

# SEAMEC Regional English Language Centre in Singapore in Operation

The Regional Language Centre, hosted by the Government of Singapore, and under the auspices of the the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Council (SEAMEC) desires to establish professional communications with other institutions offering programmes in Teaching English as a Second Language or related fields such as linguistics, language-teaching and teacher-training.

It is also interested in communicating with associations and organizations with similar interests.

The Centre is now operating in temporary premises at 104 Watten Estate, Singapore, and is offering problem-oriented programs in training, research and materials development.

Key personnel from seven Southeast Asian countries, namely: Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam, are presently attending the second 4-month training session.

As of July 1970 an 18-storeyed permanent Centre will be functioning at Orange Grove Road, Singapore, with staff and facilities for full-scale operations.

The Centre will operate in response to regional needs as identified by member countries themselves, and its general approach will be problem-oriented.

The functions of the Centre are related to the teaching of English within the region; conducting training courses; collecting, producing and distributing instructional materials; disseminating information on training facilities; strengthening programmes and facilities in member countries by the provision of consultant and advisory services; acting as a central agency for the exchange of personnel between member countries; conducting and promoting research and disseminating results; providing professional and administrative support to scholars from within and outside the region.

Programmes and activities include training programmes planned to meet specific problems and needs of member countries to supplement national programmes, and a research program to cover evaluation of teaching programs and techniques, instructional materials research, and fundamental research-linguistic studies.

In addition to the preparation and distribution of its own instructional materials the Centre will be concerned with the collection, evaluation, experimental trial, modification and revision, and distribution of instructional material samples.

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## TESL REPORTER

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