SEAMEO TROPMED Network as a regional organization for education, training, and research in tropical medicine and public health, is committed to serve as a focal point in higher education and research in tropical medicine and public health. The Network is implementing its mandate in a context full of challenges brought about by the changes in the global and regional public health landscapes. The public health scenario has undergone a lot of changes since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals. The Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in September 2011 underscored the need to upscale efforts on this area. The discussion on the Education Agenda Post 2015 also brought to fore the unfinished business of Education for All. The coming of the ASEAN Economic Community on 2015 also brought to light the coming challenges on the health front.

The year 2012-2013 was significant for SEAMEO TROPMED Network for it allowed the Network to examine its programmes and projects in the light of these challenges in the public health landscape. The entire Network in this reporting period not only continued its regular programmes and projects but expanded its field of implementation in consideration of all of these challenges.

A portion of this report is devoted to new and expanded initiatives the Network implemented during the year that focused on contributing to the fulfillment of the MDGs.
A. Regional Leadership

1. Capacity Building

1.1. Academic Programmes

The three Centres of the Network accepted 660 students to the 15 post graduate degree programmes for 2012-2013 from the SEAMEO member countries and from other regions. For the same year, TROPMED Network awarded a total of 23 scholarships to these regular degree programmes. The distribution of these scholarships by program and by recipient country is shown in Tables 1 & 2.

Table 1: Distribution of scholarships by program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Programme</th>
<th>No. of scholars</th>
<th>Source of funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diploma in Applied Parasitology &amp; Entomology (DAPE)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Government of Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wellcome Trust-Mahosot Hospital-Oxford University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma in Medical Microbiology (DMM)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Government of Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Tropical Medicine</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>DAAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.Sc. in Epidemiology</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>DAAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD. Community Nutrition</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>DAAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD  in Tropical Medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>DAAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD in Clinical Tropical Medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>DAAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Distribution of scholarships to the degree programmes by recipient country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.2. Short Courses

The three TROPMED Centres organized 52 short courses participated by 1,747 fellows coming from Member countries and countries outside of the region. The short courses covered a wide range of topics in health. The following are some of the areas covered by the short courses:
- Advanced Epidemiology
- Assessment and Management of Drug Dependence
- Dengue
- Diagnostic Parasitology
- Diagnostic Microbiology
- Good Clinical Practice
- Health Promotion
- HIV
- Infectious Diseases Control
- Integrated Microscopy
- Malaria
- Medical Malacology
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Organizational Development
- Research Methods
- School Health
A total of 32 fellowships to a number of these short courses were also provided by the Network Office to health professionals from the Member countries.

Table 3: Distribution of Fellowships awarded by the Network Office by recipient countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries/Centres</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunei</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Research and Development

The Network’s Centres have been very productive in research. For this reporting period, the three Centres collectively have undertaken a total of 335 researches. The researches focus on biomedical, clinical and social and behavioral dimensions of health and health issues along the following areas:
- infectious diseases endemic in the region such as malaria, dengue, parasitic infections, HIV & AIDS, leptospirosis, neglected tropical diseases, emerging infections
- non-communicable diseases
- allergy and immunological diseases
- environmental health
- nutrition and food security
- climate change implications
- traditional medicine
- community organizing for community development
- occupational health of workers in different work settings
- impact evaluation of interventions and training programs
- tobacco use
- development of vaccines, diagnostic kits and tests
- surveillance
3. Conferences/Workshops/Policy Fora

International, regional and national conferences, workshops, seminars and policy fora are organized by TROPMED Network. These activities served as platforms for capacity building, information sharing, awareness raising, influencing policies and enhancing networking. These conferences and workshops also underscored the expertise of the Centres. Examples of conferences and workshops organized during this reporting period include:

- Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting 2012 “Emergence of Tropical Diseases: Transdisciplinary Strategies”
- 7th International Seminar on Food and Water-borne Zooneses
- 2nd Dr. Mariano C, Yogore Professorial Chair Seminar on “Schistosomiasis mekongi in Cambodia and Lao PDR”
- Impact of Population Ageing on Health in Developing Countries
- Forum on Mining Health and Environment
- Seminar on Microbes in Human infection
- Seminar on Clinical and Basic Science Aspects of Healthy living
- Scientific Symposium on the Prevention and Control of Leptospirosis in the Philippines
In addition, more than about 100 workshops, lunch talks and research café were organized by the three Regional Centres of the Network for their own professional and administrative staff.

4. ** Provision of Technical Assistance to Member Countries**

- Organized Study Visit to Thailand for 2 groups (15 each) of officials of the Ministry of Health Vietnam to study “Health System and Social Health Insurance” under The Central North Region Health Support Project
- Organized a Study Visit for Tobacco Control TaskForce Members of Solomon Islands to the Thai Health Foundation in Bangkok.
5. Recognition and Awards

In 2012-2013, the TROPMED Centres’ officials and staff received awards and recognition of their expertise in a number of health concerns.

- “NATIONAL INOVASION” AWARD 2012 received by TROPMED Malaysia’s researcher as a recognition to the effort of innovating and creatively generating ideas, innovation and new products to encourage science and technology in creating wealth and prosperity to the public.
- Four TROPMED Malaysia’s researchers won the Gold Medal Award during the 24th International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX13) held at the KL Convention Centre from 9 - 11 May 2013.
- TROPMED Thailand’s Director was recognized as “Most Distinguished Alumna” of Phramongkutklao College of Medicine, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Nine TROPMED Philippines’ staff were given the UP Manila Service Awards during the 30th UP Manila Day.
B. Regional Visibility

1. Collaborative activities with international and regional development partners

- Regional Workshop on Establishing Health Promotion Foundation (PROLEAD E) organized with World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) participated by 23 fellows from Lao PDR, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vietnam and Vanuatu in Bangkok

- Regional Workshop on Health Promotion Leadership Training (PROLEAD) Module 2 was organized in collaboration with WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) with 16 participants from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates in Bangkok.

- Meeting of the Core Group Asia-Pacific Child and Family Health Alliance for Tobacco Control (WHO WPRO) organized by SEAMEO TROPMED Network in Kuching, Sarawak.

- Official Launch of the Asia-Pacific Child and Family Health Alliance for Tobacco Control was organized in collaboration with the Core Group of the Alliance and WHO WPRO in Kuching, Sarawak.

- Supported participation of three Alumni to the Young Physician Leaders Programme (YPIL) of the Inter-Academy Medical Panel (IAMP) and National University Health System Singapore during the Regional World Health Summit in Singapore

- Provided organizational and logistical support to the Meeting of WHO South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) and WCO Environmental Health Focal Points in Bangkok.
2. Participation in International, Regional and National Conferences

- Leadership Training: Protecting Children and Families against Tobacco organized by Asian Pacific Pediatric Association Meeting in Sarawak, Malaysia attended by TROPMED Centres’ officials
- Paper presentation: “Preventing Disability in Chronic Diseases- Building Health and Wellness Promotion” during the 8th Pan Pacific Conference on Rehabilitation
- Participation in the Malaysian Evaluation Society “Integrated Approach for Evaluation & Results Based Management” in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Paper Presentation “Health Promotion Framework as applied in the Philippine Context” during the 15th National Institutes of Health Anniversary, 11th University Science and Technology Week & 4th MMHRDC Anniversary: Science and Health for Social & Economic Development
3. Increase Access & Publication

- *The Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health* is the official publication of the Network. Six issues of the journal were published for 2012-2013
  - Vol 43, No. 4,5,6 (July, September, November 2012)
  - Vol 44, No. 1,2,3 (January, March, May 2013)

- *TROPMED Centre’s Publication of scientific articles* for the reporting period of 2012-2013 totaled to 439. These articles were published in peer-reviewed journal.

C. TROPMED Network ‘s Social Responsibility Efforts

The concept of Social Responsibility is embedded in the mission of all three Centres of TROPMED Network thus activities are implemented to operationalize the concept. The strategies utilized are service provision, information dissemination technical assistance and partnerships.
D. Activities related to achievement of EFA and MDGs:

TROPMED Network exerted extra efforts, within its mandate and areas of expertise, to implement programmes, projects and activities that are supportive of attaining the MDG and the Post 2015 Education Agenda. These activities are in addition to on-going activities related to the attainment of the MDGs.

1. Academic degree programme and short courses were developed:

- Master of Science in School Health Programme
- Diploma in School Health Programme
- Training Course on “School Health and Nutrition in South East Asia”
- Development of a Training Module on Tobacco Control for Health Professionals that can be integrated into different courses of existing degree programmes offered by the three Centres
- Training on the Administration of Safe-Settings Assessment Tools for Child Injury Prevention Program
- Health Worker Maternal and Young Child Nutrition Training of Trainors
2. **Regional Consultative Meetings and National Seminars were organized focusing on the MDGs:**

- The 6th Work Stream Meeting on Mekong Outdoor Malaria Transmission Network (MOMTN): Establish of Country focal points and Secretariat of the Network
- 6th Work Stream Meeting on Mekong Outdoor Malaria Transmission Network (MOMTN): Update Information and share best practices to control outdoor malaria transmission
- Seminar on Women’s Month “Babae Ikaw Na! Kababaihan, Karapatan at Kalusugan Tungo sa Kaunlaran”
3. Research Activities:

Significant percentage of the research activities of three Centres are focused on HIV, malaria, TB, nutrition and food safety, environmental health, maternal and child health which are all included in the MDG.

E. Management

1. In-House Meetings of TROPMED Network

Two (2) In-House Meetings (July 2012 & May 2013) were organized by TROPMED Network to discuss policy directions, collaborative efforts, programmes and projects and issues and concerns common to the three Centres.
2. 51st Governing Board Meeting of SEAMEO TROPMED Network

The 51st SEAMEO TROPMED Network Governing Board Meeting (GBM) was convened and hosted by the Government of Brunei Darussalam. The Opening Ceremony was presided by the Honorable Pehin Orang kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam, represented by Yang Mulia Awangku Abdullah bin Pengiran Haji Tengah, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Higher Education).

The thematic symposium with the theme “Impending Health Threats of Urbanization” started with a lead paper presented by Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon that covered the drivers of urbanization, positive and negative effects of urbanization and the health impacts of urbanization. The three Centre Directors shared (i) the current status of urbanization in their own countries focusing on the health consequences of urbanization; and (ii) the current activities/contribution of the Centres to the national governments’ efforts to address the issues of urbanization in terms of their research, training, consultancies and technical assistance and advocacy efforts that to a certain extent resulted to relevant policy changes. The discussion that followed expounded the health impacts of urbanization and the suggested actions that the Network can take related to this health issue.