



CONCEPT NOTE

**Engaging Communities, Empowering Leaders:
The SEAMEO RIHED Southeast Asian Higher Education Leadership Forum
Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel (TBC)
1 – 4 April 2018
Bangkok, Thailand**

Background and Purpose

SEAMEO RIHED is the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre specialising in higher education and development. The Centre is hosted by the Thai Government and located on the fifth floor of the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Thailand. Our mission is to advance cooperation, alignment and development of higher education systems in the region by developing policy platforms, engaging in policy-driven research and broadening space for information dissemination.

In the spirit of enhancing continued synergy across higher education in the new normal world, SEAMEO RIHED and the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Thailand, are co-organising the SEAMEO RIHED Southeast Asian Higher Education Leadership Forum on Engaging Communities and Empowering Leaders on 1-4 April 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the hope to move higher education leadership to be ready for changes while maximizing local wisdom and social responsibility.

Increasingly, higher education institutions are becoming engaged in their own local communities as well as the communities of their partner institutions around the world. At the same time, the New Normal is changing and redefining the characteristics of institutions and learning experiences. More complex and involving issues are extending beyond borders and across boundaries and requiring collaboration and partnerships with diverse groups working both locally and globally. This has renewed interest in having higher education institutions engage with their communities at local, national and international levels and made clear the need for leadership in a world of disruption.

In building on our existing regional policy platforms as well as our experience in conducting Regional Seminars and Fora for the region of Southeast Asia, the SEAMEO RIHED Southeast Asian Higher Education Leadership Forum on Engaging Communities and Empowering Leaders is a four-day regional event that will explore themes of leadership in the new normal context as well as innovative strategies and approaches to university-community engagement and social responsibilities for the region of Southeast Asia, bringing together bright minds of all generations to foster learning and inspiration and stimulate discussions that matter for the future of Southeast Asian higher education.

Forum Objectives

The Forum will provide a dynamic platform to:

- 1) increase knowledge and assess innovative strategies for the development of university-community engagement and social responsibilities
- 2) share experiences and showcase practices in leadership among institutions in the region
- 3) explore the latest trends, developments and challenges in university roles in the new normal era and identify future directions and strategies to enhance cooperation and leadership across diverse stakeholders

- 4) strengthen national and regional institutional networks, partnerships and cooperation for the region of Southeast Asia

Prospective Participants

Approximately 250-300 participants are expected at the Forum over the course of the four days, including:

- Ministry of Education and other government officials from SEAMEO Member Countries
- University executives and administrative staff responsible for leadership and the management and implementation of community engagement projects from the 11 SEAMEO Member Countries
- Collaborative Partners of SEAMEO RIHED
- Affiliated and Associated Members of SEAMEO
- Higher Education researchers and experts
- Representatives of Private Sector Organisations
- Representatives of NGOs and Community Partner Organisations

Forum Structure

The forum will be organised over four days from 1-4 April 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand and is intended to provide a platform for active exchange, hands-on learning and sharing and will consist of:

- **Keynote and Plenary Presentations:** Inspiring speakers from the region and beyond will set the scene and outline key approaches to community engagement, local wisdom and leadership in a New Normal world
- **Panel Discussions:** Conference participants are invited to explore topics through panel discussions moderated by higher education leaders and practitioners.
- **Concurrent and Project Demonstration Sessions:** Each concurrent session will address an overarching theme with a group of some 50-60 participants and feature up to three sessions. The participants may discuss and collaboratively draw lessons to be learned from the presentations. Up to two Project Demonstrations will be presented in parallel.
- **Poster Presentation Session** on specific issues and special interests

Registration Fee:

Registration fees are determined by the country of residence. The fee includes meals and coffee breaks as specified in the Programme, and a conference kit.

Registration Fee	Thai nationality or Thai residence	International Participants
	2,500 THB	150 USD

For any inquiries regarding the Forum, please contact: 2018leadershipforum@rihed.seameo.org, cc. rihed@rihed.seameo.org or call SEAMEO RIHED at +662 644 9856-62.