Dear SEAQIL stakeholders,

For three years of seaqilNews publication, your continuous support and precious inputs are truly important for the Centre. You have inspired us to develop innovative programmes to meet your needs. Some of worth mentioned here are training on Thematic Learning Models and Workshop on the Use of Indonesian Language and Theraplay Method as well as Seminar on National Literacy Movement.

Special in this year, for the first time since its establishment, the Centre had successfully carried out an Open House aiming to promote SEAMEO QITEP in Language to public and stakeholders. Various activities were held during the event, namely language education seminar, education exhibition and bazaar.

Furthermore, the Centre also organised routine activities, namely the 7th Governing Board Meeting and the 7th Annual International Symposium of Foreign Language Learning. As for staff development, the Centre sent their staff as presenters at the 5th International Conference on Language and Education.

Lastly, keep sending us your feedback and comments to info@qiteplanguage.org so that we may improve our programmes. Enjoy your reading and share the news with your colleagues.
As an effort to improve the quality of Chinese language teachers in Southeast Asia, the Centre continuously held the Training on Teaching Methodology for Chinese Language. The training was held on 30 August–3 September 2016 at Santika Hotel, Pontianak, West Kalimantan. This was conducted to fulfill the request of the Mandarin teachers at West Kalimantan. There were nineteen Chinese language teachers participated in the training. They came from four different regencies of West Kalimantan, namely Kubu Raya, Ketapang, Pontianak and Singkawang.

The training aimed to improve professional and pedagogical competence of Chinese language teachers at senior high schools in West Kalimantan. In the training, the participants were assisted by Ms Lestari Puspita Ningsih (Centre for Development and Empowerment of Language Teachers and Education Personnel), Dr Lily Thamrin and Ms Li Yan (Tanjungpura University) as well as Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo (SEAQIL). The training was officially opened by the Head of Office of Education for Pontianak Regency, Dr Mulyadi and also attended by Prof. Feng Guanghuo, Director of Confucius Institute at Tanjungpura University.

During the training, the participants not only learnt about teaching methodology but also about designing syllabus and lesson plan as well as evaluating and designing tests for Chinese learners. The resource persons underlined the pivotal need for high order thinking in the language evaluation. At the end of the training, all of the participants presented their lesson plans by conducting teaching simulations. After each teaching simulation, the resource persons provided input and suggestions for the improvement.
On 10—14 October 2016, the Centre collaborated with the Office of Education, Youth and Sports for Aceh Jaya to conduct the Training on Teachers’ Competence Enhancement. The training which was specifically designed to meet the needs of teachers in Aceh Jaya Regency, was divided into three categories. The first group was for elementary school teachers who need more understanding in how to teach integrated subjects based on thematic learning. The other two groups were focused for teachers at junior and senior high schools. The training was geared to facilitate them on the importance/pivotal point of action research as a way to do innovation in their teaching process.

On the first day, all 136 participants of the three training joined the opening ceremony convened by the Head of Office of Education, Youth and Sports for Aceh Jaya Regency, Mr M. Yusuf A, at the Hall of Office of Education, Youth and Sports for Aceh Jaya Regency. Afterward, they were guided by a resource person and facilitators. On the training for elementary school teachers, the resource person was Erry Utomo, PhD (Centre of Curriculum and Books) and the facilitator was Ms Itra Safitri. Meanwhile, the resource persons and facilitators for junior and senior high school teachers were Dr R. Eko Djuniarto (Centre for Development and Empowerment of Language Teachers and Education Personnel) and Dr Nur Arifah Drajati (Sebelas Maret State University) as the resource persons as well as Mr Rahadian Adetya and Ms Susi Fauziah as the facilitators.

The three training were held simultaneously on the same day but at different venues. The training for elementary school teachers was held at the Hall of Office of Education, Youth and Sports for Aceh Jaya Regency and joined by 70 elementary school teachers. Meanwhile, the other two training were held at SMP Unggul Calang, Aceh Jaya Regency. The participants were 47 junior high school teachers and 19 senior high school teachers composed of language teachers teaching either English or Indonesian.

By completing the training, the elementary school teachers were able to improve their pedagogic competence on integrative thematic learning model of the 2013 Curriculum through the given materials and teaching practices. Thus, at the end of the training, three participants were given a chance to do a teaching simulation at SDN 3 Calang, Aceh Jaya Regency based on their developed lesson plans. The two themes were “Me and My Body” and “Sport as a Hobby” for the first grade, while another theme was “Kinds of Jobs” for the fourth grade. The teachers gained more confidence to apply this integrative thematic approach in their daily teaching activities.

Meanwhile, on the training for teachers at junior and senior high school, the participants learnt how to write a proposal for conducting classroom action research in their classrooms. They started by making the abstract first. Then, guided by the resource persons, they wrote the proposal started from the first until final chapter, i.e., introduction, literature review and research methodology. In writing the proposal, they were also given the chance to present their proposals to the class so that it would allow them to gain feedback not only from the resource persons but also from other fellow participants. Ultimately, after the five-day training, they were able to produce drafts of abstracts and proposals for classroom action research.
SEAMEO QITEP in Language (the Centre) held the second training on teachers’ competence enhancement for teaching and learning process in Mother Tongue. The training was organised on 29 August-3 September 2016 in Bantul Regency, DI Yogyakarta to improve teachers’ pedagogic competence in using Javanese language as language of instruction. Twenty elementary school teachers from Bantul and Gunungkidul Regency joined the training.

The Centre invited Prof. Dr Suwardi Endraswara (Yogyakarta State University), Mr Eko Santosa (Muhammadiyah University of Purworejo), Ms Subiyati (Office of Primary Education for Bantul Regency), Mr Maryanta (Office of Education, Youth and Sport for Gunungkidul Regency) and Ms Indrani Dewi Anggraini (SEAMEO QITEP in Language) to be the resource persons of the training. Moreover, the training was also attended by the Head of Office of Primary Education for Bantul Regency, Mr Totok Sudarto, and the Head of Office of Education, Youth and Sport for Gunungkidul Regency, Mr Sudodo, who gave explanations related to the policy on using mother tongue as the medium of instruction for primary schools in the two regencies.

During the training, the participants learnt four language skills (i.e., listening, speaking, reading and writing) on Javanese language. Furthermore, they designed lesson plans according to their school subjects.

Afterwards, to practice the participants’ knowledge acquired on the training, twelve participants did teaching simulations at SDN Wojo, Bantul Regency. Six participants taught Javanese language and Social Science for the second grade. As for the rest of the participants, they taught the third grade students as well as integrated Mathematics and Javanese language as their subjects.

At the end of the training, the resource persons selected three best participants of the training. They were Mr Mukijan (SDN Pejaten, Gunungkidul Regency), Ms Sartilah (SDN Girimulyo, Gunungkidul Regency) and Ms Suyatmi (SD 1 Parangtritis, Bantul Regency).
On 28 November 2016, SEAQIL opened its door to 216 teachers, lecturers, college students as well as public. Supported by Gramedia, Centre of Movie Development under the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, and other five SEAMEO Centres in Indonesia, it was a fine day to meet up, mingle together and share ideas with colleagues and acquaintances.

Through the Open House, the Centre expected to facilitate language practitioners and educators to share ideas on language and language education, build public awareness on the importance of language education, build networking with other institutions and promote the Centre to public.

Various activities were conducted in the Open House, including seminar, talk show, panel discussion, education exhibition and bazaar.
The keynote speakers of the seminar were Prof. Dr Dadang Sunendar (National Agency for Language Development and Cultivation) and Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo (SEAQIL). The seminar was moderated by Ms Susi Fauziah (Head of Division of Training and Development for Teachers and Education Personnel).

Prof. Dr Dadang Sunendar explained the development of Indonesian language as the national language officially declared during the Youth Pledge on 28 October 1928. He stressed one basic point of view necessary for the development of the national language, i.e., "Prioritising Indonesian Language, Preserving Local Languages and Mastering Foreign Languages". Further, he expressed his expectance that all language institutions would work together to enhance the function of Indonesian language as an international language.

Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo presented history of foreign language education in Indonesia ever since the Dutch colonial era. At present time, foreign languages become popular subjects. She expressed her concern that this caused Indonesian language tends to be 'ignored'. Thus, she emphasised that the basic point of view mentioned by the previous speaker should be known, comprehended and applied by all Indonesians. To end her presentation, she concluded that (a) the government should issue a policy about foreign language teaching, (b) Indonesian language should be taught as the second language, (c) foreign languages should be taught starting from the fourth year of primary school, (d) foreign language learning should be included in the curriculum and (e) foreign languages taught to students should be more varied.
To support School Literacy Movement initiated by the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, the Centre invited Al Haraki Islamic School, SMA Labschool Jakarta and SMK Negeri 30 Jakarta to share their programmes related to the aforementioned movement. Each school implemented the fifteen-minute reading prior to the first subject of study. Nevertheless, they produced different kinds of creativity. Students of Al Haraki wrote four types of book review; namely the fishbone, reasons-content-moral value, infographic and Y-chart. Students of SMA Labschool Jakarta were able to write short stories and essays. Students of SMKN 30 Jakarta wrote an essay on all activities they did at school.

Before the session ended, two students of Al Haraki presented results of their literacy activity. One student explained her fishbone chart which showed her book review. The chart answered the question of ‘who’, ‘what’, ‘when’, ‘where’, ‘why’ and ‘how’ of the story book she read. The chart also stated the message of the story. The other student presented an info graphic which also showed her book review.

The session aroused many questions from the audience. Most of the questions related to the strategies in implementing the school literacy movement. By conducting this panel discussion, it is expected that the audience would be inspired to conduct various creative literacy activities.
Ms Delly Anne (SMAN 27 Jakarta) hosted the talk show. She engaged in a casual conversation with Ms E. Nilla Pramowardhanny (Deputy Director of Programme) and Ms Indrani Dewi Anggraini (Deputy Director of Administration) and talked about professional development for teachers. They also discussed about the Centre’s programmes and its contribution to the teachers’ needs.

During the question and answer session, two participants asked about the Centre’s programmes. One participant asked whether the Centre had a programme for Indonesian language teachers in international schools. The other participant enquired an information on the Centre’s programme pertaining to teaching methodology for teachers of non-formal education.

Ms E. Nilla Pramowardhannya elucidated that the Centre aimed to improve language teachers’ quality. Thus, should there be requests to conduct such programmes, the Centre would consider in designing them.
To make the event more exciting, the Centre conducted education exhibition with the other five SEAMEO Centres in Indonesia, PPPPTK Bahasa, Al Haraki, SMA Labschool Jakarta, SMKN 30 Jakarta, LIVI Indonesia and BNI 46. They exhibited their best products and practices as their outstanding achievements. Most audiences were astonished by the exhibition. In addition, there were also fashion, books and culinary bazaar. The exhibition and bazaar were officially opened by Dr Luiza F. Saidi (Head of Centre for Development of Language Teachers and Education Personnel).
The 7th Annual International Symposium of Foreign Language Learning (AISOFOLL) was held on 2—3 November 2016 at the Santika Hotel, Depok. By bringing together 100 participants, many of whom were teachers, lecturers, post graduate students and researchers from various institutions, the symposium was successfully conducted by the Centre.

Focusing on language teaching assessment, the symposium took “Language Teaching Evaluation: What Do We Need to Measure?” as the theme of 7th AISOFOLL. This two-day symposium was officially opened by Prof. Emi Emilia from Centre of Development and Language Strategy and Diplomacy, National Agency for Language Development and Cultivation.

As one of invited keynote speakers, Ms Ang Tay May Yin from the English Language Institute of Singapore, Ministry of Education of Singapore, opened the first day of the symposium by presenting a keynote speech titled Evaluation-the Weakest Link in Language Curriculum Continuum. Two other keynote speakers were Ms Masayo Hirokaga from the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Kansai, Japan who presented: JF Japanese e-Learning Minato- a Place to Learn and Meet and Prof. Nizam from the Education Assessment Centre, Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Indonesia who talked about Basic Literacy for 21st Century Competency. The
symposium was also a great opportunity for participants to gain new knowledge since there were 28 speakers who shared their research results and best practices in language teaching and learning in the parallel sessions.

In addition, the various research results, strategies and best practices which were presented in the symposium would be compiled in the proceeding.
Bali has once again become the venue for the Centre’s Governing Board Meeting (GBM). However, different with 2013, this year in 2016, Patra Jasa Resort & Villa housed ten Governing Board Members and Representatives from Southeast Asia, Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, observers from the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia as well as officials and staff of the Centre.


In addition, among other important proposals discussed in the meeting was the Proposed Director for Fiscal Year 2017-2019. The discussion was conducted in an in-camera session and resulted in a decision that the Centre would have a new director for the mentioned fiscal year. With this regards, Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo, the Centre’s current director, would end her tenure in December 2016.
After the meeting, all participants conducted school visits to SMKN 1 Denpasar and SMAN 1 Denpasar. During the visit, the participants observed the teaching and learning process in the classroom. They also walked around the schools to see the facilities. This experience brought new insights to the GB Members by directly seeing the model schools in Indonesia. The GB Members admired the students’ competence and creativity as well as innovation. The students accompanied the GB Members and explained in good and fluent English the result of their research on recycled bag from the seed of rambutan and their other innovative achievements.

By the end of the day, the participants spared their time to have a cultural visit to Batik Galuh in Batu Bulan area, Tampak Siring and Mount Batur. All in all, the activities during the meeting were fruitful since it had defined the Centre’s future plan and also brought new insights and experiences to the participants.
The establishment of students’ closeness with teachers gives positive and long-lasting implications to students’ social development. Teachers play an important role in creating good relationships with students in teaching process. This matter, hence, geared the Centre to hold a workshop in two batches focused on theraplay method combined with the use of Indonesian language in early childhood development. Theraplay is an approach to a child and family therapy which aims to enhance attachment, self-esteem, trust in others and joyful engagement.

These workshops were held at HB. Jassin Building, Centre for Development and Empowerment of Language Teachers and Education Personnel, Jakarta. The first batch was held on 24—25 October 2016 in which 115 primary school teachers joined the workshop. Then, on 8—9 November 2016, 128 Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) tutors participated in the second batch of the workshop. All participants came from Jakarta and its surroundings (Bogor, Depok, Tangerang and Bekasi).

The Centre invited five resource persons for the workshop. They were Ms Mayke Sugianto Tedjasaputra and Dr Bernadette Kushartanti (University of Indonesia); Ms Astrid Wulan Sari Emeline and Ms Rayi Tanjung Sari (Theraplay Indonesia); and Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo (SEAQIL).

Through the workshop, the participants learnt about language and psychological development of early childhood and school-aged children. They were also introduced to theraplay method and its benefits. Furthermore, the participants also practised one of theraplay methods called sunshine circles. In this session, they were guided to do a simulation of sunshine circles combined with appropriate use of Indonesian language as the language of instruction. Sunshine circles is an adult-directed and structured play with children which aims to create an atmosphere of fun, caring, acceptance and encouragement in teaching process. There are three rules of sunshine circles, namely No Hurts, Stick Together and Have Fun! The activities include opening, rules, check-up, play, food sharing and closing.

By the end of workshop, the participants were assigned to design and develop their action plans in implementing the theraplay method and Indonesian language in their classrooms.
On 5 and 6 December 2016, 122 participants, comprising teachers at all levels, namely elementary schools, junior and senior high school, as well as lecturers, college students and public from Jakarta and its surrounding areas (Bogor, Depok, Tangerang and Bekasi) joined the Seminar on National Literacy Development held by the Centre in HB Jassin building, Centre for Development and Empowerment of Language Teachers and Education Personnel, Jakarta.

The seminar was a form of the Centre’s support to promote the School Literacy Movement (SLM) “Language as a Means to Form Children’s Good Character” that has been launched by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Indonesia in 2015. In this seminar, materials and best practices from schools at elementary, vocational, junior and senior high school levels were presented in order to motivate the participants to be involved in this SLM.

This two-day seminar was divided into five panel sessions with various themes. On the first day, there was two panel sessions. The first one was started by Dr Dewi Utama Faizah from the Directorate of Development on Primary Schools and Dr Fairul Zabadi from National Agency for Language Development and Cultivation who presented the programmes of their institutions related to the main concept of SLM. Afterward, Dr Murti Bunanta from the Society for the Advancement of Children’s Literature presented “Children’s Reading (Fairy Tales) to Support SLM at Primary Level” as well as Ms Rahmawati from SDN Jagakarsa 01 and Mr Moh Syahudin Heryanto from SD Islam Dian Didaktika presented their schools’ best practices pertained to the implementation of SLM.

On the following day, there were three sessions. On the early session, Prof. Dr Dendy Sugono from the University of Indraprasta PGRI presented “The Importance of Literacy Movement to Develop Nation Character on Teenagers” and Ms Neneng Kadariyah from the Centre of Curriculum and Books presented “Textbooks for Lessons at Primary and Secondary Schools as Literacy Materials”. Then, in the next two session, the head teachers from four schools, namely Mr Maulana Suhadi from Al Haraki, Mr Risang Danardana L. from SMA Lab School Kebayoran, Ms Esta Pinta Siagian from SMKN 30 Jakarta and Mr Agusman Anwar from SMAN 8 Jakarta.

During the seminar, the participants, most of whom were teachers, had the opportunities to discuss with the presenters in all sessions on the development of their students’ literacy. As for non teacher participants, they gained more comprehension on school literacy movement. All in all, it was a fruitful seminar.
Envisioning a village which is Sustainable, Technology-equipped, Multi-ability and Responsible; the six SEAMEO Centres in Indonesia initiated and undertook a programme called ‘SEAMEO STAR Village’. Through the programme, the six Centres aim to improve the community’s development by providing various activities related to their specialities. It was during the celebration of SEAMEO 50th Anniversary on 7 October 2015, HE Anies Baswedan, PhD, Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia (2014-2016), officially launched ‘SEAMEO STAR Village’ programme; and Cihideung Ilir Village, Bogor, West Java, was the target of the programme.

As part of the programme implementation, the Centre held the Training on Thematic Learning Models for Primary School Teachers on 14–18 November 2016 at Papyrus Tropical Resort & Hotel, Bogor, West Java. The Centre had the privilege of having Mr Heri Sobirin (Office of Education for Bogor) and Mr Ilman (Headman of Cihideung Ilir Village) to attend and deliver their remarks on the opening ceremony of the training. In their remarks, they expressed their gratitude to the Centre for organising the training. They also hoped that the Centre would conduct similar programmes for teachers from other villages in Bogor. In addition, they congratulated thirty teachers from around Cihideung Ilir Village and wished that they would actively participate in the training.

During the training, the teachers acquired knowledge and deepened their comprehension on all matters pertaining to development of thematic learning models; namely (1) Literacy Development in Primary Level, (2) Integrated Thematic Learning Models, (3) Theme, Learning Materials and Basic Competence, (4) Learning Theme and Subtheme, (5) Learning Materials for Each Theme/Subtheme, (6) Integrated Thematic Learning Activity and (7) Assessment for Integrated Thematic Learning. Furthermore, in groups, they practised to develop lesson plans. By the end of the training, each of them conducted microteaching in front of their fellow participants and resource persons.

The resource persons, namely Dr Sri Sumarni (Jakarta State University), Dr Endah Ariani M. (Centre for Development and Empowerment of Language Teachers and Education Personnel) and Ms Indrani Dewi Anggraini (SEAMEO QITEP in Language) broadened the teachers’ knowledge and assisted them throughout the training. The resource persons provided input and feedback on the teachers’ lesson plans and teaching techniques.

As mentioned by the participants; the resource persons and the training helped them gain a better understanding of thematic learning. Mr Ismail Marzuki, one of the teachers, said that all of the training materials were very useful and applicable that he wanted to implement them in his own class. Thus, during a reflection session, all of the teachers agreed and committed that they would continue applying the techniques necessary for developing thematic learning. They also wrote their action plans stating that started from January 2017, they would report the progress of their teaching through a video recording. Hence, their commitment would allow the Centre to observe and monitor their development in planning and implementing thematic learning; also, to give necessary input.

Acknowledging the importance of its role in the ‘STAR Village’ programme; the Centre attempts to provide qualified programmes and activities for the teachers, particularly language teachers in Cihideung Ilir, which will eventually improve the quality of education in the village.
Two annual events to discuss and report the SEAMEO Centre’s accomplishments are Centre Directors Meeting (CDM) and High Officials Meeting (HOM). For Fiscal Year 2016, the CDM and 39th HOM were convened in Bangkok.

The CDM took place on 27—29 July 2016 at S31 Sukhumvit Hotel and was attended by approximately 90 participants which composed of the Centre Directors, key staff of SEAMEO Centres and the Secretariat as well as representatives of Associate and Affiliate Members. Joined in the meeting were some invited partners: the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology of Japan; the ASEAN Secretariat; University of Tsukuba; and the ASEAN-China Centre.

Apart from reviewing the Centres’ operation which included matters for acknowledgements and projects’ realisations within FY 2015/2016, an in-camera session was also held to discuss the inter-centre collaboration.

The 39th HOM was organised on 15-17 November 2016 at Amari Watergate Hotel. A total of 114 participants representing 11 Member Countries, one Associate Member, four Affiliate Members and 21 SEAMEO Regional Centres, Partners and Observers participated in the meeting and reported their accomplishments in implementing SEAMEO Seven Priority Areas. Furthermore, HOM is a key activity responsible for shaping decisions of the SEAMEO Council Conference, therefore, the support and guidance of the High Officials is an essential element in achieving productive deliberations.

For this meeting, Indonesian delegates were led by the Director General of Early Childhood and Community Education, Harris Iskandar, PhD, due to the proposed establishment of a new SEAMEO Centre for Early Childhood Care and Education and Parenting (CECCEP) in Indonesia which was discussed and endorsed in the in-camera session.
The International Conference on Language and Education had been co-organised since 2003 every two to three years by members of the Asia-Pacific Multilingual Education Working Group. They are United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), Mahidol University, Cooperative Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), Save the Children, Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) and Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB). This conference functions as a platform for policy-makers, researchers, practitioners and development actors to share their views, good practices and experiences as well as to explore issues concerning the importance of mother tongue-based learning and broader language issues in sustainable development.

Special in this fifth conference, held on 19—21 October 2016 at the Landmark Bangkok, Bangkok, Thailand, the Centre was able to send its two staff, namely Ms Susi Fauziah (Head of Division of Training and Development for Teachers and Education Personnel) and Ms Rizma Angga Puspita (Staff of Division of Training and Development for Teachers and Education Personnel) to give a presentation entitled “Mother Tongue-based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) Teachers’ Training Program in Indonesia: SEAMEO QITEP in Language’s Project”.

The presentation focuses on the Centre’s programme, which was Training on Improving Teachers’ Competency in Mother Tongue, organised in collaboration with the local education office of West Java and Yogyakarta provinces in April and September 2016. It is a follow up programme based on the results of the needs analysis survey in West Java (Garut and Bandung Regency) as well as Yogyakarta provinces (Bantul and Gunungkidul Regency) in 2013. The survey results showed that majority of respondents supported the implementation of MTB-MLE in the area, i.e., using Sundanese and Javanese as the medium of instruction to deliver teaching materials for primary school students. Thus, most of the teachers’ respondents requested the Centre to hold a training on enhancing their teaching competence in mother tongue.

The presentation was a major success since many participants were eager to join the discussion. Most of them were interested in the mother tongue programme held in Indonesia known as one of the countries in Southeast Asian that have hundreds of languages, approximately 700 languages. Consequently, Indonesia has the most number of ethnic minorities that in return needs greater attention in the education field. In addition, there were also participants that were pessimistic with the programme progress since the MTB-MLE has not yet been implemented officially by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Indonesia. Nevertheless, all in all, despite of all the doubts and challenges that the Centre has to get through in order to implement this programme, the Centre has set track on its path and will continue to move forward.
On 18–21 August 2016, The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) convened its 35th congress in Auckland, New Zealand under the theme of Literature in a Multi-Literate World. Attended by 500 delegates from 60 countries, this congress brought together individuals who are concerned with children's book and reading development to assemble and exchange ideas.

The congress comprises several activities such as lectures, panel discussions, seminar sessions, workshops, book fair, posters and the displays. Also, it includes exhibition and celebrations such as the Hans Christian Andersen Awards and the IBBY Honour List.

Delegates from Indonesia were Dr Murti Bunanta (Society for the Advancement of Children’s Literature/SACL), Dr Johnny Tjia (Yayasan Sulinama, Ambon) and Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo (SEAQIL).

IBBY is a non-profit organisation promoting global network of committed people to reconnect the bond between children and books. After first founded in 1953 in Zurich, Switzerland, this organisation has constituted 76 National Sections representing both countries with well-developed book publishing and literacy programmes, and countries with only a few dedicated professionals pioneering work in children’s book publishing and promotion.

In the congress, Dr Felicia Nuradi Utorodewo and Dr Johnny Tjia presented a poster about mother tongue based multilingual education with the case study of the use of mother tongue in Ambon, Maluku.

This is one of Centre’s commitment in promoting reading and literacy. Moreover, the Centre’s participation is expected to rekindle the networking with other organisations/institutions beyond Southeast Asia in general and especially with IBBY.
To support the National Literacy Movement in Indonesia and the 2017 Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC), SEAQIL, SACL and the Board of Advisors of 2017 AFCC visited Al Haraki that has been appointed by Office of Education for West Java as a model of literacy school base. SEAQIL, SACL and AFCC collaborated in the same mission on the development of literacy to present Indonesia as the country of focus for the festival in 2017. Based on this choice, the AFCC Board of Advisors consisting of children book writers, publishers, librarians and illustrators from some Asian countries visited SIT Al Haraki on Saturday, 12 November 2016. They observed the primary and secondary school libraries arranged in comfort, cozy and interesting environment for students. The enjoyable libraries with up-dating books encourage and motivate students to read the books and do some assignment based on the comprehension on the books they read. The Al Haraki students are obliged to read at least 24 various books within one year. The Board of Advisors were impressed by the achievement of the Al Haraki students on the literacy activities.

On this occasion, the chairperson of the AFCC Board of Advisors, Ms Claire Chiang, from Singapore, promotes the 2017 AFCC to the invited teachers. Indonesia as the country of focus will be involved in the AFCC series of events, such as teacher Congress, writer & Illustrator Conference, children literature Lecture, AFCC Book Fair, Book Illustrators Gallery and Indonesian Night as well as Parent Forum and Book & Product Launches. These series of events will be executed from 17 to 21 May 2017, where SEAQIL is participating in the Children Literature Lecture, Writer and Illustrators Conference, and Teacher Congress.