SEAMEO CENTRES POLICY RESEARCH NETWORK (CPRN) SUMMIT 2025

Building Bridges to a Sustainable Future: Inclusive Collaboration and Innovation in Education, Science, and Culture

PARALLEL SESSION
COMMON POLICY RESEARCH DISCUSSION WAY FORWARD

GROUP: EDUCATION
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HOSTED BY
SEAMEO VOCTECH
Regional Centre, Brunei Darussalam

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Objective 1: To identify and discuss issues and challenges related to policy recommendations and collaborative research

Potential barriers to implementing collaborative research initiatives and policy

1. Research topics may not match pressing national priorities
2. Findings are too academic, complex and too technical or lack practical implications
3. Recommendations are vague or not framed in a way policymakers can act on
4. Mismatch between research timelines and policy windows (e.g., decisions are made before research is completed)
5. Limited policy relevance — research doesn't directly address current government priorities
6. Technical language and academic framing, making it hard for policymakers to interpret or apply
7. Lack of targeted dissemination strategies — reports don't reach the right people
8. Weak institutional links between research teams and ministries or decision-making bodies

Actionable Steps to effectively address the identified issues and challenges

1. Policymakers should be in the research process from the initial stage of problem identification, to ensure alignment with policy priorities
2. SEAMEO Centres support each other in aligning research with national agendas (eg:Inter Centre Collaboration)
3. Establish advisory roles for policymakers in SEAMEO projects
4. Co-design research themes with ministries and stakeholders
5. Hold pre-research consultations and post-research policy dialogues

Objective 2: To follow-up on previous agreements and discussions regarding collaborative research

Key issues and challenges in developing, disseminating, and promoting the adoption of policy recommendations

Key Issues Identified in 2024 CPRN

1. Lack of funding and resource allocation
2. Thematic areas lack clarity and alignment
3. Lack of collaboration

Recommendations:

1. **Secure funding and resource commitments** from national ministries and regional partners to address funding gaps.
2. **Define specific roles for SEAMEO Centres** as lead or supporting agencies to enhance thematic clarity and accountability.
3. **Assign focal persons in each Centre** to facilitate collaboration and systematic communication.

Key issues and challenges in developing, disseminating, and promoting the adoption of policy recommendations

Key Issues Identified 2024 CPRN

1. Scarcity in exploration of specialised competency areas
2. Absence of effective communication and dissemination strategies

Recommendations:

1. **Develop joint research frameworks and standardized instruments** to address specialised competency needs and ensure methodological consistency.

2. **Establish clear regional coordination mechanisms** for communication strategies and monitoring of dissemination impact.

3. **Draft a timeline roadmap** outlining deliverables, responsible teams, and expected completion dates for capacity-building and communication initiatives.

Actionable steps to guide the next phase of collaboration, including roles, responsibilities, and expected timelines