For further information please contact SEAMES,
Derasarn Building, 920 Sukhumvit Road,
Bangkok 11, Thailand,
Cable: SEAMES, Bangkok
Telephone: 910144, 910256, 910654

The Hon'ble Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, Philippines Secretary of Foreign Affairs, representing
H.E. Ferdinand E. Marcos, President of the Republic of the Philippines, is seen reading the
President's Speech.
SEAMEC President’s Message

I am very happy to greet the readers of the SEAMEC Digest in the different member countries of SEAMEC. I hope that this publication will continue to keep the member countries informed of the activities of the different Regional Centres, of the Secretariat and of the Council.

As we reach the middle point of the seventies, the different countries of the region are confronted with various challenges in the field of education.

There is the challenge of making the education establishment contribute more substantially to the solution of some of the serious problems confronting the nations in the Southeast Asian region. Among these are the problems of population explosion, the deterioration of the environment due to different kinds of pollution, the problem of malnutrition, hunger and ill-health, and the problem of illiteracy and ignorance.

Certainly education has a role to play in helping solve these serious problems. Then, too, there is the challenge of discovering effective and economical delivery systems of primary education. Researches and studies are being conducted in some countries in the region towards solving one of the serious crises in education—that of the constantly mounting cost of the educational enterprise.

Finally there is the challenge of finding out newer and innovative ways of doing those things that we have been doing all these years in education—newer ways of teaching English, science and mathematics, new researches in the field of tropical biology, in agriculture, and in the medical sciences, newer approaches in formal, informal and non—formal education.

In the face of all these challenges, we are gladdened by the fact that there exists an organization like SEAMEC that has succeeded in coordinating the efforts and resources of different countries in the region in finding solutions to all these problems.

Jefri M. Manuel
President of SEAMEC
Message of The New SEAMES Director

Through the columns of the SEAMES Digest, it is my pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to the representatives of the SEAMEO member countries and associate members, as well as to friends of SEAMEO.

I begin my three-year term with SEAMEO as it completes its ten years of service to the region. During the relatively short period of its operation, SEAMEO has achieved remarkably well, and now enjoys a healthy image both within and without the Southeast Asian region. This is attested to by the enlistment of three associate members outside of the region — France, Australia, and New Zealand — and the substantial support that it is receiving from the governmental and private agencies in the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, West Germany, Denmark, Hong Kong, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

Through its varied training programmes, seminars, and conferences and its different research projects, SEAMEO has contributed significantly to the strengthening and upgrading of the technical and scientific manpower in the member countries and identified solutions to basic problems relating to education, scientific training, and public health. These activities are not only being continued but are being expanded to produce wider impact as well as to blaze new trails.

It is to be hoped that the member countries and associate members will continue to maintain the solidarity that has enabled SEAMEO to undertake programmes and activities admirably during the decade about to be completed, and that SEAMEO will continue to receive the support from the many donor governments and agencies that has given it the strength and viability to carry on its work. We of SEAMES pledge our continuing and utmost effort to supply the Organization with an efficient administrative machinery to integrate and coordinate the different SEAMES units and their operations and programmes to the end that the whole Organization and its constituent units can accomplish their aims and objectives and thus transform aspiration into reality.

Vitaliano Bernardino
SEAMES Director

The New SEAMEC President

For the current year, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Council has as its president a distinguished career educator, His Excellency Juan L. Manuel, Secretary of Education and Culture of the Philippine Government. Starting as a classroom teacher in 1928, his entire life has been dedicated to education. He held practically every position in the educational service of his country—high school principal, supervisor of Secondary Schools, Division Superintendent of Schools, Director of Public Schools, Undersecretary of Education, and now head of the Education portfolio in the Cabinet of the President of the Philippines. In his capacity as head of the Department of Education and Culture, he presides over the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees of more than 25 State Colleges and Universities in the country, including that of the University of the Philippines, the premier institution of higher learning in the country.

Secretary Manuel has also rendered significant international service in education, having served as UNESCO consultant in adult and community education in Liberia, and represented the Philippines either as Chairman or delegate in a large number of international conferences, seminars and workshops. He headed the Philippine Delegation to the 18th UNESCO Conference in Paris in 1973 and in 1972 was Member of the Philippine Panel that negotiated with the World Bank, in securing a Loan for Education Projects in the Philippines. In 1973, he was also the Head of the Philippine Delegation to the Inter-governmental Conference on Cultural Policy in Asia, which was held in Jogjakarta.

Before his election to the presidency of SEAMEC, Secretary Manuel had participated in many SEAMEC activities, among which were the Meetings of the INNOtech Governing Board and the High Officials Meeting held in Bangkok and Saigon in 1968 and 1971, respectively.

Secretary Manuel obtained his early education in his hometown of Santa Barbara, Pangasinan Province in the Philippines. He obtained his secondary education in the public schools, his education degree in the University of the Philippines, and his master of arts degree in the National Teachers College. In recognition of his distinguished career and contribution to the Philippine education, he has been awarded Ph. D. degrees (honors cum laude) by Siliman University and Angeles University.

Despite his heavy educational commitments, Secretary Manuel still finds time to attend to many civic activities. He is the national chairman of the Foundation for Youth Development, co-chairman of the Philippine annual National Red Cross Membership and Fund Campaign, and National Commissioner, Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

Secretary Manuel has written several professional books on education and contributed innumerable articles to educational magazines in the Philippines.

Under the presidency of Secretary Manuel, SEAMEC looks forward to a year of success and progress.
SEAMEO Welcomes New SEAMES Director

Dr. Vitaliano Bernardino, former Philippine Undersecretary of Education, Republic of the Philippines, is the new Director of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Secretariat (SEAMES). The highly successful educator succeeds Indonesia's Dr. Sudjono D. Pisponegoro, who ended his term of office on February 7, 1975.

Dr. Bernardino's professional background in education and his extensive work in community service made him the obvious choice as SEAMES Director. He was chosen unanimously as SEAMES head at the Ninth Conference of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Council (SEAMEC) held in Bangkok from January 28 to February 1, 1974.

Before assuming the top SEAMES post, Dr. Bernardino served as Professor Lecturer at the Philippine Normal College, University of the East, Centro Escolar University and the University of the Philippines. He also has served as the Executive Director of the Philippine-American Education Foundation (PAEF) before assuming his three-year position in SEAMES.

Dr. Bernardino studied at the Philippine Normal School and later at the National University where he obtained his Bachelor of Science in Education in 1933. Five years later, he completed his Master of Arts in Education and Psychology at the University of the Philippines. He obtained his Ph.D. from the same University, the first to be conferred that degree by the university.

Dr. Bernardino started his career in education as an elementary classroom teacher. He consistently rose from the ranks until he was appointed Assistant Director of Public Schools from 1963 to 1966 and later Undersecretary of Education from 1966 to 1968.

In addition to Government education posts, Dr. Bernardino held an array of international professional posts. He was a member of the two Unesco Educational planning missions, the first to the Philippines in 1949-1950, the second to Korea in 1952-1957. He also served Unicef-Who as Project Director of its training programme from 1961 to 1966. He was Senior Specialist of the Institute of Advanced Projects at the East-west Centre in Hawaii from 1964 to 1965.

Dr. Bernardino has attended and chaired a long list of significant international conferences and educational activities from the inception of his professional career.

His membership in professional, civic and fraternal organizations is too long to mention. However, several of these memberships give an indication of the new Director's status in the Philippine community: President of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association and Philippine Association of School Superintendents; Life Member, Philippine Fulbright Scholars Association; President, Manila Philippines Chapter, Phi Delta Kappa International; Member, Manila President, Daguang Rotary Club; President and Chief Scout, Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

Listed in Who's Who in America Education and Who's Who in the Philippines, Dr. Bernardino holds a list of awards and honours which include: President Award for Outstanding Service, Xth World Jamboree (1959); Special Award for Outstanding Service, Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation (1961); Outstanding Alumni in Education, National University (1961) and the University of the Philippines (1967); Pague de Merit for Distinguished Achievement, PNC Alumni Association (1963); Citation of Merit, Philippine Public School Teachers Association (1965).

Dr. Bernardino has authored and co-authored several professional books. He also co-authored textbooks used in Philippine schools. A frequent contributor to newspapers and educational journals, he has also written several brochures and pamphlets on topics concerning education.

Tenth Conference of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Council

The Tenth Conference of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Council (SEAMEC), which was held in Baguio City, the Philippines from January 20 through 24, 1975, had its importance beyond marking almost a decade of mutual cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture in the Southeast Asian Region.

Among the more significant decisions made by the Council at the Conference was the approval of the SEAMEO Special Assistance Programme for Post-War Educational Reconstruction and Development in the Khmer Republic, Laos and the Republic of Vietnam. The Council also endorsed the SEAMEO Centre Staff Development Programme, which is designed to ensure that the Regional Centres/Projects will be adequately staffed with qualified professionals within the region.

Of special interest was the formal acceptance of his appointment as SEAMES Director, to succeed the outgoing Director Dr. Sudjono D. Pisponegoro.

One of the highlights of the Conference was the Council's approval of the draft agreement between SEAMES and Unesco which will formalize the many years of fruitful collaboration between the two Organizations.
The Conference was declared open by the Hon’ble Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, Philippines Secretary of Foreign Affairs, representing H.E. Ferdinand E. Marcos, President of the Philippines. One of the prime architects of SEAMEO, the Hon’ble Gen. Carlos P. Romulo read the President’s speech which praised the work accomplished by SEAMEO as one of the few genuine success stories in the field of regional cooperation in Southeast Asia.

During the Opening Ceremony, the Hon’ble Juan L. Manuel, Secretary of Education and Culture, the Philippines, and H.E. Dr. Kaw Swadis-Panich, Deputy Minister of Education, Thailand, representing H.E. the Minister of Education and President of SEAMEO, also delivered speeches welcoming the assembled delegations from member countries and associate members headed by their respective Ministers of Education or their representatives, observers from friendly governments, international or regional organizations and agencies, and officials and consultants from SEAMEO.

Prior to the beginning of Plenary Session I, the gathering observed one minute’s silence in memory of the late Dr. Koay Seng, former Minister of Education of the Khmer Republic, who served as President of the Council during 1973. He died in June 1974 under the most tragic circumstances.

Following an address by H.E. Dr. Kaw Swadis-Panich as Pro-Temp Chairman, the Council elected the Hon’ble Juan L. Manuel as President of SEAMEC and concurrently Chairman of the Conference. H.E. Dr. Tan Boon Meng, Minister for Education, Singapore, was elected Vice-Chairman.

The member and associate member countries then made their formal statements, all of which expressed appreciation for the fine services of the outgoing SEAMES Director, Dr. Sudjono D. Purponegoro, while welcoming and congratulating both its new Director, Dr. Vitaliano Bernardino, and the new President of SEAMEO, the Hon’ble Juan L. Manuel.

The Australian Minister of Education, H.E. Kim E. Beazley, confirmed his country’s good impression of SEAMEO, and reported increased contributions to the SEAMEO Educational Development Fund with total contributions for the fiscal year standing at US$318,500. Australia is also considering the possibility of a Memorandum of Understanding with SEAMEO which may support the Organization’s capacity for forward planning in the work of the Regional Centres.

The French Ambassador to the Philippines, H.E. Charles Guy de Lestrange, head of the French delegation, reported that France was maintaining her deep interest in SEAMEO by seconding experts to several Regional Centres and by sending a variety of pedagogical material to these Regional Centres. France was particularly interested in the SEAMEO Centre Staff Development Programme and could support it with scholarships for training in France. His country would also assist in post-war educational development in the three affected Indochina countries.

H.E. Dr. Sjarif Thaieb, Minister of Education and Culture for Indonesia, mentioned the various strengths and weaknesses of SEAMEO and suggested that various innovations and new approaches be considered, such as utilizing regional resources to meet particular challenges when requested by member countries.

Khmer Republic’s First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, H.E. Dr. Pan Sothi said that notwithstanding difficulties, his government would spare no efforts to meet its obligations.

Laotian Director-General of Education, Mr. Khamsinh Souvannasay, expressed the hope that SEAMEO would soon become self-sufficient and added that Laos had greatly benefited from its participation in the Organization.

H.E. Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Malaysian Minister of Education, announced that Malaysia’s first contribution of M$150,000 to the SEAMEO Educational Development Fund in lieu of subscription to the SEAMEO Educational Development Bonds would be made soon. While congratulating the SEAMES Director on his successful fundraising efforts, His Excellency warned of the possibility of complacency and called for increasing commitments and responsibilities from member countries to consolidate SEAMEO’s future.

The Hon. P.A. Amor, New Zealand Minister of Education, offered to provide opportunities for SEAMEO Centre staff members to work in the Curriculum Development Centre of New Zealand’s Department of Education and hoped that New Zealand educators would soon be able to participate in the activities of the SEAMEO Regional Centres. He also announced New Zealand’s increased assistance to SEAMEO by way of experts assigned to RECSAM and RELC, scholarships for SEAMEO Centre staff to be trained in New Zealand, and a grant of US$16,000 for the external evaluation of RELC Programmes.

Dr. Narciso Albarracín, Undersecretary of Education, the Philippines, informed the Conference that a cheque representing half of the US$100,000 pledged by the Philippines to the SEAMEO Educational Development Fund, in lieu of subscription to the SEAMEO Educational Development Bonds, would be handed over to SEAMES during the Conference and the remainder remitted before the end.
of the fiscal year.

He also confirmed the Philippines’ strong faith in SEAMEO and pledged continued support for the Organization, as shown in his country’s many efforts as host nation towards ensuring the success of the Conference.

Singapore’s Minister for Education, H.E. Dr. Lee Chiaiw Meng, stated that unlike other regional organizations, SEAMEO’s main strength lies in its various Regional Centres/Projects, which have made a substantial impact on the region’s standard of education.

Dr. Saroj Buatri, Deputy Undersecretary of State for Education, Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Thai delegation, reiterated his country’s firm support for SEAMEO, and urged more attention to problems concerning programmes and personnel, which are vital to the Organization’s development.

The Vietnamese Minister of Education, Culture and Youth, H.E. Dr. Nho Khac Thinh, pledged his country’s continued support of INNOTECH, now fully operational, during its first five years of permanent operation. With the construction of the TROPMED National Centre also now commenced, he remarked that both are reflections of Vietnam’s confidence in regional co-operation. His Excellency also expressed appreciation to SEAMES for its efforts to implement the Council’s resolution on post-war educational development in the three Indochina countries.

Statements were also made by various observers during the course of the Conference.

Dr. Sudjoro D. Puponegoro, SEAMES Director, followed these formal statements with his Annual Report for 1974, highlighting the successes of the successful fund-raising efforts and implementation of programme activities.

Status reports by Centre Directors outlined the work accomplished at the Regional Centres/Projects in the various member countries. The Council viewed with satisfaction the progress made by these Regional Centres/Projects in the fields of tropical biology, educational innovation and technology, science and mathematics education, English language teaching, agriculture, and tropical medicine and public health.

The development plan for the seventh Regional Centre, namely, the Applied Research Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (ARCAFA), was also approved by the Council. During the two-year interim phase of operations, ARCAFA will conduct a number of training courses and seminars.

Dr. Satoro Parotoesmodjo, BIOTROP Director, presented his Centre’s Annual Report which was followed by a series of slides and tape commentary. He reported on the construction projects as well as the plan for the construction of BIOTROP Training and Research Facilities. He also outlined the scholarships received, training courses conducted, and research projects carried out. New and expanded activities have been accomplished at the Clearing House and Information Centre, which is now staffed with more personnel.

Mr. Pham Van Cung, INNOTECH Director, presented his Annual Report accompanied by slides and tape commentary. He reported that the Centre had expanded its training programme in 1974 and planned further expansion in 1975 to include more two-week workshops and a nine-month applied research programme. In research the Centre’s efforts were almost totally directed towards the development of two delivery systems for mass primary education: Project IMPACT and Project RIT. Both these projects are designed to allow more children to utilize present school facilities and personnel by enlisting community help in the case of IMPACT or by redesigning the instructional processes in the case of RIT. The implementation of these projects will stretch over the next five years.

INNOTECH continued to publish its monthly Newsletter and several technical reports were distributed. During 1974 INNOTECH conducted its annual seminar, “The Content of Primary Education for Post-War Development.” The result of this seminar is to be used as a guideline for INNOTECH’s assistance to the three Indochina countries during the post-war period.

Most notable of INNOTECH’s advance planning activities are the development of its Five-Year Development Plan and three major projects: teacher preparation for non-traditional roles; a joint preparation with SEAMES, SEARCH and TROPHER in the development of the human resource in the Lower Mekong Basin; and a combination of Project IMPACT with the Filipino “In-School Off-School Approach” for mass primary education. Future planning includes the development of primary/secondary education based on the experiences of Projects IMPACT and RIT.

In his Annual Report, Mr. Chin Chin Seng, RECSAM Director, mentioned the large number of key educators from SEAMES countries who attended the Training and Development courses and the workshop on the Southeast Asian Science and Mathematics Experiment. The Director also described RECSAM’s second pilot project, “Science/Mathematics Concept Learning in Southeast Asian Children.” In addition, teaching modules and related instructional materials have been published by the Centre. Three regional seminars were held in 1974: Proposal of Programmes for RECSAM’s Second Five-Year Plan (1975-1980); Mathematical Education and New Areas in Mathematics, a regional conference; and New Approaches to Artificial Intelligence, an international seminar.
jointly sponsored by Unesco, the German Foundation for International Development and RECSAM. Staffing improved during the year with 11 additional specialists in science and mathematics education. As for construction, the United States Government and the Malaysian Government have agreed to provide funds to build administration and laboratory buildings, while the Malaysian Government may assist in financing other construction work.

The report was followed by a series of slides and synchronized tape commentary.

RELC Director, Mrs. Tai Yu-lin reported that 1974 was a year of steady progress for the Regional English Language Centre in Singapore. On-going programmes were further developed and new activities initiated. In addition to the four Certificate and Diploma courses, a course in Research Methods was held. A number of research projects were conducted including two survey projects: A Study of the English Language Teaching Situation in SEAMEO countries; and A Sociolingualistic Survey of Southeast Asia, a joint RELC and East West Centre project.

Publication of handbooks and instruction materials were given prominent attention during the year. In addition the Library and Information Centre continued to enjoy a fine reputation among teachers and specialists in the field of linguistics as well as librarians, while RELC publications have earned a similar reputation among academic journals. The 1974 seminar on "Recent Developments and Research in Reading Relevant to the Teaching and Learning of English in Southeast Asia" was attended by 300 delegates from 19 countries. It was followed by a two-day workshop, jointly sponsored by the International Reading Association and RELC.

SEARCA's status report, presented by its Assistant Director, Dr. Gil Sagi-si, covered not only the past year but the entire five-year period since it launched its first five-year phase of permanent operation in 1969. He traced the Centre's development from its early days through the interim stage when it started to pursue regional projects. Later more research and public service or extension projects of regional nature were initiated. He stated that many of these activities would be pursued vigorously in the future, particularly those that revolve around food and people's well-being.

Following the verbal presentation, a series of slides accompanied by a synchronized taped commentary showing the first five years of the Centre's permanent phase of operation was presented to the Conference.

TROPMED's status report, accompanied by slides, was presented by The Secretary-General of the Central Co-ordinating Board, Prof. Chamlong Harinapura. He also reviewed the past five years of operation during which time eight regional training courses were developed, 13 seminars/conferences, three workshops, and two technical meetings were organized. Exchange of personnel was an important component of the TROPMED programme during this time. The CCB Bureau of TROPMED Information collected more than 4,000 documents and publications for reference, while TROPMED continued to publish its Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and 50 other documents.

Following the Council's acceptance of these reports, the Indonesian Minister of Education urged the Conference not to forget the needs of higher education and suggested wider SEAMEO collaboration in this field with other organizations like Unesco or RIHE. He also drew the Council's attention to the need for monitoring the achievements of the Centres with a view to their more rapid practical applications.

With the theme of the Conference thus outlined, the members of the Conference examined the proposals contained in the various working papers concerning the operations and programmes of SEAMEO.

The Conference first dealt with the follow-up action taken with regard to resolutions of the Ninth SEAMEC Conference and heard the progress made in implementing the SEAMEO Educational Development Programmes for the 1970s. Reports on the SEAMEO Public Information Officers Seminar-Workshop and the latest development of the SEAMEO Catalogue of Publications were read to the Council.

The Council endorsed the SEAMEO Special Assistance Programme for Post-War Educational Reconstruction and Development in the Korean Republic, Laos and the Republic of Vietnam. It also took note of the efforts made towards implementing the project "An Action Model for Human Resource Development in the Lower Mekong Basin".

The INNOTECH Five-Year Development Plan was adopted by the Council and a Memorandum of Agreement was signed by the Philippine Government and SEAMEO concerning the Second Five-Year permanent phase of operation of SEARCA. Concerning the TROPMED Programme and Funding Scheme for the Second Five-Year Permanent Phase of Operation, SEAMES was directed to study and report to the Eleventh SEAMEC Conference in 1976.

The Council also agreed on the necessity for the Regional Centres/Project to undertake periodic self-evaluation of their operations, programmes and activities, using guidelines approved by their respective Governing Boards. The first external evaluation of the Regional Centres/Project will be undertaken in FY 1975/1976.

The Council also endorsed the SEAMEO Centre Staff Development Programme, which ensures that
the Centre will be staffed with qualified professionals. The Australian, French and New Zealand delegations offered to finance training for Centre staff members in the three countries.

One of the highlights of the Conference was the Council’s approval of the draft agreement to formalize relations between SEAMEO and Unesco. Dr. Ananda W.P. Gunage, representative of the Unesco Regional Office for Education in Asia, remarked that similar approval by Unesco’s Executive Board, followed by an exchange of notes, was awaited.

The successful fund-raising efforts of the Secretariat and the Regional Centre/Project were commended by the Council.

Reports relating to the financial aspects of SEAMEO operations were presented to and adopted by the Council including the proposed revision of the SEAMEO Financial Operations Manual.

During Plenary Session V the Chairman announced the date and venue of the Eleventh SEAMEC Conference. It will be held in Singapore tentatively from January 26 through 30, 1976.

As the Conference was drawing to a close the Chairman, on behalf of the Council, paid tribute to Dr. Sudjono D. Pusponegoro for his able leadership and his dedication to SEAMEO. He presented him with a plaque in recognition of his outstanding service. In his Valedictory Speech, Dr. Sudjono thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the Southeast Asian region. He paid tribute to his predecessor, General Nert Khemayodhin, and expressed confidence in his successor, Dr. Vitaliano Bernardino.

The Letter of Appointment was signed formally appointing Dr. Bernardino as the new SEAMES Director for a term of three years with effect from February 8, 1975.

In his Acceptance Speech, Dr. Bernardino, himself no stranger to SEAMEO activities, thanked the Council for appointing him. After noting the strengths of SEAMEO, he warned of the many problems still to be faced particularly that of finance. Ultimately SEAMEO would have to become financially self-reliant. However he was confident of SEAMEO’s future because of the solidarity among member countries.

The heads of delegations of member countries congratulated the Chairman, expressed gratitude to the outgoing Director, Dr. Sudjono D. Pusponegoro, and expressed confidence in the new SEAMES Director, Dr. Vitaliano Bernardino.

H.E. Juan L. Manuel in his closing address summed up the Conference as one which had been extremely productive particularly in terms of new agreements and pledged support. He thanked the delegates and representatives for attending and credited their enthusiasm and understanding as the main reason for the success of the Conference and SEAMEO as a whole.*

SEAMEO--In Prospect*  
by Dr. Vitaliano Bernardino  
In coming SEAMES Director

Dr. Vitaliano Bernardino, in coming SEAMES Director is seen delivering his Acceptance Speech.

Mr. President,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am appreciative of this opportunity to give a speech on the occasion of my formal acceptance of appointment as Director of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Secretariat. I am also thankful for my three month assignment as SEAMES Director-Designate. I think the practice is good as it gives the new incumbent some time to prepare for his difficult job and permit a smooth turn-over of responsibility.

At the outset, I should like to express my profound gratitude to the members of the Council for the trust and confidence they have reposed upon my humble self in electing me as the head of its administrative arm. I regard my election as a distinct honour not only for myself but also for my country. That I am accepting the position under familiar surround-

*Acceptance Speech delivered at the Closing Ceremony of the Tenth SEAMEC Conference which was held at Baguio City, the Philippines, from January 20 through 24, 1975.
ings strengthens my morale in facing the complex duties I am about to assume.

As mentioned by the outgoing Director in his Valedictory Speech, I am coming to SEAMEO not as a total stranger. I have participated in several important SEAMEO activities: first as a co-chairman of the planning committee of the second SEAMEC Conference in 1966, then as consultant in the First Seminar on Educational Planning, as Chairman of the Brainstorming Session, and most recently as the basis of SEAMEO’s programmes and lastly as vice-chairman only a year ago of the preliminary meeting for post-war educational development of the three Indo-China countries. These contacts, I am pleased to my assignment as Director-Designate, have enabled me to acquire a fair insight into SEAMEO’s structure and operation of its programmes and projects, its achievements and progress, and even its problems and difficulties.

Due credit must be given to my worthy predecessors for having supplied effective administrative leadership to SEAMEO. I hope I can further strengthen and build upon the foundation that they have laid. The Organization has attained a position of strength and respectability that is now widely recognized. It has established a firm infrastructure and operational machinery that give it the viability and promise of growth. It has successfully carried out training programmes of various forms and duration which have undoubtedly contributed to the professional advancement in the member countries. Significant research has been conducted and several others are in progress to improve the objectives, content, methodology, and materials of instruction. Existing practices are being tried out for more economical and effective delivery systems of mass primary education to meet the demands of exploding population, economic shortages and societal dislocations.

Thus today SEAMEO has a healthy image within and without Southeast Asia. This is manifested by the affiliation as associate members of three countries outside the region; namely, Australia, France and New Zealand and the substantial assistance – financial, material, technical, and otherwise – that it is receiving from governments and private agencies in other countries, notably, the United States, the Netherlands, Canada, West Germany, the United Kingdom, and Denmark. There are bright prospects of similar aid from more countries and agencies.

Impressive as are the achievements of SEAMEO to date, however, much yet remains to be done and the Organization will face even more challenging problems that will test its capabilities and task its resources. In my view – and this is shared general-

ly by those involved in SEAMEO – easily its most demanding and critical problem is and will be that of finance — where and how to obtain the necessary funds to meet increasing administration and programme costs. There will be a need not only of expanding the contributions from current sources in and out of the region but also of tapping new sources. External funding is most valuable and is deeply appreciated; but in the long run, it must be regarded at best as ad hoc and contingent. Ultimately, SEAMEO will have to bear the onus of meeting all its financial needs on a self-help basis. Parenthetically, it may be reiterated that the liberal support that SEAMEO now receives from external sources has been due to their recognition not only of its excellent programmes but also of its effort to help itself.

The crucial stage of funding in the Organization will come when all the Regional Centres shall have entered into their second five-year phase of permanent operation, at which time their main support will devolve upon their respective host governments and SEAMES. So far only one Centre has entered into its permanent phase, and, happily, through the joint efforts of all parties concerned, it has done so smoothly and effectively. There is every reason to expect that the other Centres will follow suit. The funds needed for this phase of operation have been spelled out and approved by the Council which in effect means that the host governments and SEAMES have committed to the envisioned financing arrangement. What, therefore, remains is to translate the principles into action.

But this problem of providing continuing support for the Regional Centres’ operation and programmes has been made more difficult by the recent adoption of several new projects that demand even larger financing; and this situation is further exacerbated by the current world-wide economic crisis. The project on post-war educational development of the three Indo-China countries earlier mentioned with initial costs far beyond the regular capability of SEAMEO, and definite sources for funding the project are still to be found. Another large project with yet indeterminate sources of support is the Centre’s Staff Development Programme. A third project is that of human resource development in parallel with the water resources in the Lower Mekong River Basin Area, for which fortunately, funding for at least the initial stages has been indicated. The seventh and newest of the Regional Centres has yet to get off the ground. With the host country undertaking the most trying circumstances, the prospects for the early inauguration of the Centre is yet uncertain.

The professional staffs of the different Regional

Centres are in urgent need of strengthening and development to enable them to implement effectively their training and research programmes. How to facilitate the secondment of qualified personnel from the member countries for training and subsequent assignment to the Centres is besides the training costs a crucial problem that is yet to be solved.

SEAMEO’s administrative machinery also needs further evaluation for possible improvement to insure effective operation. There appears to be a demand for definite clarification and rationalization of the scope of authority and responsibility of the Regional Centres and their governing boards vis-a-vis the Council and the Secretariat with the view to main-
I feel so proud to have my own modest part in the shaping of the contemporary Southeast Asia through regional cooperation efforts. If I were to follow my own personal inclination, this Valedictory Speech would most probably turn into a series of thanksgiving for I am deeply grateful for the cooperation I have received from all quarters during my term of office, be it from the member countries, the associate members, friendly countries and agencies, the Regional Centres/Project, or from my own staff. I have made many new friends during these years, friends who share the philosophy of SEAMEO.

During the past three years, the programme activities of SEAMEO, both at the Regional Centres and at the Secretariat, have expanded and intensified considerably. After the initial phase of activities directed mainly towards the training of high-level personnel, SEAMEO has, of late, been directing its attention to educational problems at the grass-root level. Greater attention is being given to research and development projects, and continued efforts are being made to strengthen and improve the quality of the training. The professional set-up of SEAMEO is such that the programme activities are varied with each Regional Centre being assigned a field of specialization. The task of providing overall leadership, which is to be expected from the SEAMES Director, is not an easy one, for he cannot claim to be conversant in all these professional fields. It has been my policy to leave professional matters to the professionals and I think, in this connection, there has always existed a complete understanding between the Secretariat and the Regional Centres/Project, for the SEAMES Director is there not to give professional directives, but to provide co-ordination and even to serve the professionals working at the Regional Centres. This does not mean an absence of professional interest, but rather a judicious division of responsibilities.

I have devoted the major part of my time during my term of office to that onerous task of fund-raising, the task which the Council has assigned to the SEAMES Director. I have always tried to look outward, to open the door to fresh ideas, to strengthen old friendships and to establish new contacts. In this respect, I owe a great debt to my distinguished predecessor, General Netri Khemayodhin, who did much to pave the way for his successor, although he would be too modest to claim any credit for his pioneering work. May I be permitted to quote a passage from General Netri's Valedictory Speech delivered at the Seventh SEAMES Conference in Vientiane in January 1972:

"But what appeared to me to be the most onerous task assigned to me was that of fund-raising. I cannot lay claim to any outstanding achievement on this issue, but I have explored all the avenues that might lead to success. There is no time for me now to wander along those paths which I have paved, and I trust that my successor will continue to explore further what I have initiated."

I wish to place on record here and now that I have followed those paths which my predecessor had paved, and that these were indeed "avenues that led to success." In some ways, I have ventured beyond the route mapped out by my predecessor, I have tried to tap new resources and to make new friends, always with the full consciousness that the reputation of SEAMEO should not be risked at any price. If I have asked for money — and that is the job assigned to me by the Council — I have done so with dignity, for the work of SEAMEO deserves support, and there should be dignity in the giving as well as the receiving. My three years with SEAMEO have taught me enough to know where the pitfalls of fund-raising lie, and I have intimated them to my successor.

I believe that the Council has adopted a very practical measure in providing an overlap-period of three months for a Director-Designate to work with his predecessor before taking over the directorship. In my own case, I did benefit a great deal from the three months I served as Director-Designate, and I would like to say that the change of leadership has never disrupted the continuity of work. My distinguished successor, Dr. Vitaliano Bernardino has brought with him a rich professional background in the field of education and I am sure that he will be able to provide the kind of leadership that would most benefit our regional endeavours. He is a new-comer to SEAMEO having participated in a number of professional seminars organized by our Organization. It will be remembered that Dr. Bernardino was Chairman of the Brain-storming Session in 1970, from whence the "SEAMEO Educational Development Programmes for the Seventies" originated. Dr. Bernardino and myself have spent the past three months in fruitful consultation on how to strengthen the noble efforts of SEAMEO.

In November this year, SEAMEO will be 10 years old, and my successor and I agree that it is time for SEAMEO to take stock of its own work and to take a look into the future with a sure sense of direction. There is still a great deal to be done to reinforce the professional work of SEAMEO and to strengthen the foundation for the financing of the
Organization. In my case, I have had to concentrate on solving immediate problems, and it would be presumptuous on my part to claim that a firm foundation for SEAMEO has been laid for the next ten or twenty years. But there are good signs that the member countries are doing more and more for SEAMEO, and as I did emphasize in the Director's Annual Report, the second five-year phase of operation of the Regional Centres will be a good test for regionalism. It is not for an outgoing Director to predict as to how the new arrangement will fare in the years to come, but intuitively and by instinct, I feel optimistic.

Distinguished Members of the Council, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, two weeks from now I shall have handed over my responsibility to my distinguished successor. I am sure that he will be given the same co-operation and friendship which I have been most fortunate to enjoy during my term of office. I take leave of you all with the deepest personal satisfaction that once in my life, I have been given the honour and privilege to play a humble role in creating a haven of peace, friendship and brotherhood in this troubled world of ours.

Participants carrying out field work at a fishery station

Course on Induced Fish Breeding Techniques

Induced spawning of fish through the use of injected hormones has proven to be a superior method of breeding fish, according to studies conducted by the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Tropical Biology (BIOTROP) during a training course held from December 3, 1974 through January 11, 1975 at Bogor, Indonesia.

Seventeen trainees from Indonesia, the Khmer Republic, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and the Republic of Vietnam received intense instruction from four Indonesian and two foreign fisheries experts. The participants were either junior university instructors or young research scientists engaged in fishery studies.

After ten days of lectures and laboratory exercises, ten days of field work, and seven days visiting various fishery sites, the participants spent several days on writing up reports and discussing the course and its merits.

The trainees were shown the disadvantages of the old-fashioned method of obtaining fish seedlings for culture purposes. In some countries of Southeast Asia, people still collect fry by dragging fine-mesh nets through open water such as swamps, rivers and lakes, but the course showed that it was impossible to obtain just a single specie of fish for breeding by these methods. A lot of time was wasted sorting through the catches.

Although most fish culturalists traditionally obtain fish seedlings through natural spawning practices in ponds, they are limited by the number of fish species that are able to spawn in captivity. This traditional method was also found to be wasteful because such spawning had a very high mortality rate — up to 80 percent.

The BIOTROP training course explained and demonstrated the technical factors concerning the inability of certain species to reach full reproductive maturity while in captivity. The trainees were shown how an injection of hormone (extracted from fish pituitary glands) hastens the reproductive maturation process thus enabling the fish to spawn in captivity. This technique — called the hypophysation method — can also be applied to fish which spawn naturally in captivity. Seedlings obtained in such a manner are harder and they also have a lower mortality rate.

Considering the importance of this type of training and the great interest shown in the course, BIOTROP is now considering the possibility of holding another course in the near future.
SEAMEO Addresses Human Resource Development Problems in the Mekong Basin

For many years ESCAP (formally ECAFE), through its Mekong Committee, has been carrying out surveys and feasibility studies, leading to comprehensive plans for harnessing the water resource of the Mekong River, a river which winds itself through some of the most poorly developed areas of four SEAMOE countries -- Laos, Thailand, the Khmer Republic and the Republic of Vietnam. This river, together with its network of tributaries presents a vast potential for bringing development benefits to these areas and thereby improving the quality of life for those people living in the Mekong Basin. However, it is now recognized that attention to the human factor -- the development of human resource in the affected areas must go hand in hand with the water resource development. Unless this happens, the physical changes are unlikely to bring about any desirable improvement in the lives of the Mekong Basin dwellers. The people who will be affected by the projected water resource development must be prepared to utilize the new benefits effectively, and prepared to adjust to the dams, lakes and reservoirs, irrigation systems and power complexes. There will be new farming methods to learn, new diseases to combat, new vocations to master, and new lifestyles to accommodate. These are but a few of the human resource development problems which must be identified and solved if the new opportunities for life betterment are to be exploited fully.

Plans have already been made for SEAMOE to work jointly with the countries concerned to examine the human resource development problems along the Lower Mekong Basin. A proposal has been put forward calling for three of the SEAMEO Regional Centres/Projects to join forces in a multi-sector, team approach to identifying and solving the problems which fall in the "human resource" category. SEARCA will provide inputs for the agriculture and food production sector; TROPMED will assist with the control of diseases, nutrition, public health and population; INNOTECH will help with the learning components of these sectors, the transfer of new knowledge and skills, and the achievement of behaviour changes required to adjust to the new environment. All of these efforts will be directed towards three major objectives:

1. To prepare the people who will be affected by development of the Mekong Basin to understand and to use effectively the new resources created by this development;
2. To prepare these populations for marked changes in their environments and lifestyles and the necessary adjustments to these changes;
3. To enable these populations, particularly the poorer segments, to share more equitably in the benefits of development by bringing under control certain of the more pervasive constraints to such participation. Stated as sub-goals:
   A. To increase food production and improve the nutritional status of these populations;
   B. To control endemic diseases and improve the standard of health and sanitation among these populations;
   C. To slow the rapid rate of population growth;
   D. To provide relevant and adequate learning opportunities for these populations.

The project will be directed toward the development of an action model, based on work in one or two experimental sites, a model which will be tested and refined so that it can be used by communities along the Mekong in accomplishing the same objectives as set for the project. Although a totally integrated system, the action model will have three major components:

1. Prescribed procedures:
   A. For organizing a community to initiate action;
   B. For identifying the specific problems and needs of the community in the target development areas (food production, nutrition, health, family planning and education);
2. Materials:
   A. Handbooks and other printed guides
   B. Training manuals
   C. Sets of learning modules
   D. Organizational management and systemization formats (may be in the form of charts, filmstrips, or module packets).
3. Resource requirements (in printed form):
   A. Kinds and amount of manpower needed.
   B. Kinds and amount of things (commodities) needed.
C. Financial requirements
D. External assistance requirements and steps for mobilizing such assistance (for the district, province, national government, regional and international organizations)

Although this SEAMOE project will be of primary benefit to the four riparian countries, it is anticipated that this model will be applicable to other development schemes where human resource problems are involved, and that it will therefore be of interest and potential benefit to other SEAMOE countries.

The proposal was developed to its final form last November through the collaborative efforts of SEAMES and the Regional Centres/Project concerned and with the assistance of a SEAMES consultant, Dr. Robert Jacobs, former RRD Regional Education Adviser. The proposal has attracted the interest of several donors and is now under active consideration.

This will be SEAMOE's first major activity involving multicentre co-operation. The project will be administered by SEAMES under the direction of a SEAMOE Steering Committee.

The first phase of the project will be preparatory to establish project structures, staffing, obtaining authorities and approvals, preparing experimental sites, gathering information, identifying problems and needs, determining constraints to achieving project objectives, setting goals and targets, preparing detailed action plans for achieving these targets. After these preparatory activities are completed, work on the action model will go forward through a development phase and a trial and testing phase, and finally, the last phase will be devoted to propagation of the action model.
INNOTECH's Eighth Three-Month Training Course

INNOTECH's Eighth Three-Month Training Course, which began in Saigon on January 6, 1975 is particularly significant in being the first in the Centre's permanent phase of operation. As if to mark the occasion, the Course itself has been changed considerably with modifications to both the Modules and the approaches, as well as new additions to the Training staff.

Despite the changes the participants have progressed rapidly and have apparently settled down well for their three-month stay in Saigon at a comfortable house on Pasteur Street. The Administration Division has ensured that many amenities are available and that the house is within easy reach of the Centre.

The Course began with a brief opening ceremony in which Mr. Pham Van Cung, INNOTECH Director, welcomed the participants and then introduced the members of the Training Division, the Centre professional staff, and the Administrative Division, who would be responsible for their training and welfare during the course.

Each day's work presently consists of group discussions and individual work on the Modules, with occasional lectures from such experts as Dr. Winamo Surahmad, INNOTECH Deputy Director, and Dr. Robert Small, Education Officer, RED, Bangkok. Already most of the participants have completed the first two Modules, and have organized a Steering Committee to plan social and cultural activities during the course.

Later work will cover such topics as Innovation and Technology, the Systems Approach, and Strategies for Change. Language difficulties are not anticipated during the Course with Module texts being written in English, Thai and French, and Training Division staff on hand to solve any other problems. With so much attention, all participants should find their stay in Saigon enjoyable.

Opening session of the Symposium on Southeast Asian Plant Genetic Resources

Training Course and Symposium on Southeast Asian Plant Genetic Resources

The urgent need for conserving the plant genetic resources in Southeast Asia was the topic of a training course and a symposium both held recently in Bogor, Indonesia, under the joint sponsorship of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Tropical Biology (BIO-TROP), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and the Lembaga Biologi Nasional Indonesia (LIP).
Held from February 10 through March 22, 1975, the Training Course on Southeast Asian Plant Genetic resources coincided with a shorter Symposium on the same topic held from March 20 through March 22, 1975.

Considering the importance of the wide variety of fruits and crops in the Southeast Asian region, the lack of properly qualified staff to carry out the necessary plant breeding programmes is a serious handicap to the region's growth. It was with this in mind that the training course was initiated to provide the necessary training for young scientists in Southeast Asia. The course, attended by participants from Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, had as its objectives:

a) to create a sense of awareness of the problems relating to conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources;

b) to provide some theoretical background to these problems;

c) to enable these young scientists to put some of the knowledge gained into practice.

The Symposium, however, concentrated on the importance of the conservation of plant genetic resources in the region and drew scientists from Southeast Asia to exchange their views.

It is realized that the Southeast Asian region represents the centre of a diversity of many important fruit trees (durian, rambutan, langsat, mango), tuber crops (taro, yam, curcumas), coconut, banana, sugarcane and others which are important to the economies of countries within the region. If no precaution is taken, large scale utilization of the forests may result in the disappearance of their wild relatives, and it is very likely that future attempts to improve the cultivars through breeding will be seriously handicapped due to the absence of an adequate source of raw materials.

The number of institutions in Southeast Asia maintaining a stock collection of sizeable cultivars is very small at present. They are normally understaffed, and the available plant breeders are also inadequate to cope with the task of collection, preservation, evaluation and utilization of the numerous crop plants grown in the region. People adequately trained to work in this field are, therefore, needed.

The sponsors of the Training Course and the Symposium are hopeful that these events will generate and attract interest in plant genetic resources in Southeast Asia, and stress the importance of conservation of these resources.