

Report on SEA-BES Regional Consultative Meeting and Workshop for the Finalisation of the Common Core Regional Learning Standards in Science and Mathematics

28-30 March 2017, SEAMEO RECSAM, Penang, Malaysia



SEAMEO RECSAM successfully organised and conducted the SEAMEO Basic Education Standards (SEA-BES) Regional Consultative Meeting and Workshop for the Finalisation of the Common Core Regional Learning Standards (CCRLS) in Science and Mathematics on 28 -30 March 2017 at SEAMEO RECSAM, Penang, Malaysia.

Dr. Hj Mohd Johan bin Zakaria, Centre Director of SEAMEO RECSAM welcomed the delegates. Mr. Ismariwan Shamsudin, Programme Officer, SEAMES delivered the inspirational message in behalf of Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, SEAMEO Secretariat Director. Resource speakers and consultants of the project Prof Masami Isoda, University of Tsukuba, Japan and Dr. Mark Windale, Sheffield Hallam University, UK, SEA-BES project consultants; Dr. Wanida Tanaprayothsak, representing Dr. Pornpun Waitayangkoon, IPST; Dr. Nur Jahan Ahmad, Deputy Director for R&D; Mr. Shamsul Azha bin Md Yusuf, Deputy Director for Administration; Ms Khor Sim Suan, Deputy Director for Training Programme; Mr. Dominador Dizon Mangao and Mr. Pedro L. Montecillo Jr., Specialists, cum coordinators of CCRLS in Science and Mathematics, respectively.

The objectives of the meeting and workshop were to:

- (a) discuss the comments, suggestions and recommendations on the working papers on the CCRLS in Science and Mathematics covering Grades 1 to Grade 9;
- (b) agree on the framework, aims, strands and standards across three Key Learning Stages (Key Stage 1 – Grades 1 to 3; Key Stage 2 – Grades 4 to 6; and Key Stage 3 – Grades 7 to 9) for revision and finalization; and
- (c) gather suggestions and recommendations on the Way Forward for the SEA-BES CCRLS

A total of 58 participants attended the event comprised of 19 curriculum specialists in science and mathematics from 10 Ministries of Education of SEAMEO Member Countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Timor Leste) each except Vietnam; 16 specialists from SEAMEO centers (Dr. Indarjani from QITEP in Science, Dr. Wahyudi from QITEP in Mathematics, and 14 specialists from RECSAM); two representatives from national science and mathematics centers (Ms. Thanapun Charlee from IPST Thailand and Dr. Soledad Ulep from UPNISMED); four professors from the two universities in Malaysia (UPSI and USM); seven lecturers from teacher training institutes (IPG Penang, IPG Tuanku Bainun and IPG Ipoh); two consultants (Prof Masami Isoda, University of Tsukuba, Japan; and Dr. Mark Windale, Sheffield Hallam University, UK); one SEAMES representative (Mr. Ismariwan Shamsudin); and three R & D RECSAM staff.

Likewise, RECSAM was grateful for the expertise of the four Japanese professors who travelled all the way from Japan at their own funding, namely: Prof. Yoshisuke Kumano, Shizuoka University; Prof. Takeshi Fujita and Asst. Prof. Ryugo Oshima, Chiba University; and Dr. Kenji Matsubara from Curriculum Research Center, National Institute for Educational Policy Research (NIER), MEXT, Japan.

The meeting has agreed on the following matters:

- the proposed six domains in CCRLS in Science, namely; (1) Science Inquiry, (2) Life and the Living World, (3) Material World, (4) Energy and Changes, (5) Earth and Space, and (6) Science, Technology and Society while the
- The proposed four domains in the CCRLS in Mathematics, namely; (1) Numbers and Algebra, (2) Geometry, (3) Measurement and Function, (4) Data Representations and Statistics.
- Draft aims of the SEA-BES CCRLS which states *“To provide world-class learning standards in Science and Mathematics, including 21st Century skills that can be used as benchmarks in SEAMEO Member Countries to ensure all students have access to fundamental knowledge, skills and values in order to be socially responsible, globally competitive and sustainable.”*

Various comments and suggestions and other significant inputs were shared by the MOE curriculum specialists and experts to improve further the draft Standards. Among these are the following:

- There is a need to include in the document a detailed explanation on the development process of the draft Standards.
- There is a need to describe how 21st Century skills including HOTS be embedded in the Standards.
- There is a need to realign the topics/sub-topics in the various domains; progression of the topics across the three key stages.

- There is a need to include Preface, Introduction, Aims of SEA-BES CCRLs and specific aims per subject – Science and Mathematics.
- Conceptual framework and Definition of terms need to be added in the document.
- Learning outcomes as written in the draft are actually “Learning Competencies”.
- Let MOE curriculum experts take back the document to their country, study and give feedback on how the document is further improved to cater to SEAMEO mission and vision.

Next Steps

RECSAM will review and revise the draft of the SEAMEO CCRLs in Science and Mathematics in terms of the scope and sequence of topics/sub-topics per domain and progression into key learning stages and from the comments and suggestions shared by the delegates. After making the changes RECSAM will send to the MOE curriculum experts via their email the revised draft for further review. The expertise of Penang master teachers, IPG lecturers and RECSAM specialists will again be tapped in the planned series of SEA-BES Workshops tentatively set on 27-28 January 2016 and 22-24 March 2016 to revise and finalize the Common Core Regional Learning Standards in Science and Mathematics. Likewise RECSAM will prepare project proposals to seek financial assistance to fund the next regional meeting and workshop tentatively set on 22-24 March 2016 from donor-agencies and institutions such as the Newton Fund, CRICED University of Tsukuba, Japan, and British Council with the guidance of SEAMEO Secretariat. .



