Dear Readers,

All praise to God, SEAMEO QITEP in Language (the Centre) has started implementing its Second Five-Year Development Plan this year. For the first semester, the Centre conducted some activities which focused on staff development and capacity building for language teachers. For the staff development, the Centre organised some In-House Training activities which aimed to enhance their staff management skills. As for teachers, the Centre conducted workshop on syllabus development and English language teachers competence improvement. In executing the activities, the Centre collaborated with University of Tsukuba, Japan and the Association of Karo Society in Indonesia.

We also proudly inform that one of the Centre staff received SEAMEO Service Award, an award for the best staff for each regional Centre. This award was given at the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference, Chonburi, Thailand. Hopefully, this newsletter will bring you closer to our Centre. Happy reading!
As requested by the Association of Karo Society in Indonesia, the Centre, along with SEAMEO SEAMOLEC, SEAMEO QITEP in Science and SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics, conducted a Professional Development Programme on Quality Improvement of Teachers. In the programme, the Centre aimed to enhance the competence and professionalism of English language teachers. The programme was held on 13-15 March 2015 at Grand Orri Berastagi Hotel, Karo Regency, North Sumatra.

The participants of this programme were twenty-six English language teachers from Karo Regency. As for the teacher trainers delegated by the Centre, they were Ms Endang Nilla P. and Ms Itra Safitri.

For three days, the teachers improved their competence on using text-based approach. The programme was conducted in an interactive way that the participants had the chance to discuss and practice what they have learnt. In groups, they were given tasks to identify and analyse types of text. Then, they had to write one text based on picture series. By the end of the training, they were able to write five different texts.

The programme was the first of three phases. It was expected that the next ones will be held on June and September 2015.

The Centre held a workshop on Syllabus Development for Foreign Language Teaching which aimed to facilitate the needs of the teachers to improve their pedagogical quality and competence. This workshop was a follow up programme of the Centre’s visit to University of Tsukuba, Japan in 2012.

The workshop was conducted on 10 March 2015 at the Centre for Development and Empowerment of Language Teachers and Education Personnel (CDELTEP), Jakarta. Seventeen Centre staff and thirty-eight teachers’ trainers from CDELTEP which consisted of Indonesian, Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, English, and French participated in the workshop. Furthermore, University of Tsukuba delegated Mr Michael Tasseron and Mr Michael Stout from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Foreign Language Centre, to be the resource persons of the workshop.

Through the workshop, the participants learnt about developing an integrated learning syllabus. They were introduced about the Blended Language Learning Syllabus Design using conventional media and Information and Communication Technology. In addition, the participants were also guided to develop their own syllabus based on Classroom Action Research (CAR). It is expected that they are able to develop the syllabus based on strategies and techniques acquired in the workshop.
The workshop is one of the Centre’s way to realise its concern in enhancing students’ proficiency in two areas, namely English language and technology. Held on 19-21 May 2015, the workshop focused on developing Android-based English learning materials for primary school students.

During the workshop, nine Centre staff designed syllabi, storyboard and coloured illustration for the learning materials. In the activity, the staff were assisted by experts on digital technology (Dr Setiadi Yazid - University of Indonesia), early childhood education (Ms Sri Sulastini - Jakarta State University), syllabus development (Dr Fathur Rohim - Centre for Development and Empowerment of Language Teachers and Education Personnel), and Indonesian language (Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo - SEAMEO QITEP in Language).

It is expected that the learning materials will be valuable sources for students in learning the language.

Through the workshop held on 25-28 May 2015 at Santika Hotel, Depok, West Java, the Centre enhanced the competence of its nineteen staff, four staff of Centre for Development and Empowerment of Language Teachers and Education Personnel as well as three staff from other SEAMEO Centres (BIOTROP, RECFON, QITEP in Science) in the area of monitoring and evaluation programme.

Prof Dr Ma Sandra B Tempongko (SEAMEO TROPMED/Network, Thailand) and Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo (SEAMEO QITEP in Language), resource persons of the workshop, presented the concepts of monitoring and evaluation to the participants. The concepts included types, objectives, and designs of monitoring and evaluation. Based on the concepts given, the participants worked in groups to design sets of instruments.

By the end of the workshop, four instruments were developed to evaluate the Centre’s training impact. They were questionnaire for trainees, interview for trainees, interview for supervisors, and focus group discussion for students.

From the workshop, it was expected that the set of instruments would benefit the Centre in acquiring objective data to better plan and organise its future programmes and activities.
Ms Indrani Dewi Anggraini (Deputy Director of Administration) was invited by UNESCO Bangkok to attend the Regional Training Course on Multilingual Education (MLE) Policies and Practices on 20-24 April 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. This training course aimed to strengthen capacity in developing and implementing language in education policies and to deepen understanding of language of instruction issues in the field of Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE).

She joined the training course along with approximately 40 other policy makers, education planners and MLE practitioners from Asia-Pacific countries. In the training course, the participants were exposed to a wide range of case studies of MLE in Asia-Pacific region. They also discussed some topics related to MTB-MLE, such as language policy and planning in the context of MLE as well as issues and challenges in MLE in a global context.

Her participation in the training will surely give new insights for the Centre in developing its MTB-MLE programme.

Ministers of Education and high-level education officials of the eleven SEAMEO Member Countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam) as well as representatives of SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO Centres, SEAMEO Associate Member Countries, SEAMEO Affiliate Members and partner institutions attended the conference. SEAMEO QITEP in Language delegated Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo (Director) and Ms Endang Nilla Pramowardhanny (Deputy Director of Programme) to actively participate in the conference. The biannual conference was held on 6-9 May 2015 at Royal Cliff Hotels Group, Chonburi, Thailand.

Digital learning was one of the main foci in the conference, particularly during the policy forum. Participants of the conference thoroughly discussed the benefits of digital learning. They also deliberated the importance of forming infrastructures and foundations for digital learning.

In the Ministerial Round Table Meeting, the participants focused on finding avenues to address the implication of the seven priority areas of the SEAMEO Post-2015 Education Agenda. The concerned areas were Early childhood care and education, inclusive education and access to education, resilience in education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), teacher education, higher education and research, and 21st Century curriculum.

It was also during the conference that the current SEAMEO Council President, HE Admiral Narong Pipathanasai, presented SEAMEO Affiliate Membership Certificate to the representative of China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE). The certificate marked the initial effort to build cooperation between SEAMEO and CEAIE.

Among the several agreements reached during the conference, it was also decided that Indonesia will host the 49th SEAMEO Council Conference in 2017.
As an initiative of SEAMEO Secretariat, the conference was organised accordingly to a belief that an organisation will acquire benefit, be it from the stakeholders or staff, upon practising high quality management system. Such organisation will gain loyalty from its stakeholders and will have more productive staff. Thus, taking “Embracing International Standards Practice in Quality Assurance and Management” as its theme, the conference aimed to enable SEAMEO Centres to appreciate the importance of Quality Assurance Management and International Standard Certification (ISC) for their performance.

Ms Indrani Dewi Anggraini (Deputy Director of Administration) and Mr Rahadian Adetya (Head of Division of Research and Development Programme) attended and participated in the conference held on 12-14 May 2015 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

The Centre delegates, along with representatives of other SEAMEO Centres, learnt strategies to overcome challenges in the implementation of ISC from the best practices shared by VOCTECH, INNOTECH and BIOTROP. Also, the participants broadened their knowledge on ISO certifications and implementation based on explanations given by an external authority. Moreover, they discussed the plan on standardising ISO operations for all SEAMEO Centres.

From the conference, it is expected that SEAMEO Centres are encouraged to acquire ISO certifications for their services and products, establish regular forum on quality assurance and ISO-related activities, receive appreciation on quality assurance and ISO processes, and identify future quality assurance activities, training or conference of all Centres.

Every two years, SEAMEO gives recognition to every best staff of its regional Centres. Each Centre nominates its eligible candidate to receive the award. The candidates should meet certain requirements, such as minimum two-year dedication, best working performance and significant contribution.

This year, the Centre gave the honour to Ms Estiningsih Suprandini (staff of Division of Research and Development Programme). Since 2011, she has been truly committed to do her best and shown loyalty for the development of the Centre.

The award ceremony was in conjunction with the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference which was held on 6-9 May 2015 at Royal Cliff Hotels Group, Chonburi, Thailand. Along with 21 awardees from other Centres, she received the award presented by the current SEAMEO Council President, HE Admiral Narong Pipathanasai.
In preparing the celebration of SEAMEO 50th Anniversary, the Centre conducted Inter Centre Collaboration Meeting (ICM) which held on 14-16 April 2015 at the Centre for Development and Empowerment of Language Teachers and Education Personnel (CDELTEP), Jakarta. The meeting was attended by representatives of six SEAMEO Centres in Indonesia: SEAMEO BIOTROP, SEAMEO QITEP in Language, SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics, SEAMEO QITEP in Science, SEAMEO RECFON and SEAMEO SEAMOLEC. The meeting discussed the coordination and cooperation among the Centres needed to organise the celebration preparation flawlessly.

Main focus of the meeting was on the six Centres’ planned duties. Each participant thoroughly reviewed and shared their progress reports as may be necessary for the activity. This was to ensure that each Centre has been successfully undertaking its tasks and responsibility.

The meeting also approved some major decisions for the one-day seminar. Some of which are as follows: First, the six Centres will have “Education Cooperation for Regional Sustainable Development” as SEAMEO 50th anniversary theme. Second, the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia would be invited as a key-note speaker of the seminar. Last, teachers, headmasters, supervisors and Governing Board Members from each Centre will be invited to attend this anniversary events.
As a new organisation, the Centre feels the needs to develop managerial skills for its staff. Therefore, on 5-6 May 2015, the Centre held In-House Training on Managerial Skills. Twenty-two Centre staff participated in In-House Training on Managerial Skills which facilitated by Mr Winarto WD from Asprinet Indonesia.

During the training, the facilitator discussed the importance of managerial skills and effective leadership skills which must be attached to a good supervisor. The participants also learnt how to achieve effective team work through interpersonal communication. Lastly, he also presented the four types of situational leadership, namely directing, coaching, counselling and delegating.

By having this two-days training, the participants are expected to be able to identify their style of leadership and the effectiveness of their own style of leadership.

In fiscal year 2015, to enhance the competence of Centre human resources, the Centre held two In-House Trainings (IHT), namely the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People and the Eighth Habit (Leadership Greatness). In executing those training, the Centre involved the resource persons from Dunamis Mitra Indonesia.

IHT on Seven Habits of Highly Effective People was held on 17-18 March 2015 which participated by all Centre staff. With the assistance from Mr Yudhea Wattimena and Ms Margriette Shaviera, the participants learnt how to become a proactive person and how to balance their activities in order to achieve the most important goals in life. Participants were also taught to be able to improve their interpersonal communication. In the end of the session, the resource persons reminded the participants to apply the seven habits in their life at least one habit at a time.

Whilst on 25-27 March 2015, the Centre Director, Deputy Directors as well as Heads of the Divisions joined IHT on the Eighth Habit (Leadership Greatness). Facilitated by Mr Agi Rachmat, the participants learnt about managerial capabilities especially how to become reliable and competent leaders in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.
In early 2015, all Centre officials and staff evaluated their 2014 performance. For two consecutive days, they met, discussed, then made commitment and decisions on a few matters.

The Centre’s programmes became one of the focuses of the meeting discussions. The Centre expects to improve its performance in conducting the 2015 programmes. Another focus was on the administration matter. It was decided that there should be a change in the Centre’s correspondence system. This would hopefully improve effectiveness and efficiency of the staff performance.

Finally, the Centre officials and staff made commitment to be more disciplined, motivated and confident as well as strengthen cooperation among staff. The commitments were made as one of the ways to achieve the Centre’s vision.