



SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED)

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SEAMEO RIHED

Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization – Regional Centre for Higher

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25 October 2024

Dr. Tariq Umar

Senior Lecturer

University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol

United Kingdom

Subject: Letter of Appreciation and Acknowledgement

Dear Dr. Tariq Umar,

On behalf of the **Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization – Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED)**, I am writing to express our sincere appreciation for your vital contribution to the advancement of **gender equity, diversity, and inclusivity (GEDI)** in higher education across the Southeast Asian region.

Your active participation in the **Transformative Leadership Workshop hosted in Bangkok, 24 – 25 October 2024**, in collaboration with UWE Bristol and regional stakeholders brought valuable expertise, academic insight, and a strong commitment to inclusive institutional development. Your presentation on embedding inclusive policy frameworks and designing equitable infrastructures in university environments provided participants with practical strategies grounded in international best practice and inclusive innovation.

We particularly commend your efforts in contextualising global approaches to gender and inclusion within Southeast Asian higher education systems, offering culturally sensitive and scalable models for action. Your emphasis on the intersection of disability support, gender equity, and infrastructural accessibility added a much-needed dimension to the regional discourse, resonating strongly with university leaders and policymakers in attendance.

As a result of your engagement and contribution, SEAMEO RIHED has observed the following immediate outcomes:

- Enhanced awareness among higher education institutions of the **importance of integrated inclusion policies** that address both physical accessibility and social equity;
- Strengthened momentum for **regional collaboration** in capacity-building around GEDI frameworks;
- Increased interest in developing **cross-border partnerships** for research and innovation on inclusive education and institutional resilience.



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Your work reinforces our shared vision of higher education systems that are inclusive, equitable, and transformative across Southeast Asia. We look forward to building on the foundations laid during the workshop and to future collaboration in policy development, research, and training.

Thank you once again for your commitment to advancing inclusive and gender-responsive education in the region. Your leadership, scholarship, and passion continue to make a meaningful difference.

With warmest regards,

Name : Su Myat Noe

Designation : Programme Officer, SEAMEO RIHED, Thailand

