



# Concept Note

## Seminar

### **INNOVATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT: LEADERS' ROLES AND STRATEGIES FOR ASSURING INSTITUTION'S QUALITY TO THRIVE IN THE PANDEMIC**

**August 27, 2021**

Since early 2020, the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have vastly affected education systems around the world. In Southeast Asia alone, approximately 247 million learners at every level are forced to attend online learning or flexible learning options from their homes in compliance with strict social distancing regulations from governments. Regarding the impacts of the coronavirus on tertiary education in particular, the pandemic has pushed higher education institutions (HEIs) to manage and lead under unstable conditions as well as promptly adopt new technology to fulfil the learners' distance learning needs. HEIs have been forced to quickly move from face-to-face programs to online alternatives, changing their current teaching and learning process and assessing formats. However, due to the complexity of HEIs and their multi-faceted mission of teaching, conducting research, and contributing to society, administrating such large educational communities during the COVID-19 pandemic has never been an easy task, yet genuinely a profound challenge for leaders. Amidst this challenging context, HEIs' leaders are required to reshape their leadership and implement effective decisions to ensure not only the continuity of school's functioning, but also the quality of teaching and learning activities. The leaders' proactive responses to these significant issues have highlighted their diverse roles when confronting various dramatic shifts in terms of organizational culture, which contributed to the evolution of their academic leadership in crisis. Alongside teachers, leaders are also the ones who have to constantly adapt and innovate to better equip themselves so that they can make crucial decisions to tackle challenges and embrace opportunities while planning for the development of universities in the future.

Despite the certain challenges and transformations in management that HEIs encounter, the pandemic has also opened the new door for HEIs to switch the teaching models and establish a more efficient and accessible way of knowledge offerings to learners by the adoption of new technology. The teaching and learning activities are now conducted much more via the Internet by using various specific virtual platforms like Moodle, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet. However, the question is how HEIs can ensure the equity-oriented and quality education of its institutions when adopting these online learning modalities.

With the aim of providing a platform for leaders, administrators, and educators to exchange effective managerial strategies in the COVID-19 pandemic, SEAMEO Regional Training Center in Vietnam (SEAMEO RETRAC) has recognized the needs for leadership training to address the issues regarding academic leadership in crisis and foster innovative solutions to strive for the educational quality. In the midst of the pandemic, it is timely for SEAMEO RETRAC whose mission is to assist SEAMEO Member Countries in identifying and addressing educational issues to organize the Seminar on ***“Innovations in Higher Education Leadership and Management: Leaders' Roles and Strategies for Assuring Institution's Quality to Thrive in the Pandemic”*** (Đổi mới trong Lãnh đạo và Quản lý Giáo dục: Vai trò của các nhà lãnh đạo và chiến lược đảm bảo chất lượng giáo dục đại học trong bối cảnh đại dịch COVID-19). Details about the Seminar are as follows.

## **1. Theme of the Seminar**

The theme of the Seminar is ***“Innovations in Higher Education Leadership and Management: Leaders' Roles and Strategies for Assuring Institution's Quality to Thrive in the Pandemic”***.

Discussion at the Seminar will focus on introducing and discussing innovations that were magnified and adopted to ensure the quality of teaching and learning despite the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, including, but not limited to, the following subthemes:

- Good models and best practices to manage academic institutions in times of uncertainty;
- The changing roles of leaders and strategies for supporting higher education development during and post-crisis;
- Key issues, strategies and innovative practices related to the assurance of the teaching and learning quality of distance/online learning modalities during school closures in the COVID-19 educational crisis.

## **2. Purposes**

- To provide an opportunity for participants to listen to and update themselves with current good practices and innovations currently used to reshape education and manage the academic institutions during and in the post-COVID-19 era;
- To promote dialogues and collaboration among leaders, administrators, and educators on the creation and adoption of educational innovations to assure the institutions' quality; and
- To create chances for exchanging experience and strengthening coordination among relevant institutions in Southeast Asian countries to stimulate innovative activities and cooperative actions in education.

## **3. Speakers**

Speakers of the Seminar are invited scholars and leaders from different universities in Southeast Asia and from international organizations who are going to share their experience and expertise with the participants through their presentations.

## **4. Participants**

The Seminar will be open for all participants in Southeast Asian countries who are interested in the aforementioned topic. Participants of the Seminar may include:

- Educational leaders, researchers, educators from Southeast Asian countries;
- Educational administrators and lecturers from different universities and colleges in the region;
- Educational staff and academic staff in different national and international institutions/organizations, and those who are interested in the topics.

## **5. Date and Time**

- Date: August 27, 2021
- Time: 08:30 – 11:30 (GMT+7, Vietnam Time)

## **6. Format**

The Seminar will be conducted on the **Zoom** platform and streamed on Youtube. In the seminar, there are three to four presentations of invited speakers, who are experienced leaders and researchers from different universities and international organizations in Southeast Asia and beyond. There also will be time for Q&A sessions after each presentation.

Participants are required to register online by completing the registration link and will then receive a confirmation email.

After attending the Seminar and completing the evaluation form of the Seminar, participants will receive an **e-certificate** acknowledging their participation.

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