



## **54<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO TROPED Network Governing Board Meeting**

19-20 August, 2015  
Vientiane, Lao PDR

### **Report of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Governing Board Meeting Chair**

**H.E. Professor Eng Huot**  
Secretary of State, Ministry of Health of Cambodia  
Chair, 53<sup>rd</sup> Governing Board Meeting

Represented by

**H.E. Dr. Or Vandine**  
Director General for Health  
Ministry of Health of Cambodia

- Your Excellency **Assoc. Prof. Dr. SomOck Kingsada** , Vice-Minister of Health, Lao PDR
- **Dr. Juliet Fleischl**, WHO Representative, Lao PDR
- **Dr. Somchanh Xaysida**, Governing Board Member, Lao PDR, Director of Department of Training and Research, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR
- **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon**, Secretary General/Coordinator, SEAMEO TROPED Network
- **Dr. Ethel Agnes Pascua Valenzuela**, Deputy Director for Programme and Development, SEAMEO Secretariat
- All members of the SEAMEO TROPED Governing Board and all members of the Secretariat
- Regional Centre Directors and Network officials
- Distinguished Representatives of Partner Agencies
- Friends, ladies and gentlemen, and good morning to all of you!

First of all, I would like to express my deep condolence and sorrow to the loss of Ms. Vimolsri Panichyanon and I wish her soul go to peace and rest. I would like to

express my deep thanks to the organizer that give me an opportunity today to address on behalf of H.E. Prof. Eng Huot, Secretary of State for Health, Governing Board member as Chair of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Governing Board Meeting (GBM) and allow me to convey his highest regards to all of you and his apology for not being able to attend this meeting due to other commitment. I would like also to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Lao PDR and to His Excellency **Assoc. Prof. Dr. SomOck Kingsada**, Vice-Minister of Health, Lao PDR for hosting the 54<sup>th</sup> GBM in this beautiful city of Vientiane and I trust that everyone in this room are delighted by the warmest hospitality of our host. I wish the 54<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting (GBM) of SEAMEO TROPED Network be conducted successful and fruitful.

Second, I would like to congratulate SEAMEO in general and SEAMEO TROPED Network in particular for their achievement in contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of the people of the Southeast Asian Region. Please kindly join me to applause Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon together with his entire team for leading the TROPED Network towards meeting its vision and mission. I wish to commend also the leadership of the Centre Directors in implementing programmes and projects that operationalized the mission of the Network.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me underscore SEAMEO TROPED Network's efforts to address emerging human resource development needs in the region. The Network through the three Regional Centres and the Network Office continuously developed new programmes, strategies and approaches, and strengthened its existing efforts to fulfill its mandate on human resource development. for the past year, SEAMEO TROPED Network has been actively involved in the varying discussion fora related to the post 2015 development agenda, in the review of the Millenium Development Goals as well as for the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals for the region. Moreover, its efforts related to the coming ASEAN Economic Community are indicators of how the TROPED Network stay attuned to the political, educational and health contexts that influence the HRD needs in the region.

Asian cooperation and Asian responsibility has been the guiding principle of SEAMEO TROPED Network since its inception in 1966 with its vision to be international forum for development in health. This is very relevant today because of the forthcoming ASEAN Economic Community in 2015. Capacity development for individuals and institutions in delivering quality healthcare is a bone of this network to

fulfil its mission. The Asian cooperation is made more explicit in the manner the Network was established. Furthermore, the programs and activities of the SEAMEO TROPED Network are conducted through cooperative efforts of existing institutions in member countries. The spirit of cooperation and collaboration continues to serve as a fundamental philosophy of the Network.

Third, I would like to highlight specific collaboration with Cambodia. Cambodia has always been an active member country of SEAMEO TROPED Network. Several government agencies/institutions of Cambodia aside from the Ministry of Health have been working closely with SEAMEO TROPED Network on different areas in health. Let me cite some examples of collaborative efforts with TROPED Network. The Health Equity project that focused on HIV/AIDS preventive education for the youth strengthened the country's program on partnering with the youth as peer educators for preventive education. Malaria prevention and control and health surveillance have always been productive areas for cooperation between Cambodia and SEAMEO TROPED Network particularly on human resource development. We are also happy to note that quite a number of health professionals of Cambodia have been awarded scholarships for post graduate degree programs from the Network. Moreover, fellowships for short courses have been regularly received by the country for our health professionals. One notable area of cooperation between SEAMEO TROPED Network and Cambodia in human resource development is the country's own Master of Public Health Program. The experts of SEAMEO TROPED Network together with GTZ (at that time) played an active role in the planning, development and in the early implementation of this Master's program in Cambodia.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me report to this body that the collaborative efforts undertaken by TROPED Network with its partners have been very fruitful in terms of meeting the health human resource needs of the Southeast Asia. Let me also underscore the fact that the Network in fulfilling its mandate, placed a high premium on its internal capacity building as evidenced by its activities for its own human resource. The report of accomplishments for 2014-2015 to be presented by the Centres and the Network Office during the Business Meeting will attest how TROPED Network fulfilled its mandate and contributed towards improving the quality of life of the people in the region.

Last but not least, as a member country of SEAMEO, Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia acknowledged the assistance provided by the Network and is thankful to the SEAMEO TROMED Network for providing 25 scholarships for diploma degree and short course trainings since 2011 in order to strengthen capacity of health professionals for the forthcoming Asian Economic Community as well as those for post 2015 goals. Given the policy direction from the Asian Health Ministers, particularly recent declaration of Joint Statement of Asian Plus Three Health Ministers' Special VDO Conference on the Thread of MERS-CoV in the Region on 27 July 2015, there are several areas where the Network can continue to work closely with member countries to enhance preparedness, surveillance and response to threatening EIDs especially on the areas of human resource development and technical assistance.

I would like to put on record that it was a great honour and pleasure for Cambodia to be the host and especially for me to be elected as Chair of the 53<sup>rd</sup> GBM last year. I thank you all for your support and cooperation. I wish you all good health and success in your deliberation.

**Thank you very much!**