

Welcome Remarks

**Assoc.Prof. Pratap Singhasivanon
Secretary General/Coordinator
SEAMEO TROPED Network**

**Dr Soe Nyunt-u, Who representative in the Philippines
Honorable Teodoro Herbosa, Undersecretary of Health, Department of
Health**

Honorable Jesus Mateo, Assistant Secretary, Department of Education

Dr. Arturo Pesigan

SEAMEO Centre Directors

Distinguished resource persons

Participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Philippines

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great honor and pleasure that I would like to welcome you all on behalf of the SEAMEO TROPED Network in this regional training course on disasters for school heads.

I would like to express our thanks for Dr. Soe, Honorable Herbosa and Honorable Mateo for gracing this Opening program. Your presence indeed provides a stamp of approval and policy support to this course.

I also would like thank my fellow SEAMEO Centre Directors for your presence and support. It is an indicator of our “One SEAMEO” philosophy.

To the experts who took time out from their busy schedule to stay and facilitate the course for a week our sincerest gratitude.

And to the participants of the four countries, who also had to leave and join the training, thank you.

This course was conceived collaboratively by WHO Western Pacific Regional office and SEAMEO TROPED Network in 2009 realizing the importance of risk reduction in the schools. But more importantly in consideration of the important role the school heads have to play in risk reduction efforts at the level of the school.

This course also brings together officials from the two ministries – Health and Education operationalizing the concept of coordination.

The offering of this course for the first time has two main purposes. One is for human resource development and the other is to pilot test this training package for it to become more relevant and effective in the region. Thus, the participants are not only trainees but also resource persons in the improvement of this training package. Thus, you become active partners in this endeavor.

WHO WPRO and SEAMEO have a long standing relationship several fronts. One of the more productive area of collaboration between SEAMEO and WPRO is on human resource development related to emergencies and disasters. For the past four years we have developed and organized several regional courses related to this area of concern.

The mandate of SEAMEO TROP MED Network is human resource development thus we are truly grateful to WHO for providing us opportunities to implement our mandate and better serve the member countries of SEAMEO. At this point let me put on record our sincerest thanks to WHO.

Again, welcome to this one week of learning interaction and thank you to everyone for your participation to this course.