

**Remarks on
7th Batch of SEA-Teacher Evaluation Meeting
28 October 2019
University Utara Malaysia**

Prof Dr Ahmad Bashawir Bin Hj Abdul Ghani, Vice Chancellor of University Utara Malaysia (UUM)

Distinguished guests ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning, selamat pagi, sawasdee krub, magandang umaga,

1. It is a great pleasure for me indeed to extend to all of you a cordial welcome on behalf of SEAMEO Secretariat and to pay tribute to University Utara Malaysia efforts and cooperation to be the host of the 7th batch of SEA-Teacher Evaluation and Planning Meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen,

2. SEAMEO initiated SEA-Teacher Programme in related with Priority no.5 Revitalising Teacher Education of SEAMEO New Education Agenda with more than 1800 students had been mobilize in 4 countries since 2016. This unique programme enables Higher Education Institutions to conduct exchange of pre-service teachers among universities in Southeast Asia for practicum (teaching experiences). Through this programme the pre-service student teachers have opportunity to develop their teaching skills and pedagogy as well as giving them an experience to teach students that have differences both in terms of culture and language in different countries. We do really expect these experiences will expose our future teachers to diverse teaching and learning situations and opportunities, and the value of flexibility. Through this

programme also we push them to practice their English skills as well as allow them to gain a broader regional and world view. These approaches can lead to a more sustainable future by educating our student teacher to become global citizens with the skills, knowledge and the attitude required to cope with the issues and challenges instigated by globalization.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. Our long journey in the SEA-Teacher programme has produced a lot of experiences. The strengths and weaknesses of this programme be in harmony. However, the existence of SEA-Teacher members has been strived to strengthen each other to make this programme can be more perfect in the future. On this one day meeting let's discuss how to improve this programme better in the future. We have been experiences with so many challenges during the implementation. Let's share and learn one to each other to find the best practice and best solution particularly in related with the regulation in each country that might not the same. So hopefully we will find the best solution for everyone this time.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. This morning I would like to use this platform to thank all the universities of SEA-Teacher member for your kind support and trust to SEAMEO Secretariat particularly during my terms serving here. We have so much cooperation and collaboration in this SEA-Teacher project. All of us learn together in growing up this SEA-Teacher project. This meeting will be my last involvement with SEA-Teacher project and it will be continuing by my successor Dr Ethel Agnes P Valenzuela as SEAMEO Secretariat Director. With her experiences I

do believe under her leadership SEA-Teacher project will develop further and bring more benefits to education in Southeast Asia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. As I believe too within this one day meeting will bring all of us to strive to understand more the essential of SEA-Teacher Programme. Also, we may take this opportunity to do networking and engage one to each other in meaningful and respectful communication and develop mutually beneficial relationships.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. On this opportunity, I also wish to extend to you my heartiest congratulations on the success of conducting this meeting. Furthermore, once again thank you for University Utara Malaysia for their hospitality and well arrangement of this meeting. I also recognize this meeting will play a key role in promoting future international student mobility, intercultural communication and a culture of peace and thus contribute to academic excellence in this era of knowledge-intensive collaborating society.
8. With this in mind, I very much look forward to your discussions and exchange of views at today's meeting. Once again, I heartily welcome you all to Kedah, Malaysia. I strongly hope and know that you will find the meeting extremely stimulating and enjoyable.

Thank you. Terima kasih, Khap Khun Krub and Maraming Salamat,