



South East Asia Regional
Association for Medical Education



World Federation for Medical Education

STATEMENT on Agenda Item:

8.1. Decade Health Workforce Strengthening in SEA Region 2015-2024: mid-term review of progress, challenges, capacities and opportunities

The aim of the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) is to enhance the quality of medical education worldwide. WFME was admitted into official relations with the World Health Organization on 30 January 1974, as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), thereby recognising the Federation as the agency representing medical education and medical schools on the world level. The regional structure of the Federation comprises of six regional association in medical education, including South East Asia: The South East Asian Regional Association for Medical Education (SEARAME).

During 2018-2020, SEARAME has been supported by the ECFMG to develop and implement faculty and student exchanges programmes among medical schools in the region. The program provides students affordable international medical placements in neighboring countries so they can enhance their understanding of the region's medical education needs and practices, in the hope that lessons can be learnt and improvement can be made to the students' home health care. The program provides participating medical schools the opportunity to improve on an identified aspect of their medical school which will inevitably improve the medical education they provide. They will be partnered with a suitable medical school in South East Asia. A proposal for skills laboratory improvement programme in SEA regions has been developed, as well as a proposal for strengthening the accreditation system in SEA Region. Both proposals are looking for donors.

SEARAME as the official partner of WHO in SEA Region strongly supports:

1. The Decade Health Workforce Strengthening in SEA Region 2015-2024 to ultimately achieve the Universal Health Coverage
2. The continuous efforts to retain health workforces, especially in the area most needed

3. Strengthening the accreditation system for health profession education in member countries for accelerating transformative education and for continuous quality improvement
4. The provision of appropriate protection equipment for frontline health workers who fight against Covid-19 should be prioritized, taking into account the number of health workforces who have become victims of Covid 19.

SEARAME strongly recommends:

1. To involve SEARAME in activities relating to Decade Health Workforce Strengthening, especially in coordinating with national associations of medical schools in member countries
2. WHO SEARO to support financially the activities to strengthen accreditation system for health profession education, using Indonesia and Thailand whose accreditation systems have been recognized by WFME as the resource country
3. WHO SEARO to support the development of e-learning and sharing of learning resources using digital technology among member countries
4. WHO SEARO to support the capacity of medical schools in designing and applying blended learning – a combination of distance learning and face to face mode which inevitably could be the main learning stream during and post Pandemic Covid 19.