Dear Readers,

We proudly present the second edition of SEAQIL newsletter concerning Centre’s achievements in 2014. Thanks to the hard work of the participants and resource persons of the workshops, the Centre has successfully produced education materials significantly beneficial for foreign language teachers, namely: language teaching evaluation models for foreign languages (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, and Indonesian Language for Foreign Learners), compilation of foreign language teachers’ best practices, and syllabi for trainings on Arabic and Japanese language teaching methodology. Special in this year, the Centre collaborated with the Analytical and Capacity Development Partnership (ACDP) – Asian Development Bank (ADB) Jakarta held International Seminar on MTB-MLE. The Centre has also conducted several routine worth mentioned programmes, namely: SEAQIL Regrants 2014, the 5th Governing Board Meeting, and the 5th Annual International Symposium of Foreign Language Learning. Last but not least, the Centre representatives have participated in international programmes, such as: Centre Directors Meeting, SEAMEO Congress, SEA-PLM – SEA-BAS and visit to United Kingdom. May you enjoy your fruitful reading and be closer to our Centre.

Materials Development

SEAQIL Goes to Schools

Yogyakarta and Bandung were chosen to be the first venues of Workshop on SEAQIL Goes to Schools. The programme aims to compile teachers’ best practices in language teaching using fun and interesting methods, strategies as well as techniques that motivate students to study (foreign) languages.

The workshop in Yogyakarta was conducted on 2-5 September 2014 at Santika Premiere Hotel and closely followed by the one held in Bandung on 9-12 September 2014 at Santika Hotel.

Eighty teachers of Arabic, Chinese/Mandarin, English, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese languages from high schools and vocational schools as well as lecturers of Indonesian Language for Foreign Learners from universities in Yogyakarta and Bandung region participated in the workshops. They shared their best practices on foreign language teaching with the assistance of the language experts from local universities.

The participants in Yogyakarta were assisted by Mr Suharsono, Ms Zulfa Purnamawati, Mr Panca Nugraha and Dr Tatang Hariri (Gadjah Mada University) as well as Ms Nury Supriyanti, Ms Esti Swatika Sari, Ms Wening Sahayu and Dr Dwiyanto Djoko Pranowo (Yogyakarta State University). Meanwhile, the participants in Bandung were assisted by Ms limi Siti Karimah, Dr Maman Abdurachman, Dr Vismaia S Damaiantri, Ms Iyen Nurlaelawati, Ms Nining Warningsih, Ms Herniawati, and Mr Ari Arifin D. (Indonesian Education University).

Ultimately, as the objective of the workshop, eighty drafts of best practices on teaching Arabic, Chinese/Mandarin, English, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese language as well as Indonesian Language for Foreign Learners were completed by Yogyakarta and Bandung participants. The Centre is planning to distribute them to language teachers across Southeast Asia immediately after being reviewed and prepared in the form of printed and digital material publications. The book will be titled “Language Learning Techniques – Best Practices from Language Teachers’ Associations in Indonesia.”
Materials Development

SEAQIL'S NEWS

DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGE TEACHING EVALUATION MODELS

Acknowledging the importance of evaluation in measuring the success of learning process, the Centre held a workshop which aimed to develop language teaching evaluation models. The workshop was conducted on 9-13 June 2014 at Santika Hotel, Depok, West Java.

Twenty educators from Java and outside of the island attended and participated in the workshop. During the workshop, the participants learnt types of language teaching evaluation.

By the end of the workshop, the participants were able to produce models of teaching evaluation adopting CEFR level A1 for foreign languages (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese and Indonesian Language for Foreign Learners). In doing so, they were assisted by five resource persons from reputable universities and institutions, namely Dr Nuruddin and Dr Endang K Trijanto (Jakarta State University), Ms Evi Lusiana (the Japan Foundation), Ms Nita Madona Sulanti (University of Indonesia) as well as Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo (SEAMEO QITEP in Language).

It is expected that the syllabi developed will serve as a guideline for better conduct of the Centre’s professional development programmes.

SYLLABI DEVELOPMENT FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The Centre is continuously organising professional development programmes as an effort to improve the quality of language teachers in Southeast Asia. To better pursue the goal of the programmes, a syllabus is required as a guideline for it describes the purpose, scope, materials, activities and evaluation of the programmes.

Aiming to develop syllabi for professional development programmes on Arabic and Japanese language teaching methodology, the Centre held two workshops on 13-17 October 2014 at Oak Tree Hotel, Jakarta.

In developing syllabus for professional development programmes on Arabic language teaching methodology, fifteen education practitioners were assisted by five resource persons, namely Dr Nurul Murtadho (Malang State University), Dr Nuruddin (Jakarta State University), Dr Muhbib Abdul Wahab (Syarif Hidayatullah Islamic State University), Dr Yayan Nurbayan (Indonesian Education University) and Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo (SEAMEO QITEP in Language).

Concurrently, five resource persons from reputable universities and institutions guided fifteen education practitioners in producing syllabus for professional development programmes on Japanese language teaching methodology. The resource persons were Ms Evi Lusiana and Ms Naomi Hatta (The Japan Foundation), Ms Yuyu Yohana R (Padjajaran University), Ms Nalti Novianti (Bina Nusantara University) as well as Ms Endang Nilla Pramowardhanny (SEAMEO QITEP in Language).

It is expected that the syllabi developed will serve as a guideline for better conduct of the Centre's professional development programmes.
SEAQIL REGRANTS 2014

SEAMEO QITEP in Language Research Grants (SEAQIL REGRANTS) is a grants programme developed by the Centre for foreign language research aiming to facilitate high quality research in second/foreign language education and Indonesian Language for Foreign Learners from Southeast Asia. Today, the Centre engaged its second batch of SEAQIL REGRANTS carried out from May to November 2014.

The Centre selected Dr Hananto (Pelita Harapan University), Sisilia S Halimi, PhD and Prof Dr Hermina Sutami (University of Indonesia), Dr Aceng Rahmat and Dr Endri Boeriswati (Jarkarta State University) and Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo (SEAMEO QITEP in Language) to become evaluators of SEAQIL REGRANTS 2014. All of them are experts in foreign language research and from reputable universities in Indonesia. The grants are divided into three categories, namely: teachers, teachers’ trainer and general. For the teachers category, the themes were focused in language teaching methods. As for the teachers’ trainer category, the themes were concentrated in language teaching strategies. Lastly, for the general category, the themes were culture and language materials development. From the three themes mentioned above, language teaching method was the most common theme of the research proposals.

From forty-seven proposals entering the final selection, nineteen proposals were from teacher category, four were from teachers’ trainers category and ten were from general category. Grantees from teachers category will earn Rp5.000.000,-, grantees from teacher trainers category will receive Rp10.000.000,-, and grantees from general category will get Rp35.000.000,-. In addition, after the researches have been completed, ten proposals will be chosen to be presented at the Sixth Annual International Symposium of Foreign Language Learning (AISOFOLL) in 2015.

CENTRE DIRECTORS MEETING 2014

The meeting discussed proposals, plans and activities under the 2011-2020 SEAMEO Strategic Plan. It also shared updates on the respective development plans of the SEAMEO Centres and their collaborative activities with partners. The results of the meeting were submitted to SEAMEO High Officials Meeting and SEAMEO Council Conference.

The meeting was also attended by 80 other participants including SEAMEO Centres Directors and key staff; representatives of Affiliate Members, namely the British Council and University of Tsukuba; and invited partners, including the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan, the ASEAN Secretariat, UNICEF EAPRO, ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), UNESCO International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (UNESCO ISTIC) based in Malaysia, Regional Association of Vocational Teacher Education in East and Southeast Asia (RAVTE) based in Thailand; and China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) based in China.
The Centre conducted its 5th GBM on 6-10 October 2014 at Santika TMII Hotel, Jakarta. The meeting was attended by Governing Board Member for Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, representatives for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Thailand, Deputy Director of Programme and Development of SEAMEO Secretariat, representative of Centre for Development and Empowerment of Language Teachers and Education Personnel as well as the Centre staff.

SEAMEO Congress is an event co-organised by SEAMEO, British Council and Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST). It aimed to explore new avenues for managing the diverse changes in education, science and culture as well as to enhance regional understanding and cooperation among educators and different stakeholders in Southeast Asia and beyond.

During the event, the Centre delegates were benefitted from the distinguished international academic leaders and experts from France, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and United Kingdom. They had the chance to learn from and to exchange knowledge with the best educators from the region, to discover effective models and education trends as well as to create network and explore new partnership opportunities with organisations from around Southeast Asia and beyond.

SEAMEO CONGRESS

Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo (the Centre Director), Ms Indrani Dewi Anggraini (Deputy Director of Administration), and Ms Estiningsih Suprandini (Staff of Division of Research and Development Programme) joined SEAMEO Congress on 21-22 October 2014 at Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

5TH GOVERNING BOARD MEETING (GBM)

Seventeen working papers were discussed during the meeting. Some of them related to the Centre’s programmes and activities which have been implemented in FY 2013/2014, whereas the proposed programmes and activities for FY 2014/2015 were described in the other working papers.

Working paper on the Centre’s proposed 2nd Five-Year Development Plan for FY 2015/2016 – 2019/2020 became the main concern of the meeting. The Governing Board Members thoroughly reviewed and revised the proposed new vision, missions and goals of the Centre. This was to ensure that the new vision, mission and goals clearly depicted the Centre’s aim to fulfil its mandate to enhance the quality of language teachers and education personnel.

Another main focus of the meeting was on working paper describing the preparation for the 50th SEAMEO anniversary particularly on the planned activities which would be jointly organised by the six SEAMEO Centres in Indonesia. As suggested by the Governing Board Members, activities which could demonstrate the Centre’s success in undertaking its tasks and responsibility should be designed to celebrate the aforementioned events.
The General Secretary of Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, Prof Ainun Naim, PhD, officially opened the seminar conducted at Century Park Hotel, Jakarta on 23-26 September 2014. The seminar was conducted as collaboration between the Analytical and Capacity Development Partnership (ACDP) – Asian Development Bank (ADB) Jakarta and the Centre.

Policy makers from education offices and language educators from universities in Indonesia gathered to share and discuss best practices on the use of mother tongue to enhance the elementary school students’ competence. MTB-MLE experts as the keynote speakers for the seminar were Dr Sheldon Shaefler (UNESCO Bangkok), Prof Suwilai Premsrirat and Mr Uniansasmita Samoh (Research Institute for Language and Cultures of Asia - Mahidol University Thailand), Dr Erman Syamsuddin (General Directorate of Early Childhood Education, Formal and Non-Formal Education), Dr Dewi Utama Faizah (General Directorate of Primary Education) as well as Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo (SEAMEO QITEP in Language).

The seminar concluded that the concept of MTB-MLE needs to be advocated to the stakeholders in the central and province levels. The Centre also plans to conduct a bi-annual seminar to disseminate the progress of the implementation of the use of mother tongue as a medium of instruction as well as to select and compile Indonesian folklores for learning process.

The Director of Senior High School Education of Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, Harris Iskandar, PhD, who is also Governing Board Member for Indonesia, officially opened this symposium which conducted on 5-6 November 2014 at Harris Hotel, Jakarta. Aiming to disseminate information on research results and best practices of teaching and learning of foreign language, the symposium took theme “Social, Cultural and Political Contexts of Language Education in the 21st Century”. There were seventy-five language experts and education practitioners coming from various institutions in Indonesia and China attended the symposium. In this event, 28 speakers were invited by the Centre.

The Centre also invited Ms Nishihara Suzuko (Japan Foundation, Japanese Language Institution Urawa), Ms Dwi Puspitorini (University of Indonesia), Ms Suchada Nimmanit (Chulalongkorn University Language Institute) and Dr Lesley Harbon (University of Sydney) as the keynote speakers of the symposium. These four keynote speakers explained about the development of language education in 21st Century.

By the end of the symposium, the Centre is expected to produce proceeding of AISOFOLL to support the making of the right policies in foreign language learning in Indonesia.
As a Centre mandated to improve the quality of education in Southeast Asia, SEAMEO QITEP in Language took part in the development of SEA-BES and SEA-PLM initiated by SEAMEO Secretariat. On 4-5 November 2014, Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo (the Centre Director) participated in its latest consultative meeting which was held at SEAMEO RECSAM in Penang, Malaysia.

SEA-BES and SEA-PLM are initiatives to improve the quality of education in Southeast Asia. SEA-BES covers four learning areas, namely Science, Mathematics, English and Entrepreneurship. Meanwhile, SEA-PLM is a regional approach for system level monitoring of learner achievements. It covers subjects as numeracy, literacy and 21st century/global citizenship skills. SEA-PLM initiative aims to support SEAMEO Member Countries to better measure and understand the status of learning achievement amongst the general population for specific groups by applying culturally appropriate metrics for formative and summative purposes. It will also support selected technical and analytical capacities of national examination and assessment staff to strengthen ASEAN technical collaboration on learning assessment and standards across education systems. To support SEA-PLM, SEAMEO Secretariat initiates to develop SEA-BES for Secondary Level. Moreover, SEA-BES covers four learning areas, namely Science, Mathematics, English and Entrepreneurship.

During the meeting, the participants identified the mechanism in developing the SEA-BES, including its framework and curriculum standard in the secondary level for the four areas. They also identified how the SEA-BES enhances and complements the SEA-PLM. Finally, SEA-BES and SEA-PLM Action Plans were presented in the meeting.
Nineteen German language teachers participated in a professional development programme on 18–28 August 2014 at Ibis Hotel, Slipi, Jakarta. They came not only from Indonesia but also from Southeast Asian countries, namely Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and the Philippines.

The programme aims to enhance German language teachers’ competence and quality in teaching methodology. To achieve the aim, the Centre invited six German language experts as resource persons. They were Ms Mery Hutabarat (Indonesian Education University), Ms Irene Risakotta (Surabaya State University), Ms Sufriati Tanjung (Yogyakarta State University), Ms Sally Pattinasarany (University of Indonesia), Ms Dewi Kartika (Malang State University) and Ms Emy Widiarti (Centre for Development and Empowerment of Language of Teachers and Education Personnel).

During the programme, the participants not only learnt about teaching methodology, but they also learnt on how to choose and use media in the teaching process as well as implement them in lesson plans. Ultimately, the participants presented their lesson plans to the resource persons as well as to their fellow participants.

In addition, the participants were given a chance to visit St John’s Junior High and Goethe Institut. Both in St John’s and Goethe Institut, they observed the teaching process in several classes. The objective of the visit was to improve teaching experience of the participants and to make them reflect on their own teaching.

Furthermore, after completing all of the sessions of the workshop, they were expected to apply and share their knowledge to their colleagues.
ENHANCEMENT OF THE CENTRE’S STAFF COMPETENCE

The Centre feels the needs to constantly improve its staff competence, particularly in English language. Thus, on 7-21 July 2014, the Centre held staff development programme on English writing.

Twenty-four Centre staff were divided into two groups learning different kinds of writing. Group I learnt about General Writing, while Group II learnt about Report Writing.

With the assistance of two tutors from International Language Programme (ILP) Jakarta, namely Ms Rinna Tyas Rumanti and Ms Rita Rosidah, the staff were able to produce the kind of writing which they learnt during the programme.

SEAMEO-UK EDUCATION AND RESEARCH LINK: STUDY VISIT TO UK EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTION

Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo (the Centre Director) visited several education and research institutions in United Kingdom on 14-20 September 2014. Along with her were key officials from SEAMEO Secretariat and other SEAMEO Centres. The activity was initiated by SEAMEO Secretariat and British Council Thailand.

During the activity, Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo had the opportunity to visit and meet representatives from Research Council United Kingdom (RCUK), The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), University College London (UCL), Department for Education, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Queen Mary University of London, National Centre for Universities and Business, Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), United Kingdom National Academic Recognition Information Centre (UK NARIC), University of West of England, University of Bristol and Swansea University.

The activity was an opportunity for the Centre to create a new partnership with United Kingdom institutions. It was also set as an occasion in which the Centre could explore possible cooperation with institutions in related field of interests.