

**50th Governing Board Meeting
8-9 September 2011
Bangkok, Thailand**

WELCOME REMARKS

Dr. Manit Teeratantikanont

Director-General, Department of Disease Control
Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
Welcome Remarks_
To be delivered by

Dr. Supamit Chunsuttiwat
Senior Technical Expert

Prof. Dr. Sandra Tempongko, Deputy Coordinator, representing Prof. Dr, Pratap Singhasivanon, Secretary General/Coordinator, SEAMEO TROPMED Network & Dean, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University

Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, Director SEAMEO Secretariat

Prof. Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan, Chair, 49th Governing Board Meeting SEAMEO TROPMED Network

Governing Board Members of SEAMEO TROPMED Network

Regional Centre Directors and Network officials

Distinguished Representatives of Partner Agencies

Friends, ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the Royal Government of Thailand and of the Ministry of Public Health, let me welcome all of you to the 50th Governing Board Meeting of SEAMEO TROPMED Network hosted by the Government of Thailand. We are indeed honoured to host this 50th GBM, Golden Anniversary

First, I would like to congratulate SEAMEO TROPMED Network for a successful policy forum on Climate Change yesterday. I can truly say that the objectives of the policy forum were nicely met. The presentations of the distinguished speakers were excellent

which were drawn from their areas of expertise, scientific knowledge and evidence. I am sure that the participants left with a better understanding of this issue and a clearer direction of how each one can contribute to mitigate and adopt to the effects of climate change.

Asian cooperation and Asian responsibility has been the guiding principle of SEAMEO TROPMED Network since its inception in 1966 (48 years back). This Asian cooperation is made more explicit in the Network conduct that is the activities are to be implemented only through cooperative effort of existing institutions in member countries. The spirit of cooperation and collaboration has always been there within the Network and continue to serve as a fundamental philosophy of the Network.

The remarks of the Secretary General and the brief report of the Chair of the 49th Governing Board Meeting highlighted the accomplishments of the Network during the past year. SEAMEO TROPMED Network has made significant contributions in the field of tropical medicine and public health through its major activities of human resource development, research and technical assistance. However, the challenges offered by the changing scenario of health and development are vast and varied. The health and development concerns of climate change, emergencies and disasters and zoonotic diseases would require a new and invigorated breed of professionals working with different disciplines to better address these challenges. This approach will require a new set of competencies that needs to be developed through human resource development programmes.

New topics and areas on research need to be explored for the generation of knowledge to respond to emerging challenges. New tools and technologies have to be developed to better equip the professionals in their lines of work.

The proposed focus for this year's thematic symposium is "One Health". The challenges of how to implement this approach are enormous. It would require a paradigm shift for all those involved. The basic philosophy underlying this approach is certainly collaboration. SEAMEO TROPMED Network has been operationalizing this concept for a long time. The Network can draw from its long years of experience on how best to implement the One Health approach to tackle the challenges posed by emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases. We may have to expand our partnership and collaboration and continue to strengthen capabilities of member countries. We

need to discuss how the Network can contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Framework of the “One World One Health” guided by the Manhattan Principles.

I am looking forward to the results of this meeting especially to the recommendations and courses of actions the Network undertake to address One Health.

It is on this note that I declare this meeting open.

Thank you.