

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon
Secretary General/Coordinator
SEAMEO TROPED Network

Welcome Remarks

54th SEAMEO TROPED Network Governing Board Meeting
19-20 August 2015

Your Excellency **Associate Prof. Dr. SomOck Kingsada**, Vice Minister of Health, Lao PDR

Your Excellency, **Dr. Or Vandine**, Director General for Health , Royal Government of Cambodia and Chair of the 53rd Governing Board Meeting

Dr. Juliet Fleischl, WHO Representative, Lao PDR

Dr. Somchanh Xaysida, Governing Board Member, Lao PDR, Acting Director General of Department of Training and Research, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR

Dr. Ethel Agnes Pascua Valenzuela, Deputy Director for Programme and Development, SEAMEO Secretariat

Governing Board Members of SEAMEO TROPED Network

Regional Centre Directors and Network officials

Distinguished Representatives of Partner Agencies

Friends, ladies and gentlemen

As Secretary General /Coordinator of SEAMEO TROPED Network, it is an honour and privilege to welcome you all to the 54th SEAMEO TROPED Network Governing Board Meeting in this beautiful capital of Lao PDR .

I would like to express TROPED Network's heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic, in particular to the Ministry of Health for hosting this 54th GBM. Our special thanks to His Excellency, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. SomOck Kingsada**, Vice- Minister of Health, Lao PDR for taking time out from His Excellency's busy schedule to preside over our Opening Ceremony.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to express and put on record the Network's acknowledgement and recognition of the invaluable support accorded to SEAMEO TROPED Network by the Board Members, SEAMEO Secretariat, the SEAMEO Council Members, Member Countries, and by the national, regional and international partners. Their continuous collaboration with the Network in its programmes and projects contributed to a great extent to everything that the SEAMEO TROPED Network has accomplished during this reporting period. A short video that will be shown in a little while will provide the highlights of these accomplishments.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me underscore that for 2014- 2015, TROPED Network continued to implement its human resource development mandate through its 19 post-graduate academic offerings and short training courses. A number of scholarships to the academic programmes as well as fellowships to the short courses for health and health-related professionals from the member countries were also provided to member countries.

Distinguished guests, I am proud to say that these academic programmes are continuously being reviewed to be in sync with the health development landscape in the region.

The three TROPED Centres are now more than ever engaged in research activities that influence health policies and programmes at the national and regional levels.

Furthermore, the officials and staff of TROPED Network continue to provide technical assistance at the national, regional and international levels.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, TROPED Network in the process of contributing to the forthcoming ASEAN Economic Community and the concomitant mobility of students and professionals, has organized with SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO RIHED a forum on 'Promoting Harmonization and Mobility in Higher Education focusing on Health Professions (Medicine and Nursing) in Southeast Asia. This is in addition to the student and professional exchange programme within the three TROPED Centres piloted by the Network

Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen, as you all know we always have a Thematic symposium . This year, the focus is on " Outbreak Management of Emerging Health Issues". WHO Country Office of Lao PDR has graciously supported us in this symposium. Our resource person is from the country office. Not only is this topic important but is also very relevant and in tune with what is happening in the global and regional public health scenarios. Again, Your Excellencies, this symposium will

contribute to a healthy discussion on the role and functions, TROPMED Network has to assume and undertake in addressing the emerging health threats in the region.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests and Board Members, Partners, let me reiterate the commitment of SEAMEO TROPMED Network - that is to work towards our vision of quality life for our people . TROPMED Network in collaboration with its partners will continue to engage in programmes and projects in line with this commitment.

Again, our gratitude for the excellent organizing and support provided by the Government of Lao PDR through the Ministry of Health, with the leadership of His Excellency **Assoc. Prof. Dr. SomOck Kingsada**, Vice Minister of Health.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I request for a one minute of silence for our dear friend, mentor and colleague, who has the institutional memory of SEAMEO TROPMED Network- Ms. Vimolsri “Vim” Panichyanon.

Thank you and good day to everyone.