

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon
Secretary general/Coordinator
SEAMEO TROP MED Network

Welcome Remarks

50th SEAMEO TROP MED Network Governing Board Meeting
8-9 September 2011
Bangkok, Thailand

Dr. Supamit Chunsuttiwat, Senior, Technical Expert, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand representing Dr. Manit , Director general, Department of Disease Control Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, Director SEAMEO Secretariat

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

Distinguished Governing Board Members

Regional Centre Directors and Network officials

Distinguished Representatives of Partner Agencies

Friends, ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of SEAMEO TROP MED Network, it is my honor and privilege to welcome all of you to the 50th SEAMEO TROP MED Governing Board Meeting in the City of smiles, Bangkok.

I would like to express the Network's heartfelt gratitude to the Royal Government of Thailand, particularly the Ministry of Public Health for hosting this 50th GBM. Our special thanks to Dr. Suphamit for presiding over our Opening Ceremony on behalf of Dr. Manit..

Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to maximize this occasion to express and put on record the Network's acknowledgement and recognition of the invaluable support accorded to SEAMEO TROPMED Network by the Board Members, SEAMEO Secretariat, the SEAMEO Council Members, Member Countries, and by the national, regional and international partners. Your continuous partnership with the Network in its programmes and projects contributed to a great extent to everything that the SEAMEO TROPMED Network has accomplished during this reporting period. The detailed reports of the Centres and the Network Office will highlight the collaborative efforts undertaken during the year. A short video that will be shown in a little while will summarize these accomplishments.

Ladies and gentlemen, 2010-2011, has been a challenging year for the SEAMEO TROPMED Network. During this period, the separation of TROPMED Indonesia from the Network was finalized. It can be said that this separation was not able to negatively affect the work of the Network. SEAMEO TROPMED Network and RECFON Indonesia are now in a different level of relationship. RECFON is now considered as a sister Centre together with the other SEAMEO Centres. The Network will continue to pursue inter-centre collaborations with RECFON Indonesia.

For this reporting period, the Network maintained the number of scholarships provided to health professionals from the member countries to regular degree programs. In addition, the network was able to support fellowships to short courses. New regional courses were developed and pilot tested in collaboration with partners. The Centres continued to address the training needs of health and health related professionals in the region through its short courses. New sources of funding were identified and more innovative ways of tapping and mobilizing resources were utilized to increase the number of participants to the training courses offered by the entire Network

Your Excellencies, let me also report to you, as recommended during the 49th GBM, that the Network has been actively involved in the efforts to address the concerns related to Climate Change, emergencies and disasters. The Centres within their areas of expertise worked with different

sectors: TROPMED Malaysia leading the efforts on diagnostics and molecular research; TROPMED Philippines taking the lead on preparedness and TROPMED Thailand leading the research on clinical vector related research.

Your Excellencies, let me also highlight the activities of the Network on internal capacity building. The Network's culture of maintaining the high standard of its services and programmes is operationalized through the continuous efforts for its own human resource development

Ladies and gentlemen, as you all know we always have a thematic symposium during the GBM. This year, the focus is on One Health. This topic was agreed upon by the Regional Centres and Network Office officials during the management meeting. It is a pressing issue that needs to be addressed today. SEAMEO TROPMED Network as a regional organization should be able to discuss with its partners how to better respond to the challenges posed by emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases. Together with our partners present here today the whole group will decide on the direction to take and to map out strategies on how to work best collectively and collaboratively in responding to these threats.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Board Members, Partners, let me assure you on behalf of SEAMEO TROPMED Network that it will continue to work towards our vision of quality life for our people. As Secretary General/Coordinator, it has been an honour and a privilege for me to have worked with all of you and look forward to more fruitful working relationships in the next years.

Again, our gratitude for the excellent organizing and support provided by the Ministry of Public Health, Royal government of Thailand.