

## INFO SESSION 1

on

# 14<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL CONGRESS Search for SEAMEO Young Scientists

**"GREENOVATE: Youth Turning Vision into Action  
for a Sustainable Future"**

**Date:**



12 June 2025

**Time:**



3:00 – 4:30 P.M.  
(GMT +8 Malaysian Standard Time)

**Mode:**



Online (via YouTube)

**Target Participants:**



Secondary School Students /  
Teachers / Educators and Parents

**Organised by:**



QR Code  
for registration



## INTRODUCTION

SEAMEO RECSAM is a renowned center for Science and Mathematics education, committed to fostering academic excellence through teacher education and capacity-building programs. At its core, SEAMEO RECSAM values education as a fundamental pillar of sustainability. By empowering educators and students alike, it seeks to drive innovation and critical thinking in STEM fields, ensuring that learning translates into real-world solutions. Recognising the youth as key agents of change, the institution underscores their pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future.

The Search for SEAMEO Young Scientists (SSYS) congress at SEAMEO RECSAM embodies this vision by providing a dynamic platform for young minds to explore scientific and technological advancements while addressing urgent global challenges. Through collaborative learning, interdisciplinary teamwork, and the application of STEM principles, SSYS equips young learners with the skills necessary to develop sustainable solutions that benefit society and the environment.

The **14<sup>th</sup> SSYS 2026**, themed “*Greenovate: Youth Turning Vision into Action for a Sustainable Future*”, aims to inspire and empower youth to drive sustainability by transforming their vision into actionable solutions that promote environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and green innovation. It also recognises the potential of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to accelerate innovative solutions for sustainability challenges.

The **14<sup>th</sup> SSYS 2026** aligns with **Malaysia’s ASEAN Chairmanship 2025**, which embraces the theme “*Inclusivity and Sustainability*” (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, 2024). As Malaysia leads ASEAN in fostering regional peace, stability, and prosperity, this congress will serve as a platform for youth to actively engage in sustainable development. The event will emphasise the critical role of young scientists in tackling environmental issues while ensuring equitable opportunities for all communities across the region.

In addition, **14<sup>th</sup> SSYS 2026** aligns with **Penang 2030**, a vision introduced by the Penang State Government to create a “*Family-Focused, Green, and Smart State that Inspires the Nation.*” This congress aligns with Penang2030’s core themes of enhancing liveability, driving sustainability, and fostering a green economy, thereby reinforcing the commitment to advancing green education and sustainability-driven entrepreneurship among youth.

## RATIONALE

The 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Congress SSYS 2026 seeks to cultivate a new generation of young scientists who can address environmental challenges through innovative and sustainable solutions. By fostering scientific curiosity, problem-solving skills, cross-disciplinary thinking, and a sense of environmental responsibility, SSYS 2026 encourages youth to take active roles in addressing real-world sustainability challenges.

The event will focus on **Green Education, Environmental Awareness, Sustainability, Climate Change, and Entrepreneurial Mindsets**, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and regional priorities. Young participants will have the opportunity to apply STEM principles while working together intellectually to create research projects and innovative products that contribute to a more eco-conscious and resilient future.

## OBJECTIVES

Specifically, SSYS aims to:

1. **Advance Green Education:** Provide youth with the knowledge, tools, and interdisciplinary STEM approaches needed to address environmental challenges effectively.
2. **Encourage Sustainable Innovation:** Empower youth to develop and implement innovative, technology-driven solutions - including the responsible use of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) - for sustainability and environmental conservation.
3. **Promote Climate Action and Regional Sustainability:** Engage young leaders in initiatives that drive climate resilience, conservation efforts, and sustainable practices.

4. **Foster Green Entrepreneurship and Economic Sustainability:** Encourage youth to explore business opportunities within the circular economy and bioeconomy sectors.
5. **Enhance Regional and International Collaboration:** Strengthen partnerships among students, educators, industry leaders, and policymakers to promote knowledge-sharing and sustainability-driven initiatives across Southeast Asia.

## POTENTIAL PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS



### SPEAKER 1:

**Ms. Josephine Tan Mei Ling - General Manager, Penang Green Council**

**Ms. Josephine Tan** has been serving as the General Manager of the Penang Green Council since April 2019. Prior to this, she was the Special Officer overseeing environmental affairs under the Penang State Government for seven years. She graduated from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman and holds a Certificate of Proficiency in Food Waste Prevention.

With over a decade of experience in environmental policy, education, and international engagement, Ms. Tan also leads the Circular Economy Club Penang Chapter and sits on several advisory boards including Universiti Sains Malaysia's Sustainability Council.

Under her leadership, PGC has launched impactful initiatives such as the Penang Green Agenda, ESG-focused conferences, and regional dialogues on circular economy and climate action. Her vision is to position PGC as a key environmental education and policy hub, driving innovation, community engagement, and sustainable development for Penang and beyond.



### SPEAKER 2:

**Dr. Maria Cristeta Cuaresma - Senior Program Head, Education and Collective Learning Department, SEARCA**

**Dr. Cuaresma** joined SEARCA in 2014 while on secondment from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) where she taught undergraduate and graduate courses in mathematics and served as University administrator in various capacities. It was during her stint as UPLB Graduate School Secretary from 2006 that she was initially engaged with SEARCA as then Coordinator for the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) for UPLB. In 2018, Dr. Cuaresma took an early retirement from government service to work full-time at SEARCA.

Since January 2014, Dr. Cuaresma has managed SEARCA's graduate scholarship program. As such, she is directly responsible for the recruitment, selection, awarding, placement, and monitoring of the MS and PhD scholars. She also instituted a number of support programs for the scholars to enhance their graduate studies, promote their social and mental well-being, and help them to graduate on time.

Part of Dr. Cuaresma's task at SEARCA is also to lead in all matters related to the UC, including the administration of student and faculty grants, the conduct of its annual summer school and forums, the collection of membership fees and management of funds and in organizing its Executive Board meeting.

With SEARCA's reorganization in 2020, Dr. Cuaresma also now oversees the conduct of SEARCA's trainings, short courses, and other knowledge events, which forms part of the Center's Institutional Development Assistance (IDA) to universities and agencies in the region working for agricultural and rural development.



TIME SCHEDULE	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER/HOST
2.30 P.M. – 3.00 P.M.	Invited guests and participants to join the session via invited link/ YouTube channel	SEAMEO RECSAM
3.00 P.M. – 3.05 P.M.	Program Overview and Introduction of Speakers	Moderator: SEAMEO RECSAM Ms. Shala
3.05 P.M. – 3.15 P.M.	Centre Director's Welcome Remark	Centre Director Dr. Azman
3.15 P.M. – 3.35 P.M.	Invited Speaker 1	Penang Green Council (PGC) Ms. Josephine Tan
3.35 P.M. – 3.40 P.M.	Question – Answer Session	Moderator: SEAMEO RECSAM Ms. Shala
3.40 P.M. – 4.00 P.M.	Invited Speaker 2	SEAMEO SEARCA Dr. Maria Cristeta N. Cuaresma
4.00 P.M. – 4.05 P.M.	Question – Answer Session	Moderator: SEAMEO RECSAM Ms. Shala
4.05 P.M. – 4.20 P.M.	Introduction to rules and regulations of 14 <sup>th</sup> SSYS 2026	SEAMEO RECSAM Dr. Nanthini Dr. Warabhorn
4.20 P.M. – 4.30 P.M.	Question – Answer Session	Moderator: SEAMEO RECSAM Ms. Shala
4.30 P.M. – 4.35 P.M.	Conclusion and Acknowledgement	Moderator: SEAMEO RECSAM Ms. Shala

#### FOR ENQUIRIES

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