A New Education Agenda: SEAMEO’s Seven Priorities
In last two decades, the global flagship agenda “Education for All” (EFA) has taken a centre-stage along with the myriad array of SEAMEO activities. With this agenda culminating this year, SEAMEO inherits the progress made thus far in achieving current global goals in order to set Southeast Asian agenda beyond 2015, especially in the context of regional integration and challenges of post-2015 developments.

SEAMEO, having harnessed vast experience in education in Southeast Asia for the past 50 years, recognises that its challenges beyond 2015 will be even more demanding, calling for greater urgency to develop a new regional agenda that will drive SEAMEO to promote excellence in education, science and culture.

As part of this initiative, a ministerial meeting of the SEAMEO Council was convened in Lao PDR in September 2014 as part of SEAMEO’s flagship projects, the SEAMEO College. The outcome from the meeting was the distillation of Seven Priority Areas of SEAMEO on Education to be promoted for the next twenty years (2015-2035).

- **Addressing Barriers to Inclusion**: Achieving universal pre-primary education by 2030, with particular target on the disadvantaged such as poor children, rural communities, marginalised ethnic and linguistic communities, and children with disabilities benefiting the most.

- **Early Childhood Care and Education**: Pursuing a radical reform through systematic analysis of knowledge, skills, and values needed to effectively respond to changing global contexts, particularly to the ever-increasing complexity of the Southeast Asian economic, socio-cultural, and political environment, developing teachers imbued with ASEAN ideals in building ASEAN community.

- **Resiliency in the Face of Emergencies**: Preparing schools leaders, teachers, students, and local communities in managing and maintaining the delivery of education services during emergencies such as conflicts, extreme weather, and natural disasters.

- **Promoting Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**: Promoting TVET among learners, teachers and parents with more visible investments and relevant curricula that focus on creativity and innovation, with a clear pathway to lifelong learning, higher education and regional labour, skill and learners’ mobility.

- **Adopting a 21st Century Curriculum**: Making teaching a first choice profession through comprehensive, strategic, and practice-based reforms of teacher management and development systems through more professional preparation at pre-service and in-service processes, following an explicit and shared teacher competency framework and a set of standards applicable across the region.

- **Promoting Harmonisation in Higher Education and Research**: Institutional level harmonisation taking place with Member Countries investing in the strengthening of higher education institutions with each institution determining their most important needs, supported by research, in order to be able to coordinate and set quality standards with other institutions.

- **Revitalising Teacher Education**: