

No. 9513

MULTILATERAL

**Charter of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education
Organization. Signed at Singapore on 7 February 1968**

Authentic text: English.

Registered by Thailand on 21 April 1969.

MULTILATÉRAL

**Charte de l'Organisation des ministres de l'éducation de
l'Asie du Sud-Est. Signée à Singapour le 7 février
1968**

Texte authentique: anglais.

Enregistrée par la Thaïlande le 21 avril 1969.

CHARTER¹ OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION

PREAMBLE

We, the Peoples of Southeast Asia,

Desirous of attaining the benefits of peace, prosperity and security through an enlightened citizenry,

Recognizing the forces and the challenge of change in the contemporary world,

Anxious to provide for constructive direction to the forces of change,

And resolved upon joint and cooperative efforts for regional educational development,

Have, through our governments, adopted hereby this Charter of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization.

Article I

PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS

1. The purpose of the Organization is to promote cooperation among the Southeast Asian nations through education, science and culture in order to further respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are the birthrights of the peoples of the world.

2. To realize this purpose the Organization will :

- a. Collaborate in the work of advancing the mutual knowledge and understanding of the peoples in Southeast Asia as well as the rest of the world ;
- b. Promote and collaborate with the Member States, at their request, in joint projects and programmes of mutual benefit concerning education, science and culture and assist the members in the development of educational activities ;

¹ Came into force on 6 March 1969, when it had been accepted by five of the original Member States, in accordance with article XI (2). The instruments of acceptance were deposited with the Government of Thailand as indicated hereafter :

Malaysia	7 February 1968	Thailand	26 April 1968
Singapore	7 February 1968	Indonesia	6 March 1969
Laos	19 March 1968		

- c. Maintain, increase and diffuse knowledge ;
 - d. Assist in articulating education to the economic and social goals in the individual Member States.
3. With a view to preserving the independence, integrity and fruitful diversity of the cultures and educational systems of the Member States, the Organization is prohibited from intervening in matters which are essentially within their domestic jurisdiction.

Article II

MEMBERSHIP

1. The original Member States of this Organization shall be : Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam.
2. Southeast Asian States not members of this Organization may be admitted as Member States by a two-third majority vote of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Council.
3. Any Member State of the Organization may withdraw from the Organization by notice addressed to the Secretariat. Such notice shall take effect on 31 December of the year following the year during which the notice is given. Such withdrawal shall not affect the financial obligations owed to the Organization on the date the withdrawal takes effect.

Article III

ORGANS

The Organization shall include a Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Council and a Secretariat.

Article IV

THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION COUNCIL

1. The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Council, hereinafter referred to as the " Council ", shall consist of the Ministers of Education or accredited representatives of the Member States of the Organization.
2. The Council shall determine the policies and the main lines of work of the Organization.
3. The Council shall appoint the Director of the Secretariat.
4. The Council shall receive the reports of the Director and approve the programme and budget of the Organization.

5. The presence of at least two-thirds of the Member States is necessary for the Council to do business. Each Member State shall have one vote. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the Member States present and voting, except in cases in which a two-third majority is required by the provisions of this Charter.

6. The Council shall meet annually in ordinary session ; it may meet in extraordinary session if it so decides or if called by at least one-third of the Member States.

7. At each session the location of its next ordinary session shall be designated by the Council. The location of an extraordinary session shall be designated by the Council, if the session is called by it, or otherwise by the Director after consultation with at least one-third of the Member States.

8. The Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

9. The Council shall, at the ordinary session of each year, elect a President and other officers.

10. The Council shall set up special and technical committees and such other subordinate bodies as may be necessary for its purposes.

Article V

THE SECRETARIAT

1. The Secretariat of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization shall be called "The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Secretariat" (SEAMES), hereinafter referred to as the "Secretariat".

2. The Secretariat shall consist of a Director and such staff as may be required.

3. The Director shall be appointed by the Council under such terms and conditions as the Council may approve, and shall be eligible for reappointment. He shall be the chief administrative officer and the legal representative of the Organization.

4. The Director shall appoint the staff of the Secretariat in accordance with staff regulations to be approved by the Council. Subject to the paramount consideration of securing the highest standard of integrity, efficiency and technical competence, appointment to the staff shall be on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

5. In determining the salaries of the professional staff, the international organization scale shall be used.

6. The responsibilities of the Director and of the staff shall be exclusively international in character. In the discharge of their duties they shall