



Hybrid Symposium for the 25th anniversary inauguration of SEAMEO CHAT
“Southeast Asian Indigenous Culture and Traditions: Interaction, Inclusion and Integration”

4 - 5 December 2025

SEAMEO CHAT, Yangon, Myanmar

Programme

4 December 2025	
9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 10:30	Opening • SEAMEO Colours • Congratulatory Message by H.E. Dr. Chaw Chaw Sein, Union Minister, Ministry of Education, Myanmar • Opening Address by Dr. Than Zaw Oo, Director General, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Myanmar • Welcome Remarks by Dr. Naw Si Blut, Director, SEAMEO CHAT • Congratulatory Messages by Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, Former Directors and Governing Board Members of CHAT • SEAMEO CHAT 25th Anniversary Video • Presenting Gifts of Honour to Former Directors of CHAT • Photo Session
10:30 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 11:20	Moderator – Daw Carole Ann Chit Thar , Professor/Former Director, SEAMEO CHAT, EC Member (MISIS, MOFA), EC Member (MAAS, MOE) Speaker 1 - Japan’s Cultural Public Diplomacy and Southeast Asia Dr. NAKANISHI YOSHIHIRO , Professor, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, Japan
11:20– 11:40	Speaker 2 - Some Cultural Interactions between Myanmar and Cambodia Dr. Nan Hlaing , Professor, Department of History, Myingyan University, Myanmar

11:40– 12:00	Speaker 3 - Shan Invention of Tradition: In case of Bamboo Thread Buddha Image Dr. Michio TAKATANI , Professor Emeritus, Hiroshima University, Japan
12:00 – 12:15	Discussion
12:15 - 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 13:35	Moderator – U Myo Aung, Former Director, SEAMEO CHAT Speaker 4 - The Biodiversity in Myanmar villages Dr. Nobuhiro Ohnishi, Professor, Faculty of Bioenvironmental Science, Kyoto University of Advanced Science, Japan
13:35 – 13:55	Speaker 5 - The Indigenous Medicines of Myanmar: Past, Present and Future Dr. Thin Thin Aye, Professor/Head, Department of History, University of Yangon, Myanmar
13:55 – 14:15	Speaker 6 - The Cultural Tradition of Thanaka in Myanmar Society Dr. Khin Thida, Director, Department of Historical Research and National Library, Ministry of Culture, Myanmar
14:15- 14:30	Discussion
14:30 – 14: 45	Break
14:45 – 15: 05	Moderator – Dr. Khin Lay Soe, Former Director, SEAMEO CHAT, Vice-President (2) (MLA), Member (Yangon Region Library Supervisory Committee) Speaker 7 – Behind the Funeral Ritual of Akha Ethnic Nationalities in Myanmar Dr. Thu Zar Aung, Professor/Head, Department Anthropology, Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon), Myanmar
15:05 – 15: 25	Speaker 8 - The Impact of Urbanization on Funeral Practices: Myanmar and South Korea Dr. San San Oo, Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Yangon, Myanmar
15: 25 – 15: 35	Discussion

5 December 2025	
9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 9:50	Moderator – Dr. Win Myat Aung, Deputy Director General, Department of Higher Education, Former Director, SEAMEO CHAT Speaker 9 (<i>Online</i>) - Interconnections between Rituals and Ecological Settings in Settlement Spaces: Traditional Creativity and Cultural Change among the Khmer in Contemporary Vietnamese Society Prof. Ngo Thi Phuong Lan, President, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University (HoChiMinh City) Vietnam
9:50 -10:10	Speaker 10 (<i>Online</i>) - Southeast Asian Roadmap on Multilingual Education: Embracing Language Diversity as an Opportunity Dr. Limala Ratni Sri Kharismawati, Head of Division of Research & Development Programme (RDP), SEAQIL, Indonesia
10:10 – 10:30	Speaker 11 (<i>Online</i>) - The Beliefs and Culture in the Archaic Siamese Play “Nang Manora” Ms. Sutheera Satayaphan, Arts Official, The Office of Literature and History, The Fine Arts Department, Thailand
10:30 – 10: 50	Speaker 12 (<i>Online</i>) – The Expansion of the Bengal Civilization to Tibet, Myanmar and Indonesia during the Pala Period: The Relationship of Agricultural Tools, Buddha Images, and Temple Styles Dr. Kazuo Ando, Professor (Retired), Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, Japan
10:50 – 11:10	Discussion
11:10 – 11:25	Break
11:25 – 12: 45	Closing • Giving Present to Moderators/ Speakers • Closing Remarks by Director of SEAMEO CHAT