two Mathematics Education Specialists, Mr. Teoh Boon Tat and Dr. Leong Chee Kin, from the Training Programme Division. This training course introduced participants to a teaching and learning approach in mathematics education which promotes the importance of concept formation and problem solving. A total of 42 primary mathematics teachers took part in the course.

2 ACTION-RESEARCH: ENHANCING TEACHING & LEARNING IN THE SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS CLASSROOM & RESOLVING CLASSROOM PROBLEMS



⌘ **AN** in-country training workshop on “Action-Research: Enhancing Teaching & Learning in the Science & Mathematics Classroom & Resolving Classroom Problems” was conducted for 36 secondary teachers from Bangkok at Cholchan Pattaya Resort, Pattaya, Chonburi, Thailand from 7 - 11 March 2011. This in-country training workshop was organised by the Science Institute under the Bureau of Academic Affairs and Educational Standards Office of the Basic Education Commission, Thailand. RECSAM’s R&D Specialists, Mr. Julito C. Aligaen and Dr. Sheila G. Oyao conducted the 5-day workshop. This training workshop was aimed at providing the participants the necessary information that may transform into knowledge and skills in innovation to enable them to design, conduct, and write action research reports.

Lesson Study Project Seminar-Workshop



Group photo: Lesson Study Seminar-Workshop.

RECSAM embarked on a lesson study research project to enhance teachers’ professional development and as a start off, a lesson study seminar-workshop for science teachers was conducted at the Centre on 16 April 2011. Its aim was to orient the participants about expanding good practices in teaching science, inquiry-based learning, basic principles and processes of implementing lesson study, as well as the challenges involved in doing lesson study for improving classroom instruction and helping students learn better. A total of 80 participants attended the seminar-workshop.



Training Workshops

1 Talking Science, Thinking Science: Making Teaching and Learning More Dialogic Talking Mathematics, Thinking Mathematics: Making Teaching and Learning More Dialogic

TWO workshops entitled: (i) "Talking Science, Thinking Science: Making Teaching and Learning More Dialogic" and (ii) "Talking Mathematics, Thinking Mathematics: Making Teaching and Learning More Dialogic" was conducted at RECSAM on 14 and 15 March 2011 respectively by Mr Stuart Naylor from Millgate House Education, UK. Workshops participants were exposed to a wide range of suitable strategies that are well known, such as poster or card sorts, and others that are unique such as Concept Cartoons and Dear Doctor. These workshops received a total number of 63 participants (Science group) and 56 participants (Mathematics group).



Mr. Stuart Naylor (standing) having a discussion with the participants.

2 A Magical Workshop on Creativity in Mathematics Education



Ms. Teoh Poh Yew (standing left) sharing her expertise with the participants.

A magical workshop for entitled: "Creativity in Mathematics Education for Primary School Mathematics Educators" by Ms. Teoh Poh Yew, a very experienced international speaker in the fields of creativity, training of trainers and mathematics education was held at RECSAM on 11 & 12 April 2011. Approaches that were shared during the workshop were mathematical magic, games and puzzles. Participants were also exposed to different possibilities of using the same magic/puzzle/games to inspire students of different grades and varying levels of ability for different learning objectives. A total of 79 participants benefitted from the workshop.

3 Web 2.0: A New Wave of Innovation for Teaching and Learning Science

A workshop entitled: "Web 2.0: A New Wave of Innovation for Teaching and Learning Science" was conducted by Mr. C. Annamalai, Specialist from Training Programme Division on 11 and 12 April 2011. Workshop participants were exposed to Web 2.0 and given opportunities to explore the possibilities of using Web 2.0 for different learning objectives. The workshop received a total of 21 participants.



Mr. C. Annamalai (standing) guiding the participants.

4 Creative Toys for Learning Science: Science Popularisation through Low-Cost and Locally Available Materials



A session during the workshop.

MR. HIDEO Nakano, Senior Volunteer from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) based at RECSAM recently conducted a workshop entitled: "Creative Toys for Learning Science: Science Popularisation Through Low-Cost and Locally Available Materials" on 13 & 14 April 2011 for 81 science educators. Workshop participants were exposed to well designed inexpensive teaching and learning materials (TLMs) that enable them to conduct interesting science lessons through group or individual activities.

Consultancy Services



MR. HIDEO Nakano, Senior Volunteer from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) based at RECSAM was invited to conduct a workshop on "Creative and Low-Cost Science Material" from 25 - 26 January 2011 for 24 professional staff of Petrosains, Kuala Lumpur.



MR. HIDEO Nakano, also conducted a workshop entitled: Creative Toys for Learning Science through Low Cost Materials & Constructivism in Practice for Teaching and Learning Science at Pusat Peragaan IPTEK (*Ilmu Pengetahuan dan Teknologi*), Indonesia from 23 - 24 March 2011. Fifty eight elementary, junior high school teachers and science centre staff participated in this workshop. Participants were taught how to design and conduct science activities using limited tools and materials.

3

MR. HIDEO Nakano was invited to run a workshop on "Universal Design for Learning Science" for the Asian Gifted Student's Fair 2011 participants on 15 April 2011 at RECSAM. This workshop was based on concept of "science popularisation through low-cost and locally available materials". Thirty six teachers from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand participated in this workshop.



Colloquium Organised by RECSAM



Mr. Jim Mennie stressing a point.

MR. JIM Mennie from Root Seven Educational Services, Canada gave a talk on "Do Current Trends in Assessing Student Learning Mean an End to Paper and Pencil Tests? - A Brief Look at Assessment Options" in a colloquium organised by RECSAM on 31 January 2011. A total of 36 participants attended the talk.



A presentation in progress.

A colloquium entitled: "Cultivating Creativity through Mathematical Problem Solving" by Dr. Ho Keong Fong, Mathematics Specialist from Training Programme Division was held at RECSAM on 18 April 2011. A total of 108 participants attended this talk.



Other Events

1

DR. CHEAH Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from R&D Division was invited to attend “*Mesyuarat Kerjasama Penyelidikan Mengenai Ketidakeimbangan Gender Di IPT dan Kemosotan Bilangan Pelajar Dalam Jurusan Sains di Chancellory*” at Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Tg. Malim, Perak on 10 February 2011.

2

DR. CHEAH Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from R&D Division visited the Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST), Thailand on 17 January 2011 where he had discussions with Dr. Pornpun Waitayangkoon, President of IPST and Dr. Prechan Dechri, Deputy Director of IPST concerning the roles of International Assessments in improving promoting science and mathematics education in the SEAMEO region.

3

DR. CHEAH Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from R&D Division was involved in the Data Collection session pertaining to TIMSS (SERA Project) session organised by SEAMEO RECSAM and Educational Planning & Research Division (EPRD), Ministry of Education, Malaysia at Putrajaya on 26 January 2011.

4

BOTH Dr. Cheah Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from R&D Division and Dr. Leong Chee Kin, Specialist from Training Programme Division were involved in the Editorial Meeting for Mathematics Textbooks at Gakko Toshu and SEAMEO-Tsukuba Business Meeting at Meikei Kaikan, Tokyo, Japan on 15 February 2011.

5



DR. CHEAH Ui Hock, RECSAM Senior Specialist from R&D Division was invited as keynote speaker at the 1st EIS (English for Integrated Studies) Conference organised by The EIS Network Association in Rayong, Thailand from 13 - 16 January 2011.

Penang State Museum’s 46th Anniversary

14 - 17 April 2011



RECSAM recently took part in the Penang State Museum and Art Gallery’s 46th Anniversary Celebration. The celebration was held at its premises at Jalan Macalister, Penang from 14 - 17 April 2011. The anniversary celebration was officiated by the State’s Governor, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas. RECSAM participated in this event through the operation of a booth exhibiting the Centre’s remarkable achievements since its inception in 1967, and on-going developments as well as the RECSAM International House and its event facilities.

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Staff Development

1



MR. MARMON A. Pagunsan, Specialist from Training Programme Division and **Mr. Julito C. Aligaen**, Specialist from R&D Division attended the Youth Action on Climate Change; Exploration through Cultural Expression: Asia-Pacific Forum organised by Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA) in Bangkok, Thailand from 24 - 27 January 2011.

2



DR. CHEAH Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from R&D Division and **Dr. Leong Chee Kin**, Specialist from Training Programme Division went to Japan to attend the 5th APEC-Tsukuba International Conference on "Innovation of Classroom Teaching and Learning Through Lesson Study-Focusing on Mathematics Textbooks, e-Textbooks and Educational Tools" organised by University of Tsukuba & Ministry of Education Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan at Tokyo & Tsukuba University from 17 - 20 February 2011. **Dr. Leong** was also involved as a speaker to talk on: "Current Status and Efforts for Using ICT in the case of SEAMEO Centers".

3

TN. HJ. AHMAD Ramli, Deputy Director (Administration) attended a 3-day training course on "Thinking Out of the Box" organised by Talent Creation Management Services Sdn. Bhd. at Palm Garden Hotel, IOI Resort, Putrajaya from 1 - 3 March 2011.

4



TWO staff from International House, Pn. Pakiavathy P. Subramaniam and Pn. Mahabuyah Yaacob, General Assistants were received by SEAMEO INNOTECH, Philippines for the staff exchange programme for a period of one-week from 20 - 27 March 2011.



5

PN. RASHIHAH Othman, Accountant attended a 2-day workshop on “Payroll Administration & Calculation” organised by Bridge Knowle Events (M) Sdn. Bhd. at Evergreen Laurel Hotel, Penang on 21 and 22 March 2011.

6

DR. AZIAN T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director attended a 2-day training course on “Innovative Leadership - Empowering Leaders with Innovation” organised by Emerge Knowledge Connection Sdn Bhd at Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur from 23 - 24 March 2011.

7



DR. HAZURA Ab Bakar, Dr. Sheila Gamut Oyao and Ms Ng Khar Thoe, Specialists from R&D Division attended the Green Solutions Tradeshow and Conference which was organised by Intrenasionale and supported by Penang State Government on 25 March 2011.

8

PN. ROSNITA Abd Wab, Assistant Accountant attended a briefing on “e-Filing and Taxation” organised by Inland Revenue Department of Malaysia, Penang Branch at Bangunan Dewan Perniagaan Melayu on 31 March 2011.

9



MS. NG Khar Thoe, Dr. Sheila G. Oyao, Specialists from R&D Division and Mr. Hideo Nakano, Senior Volunteer from JICA participated in the World Water Day Celebration organised by Water Watch Penang (WWP) at Taman Metropolitan Relau, Penang on 3 April 2011.

10



THREE staff from International House, Pn. Rostati Idris, Pn. Che Amah Osman and En. Mazelan Mohamed Amin, General Assistants went for a staff exchange programme at SEAMEO VOCTECH, Brunei Darussalam for a period of one-week from 10 - 17 April 2011.

11

DR. AZIAN T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director, Tn. Haji Ahmad Ramli, Deputy Director (Administration) and Pn Rashihah Othman, Accountant attended the Final SEAMEO Strategic Planning Workshop organised by SEAMEO Secretariat at S31 Sukhumvit Hotel, Bangkok from 27 - 29 April 2011.



Basic Lifesaving Skills for RECSAM Staff



RECSAM staff learning first aid and lifesaving techniques.

A group of 27 RECSAM staff attended a one-day first aid training course to renew their certificates. The course was conducted by Mr. Karunamoorti s/o Ganthi from the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) on 31 March 2011 at RECSAM.

There were theoretical lessons and hands-on exercises followed by an examination. Staff were exposed to different types of emergencies such as trauma emergencies and cardiac and respiratory emergencies. Apart from that, staff were also taught on simple steps of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) through a mock accident scenario.

A Journey of Learning about Conservation and Sustainability

By Lee Shok Mee

RECSAM in collaboration with ASMEP (Association of Science and Mathematics Education Penang), jointly organised an educational trip for their respective staff and members together with their families to explore the world renown Matang Mangrove Reserve in Kuala Sepetang on 6 March 2011. Mr. Lee Shok Mee, Science Education Specialist for RECSAM and a long time member of ASMEP, was tasked to organise and lead



Smiles for the camera.

the trip. Among the 50 members in the contingent was none other than Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director and also President of ASMEP. Within the short span of a day, the contingent was able to visit the mangrove forest and its museum, charcoal factory, the location of the historical first railway in Port Weld (old name of Kuala Sepetang), Kuala Gula Bird Sanctuary and salted duck eggs factory at Kuala Kurau. At each stop, the contingent had the privilege of getting first hand briefings from the people on the ground. It was like an open classroom showcasing the salient aspects on sustainable development, demonstrating how conservation and proper management of mangrove forest can lead to balanced growth in social-economic and environmental sustainability.

RECSAM Staff Chip In Fund for Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Victims

RECSAM recently launched a charity fund to assist Japanese earthquake and tsunami victims. The fund raising activity was to lighten the earthquake and tsunami victims' burden and to provide relief from more difficulties. Although our contributions were minimal but at least it meant a lot to show that RECSAM staff do care about others and also concerned about global issues. All staff were involved in the collective efforts and together, they managed to raise RM1000.00.



RECSAM's Christmas Gathering



A Christmas hi-tea party was thrown for the staff of RECSAM on 14 January 2011. After a year of hard and diligent work, all staff gathered together to enjoy a sumptuous and relaxing Christmas celebration. RECSAM staff were invited to feast on the Christmas hi-tea offerings. It was a buffet concept with festive favourites such as spaghetti, chicken chop, shepherd pie and chocolate dip fruit. It was simple yet a great day for all staff.

RECSAM staff enjoying delicious delicacies.



A Celebration of Togetherness with CNY Hi-Tea

DURING the monthly assembly on 4 March 2011, RECSAM took the opportunity to throw a Chinese New Year celebration for its staff. All Chinese colleagues were dressed in their best costumes and dished out oranges for wealth and good fortune. There were specially ordered cookies and the favourite was certainly the symbolic and mouth-watering "love letters" or "kuih kapit". Everyone had a delightful feast and it was a great festive gathering to be remembered!



Happy and joyful smiles.

New Faces!

LET us welcome the following new members into RECSAM's family!



Dr. Koay Suan See took the post as a Training Programme Specialist on 1 March 2011. Dr. Koay, who has a PhD in Botany (Tissue Culture and Plant Cell Culture) from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) was previously attached to SMJK Chung Hwa Confucian in Penang.



Dr. Fong Ho Kheong, an Australian national joined RECSAM as a Specialist in Training Programme Division on 4 January 2011. Dr. Fong was previously an Associate Professor, Head of Maths and Science at Bahrain Teachers College, Kingdom of Bahrain.



Mr. Muhammad Hanif b. Amir Hamzah is the new Assistant Executive (Publication and Multimedia) based at Administration Division since 18 April 2011. Mr. Hanif holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Multimedia Technology from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).



Dr. Warabhorn Preechaporn from Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand took the post as a Specialist in Training Programme Division on 16 March 2011. Dr Warabhorn was previously a Specialist at RECSAM serving two years as a seconded staff from 13 February 2008 to 12 February 2010.

Farewell



Mr. Mohd Daud Khairiree, Marketing Executive who has been with RECSAM for 34 years since 16 July 1977 as a Hostel Steward retired on 15 April 2011. We wish you good health and all the best in your future endeavours. Your dedication and contribution to the Centre would be greatly remembered.

SEAMEO RECSAM



**Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation
Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics**

RECSAM Facilities & Accommodation

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation - Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics (SEAMEO RECSAM) is an inter-governmental organisation established in Penang in 1967. The International House which is conveniently located at the heart of the Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics (RECSAM) offers affordable accommodation and state-of-the-art facilities powered by cutting-edge facilities. The International House has 152 furnished rooms and suites which are elegantly designed keeping in mind the astute taste of our guests. RECSAM's fully-equipped event facilities are also suitable for seminars, trainings, workshops, meetings and other functions.



Meeting Room



SEAMEO Hall



Auditorium



ICT Lab



Deluxe Room



Junior Suite



VIP Suite



Dormitory

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