ANNIVERSARY 2000-2020

SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition





The SEAMEO Charter Bangkok, 1968

We, the Peoples of Southeast Asia, DESIROUS of attaining the benefits of peace, prosperity and security through an enlightened citizenry, RECOGNIZING the forces and the challenge of change in the contemporary world, ANXIOUS to provide for constructive direction to these forces of change, and RESOLVED upon joint and cooperative efforts for regional educational development, HAVE, through our Governments, adopted hereby this Charter of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization.









Our Vision

SEAMEO CHAT aims to act as a repository of the rich historical heritage and varied traditions of Southeast Asia, and make available its expertise to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Our Mission

SEAMEO CHAT sets itself the mission of promoting cooperation in the study of history

and tradition among Member Countries and the development of a greater regional identity through research,

human resource development, education and public awareness programmes.

In accomplishing this mission SEAMEO CHAT looks to develop new strategies and explore new opportunities.

Our Motto

Building Regional Identity: Valuing History and Maintaining Tradition















Dr Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela Director, SEAMEO Secretariat

On behalf of the SEAMEO Secretariat, I extend our heartiest congratulations to SEAMEO CHAT for its 20 years of success in fulfilling its mission of promoting the cooperation in the study of history and traditions in the region.

The Southeast Asian countries have benefited from your organisation's commitment and dedication to improving history and tradition education through its research, human resource development, education, and linkages. Special commendation goes to SEAMEO CHAT's flagship training programme on Myanmar History from Myanmar Perspectives which has benefited the teachers in Myanmar and other Southeast Asian countries since 2002. The SEAMEO CHAT Community Involvement programme has provided significant contributions to the development of school system in Myanmar through various activities me such as scholarships, teacher capacity building, and traditional awareness activities. We also would like to congratulate the great achievements of CHAT in conducting various initiatives in the last fiscal year such as International Conference on Traditions of Water in Asia, National Development Programme "Kaleidoscopic Myanmar 2018", and workshop/competition on History in the Eyes of Digital Generation.

Congratulations to SEAMEO CHAT for your wonderful journey of achieving this milestone and I wish SEAMEO CHAT continued success for many more years to come.



Dr.Khin Lay Soe Director 2017 - Present

20 years is a time quite enough to grow up for a nurture human being as well as an organization. In those years we have been building SEAMEO CHAT to have a solid growth even in challenges and changes in its twenty years journey. But we push ourselves past our limitation and do better in every circumstance. How SEAMEO CHAT has been doing it's best can be seen in this book. Programmes and Activities of the Centre would not be complete without working with dedicated institutions and individuals. With them, we will continue to make more effective programmes and projects which are aligned with SEAMEO Agenda and to support the implementations of education policies formulated by the Ministry of Education, Myanmar. We would like to express our thanks to all individuals who have supported SEAMEO CHAT throughout the years including the Ministry of Education , Myanmar, Department of Higher Education, Department of Basic Education, SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO Centres, partner Institutions as well as associations. Last but not least, we would also like to thank to our staff for their commitment, dedication and devotion drive for the betterment of SEAMEO CHAT.





Ni Ni Myint Director 2000-2002

Establishment

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) was formed over 55 years ago to meet the needs of the Ministers, in sharing ideas, successes, and policies. The Ministers of Education meet once a year, to give direction to the organization and define its objectives. Over the last three decades, the Ministers and their senior officials have used the SEAMEO umbrella to develop a sense of regionalism that complements the interdependence that has emerged in the last several years.

SEAMEO has 26 specialist institutions scattered throughout the region, closely linked to the educational environment of the country which hosts them. These Centres provide regional leadership in the development of education, science and cultural strategies, grouped in three clusters: learning, health and agriculture / natural r esource / environment. Although their primary focus is on training, each Centre has a research, consultancy and training capacity that far exceeds this primary mandate. Many of the region's outstanding specialists work with the Centre. Each Centre also has its own Governing Board with a representative from each Member Country.

As the Centres grow, SEAMEO is able to contribute to the long-term improvement of education, science, and culture throughout Southeast Asia. With a strong tradition of partnership with foreign goverments and agencies, SEAMEO is the best possible regional partner for working in education, health, agriculture, environment and culture. It has built on its long experience in working with the international development community. It brings Asia's experience to Asia's development opportunities and gives exposure to decision makers in one of the world's largest educational market. It is a regional presence in itself. SEAMEO's private sector partners are associated with what is best for Asia's future: the education of its youth and its workforce. It provides local support and training centres, even reasonable accommodation in many of Asia's largest

" SEAMEO is the best possible regional partner for working in education, health, agriculture, environment and culture." workshops to host various activities. In short, when you need a specialist partner in Southeast Asia in the fields of education, health or agriculture/natural resource/environment, no one is better positioned or more experienced than SEAMEO. After all, we are Southeast Asia's Ministers of Education very own organization.

SEAMEO Regional Composition

- SEAMEO Council (SEAMEC), the policy making body.
- SEAMEO Secretariat (SEAMES), the executive arm of the Council.
- Governing Boards, one for each SEAMEO Centre.

26 SEAMEO Centres, responsible for research and development and training in various areas of specialization, as follows:

- 1. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Tropical Biology (SEAMEBIOTROP)
- 2. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Early Childhood Care Education and Parenting (SEAMEO CECCEP)
- 3. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Community Education Development (SEAMEO CED)
- 4. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Lifelong Learning (SEAMEOCELLL)
- 5. SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition (SEAMECHAT)
- 6. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH)

- SEAMEO Regional Centre for Quality Improvement of Teachers and Education Personnel (QITEP) in Language (SEAMEO QITEP in Language)
- SEAMEO Regional Centre for Quality Improvement of Teachers and Education Personnel(QITEP) in Mathematics (SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics)
- 9. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Quality Improvement of Teacher and Education Personnel (QITEP) in Science (SEAMEO QITEP in Science)
- 10. EAMEO Regional Centre for Food and Nutrition (SEAMEO RECFON)
- 11. EAMEO Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics (SEAMEO RECSAM)
- 12. SEAMEO Regional Language Centre (SEAMEO RELC)
- 13. SEAMEO Regional Training Centre (SEAMEO RETRAC)
- 14. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED)
- 15. SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMEO SEAMOLEC)
- 16. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agricul ture (SEAMEO SEARCA)
- 17. SEAMEO SEAMEO Regional Centre for Special Education (SEAMEO SEN)
- SEAMEO Regional Centre for Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sus tainability (SEAMEO SEPS)
- 19. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA)

- 20. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Education (SEAMEO STEM-ED)
- 21. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Technical Education Development (SEAMEO TED)
- 22. SEAMEO Tropical Medicine and Public Health Network (SEAMEO TROPMED Network)
- 23. SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centre for Microbiology, Parasitology and Entomology (SEAMEO TROPMED/Malaysia)
- 24. SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centre for Public Health, Hospital Administration, Environmental and Occupational Health (SEAMEO TROPMED/Philippines)
- 25. SEAMEO TROPMED/Thailand (SEAMEO TROPMED/Thailand)
- 26. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (SEAMEO VOCTECH)

SEAMEO Member States and Associate Member Countries

SEAMEO's Member States are:

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam

SEAMEO's Associate Member Countries are: Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand and Spain



Inauguration of SEAMEO CHAT (15 December 2000)

Vision

SEAMEO is a dynamic, self-reliant, strategic policy-driven and internationally recognized regional organization for strengthening regional understanding and cooperation in education, science and culture for a better quality of life.

Mission

To enhance regional understanding and cooperation and unity of purpose among Member Countries and to achieve a better quality of life through

- The establishment of networks and partnerships,
- The provision of an intellectual forum for policy makers and ex perts,and
- The development of regional centres of excellence for the promotion of sustainable human resource development

Goals

1. To develop regional centres of excellence of international standard.



- 2. To provide relevant and excellent programmes in training, research and development, information dissemination and policy analysis and evaluation in SEAMEO's areas of specialization in cooperation with national and international agencies/institutions for the improvement of heir professional, management and technical personnel.
- 3. To strengthen the organizational capability to adapt to the changing environment and new challenges.



Inauguration of SEAMEO CHAT (15 December 2000)

- 4. To strengthen SEAMEO's management capability in order to meet member country's needs effectively and efficiently.
- 5. To ensure continued financial viability by exploring alternative sources of funding.
- 6. To promote research and development in education, science and technology.
- 7. To enhance collaboration among member and other countries, and relevant organizations.

The Emergence of SEAMEO CHAT

Myanmar gained membership of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) in February 1998. Endeavouring to contribute to the further realization of the avowed mission of SEAMEO "to promote co-operation among its Member and Associate Member Countries through its Regional Centres/Projects with their professional leadership role in training, research and development, information dissemination and other relevant activities in order to assist the Member Countries to develop expertise and excellence in education, science and culture for the promotion of an enlightened and productive citizenry in their respective countries and for furthering the quality of life of all the peoples of the region". Myanmar as a new Member Country offered to take on the responsibility of establishing a new regional centre, the Regional Centre for History and Tradition in Myanmar based on the principles established by SEAMEO as there was as yet no SEAMEO centre concerned with the history and tradition of the region.

The peoples of Southeast Asia have had close contacts throughout their long history and share many cultural traditions and literary heritage. In-depth research needs to be carried out to highlight these facets of their shared tradition, to record the history of individual Southeast Asian countries as well as that of the region and to create innovative pedagogy in the fields of history and tradition. The appropriate utilization of the knowledge thus both by policy makers and the population at large within the region will ultimately enhance the quality of life of all the peoples of the region.

The proposal for the establishment of the Regional Centre was first made by officials of the Department of Higher Education of the Myanmar Ministry of Education to the then SEAMEO Council President and Brunei Darussalam Minister of Education H.E. Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Haji Abdul Aziz Umar during his visit to Yangon, Myanmar in October 1998 and

> " On 27 May 1999, the Ministry of Education of the Union of Myanmar formed the Committee for the Establishment of a Regional Centre for Historical and Cultural Studies."

His Excellency expressed interest in the establishment of the Centre. The 21st High Officials Meeting In-Camera Session held in Bangkok, Thailand on 24 November 1998 deliberated and approved in principle for submission and endorsement of the 34th SEAMEC Conference. The 34th SEAMEO Council In-Camera Meeting held on 7 February 1999 also approved in principle the establishment of the Centre in Myanmar. The Meeting recommended that a technical committee be formed to study further the specialization programmes and activities of the proposed Centre and other related matters.

On 27 May 1999, the Ministry of Education of the Union of Myanmar formed the Committee for the Establishment of a Regional Centre for Historical and Cultural Studies. The Committee was entrusted to make arrangements for the establishment of the centre in Yangon. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 8 June 1999 and two days later, the four-storey building designated for the Centre was inspected to assess the feasibility of its use as the Centre building.

The Technical Committee Meeting of the Centre was convened in Yangon, Myanmar from 4 to 6 August 1999 and was attended by participants from SEAMEO Member Countries and the Director of SEAMEC. The Committee reviewed SEAMEO Council resolutions on the Establishment of a Regional Centre for Historical and Cultural Studies in Myanmar, deliberated on the discussion paper on the establishment of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Historical and Cultural Studies which was presented at the meeting and formulated a set of recommendations. Among these recommendations were the modification of the name of the proposed Centre to SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition and the convening of an Experts Meeting to refine or operationalize the details of the recommendations. The Experts Meeting on the establishment of a SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition will be convened in line with the recommendation of the Technical Committee.

The Experts Meeting on Establishment of a SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition in Myanmar was held from 6 to 7 June 2000 in Yangon, Myanmar. The meeting was attended by representatives of 9 SEAMEO Member Countries, the Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, Director of SEAMEO SPAFA, Director of SEAMEO RIHED and members of the Staff and Experts Meeting consultants. Participants discussed among other matters, the general concept of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition and its proposed projects and activities and gave recommendation.

Objectives of SEAMEO CHAT

1. To develop a better understanding of the history and tradition of the Southeast Asian region through research activities as part of the efforts to create and maintain a better sense of national identity 2. To enhance the efforts of the Member Countries in the utilization of the resources of their history and tradition in the continual effort of human resource development in relation to the study and teaching of history and tradition, and the raising of public awareness in the levels of education – basic education, higher education and continuing education for the community

3. To develop educational curricula, programmes and personnel for making history and tradition relevant to meeting the challenges of the contemporary situation

4. To create and develop among the general public a better understand ing and appreciation of history and tradition for the creation of a greater sense of national and regional identity

5. To enhance co-operation in the study and teaching of history and tradition by creating and developing linkages and networks among relevant institutions and agencies in the region and beyond

 To help promote a greater understanding and appreciation of the history and tradition of Southeast Asia in the world by establishing a resource centre and databases

On 15 December 2000, the SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition was inaugurated in Yangon, Myanmar.



Governance

The Centre is under the direction of its own independent Governing Board comprising members nominated by the Minister/Secretary of Education of each SEAMEO member country, the Centre Director, and the Director of SEAMES. It decides policies for the operation of the Centre, approves the annual programmes and budgets, controls the accounts, formulates rules and regulations, and performs other duties as may be necessary.

The Centre is also advised by a Professional Advisory Body composed of senior professionals in the field of history and tradition. The Advisory Body offers advice at the request of the Director regarding the planning and implementation of programmes and other professional activities initiated by the Centre.

The Centre is administered in accordance with the principles of good governance and accountability to achieve the best results for funds granted by governments, organizations and individuals. Independent audits are conducted periodically and recommendations studied for future action. It endeavours to recruit nationals from SEAMEO member countries and encourage the development of an appropriate number of personnel to reflect a credible image. It provides its staff with adequate financial support, training opportunities, and an up-to-date computer and technological system in a healthy working environment and a physical infrastructure that fits the vision, mission and objectives of the Centre as well as reflecting its regional character. Its performance is measured by its mandates in accordance with international standards. Its programmes and projects are evaluated annually to determine whether they have achieved their target goals and objectives and where adjustments need to be made. Surveys are conducted from time to time to assess the practicality and quality of the Centre's programmes.

Objectives, Goals, Strategies and Performance Measures

The goals and objectives of the Centre as a dynamic focal point of cooperation in the study of history and tradition relevant to meet the challenges of the contemporary world and the creation of a greater sense of national and regional identity are:

 To create a comprehensive understanding of the history and tradition of Southeast Asia

 To present a regional perspective of Southeast Asian history that will be incorporated into the region's educational system at important levels in the future

 To strengthen outstanding traditions that bring social, economic, intel lectual and education benefits to the peoples of Southeast Asia

 To provide access to the resources of regional history and tradition through the use of relevant information technology and delivery sevices The achievement of the Centre's goals and objectives are conditioned on the fundings available, the costs of new technology that could restrict information services, the costs of printing materials that could effect information resources, and the costs of communications that could limit personal contact and networking. In difficult times, major projects will be identified and given priority and aims accomplished without one lowering of standards.

Programmes, Projects and Activities

The Centre, in collaboration with institutions and agencies both within and outside the region, will engages in programmes, projects and activities related to its specializations with special attention given to income-generating activities that utilize cost recovery strategies and customized programmes. The programmes, projects and activities are:

- History Agenda 21st Century (Seminar)
- The Legal Traditions of Southeast Asia
 (Research Project)

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- Historical Relations (Cross Cultural Studies)
 - The State of Southeast Asia Historical Studies
 - Development of Curricula and Materials Related to the Teaching of Southeast Asian History
- Training Project on Moral Traditions of Southeast Asian Societies
- National Identity and Regional Understanding
- The Memory of Southeast Asia Project
- Establishment of a Resource Centre: specializing in reference and research



materials on Southeast Asia and other Asian countries with strong links to the region. It is a

multimedia Resource Centre with internet and intranet connections.

During the 20 years, CHAT accomplished many innovative programmes, activities, workshops and trainings. I wish CHAT more successful, fruitful and productive in every way with tremendous growth coping with new challenges in upcoming years.





Prof: Tun Aung Chain

Director 2002-2008

The Dancing Swordsmen of Pyay Road

Why are they here? The men with their longyis tucked in a gadaungkyaik, their lean bodies, slightly muscled, bare and glistening in the sun. They seem to be dancing, but they have swords in their hands.

There was a battle here long ago, fierce and deadly, now forgotten. On 11 May 1824 a British fleet, made up of both warships and troopships, came up the Yangon river and took up position off the town of Yangon. The arrival was unexpected and the defences of Yangon unprepared because the war had started elsewhere and the main theatre of war was Chittagong. At two o'clock in the afternoon, the leading ship, the frigate HMS Liffey, fired broadside after broadside into Yangon. With the town only defended by a wooden stockade, the Governor retreated north into the countryside and the British occupied the town.

The monsoon had started, the roads had become unusable, and the British expeditionary force was confined to the town. Myanmar reinforcements had arrived from the towns and villages of the Lower River Course (Aukmyitsin), as also a high official from the capital, Inwa, to take command of the Myanmar troops. Known to the British as Thonba Wungyi, Thado Mingyi Minmaha U Yan v Aung, belonging to a hereditary cavalry group, had been appointed a Minister of the Crown Prince when the later Bagyidaw was installed in that position in 1809 and, when Bagyidaw became King in 1819, Wungyi. He established his headquarters at Kamayut, four miles from the own, building a complex of stockades, himself occupying the main stockade with three rings of defences.

The battle of Kamayut was fought on 8 July 1824. Troubled by Myanmar raids on Yangon town



and attacks on British troops venturing outside, Brigadier General McBean was sent out with four British infantry regiments and one of sepoys, a total strength of 1,250 men, against the Myanmar

position at Kamayut. The battle was fierce, with most of it at close quarters, and the British captured the position. Thonba Wungyi led his men with sword in hand and died fighting, his gold-hilted sword taken by Major Sale,

commanding the 13th Light Infantry Regiment.

Were the swordsmen of Pyay Road there to commemorate the battle of Kamayut and to honour the heroism of Thonba Wungyi?

> It does not seem likely. The Myanmar da is not as formidable as the Japanese katana, the longer of two swords borne by the samurai, which has a curved blade and a long hilt enabling a double-handed grip. Nevertheless the da, with a slender single-edged blade, is still a deadly weapon, the blade coming in slightly different shapes, the most common being the hnetkyidaung (large bird's feather), a reference to the legend of the hero Pyusawhti who



had come to Bagan and, with a single shot of an arrow barbed with Sakra's thunderbolt, killed the great bird which had been plaguing Bagan, the bird so large that

seven women could not carry a single feather of the bird on their heads. Master smiths took pride in their work, having a damascened design and their name inscribed at the base of the blade close to the hilt. Some da are also provided a name, giving them an identity of their own; the best known is the

Yeinnwèba, the name suggesting a slender and supple blade, with which Mingyi Yannaung killed Thohanbwa in 1536. The swordsmen of Pyay Road have the da in their hands, but they do not appear to be engaged in mortal

combat but rather going through the moves of banshay, a traditional form of Myanmar martial art, which are graceful and have the appearance of a dance. Perhaps the trail of the swordsmen can be traced further along Pyay Road to a two-storey wooden building on Commissioner's (now Bogyoke) by the Colombo Plan. The architect engaged was Raglan Squire (1912-2004) who, after graduating in architecture from Cambridge in 1932, attended evening classes at a polytechnic while working in



Road where the need for Assistant Engineers in the Public Works Department had resulted in the start of a course in civil engineering in 1924. Three years later, the engineering course had transformed itself into the BOC College of Engineering and Mining, a constituent college of the University of Rangoon, housed some distance away from Pyay Road in a low one-storey redbrick building in the 400-acre campus of the University.

Following Myanmar independence in 1948, there was a great rush of students into Rangoon University in the 1950s. As the facilities became inadequate, it was decided to build a new engineering college with funds made available architects' offices to take the examinations of the Royal Institute of British Architects and qualify as an architect in 1937. He founded his own firm, Raglan Squire and Partners, in 1948 and, among other things, worked on the redevelopment of Eaton Square in Belgravia.

Without any experience of designing for tropical conditions, Squire assembled and brought out with him a team of architects,

engineers and quantity surveyors, numbering about thirty, when he came to Myanmar in 1952. He was responsible for a number of construction works during his stay in Yangon—a Technical High School on Natmauk Road, the Agricultural Research Institute in Gyogon, a private residence for U Ba Htay and Daw Mya Tin in Golden Valley –but his main effort was devoted to the Rangoon Engineering College on Pyay Road.

The College had grown to five departments—four Engineering (Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Sanitary) and one Architecture and Squire's design of classrooms, lecture theatres and laboratories, as well as the Assembly Hall and Library, was in the modernist style which, stressing minimalism and rejecting ornament, had gained prominence in the 20th century through the work of Walter Gropius and Le Corbusier.

The Assembly Hall and the Library, on either side of a front courtyard and showpieces of the College, were buildings to which Squire gave his greatest attention and made innovations.

The Assembly Hall, set parallel to Pyay Road, was a low structure soft in shape, with curvilinear lines. Squire attempted an innovative roofing for it. Myanmar was noted for its timber, especially teak; it was traditionally used in domestic housing but, after a transitional period of semi-pucca building, half-brick, half-timber, timber had gone largely out of use for building except in rural areas. Squire's aim was to draw attention to the use of timber in the construction of public buildings, not just in the form of decorative inner panelling, but as an integral part of construction. Squire thought that enough technical progress had been made in the processing of timber for construction to justify his innovation. The concave roof had something of the shape of a turtle back and Myanmars came to call the building Leikkhon (Turtle Dome).

The Assembly Hall attracted much notice at the time and it was observed:

"This remarkable piece of timber engineering with its revolutionary structural principles is a monument to the versatility of wood as well as a tribute to the outstanding qualities of Burma teak. It will also serve as a constant reminder to the future architects and engineers of Burma how the tremendous advances in timber design techniques, promoted by developments in adhesives, timber connectors, calculated dimensions and prefabrication methods, Added to it were the constraints of an economy in decline. The wooden roof deteriorated beyond repair and the Assembly Hall was demolished. Demolished together with the Assembly Hall was the mural of its façade. Squire had called upon a number of eminent Myanmar artists to provide murals for the Engineering College, the only



their use. Squire explained his design:"The Library building would be multi-storey and, therefore, presented different problems. I finally decided that I would clad the whole of this building with precast, coffin shaped, panels; into these panels I would fit different coloured glass strips assembled in the form of louvres. The result would be a building that would



And the Director of the Centre was kind; she had brought an elephant to keep them company.

have contributed in overcoming the old limitations of wood and enabling it to compete successfully with steel and concrete in the most exacting engineering requirements."

However, the Assembly Hall came to a sad end. Myanmar architects and engineers, looking to a bright future, were more focused on the creation of new buildings than on the conservation of old ones. decoration which he used. The mural at the Assembly Hall was by U Nann Wai; it depicted a peacock in pride, symbol both of Myanmar and of the University of Yangon.

The Library, set at right angles to Pyay Road, was a large rectangular block, all straight lines in sharp contrast to the Assembly Hall. Here the innovation was not in the material used, but in the manner of be gently ventilated, through the louvres, along its

total length and which would receive, through the different coloured glass, a kind of dappled daylight effect like the lighting in a tropical jungle."

The ventilation of the Library which Squire tried to achieve was accomplished in domestic wooden buildings in Myanmar by the use of Venetian blinds. Squire's innovation lay in its adaptation to a building the size of the Library with a novel use of materials. The coloured glass louvres also enabled him to incorporate local culture; they were so arranged to reproduce the pattern of Kachin longyis.

The swordsmen came to the Engineering College towards the closing stage of its building and found themselves in a strange environment. Squire met them, inspected them, and assigned them to their station. It was the Library, although they realized

it only later when the books arrived. They had thought it to be a fort as it was the largest of the buildings and were puzzled when it turned out to be a library.

The Engineering College was finished in 1956 and celebrated in a manner recalled by Squire:

"The Library building I lit from the inside so that all the little coloured glass, coffin-shaped windows sparkled like a Christmas tree. The Assembly Hall was brightly lit inside and we arranged for a gentle flow of lighting outside. The buffet tables each had their own oil lamps and the whole complex was alive with happy, laughing people. It was a great day and great evening. I have had many great days since but, truly, never one quite like that."

The swordsmen also enjoyed themselves; their dancing became brisker, their swords glowing in the semi-darkness. There was not to be a celebration to match it until 44 years later. Much happened in those 44 years. The engineering students moved to another, more spacious campus in 1961, to buildings designed in a blend of Stalinist and neoclassical styles by the prominent Soviet architect Pavel Stenyushin. Medical students took the place of the engineering students in the old campus. The creation of a new system of higher education in 1964 and a proliferation of universities saw the Library turned into an office building accommodating the Department of Higher Education until it moved out to new purpose-built accommodation. For a time the Library was untenanted and became dilapidated until a new purpose was found for it and renovation began.

The renovation was only half-finished when the ceremony inaugurating the establishment of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition was held in 2000. Once again there was a crowd of people. There were stalls with a display of a great variety of Myanmar traditi0onal, handicrafts in place of the buffet tables of 1956. It was another great day, a day to remember.

Once again, the swordsmen danced briskly, their swords shining in the bright sunlight. They were happy because now they had found their vocation. They had taken their station as Squire had directed them but had never quite known what their role was at the Library. There was certainly no intention of turning them into scholars nor could there be an intention to make them guards. Whoever heard of libraries being attacked by armed men? The coming of the Department of Higher Education brought no change, there was no purpose in their presence and they did not feel like dancing. Now they knew what their purpose was. They were the upholders of a tradition, a tradition of swords and swordsmanship. It was a worldwide tradition. Did not Richard Burton, soldier, traveller and translator of such books as the One Thousand and One Nights, say in his Book of the Sword, "The history of the sword is the history of humanity"?

History (Our Struggle Years)

The 34th SEAMEO Council Conference on 7.2.1999 agreed to establish a SEAMEO Regional Centre in Myanmar. According to the agreement, SEAMEO CHAT was established in Yangon, Myanmar on the 15th of December in 2000 at five –storey building in University of Medicine -1 campus on Pyay Road in Kayamut Township.

On the 28th February in 2002, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Education of the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Council of Ministers of Education of Southeast Asia to establish SEAMEO CHAT. In the early 2000-2007 period, SEAMEO CHAT was a subsidiary of the Department of Universities Historical Research Centre (UHRC) and in 2007 it became an affiliate of the Department of Higher Education. SEAMEO Regional Center for History and Tradition, in collaboration with other SEAMEO Regional Centre, is involved in the development of Southeast Asia.

CHAT, which has been implementing ongoing projects, has not been in a state of disarray. CHAT has lived through many hardships over the years. In May 2008, Cyclone Nargis caused damage to the computers, books and journals, in the upstair warehouse of the SEAMEO CHAT office building where the roof and bricks of the building collapsed. A damage verification Team was formed to verify the damage. Although some of the damaged computers were recovered by experts, books, articles and journals were destroyed. As part of the disaster recovery work, the management was redesigned and implemented, and within a month, systematic and regular operations were carried out very smoothly.

About two years later, the department's regular resumption of normal operations after the devastation, another challenge was faced. After the visit of the Minister of Education to the SEAMEO CHAT in 2010, the office was instructed to move immediately from the Campus of the University of Medicine -1 to the Thiri Hall in the University of Yangon compound. The Minister instructed the process to clear the garbage tree and shrubs inside the Thiri Hall compound within a week, to guide the renovation work of Thiri Hall without damaging the original works and to complete the renovation of the original dormitory rooms into offices and lecture rooms in a short period of time. The guidelines were coordinated by the Department of Higher Education, Yangon University and CHAT and finally moved to Thiri Hall only in two weeks in November. Under the supervision of successful and expert Directors, regular activities such as Workshops, Seminars, trainings, meetings and CHAT Communication in English Course continued to run smoothly and successfully.

The struggle of CHAT's changes had not stopped there and the resilience of each variance was still being tested. In August 2014, Thiri and Marlar Halls were instructed to use as students's dormitories in accordance with the plan to reopen Yangon University as the Center of Excellence.

According to the instruction, the CHAT office was relocated to a five-storey concrete building in University of Medicine -1 Compound on Pyay road in Kamayut township. Since then, the regular activities of CHAT office such as research projects, seminars, workshops, meetings, trainings and CHAT Communication in English Course have intensified, reaching its 20th anniversary on the 15th of December this year. CHAT Communication in English Course have intensified, reaching its 20th anniversary on the 15th of December this year. CHAT Communication in English Course also provide well-deserved Diplomas and graduates who are successfully entering relevant fields.

We will continue to march for the success of our respective projects.

The Damages by Cyclone Nargis (2008)











Way Back to the First Place from Thiri Hall to the Building with The Dancing Swordsmen of Pyay Road (2014)



RECENT

Recently, there are altogether three sections namely Administration, Finance and Research & Development employing 16 full time and 15 part time staff. Among the staff, 1 Director, 2 Deputy Directors, 3 Assistant Directors (1 Vacant), 2 Staff Officers and 8 Administrative and Finance Assistants, and 15 Supporting staff. These three sections are the pillars of the SEAMEO CHAT for its 20 years journey. All staff is ready to overcome all the challenges in future with their upmost capacities.



Research and Development



Resource Centre



------ Finance

I mance





Extending Relationship



Visit of SEAMEO Council Presidents

.3-2013



HE. Dato Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Education, Malaysia (15.2-2009)





HE.Prof.Dr. Bambang Sudibyo , Minister of National Education, Indonesia 28,Aug 2007



HE. Prof: Dr, Nguyen Minh Hein, Minister of Education Vietnam, 22,Aug 2005



HE Dr Edilberto C de Jesus, Minister of Education, Philippines 23,May 2003









HE Mr Phongpol Adireksarn, Minister of Education, Thailand 17 January 2003



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Memorandum of Understanding



Signing Ceremony for Academic Exchange and Cooperation between CSEAS, Kyoto University, Japan and SEAMEO CHAT 25 March 2002



Visit of Partner University Institutions Organization



Prof Takatani Michio, Hiroshima University, Japan



Dr. Helen James



Prof Dr Maria Jaschok, Director, IGS at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford



Prof Dr Elizabeth Moore, SOAS, London University



Dr Dagmar Hellmann, University of Passau, Germany



Prof Dr Kazuo Ando and Dr Nakanishi Yoshihiro from CSEAS, Kyoto University and Dr Onishi Nobuhiro from Kyoto Gakuen University, Japan visited CHAT.





Country Director Mr Koji Sato from the Japan Foundation, Yangon visited the Centre on 24 September 2019 for a meeting to organize the forum on Satoyama Water Garden.



Dr Malinda dela Pena Bandalaria, President of the Office of the Chancellor from UP Open University visited CHAT on 18 November 2019 for finding ways to cooperate forthcoming activities.

The People

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE



Carole Ann Chit Tha Professor / Director 2008-2011

In Commemoration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition (SEAMEO CHAT).

The year 2020 marks a significant milestone as the SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition (SEAMEO CHAT) enters its "Twentieth Anniversary" of its establishment. In this year the whole world is facing a serious Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic that came with an unexpected bang which had a profound influence on the human life and brought much introspection. The pandemic has accelerated the urgency of building a community of a shared future for mankind which is the imperative of our time. As Coronavirus Covid-19 goes viral events and activities goes virtual with new ways of work and new normal while effectively fusing them with our traditional practices.

Memories go back when on 15th December 2000, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO), as the newest of its Centres of that time, the SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition (SEAMEO CHAT) was inaugurated in Yangon. It is with great pride that SEAMEO CHAT since its establishment has come a long way almost for two decades, seriously conscious of its vision to act as a repository of the rich historical heritage and varied traditions in Southeast Asia, that makes available its expertise to meet the challenges of the 21st Century and become the centre par excellence in its field of competence.

As we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of SEAMEO CHAT reflection can be made on the remarkable milestones that we have achieved together in the last two decades. SEAMEO CHAT has as its mission the promotion of cooperation of the Members States in the study of history and tradition and the development of a greater regional identity through research, human resource development, education and public awareness programmes. The Centre, in collaboration with institutions and agencies in programmes, projects and activities related to its specialisation with special attention given to income-generating activities utilize cost recovery strategies and customised programmes. The Centre's concern is not only with past traditions but also with traditions in change, from tradition to modernity. One of the programmes in which SEAMEO CHAT directs it efforts is the annual training programme, Myanmar History from Myanmar Perspectives, that served as the building block for Regional History, allowing the presentation of Myanmar History from different perspectives.

During my tenure, at SEAMEO CHAT as Deputy Director (2005-2008) and Director (2008-2011), I was immensely proud of the SEAMEO CHAT team and would like to take this opportunity to convey my deepest appreciation and express my heartiest gratitude to our mentors, the previous Directors, Professor U Tun Aung Chain and Daw Ni Ni Myint, for their efforts made for the Centre's success. I would also like to congratulate all the retired Directors and the present Director of SEAMEO CHAT for their respective parts played in maintaining performance standards and commitment to the Centre.

We have sailed together through harsh and good times together showed the true meaning of dedication and loyalty, managed to come a long way and reached this twentieth anniversary. In all these years success would not have been possible without the team work and it would have been impossible to look into the future. Every achievement of SEAMEO CHAT was the outcome of the teamwork which every staff member contributed whole heartedly with their hard work and determination to overcome each hurdle and be an essential and valued part of SEAMEO CHAT's achievement. As we look back, we also look forward to starting a new decade of extraordinary activities of SEAMEO CHAT. I take this moment to congratulate SEAMEO CHAT on your

milestone and wish a very prosperous future.



Myo Aung Director (Retired) SEAMEO CHAT

A Piece of Memoir

One of my memoirs of SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition (SEAMEO CHAT) is to conduct the Workshop History Agenda 21. The Workshop was attended by renowned historians and curriculum planners from the Ministries of Education of the Southeast Asian region and was characterized by lively and valuable discussions.

SEAMEO CHAT held the Inauguration Ceremony on 15th December 2000, with two occasions: the Workshop History Agenda 21 held on 14thto 15th December, and a Craft Fair, held from 15th to 17th December.

As a Senior Programme Officer of

SEAMEO CHAT, I was assigned as a Secretary of the Working Committee of the Workshop History Agenda 21. While I was preparing for the Workshop, Department of Higher Education (DHE) issued an order that I was assigned as a Member of the Traffic Security and Control Committee of the I nauguration Ceremony day. On that day my duty was to pick up the participants of the Workshop to the Inauguration Ceremony and sent them back to the Workshop venue. I went to DHE and met one of the officials and explained my problem. He told me no to worry and the young staff could be carried out their duty well. I was relieved to hear that information.



While the workshop was conducting, a surprised affair was happened. Dr. MR Rujaya Abhakorn from Chiang Mai University asked the secretariat to buy a bouquet. We didn't know the reason why he bought a bouquet. Coincidently it was the birthday of our Centre Director's Daw Ni Ni Myint and we didn't think of it. The surprised birthday present made Daw Ni Ni Myint happy and the audience too.

On 15th December 2000, the workshop was conducted with parallel sessions: one session for historians and one for curriculum planners. Professor Tun Aung Chain suggested that the lay-out of the meeting rooms should be Round Table format. But the hotel officials replied that they have no round table and they could arrange only formal meeting table format. Although we disappointed we accepted it. Two parallel sessions made the Secretariat staff busy. In conclusion, the Workshop conducted successfully. We are relieved and when we saw the appreciative audience, we are pleased with them. When I looked at Professor Tun Auna Chain and Daw Ni Ni Myint, they smiled full of pride.



Myint Myint Ohn Director (Retired) SEAMEO CHAT

Sweet Reminiscences

Stepping to the area of history and tradition after teaching English at universities for 21 years was quite a challenge. Especially a regional centre! Working as an IRO at the SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition-SEAMEO CHAT, I learned quite a lot not only about history and tradition but also on the nature of office work which is really different from that of teaching.

The first Director of the Centre was Daw Ni Ni Myint without whom the establishment of the Centre would not have been accomplished. It was obtained because of her perseverance and effort that approval for establishing the Centre from both SEAMEO and the Ministry of Education. The first Deputy Director when I joined the Centre was Dr Myo Myint who assisted the Director excellently. These two persons were like parents to me and trained me to become a skillful and efficient at the Centre.

Working at the Centre, there were a lot of memorable working experiences. Among there were the carrying out Centre's programs and activities especially the preparations for Governing Board Meetings under the Director and Deputy Director together with colleagues from other departments/sections. Though small in numbers, all colleagues worked cooperatively. We had to inform the Ministry of Education on all activities like workshops, seminars, and

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Governing Board Meetings at least a month or so in advance for its approval. For the Governing Board Meetings the Centre had to prepare starting from theme, concept, total estimate cost, agenda to participant lists (both local and from other countries). The staff of all departments worked hard so that all activities worked according to plan and on schedule. No one ever complained on having to work hard, staying up to six or seven pm for the preparations as well as for winding up the Centre activities. The experience helped me to become more dedicated and attached to working at the Centre, with a succession of Directors as well colleagues.

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One of the activities that generated income for the Centre and the staff was implemented a year after the establishment of the Centre. It was the CHAT Communication in English Course started in 2002 by Dr Myo Myint the then Deputy Director of the Centre. Students with a minimum qualification of matriculation exam pass joined the two-year diploma course in which the four skills of English were taught. The activity which has been carried out since 2002 is still a successful one generating income for the Centre and its staff.

The second Centre Director was Professor U Tun Aung Chain who was full of brilliant ideas in planning, and implementing projects and programmes for the Centre. We learned a lot from him, not only history but also English as he was good in English. The Centre had many visitors both local and abroad.

In the time of the third Director Daw Carole Ann Chit Tha, in May 2008, Myanmar was hit by cyclone Nargis and like many other office buildings, the Centre was damaged in many parts. Many big trees fell on the office building and most parts of the roof were damaged. They were all gradually repaired with funding given by the Government.

In 2011 the Centre had to move to Thiri Hall in the campus of Yangon University. Thiri Hall was previously a hostel for female university students but with expenses provided by the Ministry of Education, it was renovated

Together with the succession of Governing Board members who attended the annual meetings, my special thank goes to CSEAS

into a very fine building where activities like seminars, workshops, were held and attended by staff from Social Science Departments of Universities in the Yangon area. The annual training program, Myanmar History from Myamar Perspectives was also conducted there and joined by participants from the region and beyond.

The fourth Director U Myo Aung had previously worked at the Historical Research Centre at University of Yangon and was a very good historian and researcher. He had joined SEAMEO CHAT and was there even before me. He worked enthusiastically on the training programme, Myanmar History from Myanmar perspectives, in addition to other activities of the Centre. For me, all these four Directors gave me guidance and have provided good examples for me to fellow.

The Centre again had to move back to the previous five-storey building in November 2014 after the retirement of U Myo Aung. We were glad to be back there but missed Thiri Hall where renovations had provided for a greater scoped of activities. For me, the experience of working at the Centre for 14 years as the

> International Relations Officer in collaboration with colleagues from the departments of the Centre indeed helped me to work as the fifth Director of the Centre. Without the advice and suggestion of my previous Directors and the cooperation of officers and staff of the Centre, it would have been a hard time for me.

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Like other SEAMEO Centres, CHAT has the Governing Board Meeting once a year. The Centre started the first Governing Board Meeting in 2002. Unlike many other large Centres, CHAT was able to provide only domestic transportation and meals, and the airfare and accommodation expenses for the Board members coming to the meeting were shouldered by the their respective MoEs. We have been glad to have 70% attendance of Board members in the annual to conduct of Board meetings. All our Governing Board


members in the 20 years of the Centre's existence have been very kind, giving the Centre good guidelines, effective advice and unfailing support.

Together with the succession of Governing Board members who attended the annual meetings, my special thank goes to CSEAS, the Centre for Southeast Asia Studies, Kyoto University; SOAS, the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and members of the Social Science departments of Universities in the Yangon area for their collaboration in the successful conduct of the Centre's activities.

Finally, the Centre cannot leave out in its acknowledgements the SEAMEO Council Presidents, the SEAMEO Directors and Secretariat, and other SEAMEO Centres for the encouragement, collaboration and support given for the success of SEAMEO CHAT activities carried out in the 20 years.



Dr Khin Lay Soe Director SEAMEO CHAT

Flashback over the Last Two Decades

It was 1998 and I was working as a Research Assistant at the Universities Historical Research Centre, when I heard the news that a new regional centre was going to be established and I saw the high official of the Ministry of Education, our Director General, members of the Historical Commission, and senior staff all working busily. As a junior staff of the Universities Historical Research Centre, I did not much know what was going on only that there were continued meetings and discussions. It was only much later that I came to know something about the establishment of the reading of some documents.

I learnt that SEAMEO was established more than five decades ago as an organization of Southeast Asian nations to promote cooperation and better understanding in the region through education, science and culture.

I came to know that Myanmar, became a member of SEAMEO in February 1998, with the SEAMEO Council accepting Myanmar as one of the ten (now 11) SEAMEO member countries. I also came to understand why the Ministry of Education, Myanmar wished to set up a Regional Centre, to enable Myanmar to share its expertise and practices with other member countries of the region. In October 1998, Daw Ni Ni Myint, Director General of Universities Historical Research Centre representing the Ministry of Education proposed the establishment of a Regional Centre to the SEAMEO Council President and Brunei Darussalam Minister of Education H E Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Aziz Umar during his visit to Myanmar. This was followed by 21st High Official Meeting which deliberated on and approved Working Paper HOM-21/IC/WP/7 and

submitted of endorsement to the 34th Council Conference which was held in Bali, Indonesia in February 1999. With the endorsement, the Ministry of Education, Myanmar formed a committee for the establishment of the Centre, headed by Deputy Minister for Education (Dr Myo Nyunt), Myanmar on 27 May 1999. The first meeting of the committee was held on 8 June 1999. The following of SEAMEO Council Meeting decided that the Myanmar proposal should be studied further by a Technical Committee. Made up of representation from SEAMEO member countries to ensure its need in the region and that it would not be duplicating the activities and area of specialization of other SEAMEO Regional Centres.

The Technical Committee meeting on the establishment of the Centre was held in Yangon, Myanmar on 4 to 6 August 1999. It was attended by the Minister (U Than Aung) and Deputy Minister for Education, Myanmar, Director and Deputy Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, and the members of the Technical Committee representing Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar. Based on the recommendation of the Technical Committee Meeting, an Experts Meeting was held in Yangon on 6 to 8 June 2000 Professor Tun Aung Chain acted as Chairperson. The meeting discussed the proposed programmes, projects, activities, funding and centre staff for three year provisional period (2000-2003), the draft Enabling Instrument of the Centre and draft staff rules and regulations of the Centre. The discussion and recommendations were positive and practical and were useful for the Centre's activities and programmes in the first phase of its existence.

The establishment of the Centre was configured step by step. Eventually, the Min-

istry of Education inaugurated the very first Regional Centre in Myanmar, with the name of Regional Centre for History and Tradition, in Yangon, Myanmar on 15 December 2000. On the day of inauguration, there was a Mvanmar Traditional Craft Fair together with exhibitions by professionals and by students from Basic Education Schools. As part of the inauguration of the Centre and its first activity, the Workshop History Agenda 21 was held in Inva Lake Hotel, Yangon on 14 and 15 December 2000. The Regional Centre was staffed by members of the Universities Historical Research Centre and I became a staff member of the Regional Centre from its founding. I have memories on my Directors. The first Director Daw Ni Ni Myint was enthusiastic and played a major role and energetic setting establishment of the regional centre. With the Centre established, worked against the clock on the Centre programmes. We used to say that "The tail wagged at the turn of the dragon's head" when she had a second thoughts. The second Director was Professor Tun Aung Chain, who educated us not only by his acting but also by his sayings. I specially remember one of his says "Sit down and do what you have to do sitting down; stand up and do what you have to do standing up. During the time of Daw Carole Ann Chit Tha, the third Director, we had to shift to Thiri Hall, situated on the campus of the University of Yangon. Because of her good management and leadership, we easily overcame our hardest time at the Centre. The fourth Director was U Myo Aung with whom worked since his start as a Senior Progrmme Officer at the Centre. His

patience and working style was noticeable for

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I learnt that SEAMEO was established more than five decades ago as an organization of Southeast Asian nations to promote cooperation and better understanding in the region through education, science and culture.

> us. The fifth Director was Daw Myint Myint Ohn, with whom I had worked since her joining the Centre in 2001. She had a soft voice, and in that soft voice she persuaded us to do what she wants us to do. I also remember our Deputy Directors, Dr Myo Myint and Daw Saw Khin Gyi who were totally different types. Dr Myo Myint was very strict in his work, and we had to seriously consider everything before submitting them to him. Daw Saw Khin Gyi's smiles, on the other hand, made us all feel at ease and free, and were always ready to help us.

> The staff members of the Centre from its beginning up to present who have contributed in many ways to be development of SEAMEO CHAT. Without them, the Centre would not have been able to accomplish its vision and mission. Word cannot be enough to express their contribution and I believed that each and every one deserves to be congratulated in this celebrating the 20th Anniversary of SEAMEO CHAT.





MS. TRIANA WULANDARI

Director Ministry of Education and Culture / Republic of Indonesia

Advancing History Learning Through Digital Product: A Memoir of SEAMEO CHAT

It is a pleasure for me to be able to contribute to the SEAMEO CHAT Program. As a former director of history in the Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Indonesia, I can say that SEAMEO CHAT has made many programs that are useful for the advancement of history learning in Southeast Asia especially in Indonesia.

I remember the first time I took part in the SEAMEO CHAT 17th GOVERNING BOARD MEETING as a representative of Indonesia in 2018. As a new participant in the meeting, I felt that SEAMEO CHAT's vision and mission had a lot in common with the vision and mission of the historical directorate that I led in advancing history learning. We exchanged ideas among participants from various countries in Southeast Asia about learning history which in my opinion is a good opportunity for us in Indonesia to obtain information from friends of other countries relating to learning history.

Year 2019 was an amazing year for me as a Director of History, because we were able to share our experience in the Directorate of History in packaging the history learning media for friends of all participants to the SEAMEO CHAT 18th Governing Board Meeting. On this occasion we

had the opportunity to share experiences about our experience of teaching history by conducting different competitions in elementary schools, junior high schools and senior high school, we also had opportunity to show some digital products that can be used as media for student learning at school. In the same year we also sent delegates from the directorate of history to the Consultative Meeting on History in the Eyes of Digital Generation: New Ways of Pedagogy in Teaching History. In the meeting represented by Fider Tendiardi, we presented various digital products that we produced in order to enrich the treasury of history learning for students in secondary schools. Our product of knowledge such as online learning, digital learning application of history of Indonesia, and e-book are very helpful for students to better understand about learning history in school.

In the future I hope we can continue to work closely with SEAMEO CHAT in order to advance history learning. Once again I want to congratulate SEAMEO CHAT on its 20th Anniversary, Hopefully SEAMEO CHAT continue to contribute in advancing learning of History.



Dr. Vong Sotheara

Director History Department Royal University of Phnom Penh Cambodia

Burma or Myanmar is a country where interests me ever since I become a historian in 1990s. I think there many history and culture correlations between Myanmar and Cambodia. Among those, firstly, the French pioneering scholars employed a Myanmar originated legend of a farmer who cultivated cucumbers and then became a king to be a really historical event in Cambodian history. The legend personage was inserted as a king in Angkor history before t he mid-14th century. This legend, as far as I know, it probably was invented in 10th century in Myanmar. Secondly, I have learned about superb Pagan historical and cultural heritage along the Irrawaddy river and the most important of Buddhist traditional circle stupa-Caitiya installations in Burmese pagodas seem being acquired by Post-Angkor Cambodia for being a Mandala or capital city center as all visitors can observe the presence of a big stupa on the man-made-hill Wat Phnom, the worshiping center of Phnom Penh capital.

Then in 2003, I have heard about the existence of an organizational center attaching with ASEAN Education Ministers organization,

called SEAMEO-CHAT in Yangoon, Myanmar through a former lecturer of mine who annually participated the meeting of this organization. In December 2005, I met Dr Ba Maung, Director General of Universities Historical Research Centre in Hanoi. I had very sincere talks with him about the use of history knowledge to disseminate or convince people living in peace, tolerance, reconciliating, mutually understanding and bearing in their mind for nation building. He explained me a lot of advantages and disadvantages of realization of this purpose especially the context of particular societies and politic. Also, he told me that this organization is taking part incontributing to Burmese history and culture promotion and propagation to people in Myanmar. These accounts attracted me committing to visit Myanmar one days

By chance, a student of mine who was recently promoted as a Deputy Director General of the Directorate General of Education in Cambodia requested me participating the 17th GBM meeting of this SEAMEO CHAT in September 2018. I thought this was my great opportunity to understand the works of this

center and to explore the historical and cultural interests in Yangon. Indeed, I have never been behaved the task of advisory board of any affiliation before, even if I become a director of the Department of History of Royal University of Phnom Penh since 2014. Hence, I just observed and learned what and how the center works in the field of Burmese history and culture promotion and propagation among public. When returning to Cambodia, I am ashamed to report about what this regional center have done so far and planned to implement year by year because there is no any similar regional center opening for enhancing any field of science, economic, or culture in my country because of poverty, shortage of intellectual resources, and recently surviving from a circle chain of deadly wars. After the meeting in 2018, I suggested a young staff of the center to guide me visiting cultural and historical sites in Yangon. She and her friend, Thu Ya brought me and the Vietnaese GBM to visit Sule Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda, Independence Square, Port, and Yangon National Museum. My second chance

was unexpected coming by the adoption of the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of Cambodia. He quietly nominates me as a GBM to participate the 18th GBM meeting in September 2019. Beyond learning from this regional center's works. I was fascinated with the center's organized visit to the former government headquarter where the Great Heroes of Myanmar were assassinated in 1947. It was great opportunity for me to learn in deeper modern history of Myanmar as well as my personal visit with a Burmese friend, Zaw Mying to Yangon University. I observed some buildings and their history, library and Mon inscription, and beautiful parks on the fatal suppression bank of Inya lake. Through the visits, I have found a lot of interesting knowledge, understanding, and experiences from Myanmar history and culture in order to strengthening a part of my teaching field of Southeast Asian history. I hope in the near future, my participation of GBM meetings in Myanmar will make me more opportunities to visit other important historical sites where I can discover more significantly cultural and historical connections between our two countries in this same region, particularly, the inscription talking about Suvarnabhumi and the indicated territory because I just discovered a stone inscription dated in 633 AD talking about a Khmer King, Iśānavarman I was ruling over the territory of Suvarnabhumi where borders with seas.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dexanourath Seneduangdeth

Acting Dean Faculty of Social Sciences National University of Laos Lao PDR I hope that Lao, Myanmar and other ASEAN people will certainly continue cooperation in terms of academic and cultural exchange and other terms as well.

Twenty years of development, SEAM-EO CHAT has developed, achieved many important many accomplishments and I hope that it will be continue developing progressively to the future.

t is considered that is a good opportnity for me, to be assigned to work as a Governing Board Member of SEAMEO CHAT for three years (12 February 2016 to 11 February 2019. Even though it is a short time for me to work with other Governing Board Members from other ASEAN nations, particularly the host of SEAMEO CHAT, Myanmar, to encourage academic task on history and tradition, ASAN integration, and also network extension, I certainly think that it is a good time for me and also for us to exchange ideas on the pathway of developing SEAMEO CHAT.

Even though, it is over time for me to respond the task as a governing board member, I still certainly being as a coordinator between SEAMEO CHAT and other Faculties, centers and institutions concerning to history and tradition in National University of Laos.

I sincerely thank for your kind providing opportunities to my staff and other Lao lectuers to train on History and Tradition in SEAMEO CHAT in Myanmar.





ZAINAL BIN ABAS

Director Sports, Co-curricular and Arts Division Ministry of Education, Malaysia

In the eyes of the world, Malaysia is a country that is renowned for its diversity be it race, religion or culture. This unique feature has led to the development of a strong foundation and the stability of the country. After 63 years of independence, Malaysians have proven that a diversified society can strive and live harmoniously which in turn has benefitted the country's economy and advancement in numerous fields.

Throughout my career in the field of education, it is in my view that racial integration plays a pivotal role in the development of education at an early age thus emphasizing on its importance in cultivating a harmonious society. As such, sports, co-curricular and arts activities that are conducted in schools contribute towards personality and character building amongst children. Furthermore, these activities educate children to have respect for others, cooperate amongst each other and build a strong relationship despite of their differences.

As we are aware, one can experience a melting pot of culture in Malaysia comprising of numerous iconic and historical buildings that are significant in each way. As the National Mosque of Malaysia located in Kuala Lumpur symbolizes the practice of Islam in Malaysia, The Batu Caves Temple in Selangor and the Kek Lok Si Temple in Penang represent Hinduism and Buddhism that is freely practiced amongst Malaysians of different races. Societies' understanding towards the respect of each other's religion is a value that is instilled through education and supports national integration in a diversified country.

In Malaysia, Civic Education is taught as early as preschool. Civic Education provides students the understanding of civic literacy (in the classroom) and civic practice (outside of the classroom) that is integrated through four (4) core values which are love, respect, responsibility and happiness. These values can be incorporated in lessons, co-curricular activities and programs that permit students to be more understanding and appreciative of their background and culture. I believe that through Civic Education, children will have a sense of patriotism and love for the country thus ensuring a more civilized and harmonious society.

According to Bertrand Russell, "without civic morality communities perish; without personal morality their survival has no value". This is in line with the third shift in the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025 to develop value driven Malaysians whereby each student will become a global citizen that has been instilled with core values and has developed a strong national identity. This objective is achieved through the implementation of Civic Education in schools that is incorporated through subjects such as English, Islamic Studies and History. Furthermore, Civic Education is also incorporated during sports and co-curricular activities conducted in schools. It is hoped that by the year 2030, a majority of Malaysians will be civic minded and thrive in ensuring a more harmonious and peaceful future for the country.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition (SEAMEO Chat) in its vast contribution towards education, cultures and traditions throughout the years and its role towards creating future leaders thus developing South East Asia into a more prosperous and developed nation.





Professor Dr Mo Mo Thant

History Department, University of Yangon, Myanmar

I am honored to share my thoughts about SEAMEO CHAT on this auspicious occasion.

Since 2007, I have been given the privilege to serve as a member of the Governing Board of SEAMEO CHAT of Myanmar. Long before I became a member of the Governing Board, I had enjoyed a very good and useful relationship with SEAMEO CHAT Center. I was fortunate to participate in the SEAMEO CHAT's many academic activities. Of those many experiences, I particularly recall with fond memory the International lecture about the "History of Philippines" that was given by the professor from Philippines University. At that lecture, our respected Sayargyi U Tun Aung Chaing also took part. We raised some guestions and had a very insightful discussion. We really enjoyed it. It was such a great opportunity for us to participate and interact with foreigners because there was a lot of constraints in the Ministry of Education at that time. My heartfelt thanks to SEAMEO CHAT for that!

Since the time I was appointed as a GB Member with the permission of the Ministry of education, I have been able to have more contact and also to initiate some programs and activities. I was able to attend the SEAMEO CHAT Governing Board meeting from 7th GB Meeting to 18th GB Meeting. I learnt a lot from these meetings and got valuable knowledge from other members about how they have improved the quality and standard of education including Secondary and Tertiary levels in their respective countries. As you already know, in the last few years Myanmar has undergone a deep political metamorphosis that has resulted in the suspension of the economic sanctions that had been applied against the country and normalization of its relations with the international community. The level of higher education has endured decades of rigid external control, isolation and lack of resources. To improve this situation, SEAMEO CHAT center tried to contribute to develop the limited capacity of university staffs and scholars by improving their quality.

With the onset of political changes in Myanmar in 2011, the inception of the national "Higher Education Reform" started in 2012. Against this backdrop and in line with the principle of the "National Education Strategic Plan" that was initiated in 2016, the SEAMEO CHAT Center took the initiative to provide more opportunities to improve the progressive activities of academic staffs. Here I would like to highlight some particular progressive activities such as the workshop on "Myanmar History from Myanmar Perspectives" and the International workshop on "A way for Enhancing History, Culture and Tradition for Rural Development in Myanmar and Southeast". Very recently the Center engaged in the workshop for "Digital teaching and Learning for history subject at primary and secondary level". It is an ongoing process but it has been a very useful and timely tool for expanding the teaching and learning methodology during these complicated



days of COVID 19 virus.

To be honest, during my early days of SEAMEO Center GB meetings, I had trouble arguing over some questions from other GB members mainly because there were lots of restriction in place for formulating and doing some activities in CHAT.

After changing of the country's situation, the Center is able to more actively contribute and also to expand some programs. I would like to express my appreciation to the Center for that too.

I would like to congratulate the milestones and developments of SEAMEO that were achieved during the past two decades. I also would like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Myanmar for its full support to SEAMEO CHAT, SEAMEO Secretariat and to the staff of SEAMEO CHAT Center. My Special thanks also go to the ex-center directors who were the founders of the Center and who continue to support the center until now. Wishing the CHAT Center a more progressive and productive future!



ARSENIO J. LIZASO

Chairman National Commission for Culture and the Arts Manila, The Philippines

PAMBANSANG KOMISYON PARA SA KULTURA AT MGA SINING

MESSAGE

History and tradition shape our future. The narrative of the past and the continuous observance of intangible expressions of life help us build the bridges that will serve as our pathways to tomorrow. Meanwhile, history and tradition also bind us together as one Southeast Asian community. It allows us to reflect the diversity we possess and cherish and use it as a backbone of regional cooperation in education, sciences, and culture.

As the Governing Board Member from the Philippines, I wish to extend my congratulations to the SEAMEO Centre for History and Tradition (CHAT) as it celebrates its 20th founding anniversary. Established at the dawn of the new millennium, SEAMEO CHAT is one of only two SEAMEO Centres focusing on culture from among its 26 Regional Centres and the only one based in Myanmar. It is, thus, in a challenging yet unique and strategic position to promote history and tradition in a region as diverse as Southeast Asia and in an organization with an impeccable record of promoting a better quality of life in the region.

SEAMEO CHAT has excelled not only

in promoting the histories and traditions of SEAMEO member countries but also in introducing Myanmar history and tradition to Southeast Asian countries. It is of utmost significance that, in the context of Southeast Asian historical education in the Philippines, such gaps are addressed through teacher education. SEAMEO CHAT's Myanmar History from Myanmar Perspectives served as an effective mechanism to fill in the dearth of information about Myanmar in the Asian History textbooks of the Philippines. We thank SEAMEO CHAT for continuously admitting Filipino public- school teachers in its longest running program.

We laud the efforts of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, the host country, for its unwavering support to the Centre for the past two decades. The success of the Centre's programs was made possible due to the enabling environment which its government has nurtured. As we journey towards a world changed by a pandemic, may SEAMEO CHAT continue to be a beacon of historical education in the region by introducing innovative approaches to learning and strengthening global and regional partnerships with institutions specializing in Southeast Asian history and tradition.



KENNETH LEE TEE CHONG Ministry of Education, Singapore

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of SEAMEO CHAT I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt congratulations to Dr Khin Lay Soe, governing board members and staff of SEAMEO Culture, Heritage and Tradi-

tion (CHAT) on the 20th anniversary of the centre's founding.

Throughout its history, the centre has worked tirelessly to promote understanding of the culture, heritage and history of the countries in Southeast Asia and as well as the links that bind us together as a region. Key programmes in recent years include Kaleidoscopic Myanmar, Myanmar History from Myanmar Perspectives, as well as the lecture series on the history and traditions of SEAMEO member states. Today, graduates of SEAMEO CHAT programmes teach regional history and culture in schools and universities across Southeast Asia.

But why is deepening the knowledge of educators and academics about Southeast Asia history and culture important in our STEMdominated 21st century? There is great importance in the teaching of history to the 21st century digital native. Without the knowledge of our region's history, students are unable to learn from the past in order to make better decisions about the future. Without the knowledge of our neighbours in Southeast Asia, our young will lack the historical understanding and cultural sensitivity to humanly connect and work across borders to solve regional challenges. SEAMEO CHAT has started conducting programmes, like the Impromptu talk competition on History in the Eyes of Digital Generation, that are building our collective understanding of how to engage our youth in the learning of culture and history. In the coming years, I believe that the centre will serve in growing both awareness and research work in this vital area.

An institution of distinction is not built overnight. I know that during the past 20 years, SEAMEO CHAT has been developed through the hard work and selfless devotion of its leaders, governing board, academics and staff members. I am confident that in the next 20 years, the centre will be able to build on its history of academic and institutional achievements, and work with its network of partners, to press on to achieve its mission with distinction.



MR PRATEEP PHENGTAKO

Director General Fine Arts Department, Thailand

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to write a message for the special publication on the 20th Anniversary of SEAMEO CHAT.

In spite, or rather because of the prolonging pandemic, we, through our regional body SEAMEO CHAT, have stood up together to move forward in current difficult conditions. In the context of appreciating and commemorating the milestone of our pledge to "One Vision, One Identity, One Community" in ASEAN, the importance of SEAMEO CHAT toward realizing this ASEAN's esteemed goal cannot be underestimated.

As a member-state-cum-founder of ASEAN and SEAMEO CHAT, Thailand has been actively involved in nearly all planning and activities of the Centre. Certainly the geographical proximity between Bangkok and Yangon has made communication and exchange more conducive and warmer. Indeed, our representatives to many different programs, trainings, workshops and conferences at the Centre have never failed to attend.

As a child of the new millennium, SEAMEO CHAT was born in the new spirit of more open world and thus it continues to be indispensable to paving the way for cooperation and unity in ASEAN as well as o relating ASEAN to the global world. Inwardly the Centre continues to bring together not only experts and officials from member states but also, more significantly initiate cooperation in the fields of history, culture and tradition in general for ASEAN common interests.

To facilitate and enhance the Centre's role toward strengthening ASEAN identity and promoting it to wider audience worldwide, it is certainly important to emphasize the importance of putting more energy and attention to the 20th Anniversary of SEAMEO CHAT. Expert meeting, official gathering, workshop, seminar and publication must be qualitatively and quantitatively improved. In my humble opinion, this means, it is time to empower the Centre with more decent budgeting.

On behalf of a Governing SEAMEO CHAT Board Member, representing Thailand I would like to express my greatest pride for being honoured to play our part in commemorating the 20th Anniversary of SEAMEO CHAT. Hopefully, this commemoration will help show the Centre's crucial role in reinvigorating ASE-AN's goal and encourage the public to develop a better appreciation of the importance of cultural heritage and historical dynamics of ASE-AN. Finally we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the SEAMEO CHAT officers for all their initiatives and hard work and wish the Publication a great success.

Bangkok, July 20, 2020

Mr. Prateep Phengtako, Governing SEAMEO CHAT Board Member and Director General of the Fine Arts Department of Thailand





Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dao Tuan Thanh VIFTNAM

Thoughts of THE OPERATIONs OF the SEAMEO CHAT IN 20 YEARS (2000-2020)

The establishment and cooperation of the Regional Center for History and Tradition (SEAMEO CHAT) during the two decades (2000 - 2020) is a remarkable highlight in the process of building ASEAN's identity in the era of Globalization and Integration.

The creation of the ASEAN Community in late 2015 with three pillars including the Socio-Cultural pillar has deeply showed the significance and necessity of the SEAMEO CHAT.

In sharping ASEAN's Identity, History and Culture play a particularly important role. The "Unity in Diversity" in the History and Tradition of Southeast Asia is increasingly evident. With its mission and credibility, SEAMEO CHAT has greatly contributed to education of history and tradition in the past two decades.

It promotes the unique cultural values of each ASEAN members to the other countries in the region, especially advertises Myanmar's traditions, history and cultural identity to young generations in Southeast Asia.

In the era of Globalization and Digital Age with the strong development of the Revolution 4.0, the existence and development of the SEAMEO CHAT faces many difficulties and challenges, besides its advantages. The

new context of the world requires the SEAMEO CHAT to innovate strongly to promote the connection and cultural exchange between Southeast Asian countries, contributing to accelerate the shaping of ASEAN identity in the Flat World. In doing so, the SEAMEO CHAT needs to encourage further connections and coordinations among the member states.

Historical and Traditional Education should be further strengthened in the activities of the SEAMEO CHAT to help Southeast Asian countries to understand each other and as soon as possible achieve the goals of building the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

During the two decades, the Government of Myanmar has actively and comprehensively supported the activities of the SEAMEO CHAT in terms of capital, material and other values. However, I personally think that more assistance is needed, especially in terms of finance and the policy of recruiting high-quality staffs for the Center.

The SEAMEO CHAT should pay more attention to training and recruiting young researchers because those can create a great influence on the quality of the SEAMEO CHAT's professional activities in future. The SEAMEO CHAT researchers must be supplied with academic skill and must have abilities to lead the activities of SEAMEO CHAT in the Digital Age.

During this period, Vietnam has actively supported the SEAMEO CHAT's activities. The Center also helps and supports young Vietnamese researches as they come to work at the SEAMEO CHAT. Vietnam recognizes and

highly appreciates that gesture of the SEAMEO CHAT.



Elizabeth H Moore

In-Region Liaison, SOAS Southeast Asian Art Academic

SEAMEO CHAT Twenty Years Celebrations Elizabeth H Moore

It is a honour to contribute to this volume celebrating twenty years of the SEAMEO Regional Centre of History and Tradition (CHAT) guided by Daw Ni Ni Myint and Prof. Tun Aung Chain over many years. I recall the steady presence of U Myo Aung and the encouragement from Ma Ohnmar Myo during the early years. The CHAT seminars and conferences that started soon after its inauguration were ones I welcomed attending and at times giving a paper. The first was in August 2003, a paper on "Interpreting Contexts,

Pyu and Bronze Age Myanmar" and later that month, greatly enjoying the joint seminar with Chiang Mai University on "Comparative Aspects of Myanmar Arts and Crafts". In December 2003, I was pleased to contribute "Ancient Knowledge and the Use of Landscape: Walled Settlements in Lower Myanmar" to the collaborative conference with the Universities Historical Research Centre, Traditions of Knowledge. In 2004, it was a pleasure to deliver a talk on radar remote sensing to detect prehistoric water management features

at Angkor, Cambodia. From January 12-14 2005, SEAMEO SPAFA again collaborated with the Universities Historical Research Centre in the landmark conference 50th Anniversary of the Myanmar Historical Commission jointly chaired by Dr. Toe Hla and Daw Ni Ni Myint. Along with many others, I truly appreciated the days of papers on a wealth of historical and cultural topics.

In the second decade of SEAMEO CHAT, my institutional collaboration has deepened, thanks to a generous beguest from the Alphawood Foundation (Chicago) to the History of Art and Archaeology Department of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Two SEAMEO CHAT employees have been awarded scholarships. The first is the current Deputy Director, Dr Win Myat Aung, who completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Arts in 2015-2016, and the second Ma Hnin Oo Hlaing, awarded a two-year scholarship in 2019 to undertake a Master's Degree in Art and Archaeology. After the return of Dr. Win Myat Aung, through my position as In-Region Liaison for the Alphawood Scholarship Programme, we successfully convened the conference Was Bagan:'the metropolis of Indo-China'? (Duroiselle 1924) at the SEAMEO CHAT Centre in July 2017. This was followed by the publication of the edited proceedings now held in the libraries of SEAMEO CHAT, SOAS and the E.Moore Collection in the Annex, Anthropology Department, Yangon University. Most recently, I was pleased to contribute "Joining Sacred and Secular - Water in the Wider Landscape of Bagan" at the December 2018

International Conference on Traditions of Water in Asia at SEAMEO CHAT.

There is a depth of feeling and interest in history in Myanmar that is striking. It is seen in the literature, with a constant flow of academic and popular books and journals on history, tradition and related topics. As the above memories describe, the SEAMEO CHAT Centre has excelled its mission of promoting co-operation in the study of history and tradition. It is a unique presence in its ongoing activity, welcome and stimulation and ASEAN collaboration. May it long continue to flourish!





A Message of Congratulation for the 20th Anniversary of SEAMEO CHAT Establishment

It is my great honour to extend my congratulations for the commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of SEAMEO CHAT. Immediately after I heard that SEAMEO CHAT was established on 15th December, 2000 in Myanmar as a new regional Centre (that is, the Reginal Centre for History and Tradition). I



believed that there could be no doubt that it was highly deserved.

Myanmar already had a firm foundation in research work on history and tradition which had long been conducted by such organizations as the Myanmar Historical Commission (MHC) and the Universities Historical Research Centre (UHRC). Appropriately Daw Ni Ni Myint was appointed its first Director. She stated in her opening speech on 14th December 2000 (the day of Inauguration Ceremony), that Southeast Asian History was in a state of flux and it was, therefore necessary to review its future direction. She also well suggested that Southeast Asian history, researched by Southeast historians, might bring different perspectives to the subject, based on ASEAN regionalism.

In relation to UHRC, I reminisce to the days when Daw Ni Ni Myint as the Director was actively presiding at annual International Research Conference on History and Traditions in Myanmar and Southeast Asia in the 1990's. I myself participated in the conferences held by the Centre, beginning with the Conference on Traditions in Current Perspective for the Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the University of Yangon in November, 1995 and then successively in 1998,1999, 2000, 2001.

Through my participations in these

conferences, I was given a chance to make close contact with and to exchange views of Myanmar historians and foreign scholars. In a series on history and traditions of UHRC, the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies cordially invited the Research Delegation to collect historical source material of Southeast Asia, headed by Daw Ni Ni Myint with members such as Professor U Tun Aung Chein, Senior Researchers U Thein Hlaing and Daw Mi Mi Cho. Through this visit we also had a closer relationship between Myanmar and Japanese historians.

Since then, I have been constant contact and have exchanged views with the staff of SEAMEO CHAT, particularly during my tenure of the Global Japan Office (GJO), which was opened in January 2015 in the University of Yangon.

Since SEAMEO CHAT was established in 2000 as a public institution, it has been constantly endeavouring to promote a better understanding of Southeast Asian history and traditions through multidisciplinary approaches. In this aspect, I trust that the Special Programme on Myanmar History from Myanmar Perspectives, which has been held annually by SEAMEO CHAT, would contribute to a better understanding of the history and traditions of Myanmar to both the native and the foreign historians, particularly to the younger generation.

Lastly, I earnestly expect SEAMEO CHAT to expand further into conducting various programmes and I sincerely hope that its main object, which is to create and develop a comprehensive understanding of the history and traditions of the Southeast Asian region, will be dynamically enhanced through its research activities in future.



Prof: Dr.Kayuo Ando

Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, KYOTO University Japan

It was probably in the autumn of 1999 that a team led by Daw Ni Ni Myint and U Tun Aung Chain visited CSEAS (Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University). I met them and had an exchange of opinions about my hope for a joint study project. Daw Ni Ni Myint, as Director-General of UHRC (Universities of Historical Research Centre) invited me to her office in Yangon to prepare a proposal for a joint study project in Myanmar. I well remember sending the official letter to Daw Ni Ni Myint through diplomatic channels from the Embassy of the Union of Myanmar in Dhaka. The letter of acceptance of the Myanmar Government immediately reached the embassy in Dhaka by fax. The procedure was not too easy and simple to formalize the project. However, with Daw Ni Ni Myint and U Tun Aung Chain taking responsibility, the official procedure was cleared.

The joint study by the fieldwork started in Gwa Township between the CSEAS and the SEMEO CHAT, which was just newly established in 2000. When I knew twenty years passed, my heart was full. The CSEAS and the SEAMEO CHAT signed the MOU on March 25, 2002. We had the field station of 21 century COE program at the SEMEO CHAT.

The new joint field study started in Maubin Township under the MOU. I am very thankful to the

SEAMEO CHAT for providing us the chance of continuous collaborative study programs from 2000 to the present.

Anyway, I would like to request the SEAMEO CHAT to realize the institutional setup for contributing to the rural development sector in Myanmar as I have explained repeatedly to the directors and research staff the big potential of the SEAMEO CHAT in the field of rural development. At the present, the development paradigm changes the only economic development to harmonious development

between economics and culture & nature in the world. It is indicated in the SDGs.I believe that my hope with the SEAMEO CHAT will be realized one day for Myanmar and also the world.





Prof: OHNISHI Nobuhiro

Faculty of Bio-environmental Science, Kyoto University of Advanced Science, Japan

A memoir of the joint project with SEAMEO CHAT

The joint research group was organized by SEAMEO CHAT and CSEAS, Kyoto University, which was launched to study on the rural development from 2003. During this project, I had enjoyed staying in Yangon for three years.

The members of this project were the specialists of varieties of the academic fields, which were the history and the tradition (SEAMEO CHAT & UHRC), of course, the geography, the botany, the zoology (Univ. of Yangon), and the area studies (CSEAS & ASAFAS, Kyoto Univ.).

The rural survey had been conducted in Gwa, Rakhain State where the fishery is a major activity and Ma-ubin, Ayeyarwady Region where the rice production and the agriculture are major activities. This joint group had tried to study the wide research area, such as the local history, the local tradition, the agriculture, the gardening, the fishery, the rural market, and so on. A part of our study results were compiled in the book, Change of Rural Society and Local Agro-ecological Knowledge in Myanmar edited by U Tun Aung Chain and Kazuo Ando (Practice-Oriented Area Studies Series No.4) which was published with SEAMEO CHAT in 2013.

During our research, of course, each member focused on one's own interests as a specialist. But, one specialist is not specialist in another academic fields. For example, I may understand the use of the fish resources as a zoologist, but I did not in the trading and the marketing of the

fishes. In our group, the geographer and the agronome could complement to understand the situation. Contrary, I could identify the fishes in detail during their market survey. This kind of dialogue had enhanced our discussion crossing over the research fields of members. In other words, we had enjoyed own studies and the study tour with specialists in our field survey. Especially, we have to know the background of their history and the tradition to understand most of the aspects of livelihood. It was very important that historians had discussed during our joint project for further understandings. We needed the network of specialists like those for our rural development study. We had learned from our experiences that this is the great advantage of SEAMEO CHAT for organizing this kind of joint research project.

Recently, I try to conduct the conservation study of the otters with the local NGO and the local people. I have tried to seek the Myanmar ways of the conservation with my counterparts, which will be depended on the history, the tradition and the ecological aspects of the local resources of Myanmar. The reason why this idea occurs is easy to recognize, when we think back on the past project. Our perspectives always based on the history and the tradition of the local society, because SEAMEO CHAT had a key role to organize our previous project. I appreciate SEAMEO CHAT for their enlightening and hope for SEAMEO CHAT to be a center of this perspective continuously.





Prof: Yoshihiro Nakanishi

Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, Japan

SEAMEO as a Place where My Field Research Started

I am for ever indebted to SEAMEO-CHAT. When I was a PhD candidate at Kyoto University of Japan, I stayed in Yangon as a visiting researcher at SEAMEO CHAT between June in 2003 and March in 2005. Thanks to the kind support of Sayagyi U Tun Aung Chain, Sayamagyi Daw Ni Ni Myint, Daw Saw Khin Gyi and Prof. Kazuo Ando, I was able to collect data, the secondary books and interviews materials for my PhD thesis on the state-party relations in U Ne Win's period. Especially the recommendation letter written by Daw Saw Khin Gyi was like a special pass under the inflexible research environment at that time. The letter made even the military archives allow me to read internal documents of the 1960s and 1970s at the archives which were located on the Shwedagon Pagoda road before.

I must have been like an awkward young foreign student there, but the staffs at SEAMEO

CHAT was so warm that they gave me full support for my research work. I remember a trouble happened to me in late 2004. One of my friends, a Japanese Indonesianist, visited me in Yangon and I showed him around Yangon and some villages in Bago area. Then after that, I made a request to him. I wanted him to carry a bag to Japan. The bag was full of the copied documents which was collected at the National Archives Department in Yangon. The documents were legally collected through a proper procedure, and I had nothing to hide. But I did not feel like sending them from the postal office because I thought Myanmar's censorship department would confiscate all of them before arriving at Japan.

My friend said OK to my request, and he brought a small suitcase to the Yangon International Airport on the final day of his visit. After the check-in, he was called by the airport police and they requested him to open the suit-case. Later he said that he could not stop imagining his future life in a jail of Myanmar when he opened the suitcase in front of some police officers. All the documents were taken away. Fortunately, my friend was allowed to leave

Myanmar by his scheduled flight. I do not remember how many times I had apologized to him by phone, when I was informed of the trouble. And I also apologized to the director and the advisor of SEAMEO CHAT, because it could be a trouble for the institute.

I almost gave up on getting the copied documents back. But SEAMEO CHAT staffs encouraged me to negotiate with the airport police. They said I was not wrong at all. One day, U Kan Nyunt, a senior officer, and I went to the airport and negotiated with the airport police. U Kan Nyunt's gentle way of negotiation was very effective. After all, the copied documents were returned. I could have used them in a chapter on the administrative reform.

Even today, as a Myanmar expert, I always rely on SEAMEO CHAT for my teaching and research works. The unique institutional status and experiences gives SEAMEO CHAT a strong advantage among Myanmar's academic organizations. I hope SEAMEO CHAT and Kyoto University will work together for coming more years.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulation to SEAMEO CHAT on the 20th anniversary.



Present

STAFF PAST AND PRESENT

On this special occasion, we would like to acknowledge the services of our old colleagues who were now either retired or developing their carriers in other fields. They are *U Kan Nyunt (Administrative Officer)* who is now enjoying the peaceful like after his retirement, *U Kyi Yone (Finance Officer)* who is also retired and spending the leisure time with his grandchildren, *Daw Ohn Mar Myo (Programme Officer)* who is now President



of Myanmar Archaeological Association and Freelance Cultural Heritages Conservationist, *Daw San San Nyunt Ohn (Administrative Officer)* who is now Head of Admin/ Finance at Maubin University, *Daw Thu Zar Moe (Finance Assistant)* who is now Assistant Lecture at Department of Zoology in Yangon University of Distance Education, *Daw Hla (Sweeper) and U Zaw Ko Oo (Guard)* are also retired. Unfortunately, some colleagues are passed away namely *U Paw Aye (Finance Officer) and U Thiha Tun(Driver)*.

Present





Daw Htet Htet Naing Deputy Staff Officer SEAMEO CHAT



Daw Yamin Swe Library Assistance (2) SEAMEO CHAT



Daw Kay Zin Hlaing Upper Divisional Clerk SEAMEO CHAT

I started working here as a receptionist in 2004 and in 2005 I was appointed as an admin assistance in Administration Department. Now I become a Deputy Staff Officer. During my service, I sometimes decided to quit my job but I continued working here as I am deeply interested in CHAT's Programmes, Projects and Activities.

The challenges made me strong, active and I got motivation through hardship. I was overjoyed when I was chosen to attend two-day workshop on SEAMEO's New Education Agenda:2015 The 7 Priority Areas in Jakarta, Indonesia and one month Training Programme for the Staff of Newly Established SEAMEO Centres in Bangkok in 2017. What a LIFE !!

I'm proud to have achieved unforgettable milestones and great opportunity in my life that I have never expected. With the invaluable support and guidance of the Directors, officers and encouragement of my colleagues, I have the strong decision on continue working here in CHAT with my utmost ability and I promise I will do my best for CHAT. It was a great opportunity for me working as a part-time staff in the Resource Centre of CHAT in 2002. Since I became an Assistant Archive (5) as a permanent staff in 2003, started learning computer skills and librarybasics in the Resource Center.

Under the guidance of Dr. Khin Lay Soe, the Director, and the great help of my colleagues. I came to know the tasks and nature of the work. I attended the one month Basic Library Course at the Central Universities' Library in 2005. In addition to the library work, I was also assigned to help the CHAT Communication in English course. In 2007, I was able to attend the Diploma in Library and Information Studies Course opened by Yangon University with the permission of the department. I got the Diploma in Library and Information Studies in 2008.

I owe my gratitude to each Director from CHAT, especially Dr. Khin Lay Soe who gave me strength and supported to continue my studies in the field of library science, and I promise that I will continue my studies as well as working very hard for CHAT. After graduating with a degree in Hitory, I started working here as I'm interested in the nature of working in SEAMEO CHAT which in intentionally recognised Department of eduction, history and tradition. Now I am a Upper Divisional Clerk in Finance Department. I've been working here for 16 years. It is very beneficial for me when I'm working together with my senior colleagues engaging in the local international activities. I love working here because of the family-like solidarity of my seniors, juniors and colleagues. I am very proud of being a staff of SEAMEO CHAT.



Daw Ohnmar Lwin Cleaning staff SEAMEO CHAT

I started working as a cleaning staff in SEAMEO CHAT in 2002. As a cleaning staff, I worked diligently in my assigned tasks. In addition, I have been assigned to perform cleaning duties on a rotating basis in CHAT Communication in English course by CHAT. Moreover, special cleaning and hospitality services are provided at the CHAT's occasional lectures, meeting and trainings.

I have fulfilled my assigned tasks and I will continue working very hard for my office.





U Aung Win Sein Security SEAMEO CHAT



I have been in CHAT as a security staff since October 2002. In addition to my duties, I also worked diligently on cleaning, refreshing the floor of the office, greening and cleaning around the compound when needed.

These duties are usually coordinated with my colleagues. Some occasional activities done by the office are normally carried out in collaboration with other staff members. We all are like brothers and sisters working together and I will be happy to carry out my duties in the future in SEAMEO CHAT.



To achieve the goal, "Building Regional Identity: Valuing History and Maintaining Tradition", SEAMEO CHAT organized and conducted a lot of Conferences, Seminars, Workshops and Training both regional and national level. Among them, some conferences and workshops are really significant for the regional and national scholarship in history and traditions. Here are few examples, History Agenda 21 (2000), Traditions in Retrospect (2015), Was Bagan: the metropolis of Buddhism in Indo-China? (2017), Tradition of Water and Asia: Beliefs, Practices and Transformations (2018), Effective Ways of Teaching History in Secondary Schools of Southeast Asia (2016), Enhancing Effective Teaching (Classroom Practices) for Special Education Teachers in Basic Education.





Conferences/Seminars/Workshops (National/Regional)



International Conference on Was Bagan Metropolis of Buddhism in Indochina, Collaborated with SOAS, University of London and CHAT 10-11 July 2017





International Conference on Traditions in a Changing World 13 to 14 January 2015



International Conference on Traditions of Water in Asia: Beliefs, Practices and Transformations 11 to 12 December 2018



Seminar on Myanmar Traditions in Retrospect 18 to 19 December 2013

SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition 63



Inaugual Workshop on History Agenda 21



Workshop on Curriculum Development of Southeast Asian **Historical Studies**



14-15 December 2000

International Workshop on "A Way for Enhancing History, Culture and Tradition for Rural Development in Myanmar and Southeast Asia: GNH and Perspective of Alternative Approaches"Collaborated with CSEAS, Kyoto University, Japan 16-17 January 2018



Meeting on Project in Strengthen Southeast Asian Historical Studies in Southeast Asian Secondary Schools



Workshop for Managing the Integration of Culture into Development Programmes







Workshop on Women, Ancestry and Heritage (WAH) In Collaboration with UNESCO, Oxford University and George Mason University





International Networking Project to Share Experiences of Sustainable Development and to Cope with National Hazards on the Periphery of Bengal Bay In collaboration with CSEAS, Kyoto University, 5-6 January 2013





in Teaching History, 12-13 December 2019



Capacity Building

CHAT Communication in English Language Course has been launched since 2002 with the aim of developing local human resources, which is one of the goals of SEAM-EO CHAT. There are six levels in CHAT Communication in English Course: Basic I, Basic II, Intermediate I & II, Advanced I & II and if successful, Diploma in English will be awarded. Now nearly 5000 awardees have been nurtured by CHAT Communication in English Course in eighteen years.













Daw Mie Mie Khaine Instructor CHAT Communication in English Course

Instructor's Flashback

1. How long have you been teaching English as an Instructor at CHAT's CCE Course? More than 15 years, from 2003-2005 and 2007- till now.

2. What do you enjoy most being an Instructor in CCE Course?

Being a prestigious SEAMEO Regional Centre in Yangon, I can't deny the fact that I feel proud and satisfied to be able to share my knowledge and teaching experience at SEAMEO CHAT. As I have already mentioned, we are very lucky to be able to use the best English course book in our center, and we don't have any difficulty to teach all the six levels. I never feel bored to enter my class because the course book gives students concrete learning objectives, accessible materials, motivating tasks which help them achieve progress at the end of each level class.

And I would like to say thank you to all the directors from SEAMEO CHAT. Without their guidance, support and cooperation, our CCE course won't be successful. Thank you again our beloved directors. And I'd like to acknowledge the staff from SEMEO CHAT for their active participation and assistance in conducting our CCE course.

3. Could you share some memorable moments teaching at SEAMEO CHAT?

When the students get to their last level, Advanced II, they have to do group presentations. Though I don't have much time to go and watch their presentations, I love reading their papers. They prepare effective power point, beautiful brochures and sample presents for their class teacher and classmates. Sometimes the presentation topic is on famous Myanmar snacks and the group brings the snacks not only for their classmates but for the teachers to taste. How lovely! Their presentation topics are interesting, knowledgeable and memorable not only for them but for me. At the Diploma Awarding ceremony held twice a year, I could meet my lovely students again in beautiful and smart dresses. We take photos together with them. Fantastic moment for us!

4. Do you think CCE Course has contributed to the students who want to be proficient in English Language? How?

Yes I do.

We teach not only the Basic four skills of English but also grammar and vocabulary systematically and effectively in all levels followed by classroom activities.





Lecture on Myanmar Silver Cons and Funan Coins in Mainland Southeast Asian Markets in the First Millennium AD by Mr Vu Duc Liem, Lecturer, National University of Education, Hanoi, Vietnam 19 November 2009



Lecture on "The Legacy of Myanmar Glazed Ceramic"by Dr Myo Thant Tyn Member of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science 11 May 2007



Survival of Pala Bengal Buddha Images and the Ariya in Lan Na: A Study from Phra Buddha Sihing (The Lion Type Buddha Image) by Mr M L Surasawasdi Sooksawasdi, Chiang Mai University, Thailand 19 November 2000



Insights into Myanmar History 8-12 August 2011





Lecture on History and



Traditions of Southeast Asia













In Search of Southeast Asia: Past and Present 18 December 2019






Effectives Ways of Teaching History in Secondary School of Southeast Asia 15-16 December 2016



Lecture Series on Managing Intangible Cultural Heritage by Ms. Naoko SatoSenior Specialist for Cultural Properties, Traditional Culture Division, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan, 24 – 26 February 2016

Lecture Series on Research Methodology by Prof Dr Yasuhito Asami, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Hitotsubashi University, Japan February 2015





Professional Development Programme for Teachers in Special Education Training Workshop on Enhancing Effective Teaching (Classroom Practices) for Special Education Teachers in Basic Education 10 – 12 July 2018 Yangon, Myanmar



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Cultural Study: Mon









75 SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition





Impromptu Talk competition on History in the Eyes of Digital Generation" (National Level-Undergraduate Student) 17th December 2018

An innovative programme, "Impromptu Talk Competition on History in the Eyes of Digital Generation" was held as a token of the 18th anniversary of the Centre on 17th December 2018. The programme was held with the aim to stimulate students' interest in History and to realize the importance and value of History subject as young generations in present days are more interested in IT and digital gadgets than in art subjects, like History. The programme was held with the kind support of Yangon City Development Committee. In preliminary stage, there were 32 contestants from Universities in Yangon, and among them 15 were chosen to proceed to the final competition. This activity is aimed to step forward from the national level to the regional level encouraging the youths in the region to be interested in history.









Contribution

CHAT Community Involvement Programme

To implement the SEAMEO Community Involvement Programme, SEAMEO CHAT received the permission from the Ministry of Education, Myanmar to adopt the Basic EducationMiddleSchoolNo.3Inseinin2004andtheBasicEducation Primary School No.6 Kyeemyindaing in 2013.

The programme aims in improving the quality of life of the student through direct or indirect assistance. The direct assistance is provided through the expertise and potentials of related SEAMEO and other units, and indirect assistance through coordination with related departments and sectors.

SEAMEO CHAT Community Involvement Programme has been conducted in the form of various activities: Giving the Prizes to Outstanding Students Programme, Students' Excursion Programme, Enhancing and Developing School Capacity Programme, Traditional Awareness Programme and Inter-centre collaboration Programme.

To effectively implement the Community Involvement Programme, SEAMEO CHAT is working in collaboration not only with schools but also with other departments such as Department of Basic Education, Township Education Department and school community.















80 20 Anniversary



SEAMEO STRATEGIC PLAN 2021–2030



Vision: The leading organization for enhancing regional understanding and cooperation in education, science and culture for a better quality of life in Southeast Asia

MISSION: To enhance regional understanding, cooperation and unity of purpose among Member Countries for a better quality of life through the establishment of networks and partnerships, the provision of fora among 'policy makers and experts, and the promotion of sustainable human resource development

STRATEGIC THEMES

- •Regional leadership and international and global visibility
- Programme excellence and SDG relevance
- Strategic partnership, stakeholder engagement, and linkages
- Digital transformation and rapid change

STRATEGIC GOALS

- •Work with ASEAN to ensure successful alignment
- Establish the SEAMEO brand by defining its role
- · Continue to support all SEAMEO units region wide
- Use international institutions' efforts as programme benchmark
- · Make organisational visibility a priority

Culture Agenda and Priority Areas

SEAMEO's culture and development approach is linked to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Together with its SEAMEO Centres and partners, SEAMEO's main lines of work include increasing cultural literacy, promoting appreciation for cultural diversity, and up skilling human resources development in archaeology and fine arts built on Southeast Asia's history and tradition among others. SEAMEO also identified seven culture priority areas to focus on from 2021 to 2030, namely:



- 1. Creation, tradition, and innovation
- 2. Ethics and legal framework
- 3. Resilience and traditional knowledge
- 4. Peace and inter-cultural understanding
- 5. Literacy and appreciation in the modern world
- 6. Harnessing technology for heritage/culture preservation
- 7. Heritage science

To accomplish the SEAMEO Strategic Plan 2021–2030, the SEAMEO looked at the global trends in Culture as follows:

1. Tangible and intangible cultural Heritage. Development Programme to safeguard and promote the tangible and intangible cultural Heritage have been flourishing. In the UNESCO agenda 2030, the major programmes focus on tangible heritage identified, protected, monitored and sustainably managed by Member States. Intangible cultural heritage has been enhanced by the UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003). The intangible cultural heritage is also integrated into education programmes to address education challenges such as peace education, global citizenship education and education for the prevention of violent extremism. Moreover, the interest has grown in the contribution of new technologies in preservation and transmission of intangible heritage.

2. Resilience to climate related disasters. Natural disasters due to climate change occured more frequently and severe resulting in the increasing vulnerability of rural and coastal communities. The programme to improve the locals' resilience to these natural disasters are crucial to Disaster Risk Reduction. After the great tsunami in Japan in, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda with priorities to understanding the disaster risk and focus on Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment. The lessons on resilience to climate related disasters have been integrated in several school's curriculum, especially the disaster-prone ones.

3. Global Citizenship Education. Global Citizenship Education or GCED is recognized as one of the important elements in 21st Century Education by the UNESCO as the world has been highly interconnected, but the human rights violation, cultural ignore and discrimination still persist. Many special themed programmes have been established to tackle the challenges under Global Citizenship Education such as preventing violent extremism through education, Education about the Holocaust and genocide, Language in education and the promotion of the rule of law through global citizenship education.

4. Sustainable tourism and employment. Sustainable Tourism is one of the most noticeable and growing sectors. Tourism is perceived by International Labour Organization as one of the driving force of job creation, economic growth and development. The World Travel and Tourism Council data stated that in 2015 tourism directly created over 107 million jobs, which equals 3.6% of total employment and 3% of total GDP. The recognition of the sustainable tourism or tourism for development is conveyed thorough World Conference on Tourism for Development and five

pillars of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development (IY2017) by UNWTO World Tourism Organization: 1) Sustainable economic growth; 2) Social inclusiveness, employment and poverty reduction; 3) Resource efficiency, environmental protection and climate change; 4) Cultural values, diversity and heritage; and 5) Mutual understanding, peace and security. More studies and attempts should be conducted to promote the sustainable tourism globally.

5. Artistic Creativity and Social Inclusion. The convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions has been established by the UNESCO for over a decade together with international fund for 84 projects in 49 developing countries. Through the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, it is realised that the lacking of infrastructure and inadeguate training made cultural and creative industries fragile in some countries. The recognition, innovation and the cooperation of all stakeholders are required to the strong establishment of creative industries. For example, in Morocco, civil society participated in the design and implementation of cultural policies.

CHAT Planned Progragrammes (FY 2021-23)

- Capacity Building Training Programmes for teachers from Basic Education 1.
- 2. Training Lectures on History, Culture and Tradition of Myanmar and Southeast Asia
- 3. Effective Management of Local Intangible Cultural Heritage: Long Life for Living History
- Seminar for Young Researchers from Social Sciences and Humanities Departments in Universities 4.
- 5. International Conference on Indigenous Culture, Traditions and Peoples in Southeast Asia: Connecting past with Present and Beyond





SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition