



## CALL FOR RESEARCHER(S) (SHORT-TERM GRANT)

Warmest greeting from SEAMEO Regional Centre for Special Educational Needs (SEAMEO SEN), Malaysia.

It is our pleasure to inform that SEAMEO SEN, Malaysia is calling for researchers for our **Short-Term Grant**.

Interested **researchers/team of researchers** are invited to submit your proposal **by or before 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023** for the centre's considerations.

### 1. Proposed Research Topic

Evaluating SEAMEO SEN's Performance: Future Direction of Disability-Inclusive Education in Southeast Asia

### 2. Scope

Across Asia, countries have signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) with its clear position of inclusive education as a right. Furthermore, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals signed by all state's parties, contains Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Therefore, across the globe, countries to a greater or lesser extent are pursuing inclusive education (Faragher, R., Chen, M. & et al., 2021).

Inclusive education has been defined as a process of focusing on and responding to the diverse needs of all learners, removing barriers impeding quality education, and thereby increasing participation in learning and reducing exclusion within and from education (UNESCO, 2005). The foundation of an inclusive environment is when all children can learn together, in the same

classroom (IIEP-UNESCO, 2020). The lack of data and knowledge on supporting learners with disabilities often led to learning environment gaps between learners with disabilities and their peers without disabilities.

As a regional centre that is mandated to oversee the development of quality education for Special Educational Needs in SEAMEO Member Countries, SEAMEO SEN constantly emphasize on the importance of evaluating its Five-Year Development Plan to ensure each of its delivered programmes and activities are impactful to the targeted audience and added values to the regional education landscape. This effort is also to ensure that the proposed programmes and activities are in line with the SEAMEO 7 Priority Areas and UNESCO SDG 4.0 which aims to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all”.

Within the past 10 years of service, the planning for the centre’s programmes and activities were derived from conventional stakeholders and experts’ meetings which are carefully aligned to the SEAMEO 7 Priority Areas and UNESCO SDG 4.0, however without a structured guidance of an inclusive framework. Understanding the importance of having a clear reference towards its mandate, SEAMEO SEN has adopted the Disability-Inclusive Education (DIE) Framework in aligning and strategizing its programmes and activities.

### **3. Research Objectives:**

- a. To identify SEAMEO SEN performance gaps based on the view point of stakeholders;
- b. To understand stakeholders’ expectations for SEAMEO SEN in the next 10 years guided by the Disability-Inclusive Education (DIE) Framework;
- c. To recognise the potential programme to be organized by SEAMEO SEN on Disability-Inclusive Education in SEAMEO Member Countries.

### **4. Task to be Performed:**

Appointed Researcher is expected to:

- a. Coverage of at least four (4) SEAMEO member countries including Lao PDR and Cambodia.
- b. Write a literature review

- c. Propose a suitable methodology and analysis
- d. Perform discussion and recommendations
- e. Submit a complete research report

**5. Deliverables:**

- a. A comprehensive **research report**
- b. **1 publication** in refereed journal/proceeding
- c. **1 article** for media publication

**6. Research Timeline:**

This research is expected to take up to a maximum **6 months**. Additional **6 months** for refereed journal/proceeding publication. Specifications of research milestones shall be discussed and agreed during the research proposal review session.

**7. Research Funding**

The research will be funded by the SEAMEO SEN research grant award (**USD5000**). All research proposals must include a detailed expected financial implication which will be deliberated.

**8. Eligibility**

Submission is open to **researchers/team of researchers** from any local and international higher learning institutions. Each proposal must have a Lead Applicant who will be subjected to the general terms and conditions for granting.

Lead Applicants who are currently engaged with on-going research project(s) with SEAMEO SEN are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for this Call for Researcher.

The lead applicant is required to have:

- Master or Doctoral Degree in Education or in related fields;
- Degree specialization in Education, Special Education and Inclusive Education is an advantage;
- Appointment with a local or international higher learning institution for (at least) the duration of proposed research project;
- Excellent analytical and written skills;
- Good planning and organizational skills;
- Proficient command of English.

## 9. Research Plan Submission

The Research Proposal must be written in **English** and shall be presented clearly and submitted together with the following:

- a. Proposed research financial implications and Gantt chart according to research grant award and research timeline
- b. Curriculum vitae of the lead applicant and potential research team member(s)
- c. Other relevant materials to support the proposal

All submissions must be sent via <https://forms.gle/5AWgWJj7Qcb1e1wc6>.

An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent to the Lead Applicant once the proposal has been received by the Research Committee. All applicants are advised to adhere to the submission requirements therein, submissions that do not fulfil the requirements shall be **disqualified**.

For enquiries, kindly email us at [research@seameosen.edu.my](mailto:research@seameosen.edu.my) and copy to [faris@seameosen.edu.my](mailto:faris@seameosen.edu.my) and please write the title **“Evaluating SEAMEO SEN’s Performance: Future Direction of Disability-Inclusive Education in Southeast Asia”**.