

**54<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO TROPED NETWORK****VIENTIANE, LAO PDR****19 AUGUST 2015****BRIEF REMARKS by****Dr ETHEL AGNES P VALENZUELA****DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SEAMEO SECRETARIAT***H E Assoc Professor Dr SomOck Kingsada**Vice Minister of Health of Lao PDR*

The Chair and Members of the Governing Board of SEAMEO TROPED Network including SEAMEO TROPED Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPED Philippines, SEAMEO TROPED Thailand

Dr Juliet Fleishcl WHO Representative

Dr OR Vandine, DG for Health of Cambodia

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

I am truly honored to address the 54<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting of SEAMEO TROPED Network in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Also, I would like to extend warmest greetings from the SEAMEO Secretariat.

Firstly, please allow me to express my appreciation and congratulations to the Chair and Members of the 54<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting and to the Director of SEAMEO TROPED Network, Director of SEAMEO TROPED Malaysia, Director of

SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines, and Director of SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand for organizing this important meeting.

This annual meeting is crucial in setting the course of these Centres for the coming fiscal year. The SEAMEO Secretariat always look forward to be a part of this meeting as this allows us to be involved in charting the future direction of the Centres. The SEAMEO Secretariat hopes to share with the Centres the developments and insights from various consultations with the SEAMEO Council, the High Officials of SEAMEO Member Countries, the SEAMEO Executive Committee, other Centre Directors, SEAMEO Associate and Affiliate Members and partners.

This meeting is an excellent platform for the Centres to learn from the collective wisdom of the honored members of the Governing Board of SEAMEO TROPMED Network.

Your Excellency, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the SEAMEO Secretariat, my sincere congratulations to SEAMEO TROPMED Network for its accomplishments for the past fiscal year concerning tropical medicine and public health. Additionally, congratulations to SEAMEO TROPMED Malaysia for their achievements in the field of microbiology, parasitology, and entomology, and SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines regarding public health, hospital administration, environmental and occupational health, and last but not least, SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand also in the area of tropical medicine. We will hear more about their achievements later today. Again, huge congratulations to all!

Your Excellency, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

As we all already know, with the increasing pace of development and the ever-changing regional and global trends in education, SEAMEO embraces the challenges to remain relevant and become more efficient in the execution of our mandate.

Thus, the SEAMEO's 10-year strategic plan lays out the new stage of development for our organization in the new decade beginning in the year of 2011 to 2020. The latest and current study of the Post-2015 Education Agenda, we have envisioned ourselves a preferred future scenario and this together with the Golden SEAMEO in our strategic plan is the vision that our organization hopes to create.

The SEAMEO College is one of the SEAMEO initiatives under this SEAMEO Strategic Plan and one of the four modules involved is the Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers. It is envisaged to set a more dynamic policy development process through ministerial and high-profile strategic dialogues. I am pleased to inform you that the SEAMEO College Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers (SDEM) that was held on the 13 September 2014 and hosted by Lao PDR subsequent to the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting, 7 key priority areas were identified which are: (1) Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE); (2) Addressing barriers to inclusion; (3) Resiliency in the face of emergencies; (4) Promoting Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET); (5) Teacher Education; (6) Harmonization in higher education and research; and (7) Adopting a 21<sup>st</sup> Century curriculum.

Consequently, at the Ministerial Roundtable Meeting of the 48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference held in May 2015 in Thailand, the SEAMEO Council agreed on most importantly, utilizing the SEAMEO Regional Centres to address these 7 priority areas. Subsequently, at the CDM 2015 held last June 2015, all Centres explored the possibilities of further strengthening the inter-Centre collaboration focusing on the implementation of these 7 priority areas.

SEAMEO is reaching an important milestone of the 50<sup>th</sup> year of establishment in November 2015. Since its establishment in 1965, the organization has taken pride in its achievement over the years as the Southeast Asia's longest regional organization for promoting quality education, science and culture.

In conjunction with that, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities are implemented by the SEAMEO Centres with the SEAMEO Secretariat. Here, I would like to express my heartiest thanks and congratulations to our SEAMEO TROPED Network, SEAMEO TROPED Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPED Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPED Thailand, for their support and commitment and importantly from the Member Countries in ensuring the successful execution of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities.

Your Excellency, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

This meeting is critical and important for SEAMEO TROPED Network, SEAMEO TROPED Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPED Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPED Thailand particularly, and SEAMEO as a whole as it ensures continuous evaluation and adjustments of the organizations' directions in respond to the regional and global trends in education. In view of this, I am confident that the outcomes of this meeting will add further to our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of our education in this region.

On behalf of the SEAMEO Secretariat, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the Government of Thailand including the Government of Malaysia and Philippines for their utmost support to SEAMEO TROPED Network, SEAMEO TROPED Thailand, SEAMEO TROPED Malaysia and SEAMEO TROPED Philippines respectively, for providing financial contributions and other forms of assistance to these Centres.

Lastly, please allow me once again to thank the members of the Governing Board of SEAMEO TROPED Network including SEAMEO TROPED Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPED Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPED Thailand for all the preparations for the meeting. I look forward very much to our constructive discussions and I wish for a successful conduct of the 54<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO TROPED Network Governing Board Meeting.

Thank you very much.