

Building a consensus on advancing quality education in Southeast Asia

International Congress on Education for the 21st Century (ICE2017)

3-4 May 2017, Bangkok, Thailand



The International Congress on Education for the 21st Century (ICE2017), hosted by the Ministry of Education, Thailand, and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), brought together approximately 600 diverse education actors and stakeholders representing the governments of SEAMEO Member Countries as well as public and private education institutions and agencies. ICE2017 was a platform for participants to share new learning paradigms and practices, exchange perspectives on current issues and concerns surrounding education in Southeast Asia, and

build regional consensus on how education can effectively contribute towards the promotion of human development at the community, country, and regional level.

Bringing together regional commitments to ensure equity and opportunities for all, the theme of the Congress, *'Making a Difference: Shaping a New Learning Paradigm for a Sustainable Southeast Asia'*, aimed to provide a platform for education actors, both at the national and international levels, to reflect on how shared experiences of Southeast Asian countries can help enhance new teaching and learning paradigms to boost self-understanding, enhance competitiveness, and strengthen social values. The Congress also provided opportunities for education actors to shape new learning paradigms in which academic, social, and cultural virtues as well as values shape not only personal characters, but also the moral fibre of a knowledge-based society, in order to form a balanced and resilient learning society that will help regional citizens cope with global demands and challenges by promoting well-being as the ultimate goal.

The specific objectives of CE2017 were to – (1) Provide a platform for conversations on experiences and best practices on the implementation of the post-2015 SEAMEO education agenda and on diverse topics that support the sustainable development as a guide for crafting new learning paradigms that are reflective of and responsive to historical, cultural and social realities; (2) Enhance awareness on regional and national programmes and action plans resulting from a dynamic synergy of strengths, strategies, and standards developed by SEAMEO Member Countries leading to the application of more inclusive and innovative learning paradigms and education policies that meet global standards; and (3) Promote regional understanding, commitment to shared action, mutual collaboration, and closer cooperation among education actors and stakeholders in Southeast Asia in advancing the quality of learning and ensuring a wider access to education in the region.



CE2017 aimed to promote regional understanding & forge closer cooperation among education actors & stakeholders in Southeast Asia in advancing the quality of learning & ensuring a wider access to education in the region.

Debates and discussions were held on the following sub-themes - Teacher education and lifelong learning; Making accessible and inclusive quality education happen; Enhancing regional competitiveness through STEM education; Digital learning in a borderless world; Education in

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emergencies and the role of school communities; Bridging skills development for global and local demands; Strengthening citizen engagement in education and community development.



ICE2017

ASPBAE's Cecilia "Thea" Soriano participated in ICE2017 and addressed the sub-theme '*Strengthening Citizen Engagement in Education and Community Development*'.

The session highlighted increasing the level of participation and citizen engagement in delivering learning, and developing a more resilient educational system. Thea's presentation drew from rich experiences in different country contexts. She spoke about learner-centred and community-driven education practice with marginalised sectors focussing on concepts of lifelong learning while working with marginalised children, youth, and adults; evidence-based advocacy for quality public education; and investments needed to address relevant youth and adult education through non-formal education and other pathways to learning. Thea's presentation also focussed on broad-based constituencies and building people's capacities for education advocacy - lessons learnt in effective engagements with governments and capacity building of citizens and communities in advocacy for policy and programme development. She concluded by speaking on how civil society can work towards national-regional-international linkages that promote better education for people and build transnational collaboration on shared education issues.

In its conclusion, the international congress affirmed the commitment to shared action, mutual collaboration, and closer cooperation among education actors and stakeholders in Southeast Asia in advancing the quality of learning and ensuring a wider access to education in the region.

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