

A REGIONAL ASSESSMENT TO HELP IMPROVE LEARNING FOR ALL CHILDREN





FOR A BETTER CONTEXTUALISED SYSTEM FOR ASSESSING LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Ensuring all children have access to quality education remains a challenge for many education systems in Southeast Asia with learning outcomes varying greatly between and within countries
- Without an effective and contextualised assessment system, we have less understanding of these variations in learning outcomes in the region and where to focus interventions to improve learning
- Collection of better data on learning is central to that effort, but just as important is the commitment of governments and other partners to use that data to enhance learning for all children



WHY SEA-PLM?

The challenges and opportunities envisioned as part of the transition to the ASEAN Community calls for stronger regional collaboration and the sharing of best practices among SEAMEO Member Countries. In line with these objectives, the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) directly supports the regional standardisation of data around learning and the mobilization of technical expertise, institutional capacity and political will to translate the data into action. These are all crucial elements towards improved learning outcomes across the region.

WHAT IS SEA-PLM?

SEA-PLM seeks:

"To provide countries with an enhanced understanding of factors affecting learning achievements in primary education and to support them to take actions to ensure that all children achieve meaningful learning outcomes."



This goal will be pursued through three complementary outcomes:

1. Enhanced capacity to generate and analyse assessment data at regional, national and sub-national levels
2. Enhanced capacity to utilise assessment data for education improvement and more equitable learning outcomes at regional, national and sub-national levels
3. Enhanced regional integration in the education sector in terms of approaches to assessment

CHARACTERISTICS OF SEA-PLM

- SEA-PLM is a regional contextualized primary education learning assessment
- It is designed to address the needs and contexts of SEAMEO Member Countries
- SEA-PLM covers the domains of reading, writing, mathematics and global citizenship for primary school students of grade 5

WHAT DOES IT DO?

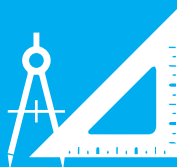
- It serves regional commitments to improve the quality of education and learning in Southeast Asia
- It provides key data and analysis to support the development of interventions to reduce inequalities in learning and inform teacher education and curriculum reform, for example
- It offers regional contextualised tools to explore cross-national variations to inform and improve policy strategies and programmes for equitable quality education
- It enhances in-country capacity, including the competencies of national examination and assessment staff
- It strengthens technical collaboration on learning assessment and standards across education systems in Southeast Asia



Unique Features of SEA-PLM



It is the only assessment at regional scale designed to measure progress in relation to the values and curricula of the Southeast Asian region



It is the only assessment in the region to date to assess foundations of global citizenship and Southeast Asian values. The inclusion of the domain 'global citizenship' represents a move away from narrow approaches to education to more participatory pedagogies and transformative education agendas and is in line with the principles of the SEAMEO Post-2015 Education Agenda and the 7 Priority Areas, the Bangkok Statement on Education Post-2015 and the World Education Forum Declaration



It is the first assessment in the world to assess writing across languages

Collaboration between SEAMEO and UNICEF

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are both committed to promoting universal education through regional cooperation in education to ensure that all children and young people have access to quality free and compulsory primary education. The collaboration on the SEA-PLM, under the leadership of the Ministries of Education of the region, is critical to achieving this broader goal.

Technical Support to SEA-PLM

The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) supports this initiative through technical advice and provision of capacity development based on its extensive experience in assessment and quality education. This ensures that the SEA-PLM meets the same standards as other major regional and international assessments.

Other Key Partners Include:

Centre for Universal Education (CUE)
at Brookings Institute

Korea Institute for Curriculum and
Evaluation (KICE)

Korean Educational Development
Institute (KEDI)

UNESCO Bangkok

UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

UNESCO International Institute for
Educational Planning (IIEP)

UN ESCAP Statistical Unit

SEA-PLM and its developments has been continuously supported and endorsed by the Ministers of Education and High Officials of the SEAMEO Member Countries. The relevance and importance of SEA-PLM has been recognized by regional and international stakeholders, and is included in the **ASEAN 5-Year Work Plan on Education 2016–2020**.



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