

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

WELCOME REMARKS

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

Dr. Supamit Chunsuttiwat, Senior, Technical Expert, Ministry of Public Health,
Thailand

Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, Director SEAMEO Secretariat

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

Our distinguished Speakers:

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

Governing Board Members of SEAMEO TROP MED Network

Directors and representatives of the SEAMEO Regional Centres and the Secretariat

Partners of SEAMEO TROP MED Network

Friends, ladies and gentlemen

Allow me on behalf of the TROP MED Network to welcome each and everyone of
you to this policy forum.

Climate Change and Its health implications was the topic of the Thematic
Symposium during the 49th Governing Board Meeting of SEAMEO TROP MED
Network held last year in Manila, Philippines. The body unanimously agreed that

climate change is a legitimate concern of the Network especially since all areas of concern of the Centres are important considerations of the issue. Thus, the Network committed to undertake several activities in relation to climate change. One of the commitment is to :

“bring the issue of climate change into a higher level of discussion utilizing different approaches and channels and starting with the SEAMEO officials”.

Recognition of everybody that climate change is an issue of importance and has enormous implications on our people in the region will contribute to advocacy efforts and political actions to tackle mitigation and adaptation. The most important need is to empower countries and communities to understand climate implications and to take action.

The TROPMED Governing Board Meeting was followed by an In-house Meeting of the management of the Network that is the officials of the three Centres and the Network Office to plan on how the commitments can be implemented. It is there that this decision to organize a policy forum was conceived.

It intends to bring together officials of the Ministries of Education and Health of the Member Countries; officials of the SEAMEO Regional centres; and our development partners to discuss ways on how best each of these groups be able to take action and contribute in the mitigation and adaptation activities individually in their own sectors and collectively across sectors.

The TROPMED Network has the advantage of being able to bring into a common platform the Ministries of Education and Health since both are partners of the Network. This comparative advantage of the Network allows it to cover more grounds and to reach more partners in the implementation of programmes and projects. The issue of climate change is equally relevant to both the education and health sectors as well as to other sectors.

At this stage allow me to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have supported us to organize this forum on this very important concern. This idea of a policy forum will not materialize if not for the support of the TROPMED Network Board members, a number of our partners who graciously accepted to be resource persons, and to the officials of SEAMEO Secretariat.

Again, our warmest welcome and thanks for your participation. Looking forward to a meaningful sharing and discussion in this forum.