

Second International Conference On Primary and Secondary Schools Science and Mathematics Education 2004

Creativity in **SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS**

Education **2004**

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Kuala Lumpur

16-18 June 2004

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Research and Development on Creativity in Science and Mathematics Education in Malaysia

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Fostering Creativity in Science and Mathematics Education Through In-Service Teacher Education

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This paper illustrates the various concepts and traits of creativity as well as factors contributing to enhancing the divergent thinking skills of in-service teachers with descriptions made on the activities for fostering creativity which were conducted at SEAMEO RECSAM, the centre of excellence for training, as well as research and development in science and mathematics education. Some strengths and opportunities for future training programmes are explained briefly in this paper. Teachers play important roles in fostering students' creativity. As such, their exposure to the concept of creativity as well as the trainings given to enhance their creative or divergent thinking skills are important for their continuing professional development (CPD). In the subsequent sections, this paper reports on how SEAMEO RECSAM as a Regional Centre in Science and Mathematics Education has provided training grounds for fostering creativity through in-service teacher education including implementing regular and customized courses, as well as other initiatives such as the conduct of research and development, the organization of seminar/workshops/competitions/congresses and publications. Sample activities to foster the various traits of creativity are illustrated, extracted from classrooms activities and participants' projects to foster creativity in science and mathematics education. Some ideas had been implemented and suggestions for future training in science and mathematics education will also be illustrated.

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