

Welcome Remarks

by

Dr. Somchanh Xaysida
54th Governing Board Member, Lao PDR
19th August 2015

Your Excellency **Assoc. 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

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon, Secretary General, SEAMEO TROPMED
Network

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

Governing Board Members of SEAMEO TROPMED Network

Regional Centre Directors and Network officials

Distinguished Representatives of Partner Agencies

Friends, ladies and gentlemen

I would like to, first and foremost, thank His Excellency, **Assoc. Professor Dr. SomOck Kingsada**, Vice-Minister of Health, Ministry of Health for graciously accepting to be our Guest of Honour and to officiate this opening session.

On behalf of the Government of Lao, People's Democratic Republic, of the Ministry of Health of Lao PDR and as the Governing Board Member of Lao PDR, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the delegates to Vientiane, Lao PDR and to this 54th Governing Board Meeting hosted by the Government of Lao PDR. We are indeed honoured to host this 54th GBM.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Governing Board Meeting today represents a significant milestone towards realising the vision and mission of SEAMEO TROPMED. Over the next two days we shall reflect on our past achievements and identify new challenges to be able to formulate relevant and practical solutions for the region. Our collective resources, underpinned by a strong sense of cooperation which is the foundation of the Network, and motivated by a shared vision are our strengths for achieving those goals. I am proud to say that Lao PDR has always been an active Member of SEAMEO TROPMED Network in these undertakings for the past years.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues,

On this note, I look forward to working with all of you for the next two days, an exciting endeavor that I am certain will be fruitful and productive. Once again, I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to His Excellency, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. SomOck Kingsada**, Vice-Minister of Health for kindly giving up some of his very valuable time to be with us this morning. And to all the delegates who have travelled a long way to participate in this meeting. Again, welcome to everyone. Please enjoy the warm hospitality and culture of our people.