

**POLICY FORUM**  
**Climate Change, Its Impact and Challenges**  
**to the Education and Health Sectors with Special**  
**Reference to Children**

**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. 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, 49 th Governing Board Meeting SEAMEO  
TROPMED Network

Distinguished Speakers:

- Mr. Alam Mozaharul, United Nations Environment Program, Bangkok
- Mr. Supachol Supachalasai., Asian Development Bank, Manila
- Dr. Arturo Pesigan, WHO Center for Health development , Kobe
- Ms. Jill Lawler, UNICEF, Bangkok
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Representatives of the Ministries of Education of the Member countries

Governing Board Members of SEAMEO TROPMED Network

Directors and representatives of the SEAMEO Regional Centres and the Secretariat

Partners of SEAMEO TROPMED Network

Friends, ladies and gentlemen

Swasdee crub,

Let me first extend to you the regrets of Dr. Manit Teeratantikanont, Director-General of Department of Disease Control for not being able to join you in this gathering. I will read his welcome remarks instead.

On behalf of the Royal Government of Thailand and the Ministry of Public Health, it's my pleasure to join Prof. Pratap, Dr. Witaya, Prof. Tan to welcome all of you to this auspicious occasion to Bangkok, the city of smile, and I am certain we will continue to be so under the new government.

Let me start by congratulating SEAMEO TROPMED Network for undertaking this important and very relevant forum on Climate Change. Now, we no longer debate whether climate change should be a priority issue of governments. We have been to call and too often experiencing the effects of climate change not only in our region but all over the world. The news of catastrophe from storms, excessive rains and floods in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand including in Japan, the United States and Europe as well as drought and famine in Africa that are occupying TV screens and newspapers nowadays are, to a large extent, the evidence to hazardous effects of climate change. It is therefore very timely that a forum of this kind be organized to ensure that climate change is on top of the agenda of governments, and is also a response to the call made in the Governing Board meeting last year in the Philippines.

Let me also underscore the fact that in this forum two sectors, Education and Health, are represented in addition to development partners. It reinforces the truth that climate change is not an issue of any single sector but it cuts across all sectors.

The different speakers invited for this forum indicate the wide spectrum of implications of climate change. Furthermore, it strengthens the message that all of us have a role to play in the mitigation and adaptation measures in response to this issue. The presence of all the SEAMEO Regional Centres also underscores the different expertise that SEAMEO has and can be harnessed to contribute to how we can best meet the challenges of climate change in our region.

A regional forum such as this can set stage for more regional collaborative measures to maximize the strengths of each Member country.

Let me take this opportunity to assure you that the Royal Government of Thailand and in particular the Ministry of Public Health considers climate change as a priority issue.

At this point, I'd like to thank all of you for taking time out from your very busy schedule to come to Bangkok to participate in this forum which is also an excellent opportunity to re-inforce partnership that essentially forms strong foundation of SEAMEO TROPMED Network, which has been standing for almost a half century. I wish you all a fruitful discussion. Again, welcome and enjoy Bangkok. I now declare the forum open.

Thank you.