



筑波大学
University of Tsukuba



SEAMEO-The University of Tsukuba Symposium IX

Theme: Resilience for Global Citizenship

Sub-Theme: Challenges in Education under COVID-19

How SEAMEO Regional Centre for Community Education Development Responded to COVID-19?

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Background

- Established in July 2017, SEAMEO Regional Centre for Community Education Development (SEAMEO CED) is one of the youngest SEAMEO Centres in Southeast Asia
- SEAMEO CED envisions itself as the “Centre of excellence in education services for sustainable community development through social innovation, research and training”
- SEAMEO CED has the following missions: capacity building, conducting research, and providing consultancy on community education development



Covid-19 in Laos



- Lao PDR is the least COVID-19 affected country in the region in terms of the number of confirmed cases
 - Total cases: 45
 - Recovered: 41
 - Death: 0
 - Active cases: 4
- The pandemic, however, generates negative effects on the Lao economy
- The pandemic also affect daily activities of Lao people due to two-month lockdown

Impacts on education sector

- Schooling in all types of educational institutions from preschool to higher education has been interrupted
- Impacts on education indicators: e.g. increasing drop out rate, increasing repetition rate, and decreasing student learning outcome
- Difficulty for newly graduates to find employment
- Possible impacts on external assistance in Lao education sector
- Negative effect on education sector budget (30% budget cut)
- Salary of teachers in private educational institutions were suspended

MOES's Responses

- 17 March 2020: suspended teaching activities in preschool institutions
- 18 March 2020: suspended schooling in all types of educational institutions across the country
- Developing online learning resources using different platforms
- Implementing disease prevention measures: wearing face masks, hand-washing, and social distancing
- 18 May 2020: resumption of schooling for final year students (K5, K8 and K12), but vocational and higher education institution remained closed
- 02 June 2020: all types of schooling were allowed to resume, but keeping social distancing measure

Challenges preventing effective responses

- Teachers and students were unfamiliar with the “new normal”
- Supporting infrastructure such as ICT was favorable only in urban areas
- Limited capacity of parents to support their children to study at home in remote areas

Impacts of Covid-19 on SEAMEO CED

- The pandemic has had negative impacts on the implementation of training and research activities
- SEAMEO CED takes the lead in the SEAMEO Border School Project
- In November 2020, the centre planned to conduct a training course on science and mathematics teaching for teachers from schools in the Border School Project in collaboration with sister centres in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand
- SEAMEO CED is working with SEAMEO INNOTECH to conduct participatory action research on school-community partnership
- ICC Project with SEAMEO SEN Malaysia focusing on nutrition for special education students
- The Border School Project activities for the year 2020 were postponed



How did SEAMEO CED Responded?

- The 3rd International Seminar on Education for Rural Community Development, a side line event of Governing Board Meeting, was separately organized using innovative approach
- The seminar received very positive feedbacks from other international and local participants
- SEAMEO CED managed to secure funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for a research project on community development in Laos

Lessons Learned

- Supporting infrastructure should be well prepared to ensure effective emergency responses
- SEAMEO CED used pragmatic approach in responding to the COVID-19
- Although, it is one of the youngest centre, it managed to seize a number of opportunities to continue its activities during the time of global health crisis

Thank you for your attention!