GURO21 (Gearing Up Responsible and Outstanding Teachers in Southeast Asia (SEA) for the 21st Century) is a menu of short course packages of SEAMEO INNOTECH for teachers in Southeast Asia with the overall objective of enhancing the capabilities of teachers on 21st Century skills as they meet the demands and challenges of the time. The short courses are based on a Competency Framework for Southeast Asian Teachers of the 21st Century, which SEAMEO INNOTECH developed and validated with the Ministries of Education from the eleven SEAMEO member states. The Competency Framework for Southeast Asian Teachers consists of eleven (11) general competency areas and 64 enabling sub-competencies aligned with the realities in the 21st century. The eleven (11) general competency areas defined in the framework are all relevant, but among these general competency areas, there are three (3) that ranked highest in terms of importance and priority needs for teachers to perform effectively in the 21st century. These are: (1) Facilitating the Development of Learners’ Life Skills and Career Skills; (2) Facilitating Learning; and (3) Developing Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS).

From the three (3) identified priority competency areas, SEAMEO INNOTECH has developed the following two short courses for the first round of course offerings under the GURO21 program: GURO21 Course 1 - Facilitating the Development of 21st Century Skills for Southeast Asian Teachers; and GURO21 Course 2 - Developing Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS). These two short courses are ready for pilot implementation starting January 2011.

GURO21 Course 1 - Facilitating the Development of 21st Century Skills for Southeast Asian Teachers is composed of two self-learning modules in print, CD, and Web formats. The two modules under GURO21 Course 1 are: Module 1 – Equipping Teachers with the Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes, and Values for the 21st Century; and Module 2 – Facilitating 21st Century Learning. Module 1 prepares teachers to meet the challenges of the 21st Century classrooms. It presents an overview of core subjects and 21st century themes, as well as discusses the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values needed by teachers to help their students thrive well in 21st century school, work and life. Module 2 aims to equip teachers with knowledge and skills in facilitating 21st century learning. The module also guides teachers in developing a personal program for lifelong learning and in creating a classroom management plan to promote a conducive learning environment.

GURO21 Course 2 - Developing Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) is also composed of two self-learning modules in print, CD, and Web format. The two modules are: Module 1 – Developing Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) in Teachers; and Module 2 – Developing Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) in Learners. Module 1 equips the teachers with Higher Order Thinking Skills concepts and strategies in the context of his/her daily life and provides an overview of HOTS – what it is, its importance, and how to apply and integrate it in one’s everyday life. It also describes the characteristics of a HOTS teacher, as well as guides the teacher in creating a personal plan for integrating HOTS in everyday life. Module 2 on the other hand, will help teachers apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired in Module 1 to, in turn, develop higher order thinking skills in their students. The lessons in the module describe the characteristics and importance of a thinking classroom, integration of HOTS in instruction, and assessment of HOTS in the classroom using teacher-developed rubrics.

The SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH) is an organization engaged in providing educational solutions for Southeast Asia and beyond.

Its mission is to facilitate teaching and learning through innovative and technology-based research and training solutions in order to fully develop the potentials of the peoples in the region.

SEAMEO INNOTECH is offering GURO21, a new and innovative course intended for Southeast Asian teachers, teacher educators, and tertiary instructors.

How to inquire more about the courses?

Contact the GURO21 Course Management Team of the Flexible Learning Solutions Unit (FLSU) at the following:

Email | coursemanager@seameo-innotech.org
Phone | +632 9247681 to 84, loc. 182 or 150 or 188
Fax | +632 9287913
Mobile | +63 9178613022
Who are the GURO21 learners?
The target learners are elementary and secondary level teachers, teacher educators, and tertiary instructors or professors who may want to upgrade or enhance their knowledge, skills and attitudes in addressing the challenges of the 21st century as teachers.

How will the GURO21 courses be delivered?
Instruction under each course is primarily delivered through print self-instructional modules augmented by the use of interactive e-learning tools such as chat, discussion forums, and email, among other learner support systems. To facilitate the use of chat, discussion forums, and other communication features, learners should have a valid email address.

The learning modules were instructionally designed to be interactive and to incorporate the four A’s of adult learning (Activity, Analysis, Abstraction, and Application). Each module also has the following components:

- pre/advance organizers;
- module pre and post tests;
- pre/post self-rating competency checklists;
- interactive learning methodologies such as activities, insight forming questions, etc.;
- lecturette and readings, discussion topics, summaries, and links to other resources;
- lesson review tests;
- practical exercises and feedback on tests;
- a practical module assignment;
- glossary of terms; and
- list of references, suggested additional readings and links.

The learner support mechanisms of the GURO21 courses will be facilitated by flexible learning tutors who are specialists, experts, and faculty members of SEAMEO INNOTECH and its partner Higher Education Institutions.

What learning support services are available for learners?
TUTORS. A SEAMEO INNOTECH faculty member will be assigned to each group of learners. The SEAMEO INNOTECH faculty is composed of teacher education experts with extensive experience in developing and implementing continuing education programs for teachers in Southeast Asia. Apart from SEAMEO INNOTECH experts, faculty from Higher Education Institutions, assistant tutors, and support staff from teacher training institutions in other countries are also available to share their experiences.

FLEXIBLE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. The INNOTECH Flexible Learning Management System (iFLEX) has been created for the international award winning EXCELS (Excellence in School Leadership for Southeast Asia) short courses. This is also the platform that will be used in running the on-line GURO21 courses for teachers in Southeast Asia. iFLEX can be accessed through the iFLEX website, http://www.innotech.org. In iFLEX, learners can view course announcements and can communicate with their tutors and other learners.

What other learning support services are available for learners?
Other Learning Support Services include the COURSE MANAGER, COURSE ADMINISTRATOR, and TECHNICAL STAFF who will be available on-line and through SMS to assist all learners. Learners are also provided with Learners’ Orientation Handbook and iFLEX Manual as additional learning support system.

What are the requirements for completion of a course?
The learner should complete the module activities of the two modules and participate in/submit the following:

- orientations and discussions
- two module assignments (one for each module) in which the learner will apply the competence learned from the modules and apply them in the classroom
- a reflection paper on the learner’s most important realizations, best experiences and major challenges encountered during the course
- an Action Plan, which documents how the learner will implement in his/her own classroom or school, the course learning that will contribute to higher school performance and pupil achievement
- pre and post course self-rating competency checklists focusing on the general and sub-competency areas
- end-of-course revalida

The above will comprise the Learner’s Learning Portfolio. The tutors will then evaluate, give feedback, and rate the learner based on the learning portfolio submitted by the learner.

Course requirements are submitted using the iFLEX platform.

How will learners be rated?
The learners will be given a written feedback by their respective tutors for their learning outputs. The learners will also receive a rating for each major course requirement and for their participation in discussion groups. The overall end-of-course ratings (signified by a letter grade) will be issued by the tutor according to three performance levels: Excellent (A), Pass (B), and Deficient (C). In iFLEX, the quantitative equivalents are A = 3, B = 2 and C = 1.

What certification will the learners receive after completing the course?
An international Certificate of Competence from SEAMEO INNOTECH will be awarded to learners. Learners may also be eligible for academic credits from SEAMEO INNOTECH partner Higher Education Institutions. This is apart from regular privileges given to SEAMEO INNOTECH course completers.

How will learners enrol?
Learners in the GURO21 Course 1 are sponsored by SEAMEO INNOTECH under the LEARNTECH II SIREP (SEAMEO INNOTECH Regional Education Program) initiative, in cooperation with the Ministries of Education of the eleven (11) SEAMEO member countries. The scholarships are covered by a contract or memorandum of agreement between SEAMEO INNOTECH and the scholar. The SEAMEO member country nominates learners for the course, following SEAMEO INNOTECH’s selection criteria.

An online orientation will be scheduled to give learners an overview of the course and an opportunity to make clarifications prior to the start of the course.

How will learners study during the course?
After receiving the learning package, learners can immediately study at their own pace and time. There is built-in feedback for most of the module activities. Learners should be able to manage their time such that they will finish one module in two weeks and two modules in four weeks. During this period, apart from studying the print modules, learners should check on iFLEX for discussion forums. Learners should participate in the on-line discussion sessions and interact with fellow learners and their tutor following a prescribed schedule of chat sessions.

The final course requirements (module assignments, reflection paper, action plan) should be submitted to the tutor for evaluation using iFLEX.

What is the time frame for completing the course?
It is anticipated that the learners will be able to finish a course in 54++ hours. This includes self-study of the modules, participation in on-line discussions, and preparation and submission of module activities and assignments, which are part of the learning portfolio.

Learners will be given a maximum of two (2) weeks to complete one module. Since there are two modules, learners should be able to finish the course in four (4) weeks. Approximately two (2) weeks after the completion of the course, the individual rating of learners will be released.

Learners who have completed all the course requirements will be invited to an online Revalida, which is the final activity of the course. During this activity, learner’s submissions will be validated through an online panel interview. Non-completers will be given one week to comply with missed requirements.

How to use the iFLEX

- Go to the iFLEX website, http://www.innotech.org
- Log in.Your username and password will be given prior to the start of the course.
- Click on the link to your course/class. This will lead you to the main page of the course.
- Use any of the interactive tools of iFLEX like MyChat, MyForum and others. This is your opportunity to interact with your tutor and fellow learners.
- To exit iFLEX, simply click on the logout link. Remember to logout after using iFLEX.