



THE DIGEST

SEAMEO VOTTECH

Regional Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training

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A large group of approximately 30 people, including men and women in professional attire, are posed for a group photo in a modern, brightly lit interior space with a patterned floor. The group is arranged in several rows, with some individuals standing and others seated or kneeling in the front.

Welcome to the SEAMEO VOTTECH Digest for insights into our initiatives from January to June 2025. In this edition, we are delighted to share highlights of our regional and international activities, all dedicated to advancing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) across Southeast Asia and beyond.

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MESSAGE FROM CENTRE DIRECTOR



It is with great pleasure that I present this edition of the SEAMEO VOCTECH Digest, capturing our key achievements from January to June 2025. These months have been defined by meaningful collaborations, impactful capacity-building programmes, and engagements that advance TVET not only across Southeast Asia, but globally.

At SEAMEO VOCTECH, we also understand the importance of community. We have consistently worked to nurture relationships among our staff, partners, and the broader TVET community, fostering a supportive and collaborative environment that underpins all that we do.

Through strategic global partnerships and transformative training programmes, we have advanced innovation, policy dialogue, and skills development. This edition showcases our progress in digital transformation, green TVET, and regional cooperation demonstrating our unwavering commitment to empowering TVET institutions and learners.

As we look ahead, I invite you to explore these accomplishments and join us in shaping an inclusive, sustainable future for technical education. Together, we can bridge gaps and create lasting impact.

Warm Regards,

Haji Norjemee Jenek

SEAMEO VOCTECH
Centre Director

EMPOWERING TVET FOR A DIGITAL FUTURE

15 February 2025 - SEAMEO VOTTECH successfully concluded its Regional Training Programme, "Fostering Transformational and Digital Leadership Skills for TVET School Leaders," certifying 18 participants from 11 SEAMEO member countries. The closing ceremony was graced by His Excellency Mr. Tran Anh Vu, Ambassador of Vietnam, as Guest of Honour.

The programme combined a three-day online workshop with a six-day on-site session in Brunei, equipping TVET leaders with digital leadership skills, strategic planning capabilities, and innovative approaches to drive institutional transformation.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE TO ENHANCE GLOBAL TRADE SKILLS



SV and NJITT with SV participants of the lecture series.

24 April 2025 - From 16-24 April 2025, the Centre and Go Study Global Education facilitated a lecture series on "Introduction to Global Trade and Supply Chain Management Practices", conducted by experts from Nanjing Vocational Institute of Transport Technology (NJITT).



His Excellency Mr. Tran Anh Vu handing a certificate to a training participant.

Participants gained practical tools to assess Industry 4.0 readiness and implement agile strategies for evolving workforce demands.

The initiative included educational visits to the University Technology Brunei School of Engineering and JPMC College of Health Sciences, alongside cultural activities. This programme reinforces SEAMEO VOTTECH's commitment to strengthening TVET leadership across Southeast Asia for the digital era.

The programme engaged TVET professionals and over 120 students from Laksamana College of Business (LCB) and the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE).

NJITT lecturers Ms. Wu Xuan and Ms. Hao Zhongna shared China's advanced trade practices, including e-commerce models (B2B, B2C, C2C) and supply chain strategies adaptable for Brunei's SMEs.

The initiative reinforces SEAMEO VOTTECH's role in fostering industry-relevant skills and strengthening China-Brunei educational collaboration. Participants gained actionable insights into global trade, enhancing Brunei's TVET sector for future economic growth.

SEAMEO VOCTECH & CPSC CONCLUDE REGIONAL TRAINING ON TVET TECHNOPRENEURSHIP



6 June 2025 – SEAMEO VOCTECH and the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) successfully concluded the hybrid regional training programme, "Integrating Entrepreneurship and Technopreneurship into the TVET Curriculum", on 6 June 2025. The programme brought together 31 participants from 11 SEAMEO and 9 CPSC member countries, including high-level delegates such as Deputy Minister Mrs. Zidhna Waheed of the Maldives.

The five-day in-person segment (2-6 June) followed virtual sessions (27-29 May), equipping participants with practical tools to integrate technopreneurship into TVET curricula.

Through workshops and lectures, attendees learned to develop entrepreneurial frameworks, apply innovative business models, and leverage emerging technologies like AI, IoT, and Blockchain in vocational education. A key outcome was the creation of individual Action Plans for implementing reforms in their home institutions.

A highlight was the half-day forum, "Embedding Technopreneurship in TVET: Strategies, Success Stories, and Insights", featuring industry experts and academic leaders. Discussions focused on sustaining innovation ecosystems within TVET.



Speakers of the Regional Forum:

"Embedding Technopreneurship in TVET: Strategies, Success Stories, and Insights"

- Prof. Dr. Suresh Kumar Dhameja, Director General of CPSC
- Mr. Adna Shatiremie bin Hj A. Abdul Rahman, Head of Entrepreneurship Innovation Centre (EIC), Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam
- Mr. Mohd Shafique bin Hj Mohd Hussain, InnovAero Sdn Bhd
- Mr. Ahmad Fathi bin Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Norafan, Fathi Aquaculture



The programme closed with a certification ceremony graced by Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio, Ambassador of the Philippines to Brunei. SEAMEO VOCTECH and CPSC reaffirmed their commitment to fostering technopreneurship-driven TVET transformation across the region.



MOU Signing ceremony with LNCCI.

13 January 2025 – Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), SEAMEO VOTTECH solidified its partnership with the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chongqing (LNCCI) which was represented by LNCCI's Chief Representative Mr. Allan Donglun Yang.

The agreement enables collaboration in knowledge-sharing via SEA-VET.net, teacher capacity-building programs, and innovative TVET initiatives across Southeast Asia. It also promotes Chinese language training, technical skills development, and scholarships for SEAMEO students.

During their visit, LNCCI representatives explored further partnership prospects with Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Politeknik Brunei, and IBTE to enhance vocational education opportunities in Brunei and China. This MoU underscores SEAMEO VOTTECH's commitment to advancing regional TVET through strategic partnerships.



(L to Right Images): SV representatives at the Symposium.

24 April 2025 (Hainan, China) - Building on its recent partnership with LNCCI, the Centre has further strengthened regional ties by signing an MOU with China's National Joint Conference of Higher Vocational Schools Presidents (JCP).



The agreement, signed at Hainan's International Symposium on Vocational Education Cooperation, enables collaborative "Language + Vocational Skills" programs and joins China's Belt and Road Consortium on Vocational Education, uniting 131 institutions across China and Southeast Asia.



The partnership focuses on standardising qualifications, developing industry-relevant curricula, and building skilled workforces for regional development. Supported by LNCCIC and LCETPA, this expanded collaboration reinforces SEAMEO VOTTECH's commitment to addressing regional skills challenges through strategic partnerships between ASEAN and China.

SV representatives: Mr Haji Norjemee, Ms Leanne Abdullah Lee, Mr Ariffin and Ms Aiman Bazilah.



SEAMEO CENTRES ADVANCE MONITORING & EVALUATION CAPACITY

13-14 March 2025 (Bangkok, Thailand) – SEAMEO Centres enhanced their monitoring and evaluation capabilities during the 2nd MEL Capacity Building Workshop, organised by the SEAMEO Secretariat with support from ASEAN-UK SAGE. The event trained MEL focal points and Centre Directors in implementing the SEAMEO Results Framework and developing effective data collection strategies.

SEAMEO centres, including SEAMEO VOCTECH, collaborated to standardise data management and enhance program assessment methods. The workshop promoted evidence-based decision making to optimise regional education initiatives. With British Council support, the event strengthened monitoring systems and cross-centre cooperation. These outcomes will improve impact measurement and resource allocation, ensuring SEAMEO programs effectively address Southeast Asia's educational priorities.

POLICY RESEARCH & PUBLICATION CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP



In parallel, SEAMEO also conducted its 2nd Policy Research & Publication Capacity Building Workshop, exclusively for SEAMEO Centers and Networks. This event strengthened research capabilities and promoted effective knowledge dissemination across the region. SEAMEO VOCTECH was represented by Dr. Paryono, Deputy Director for Professional Affairs, and Dr. Hartini binti Haji Mashod, Research Officer.

Facilitators from leading organisations including ACER, EdTech Hub, and the British Council conducted sessions on academic English, research methodology, data analysis, and grant writing. The workshop focused on aligning research with regional goals and developing solutions to common challenges, reinforcing SEAMEO's commitment to evidence-based decision making throughout its network.

SV Representatives: Mr Haji Norjemee, Dr Paryono, Dr Haritini and Ms Nursyuhaidah.

CENTRE WELCOMES SEAMEO SECRETARIAT



3 February 2025 - SEAMEO VOTTECH welcomed delegation from the SEAMEO Secretariat, led by Director Datuk Dr. Habibah Abdul Rahim, along with Dr. Kamaleswaran Jayarajah and Mr. Ansgar Schafer. The courtesy visit provided an opportunity for the Centre to showcase its recent activities and developments, while also facilitating meaningful discussions on preparations for the CRPN Summit 2025. The dialogue reinforced collaborative efforts to advance TVET initiatives across Southeast Asia.

PRESENCE AT 2ND EU-ASEAN POLICY DIALOGUE ON HIGHER EDUCATION



Picture source: ASEAN.org

26 - 28 May 2025 (Brussels, Belgium) - the EU and ASEAN hosted an education summit addressing digital transformation, skills mobility, and climate-resilient education. SEAMEO VOTTECH's Centre Director participated in high-level discussions that produced enhanced skills recognition frameworks, youth engagement strategies, and strengthened partnerships. A policy brief will guide future cooperation.

European Commission Deputy Director-General Martin Seychell emphasized education's role in the EU's Global Gateway strategy, while Malaysian and ASEAN leaders highlighted people-centered connectivity. The dialogue continued on with KU Leuven hosting "Advancing Partnerships in Higher Education," featuring institutional collaboration discussions and campus visits.

GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON AI IN TVET AT BILT 2025

28-30 May (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) - SEAMEO VOCTECH's Deputy Directors Dr Paryono and Pg Hj Mohamad Sufri actively participated as both contributors and participants in the BILT 2025 "Policies for Digital Transformation and AI Integration in TVET" event, held as part of the Global Digital TVET Transformation Summit (DOTS 2025) in Malaysia from 28-29 May 2025.

Dr. Paryono, representing SEAMEO VOCTECH, played a key role as a panel speaker on "Digitalisation and AI in TVET: Harnessing the Transformation" and moderated the Inter-Regional Policy Dialogue, fostering critical discussions on aligning TVET with technological advancements.



The event, hosted by UNESCO-UNEVOC Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) in collaboration with MyRIVET, the Malaysia TVET Council, and the Ministry of Higher Education, focused on advancing policy reforms and strategies for digital transformation and AI adoption in TVET systems.

This engagement highlights SEAMEO VOCTECH's commitment to shaping the future of TVET through policy leadership, digital innovation, and cross-regional collaboration.

SEAMEO VOCTECH JOINS REGIONAL AI EDUCATION DIALOGUE

16 May 2025 (Manila, Philippines) - SEAMEO VOCTECH's Deputy Director Administration and Finance Officer contributed to critical discussions on AI-integrated education at the 16th SEAMEO INNOTECH International Conference.

The event convened regional education leaders to explore the Framework for AI-Integrated Education, focusing on policy alignment and practical applications to enhance learning- systems.



SV Deputy Director (Admin) and Finance Officer at the dialogue.

Breakout sessions offered thematic depth, Session 2, attended by Pg Hj Mohamad Sufri, explored AI transformation in higher education; and Session 3, attended by Mr Faris Zai'em, presented AI-driven governance tools from DepEd's E-CAIR team.

CENTRE CELEBRATES BRUNEI'S 41ST NATIONAL DAY

23 February 2025 - Brunei Darussalam commemorated its 41st National Day.

This year's theme, "Bersatu Mencapai Cita Negara" (United in Achieving the Nation's Aspiration), underscored the importance of national unity and collective progress.

The Centre is proud to share that its personnel took part in the historic celebrations, participating in the performances segment in front of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



SV personnel at the Brunei National Day Celebration 2025.

Their involvement reflects the Centre's commitment to contributing to the nation's cultural and patriotic spirit.

BUILDING BONDS

The Centre also places strong emphasis on promoting work-life balance and has actively organised a range of internal activities throughout the year to strengthen camaraderie and foster a supportive, cohesive community among all staff members.



EID AL-FITR COURTESY VISIT STRENGTHENS TIES



Her Excellency Minister of Education Brunei during the "*ramah mesra*".



27 March 2025 - SEAMEO VOTTECH was honoured to welcome Her Excellency Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md Salleh, Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam, for a "*ramah mesra*" (friendly gathering) in conjunction with Eid al-Fitr.

The Minister, accompanied by Deputy Ministers of Education, shared warm greetings and engaged with officers and staff in a spirit of joy and camaraderie.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS JOIN SEAMEO VOTTECH'S OPEN OFFICE RAYA CELEBRATION

29 April 2025 - SEAMEO VOTTECH had the pleasure of hosting distinguished guests during its Open Office event in conjunction with Raya celebrations.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Deputy Ministers of Education (Higher Education and Core Education), Yang Mulia Dr. Haji Azman bin Ahmad and Yang Mulia Dr. Shamsiah Zuraini Kanchanawati binti Haji Tajuddin, heads of departments from the



SV management with Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Higher Education and Core Education, MOE, Brunei.

Ministry of Education, as well as ambassadors from SEAMEO associate and affiliate member countries to Brunei Darussalam.

The gathering provided a valuable opportunity to nurture partnerships with key partners and celebrate the festive season in a spirit of unity and collaboration.



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SEAMEO VOCTECH extends our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Education Brunei Darussalam, the SEAMEO Secretariat, and all our longstanding and new partners for your unwavering support and collaboration throughout the first half of 2025.

Your commitment has been instrumental in our shared achievements and meaningful progress in TVET development across the region.

As we look toward the latter part of the year, we remain dedicated to fostering innovation, driving sustainable growth, and creating impactful opportunities together.

We eagerly anticipate continued collaboration and remain steadfast in our mission to serve and advance TVET throughout Southeast Asia and beyond.



Thank you for being essential partners in this journey.

With gratitude,
SEAMEO VOCTECH