



SEAMEO TROPMED NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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SEAMEO

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, (SEAMEO), founded in 1965, is a chartered international organization for the promotion of regional cooperation in education, science, technology and culture. Its member countries are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam. It embodies 8 associate members: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain and United Kingdom; and three affiliate members, namely the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE), the University of Tsukuba, Japan; and the British Council.

SEAMEO's highest policy making body is the SEAMEO Council (SEAMEC), which is composed of the Ministers/Secretaries of Education of the Member Countries. SEAMEO's executory functions are performed by the Secretariat located in Bangkok, Thailand. SEAMEO's programmes and activities are carried out in 18 Regional Centres and the SEAMEO TROPED Network. The responsibility for operational policies, programme quality and evaluation rests on a Governing Board each for the SEAMEO Regional Centres and the TROPED Network, consisting of representatives from respective Member States.

VISION

The leading organization for enhancing regional understanding and cooperation in education, science and culture for a better quality of life in Southeast Asia.

MISSION

To enhance regional understanding, cooperation and unity of purpose among Member Countries for a better quality of life through the establishment of networks and partnerships, the provision of fora among policy makers and experts, and the promotion of sustainable human resource development.

GOALS

- To develop regional centres of excellence
- To provide relevant and responsive programmes that address national and regional issues in SEAMEO's areas of specialization
- To strengthen the organisational capability to initiate and manage change and development to meet the challenges of globalisation
- To ensure continued financial viability
- To promote research and development (R&D) in education, science and culture and improve the dissemination mechanism
- To enhance collaboration among Member Countries and relevant organisations
- To be ASEAN's strategic partner for the advancement of education, science and culture
- To facilitate the development of harmonized education standards
- To be a regional leader in the advancement of education, science and culture

SEAMEO REGIONAL TROPICAL MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH Network

(SEAMEO TROPMED)

SEAMEO TROPMED Network is a regional cooperation network established in 1966 for education, training and research in tropical medicine and public health under the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education. The Network serves as a focal point in higher education and research in tropical medicine and public health.

VISION

To be an international forum for development in health

MISSION

To develop the capacity of individuals and institutions in delivering quality healthcare

GOAL

- To train health workers in quality healthcare management at different levels of the health system, with due regard to diversities in culture, needs and expectations of people for whom these services are intended;
- To support research on endemic and newly emerging diseases associated with changing environments;
- To advocate relevant health policies that are compatible with equitable and sustainable development;
- To empower communities with the necessary knowledge and skills for understanding and finding solutions to health problems;
- To encourage the use of traditional and modern-day tools for health promotion and disease prevention whenever and wherever applicable; and
- To minimize the economic burden of health.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Network operates through three Regional Centres affiliated with academic and research institutions which provide the physical facilities, faculty and technical support staff in respective Member Countries.



SEAMEO TROPED GOVERNING BOARD

The Board consists of representatives from Member Countries, nominated by respective Ministers of Education and appointed by the incumbent President of the SEAMEO Council. The Board is responsible for operational policies, strategic planning, annual evaluation and review of the Network's programmes and budgets.

Members of the Governing Board for the year under review are:

Dr. Anita Abdul Aziz

Institute of Medicine
University of Brunei Darussalam
Brunei Darussalam
(18 December 2010-17 December 2013)

Dr. Hajah Maslina binti Haji Mohsin

Dean Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah
Sa' adatul Bolkiah (PAPRSB)
Institute of Health Sciences
University of Brunei Darussalam
Brunei Darussalam
(18 December 2013-Present)

H.E. Prof. Dr. Eng Huot

Secretary of State
Ministry of Health
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sing Menolath

Director General
Department of Training and Research
Ministry of Health
Vientiane, Lao PDR

Prof. Dr. Ir. Muhammad Anis, M. Met

Rector
University of Indonesia
Jakarta, Indonesia

Dr. Kyaw Khaing

Director, International Health Division
Ministry of Health
Nay-Pyi-Taw, Myanmar

Datuk Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah

Director General of Health
Ministry of Health
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Professor John Eu Li Wong

Deputy Chief Executive of the NUHS
Dean, NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
Singapore

Dr. Jaime Z Galvez-Tan

Professor
Department of Family and Community
Medicine
College of Medicine
University of the Philippines Manila

Dr. Porntep Siriwanarangsun

Director-General
Department of Disease Control
Ministry of Public Health Thailand
(13 December 2011-29 April 2014)

Dr. Sophon Mekthon

Director-General
Department of Disease Control
Ministry of Public Health Thailand
(30 April 2014-Present)

Dr. Tran Thi Giang Huong

Director General
Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Health
Hanoi, Vietnam

Ex-officio Members:

Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul

Director
SEAMEO Secretariat

Assoc. Prof. Pratap Singhasivanon

Secretary-General/Coordinator
SEAMEO TROPED Network

SEAMEO TROPMED NETWORK CENTRAL OFFICE

The Network Office coordinates the programmes and projects of the three Regional Centres related to SEAMEO objectives. At the same time, the Network Office executes regional projects and activities and publishes the Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health. The Network office, headed by the Secretary General/Coordinator, is based at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand.



Assoc. Prof. Pratap Singhasivanon
Secretary-General/Coordinator



Prof. Dr. Ma. Sandra B. Tempongko
Deputy Coordinator



Ms. Vimolsri Panichyanon
Asst. Coordinator for Programme



Dr. Suwanee Supavej
Executive Editor Journal

SEAMEO TROPMED Network Staff



SEAMEO TROPMED REGIONAL CENTRE DIRECTORS



Dr. Shahnaz Murad
Director, TROPMED/Malaysia
(2007-April 2014)



Dr. Zakiah Ismail
Acting Director of TROPMED/Malaysia
(April 2014-Present)



Prof. Romeo R. Quizon
Director, TROPMED/Philippines
(July 2013-Present)



Assoc. Prof. Yaowalark Sukthana
Director, TROPMED/Thailand
(October 2012-Present)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2013 – 2014



INTRODUCTION

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 to address human resource development needs of a very dynamic southeast asia region in the light of the emerging challenges brought about by the changes in the global and regional public health scenario. At the same time, the regional context is influenced to a great extent of the forthcoming ASEAN Economic Community in 2015 and the post 2015 development agenda particularly the Sustainable Goal # 3 on health.

SEAMEO TROPMED Network's efforts on the year under review, in consideration of the health development landscape in the region focused on : (i) enhancing programme excellence and relevance; (ii) implementing new initiatives and programmes; (iii) accelerating internal capacity building activities; (iv) expanding partnerships and collaborative activities; and (v) strengthening governance mechanisms. At the same time, the Network continues to actively participate in all SEAMEO-wide activities.

The In-house management meetings of TROPMED Network during the year also provided opportunities for the management team to start reflecting on the forthcoming 50th year of the Network.

Regional Centre for Microbiology, Parasitology and Entomology (TROPMED Malaysia)

TROPMED Malaysia, the Institute for Medical Research (IMR), is one of the research institutions under National Institute of Health (NIH), Ministry of Health Malaysia. It's vision is to be a:

“world renowned institution for biomedical research”.

It's mission is to ***“Improve health”*** by:

- Research-carrying out quality biomedical research to address national health priorities;
- Specialized diagnostics- providing specialized diagnostic services;
- Training- building national capacity through technology transfer and consultative services; and
- Consultancies- providing advisory services.

IMR's main function as a Regional Centre of SEAMEO TROPMED Network (***TROPMED Malaysia***) is to facilitate the strengthening of individual and institutional capabilities in microbiology, parasitology and entomology through various training and postgraduate degree programmes, linkages, personnel exchanges, scientific forums, technical consultancy services, research projects, publications and information dissemination.

The year 2013-2014 was both a challenging and successful year for TROPMED Malaysia as it continues to develop in several dimensions. The last quarter of the reporting year also saw a change in leadership at the Centre. This accomplishment report for the year offers a glance of some of its most notable achievements and activities as it continued to pursue its vision.



A. Regional Leadership

1. Human Resource Development

1.1. Post graduate programmes

- *Diploma in Applied Parasitology & Entomology (DAP&E)*

The diploma course is designed to train doctors, scientists and other health personnel for research, diagnostic services, control programmes and teaching institutions in Applied Parasitology and Entomology. Aside from its main modules i.e. Parasitology and Entomology, there are also modules on Immunology, Hematology, Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Since its inception in 1970, the course was participated by 596 health professionals from 49 countries. For this reporting period, the course was organized July-December 2013 with 14 participants, one each from Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Vanuatu, Ghana, Mongolia, Jordan, and Fiji, two each from Zimbabwe, Solomon Island, and Malaysia. **Cik Norashyikin** from Malaysia was awarded the DAP&E Best Student.

- *Diploma in Medical Microbiology (DMM)*

The course aims to provide knowledge and practical training on pathogens of major significance to public health and to enable participants to apply scientific approach and critical thinking to diagnose, prevent and control infectious diseases. Both course (DMM and DAP&E) teach basic laboratory and current molecular techniques. In addition, to didactic sessions, the students had field visits to other Research Institutions, Hospitals and field research stations, to expose them to research activities carried out in those institution and their laboratory set up. Furthermore, each student in each course has to finish a thesis/research paper.

From 1978 to 2014, a total of 440 from 56 countries have been awarded the Diploma in Medical Microbiology. For this year, DMM was organized from 2 February to 4 July with 8 participants, one each from Thailand, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Myanmar and Cambodia and 3 from Malaysia. The Top Student Award was given to **Dr. Yuzana Htoon**, from Myanmar.





1.2. Short Courses

Training is one of the main functions of TROPMED Malaysia. For 2013-2014, it was able to organize a total of 56 short courses that ranged from basic to highly technical ones. In addition, 52 workshops were also implemented. These short courses and workshops were both for internal capacity building and for provision of training services to national and international fellows. Some of the courses offered include:

- Updates on Lysosomal Storage Diseases (LSD) in Malaysia: Laboratory Diagnosis, Treatment and Challenges
- “Practical Quality Management” Workshop and High Performance Liquid Chromatography
- Systematic Review
- Different Study Designs for Laboratory-Based Research
- Hands on Workshop on Sample Size Determination for Different Study Design Science Direct
- Course on Surveillance Audit and Monitoring of Lab Quality Management System
- ISO 9001: 2008
- Course on Leadership and Organization Management
- Workshop on Intervention Mapping for Non-Communicable Diseases
- Drug Discovery and Modeling
- Current Technology and Issues Related to Research
- Continuous Medical Education (CME) on Tobacco Control
- Training on Quality System
- Training for Support Staff
- Training for Health Inspectors from the Health Department in Malaysia on Vector Identification and Control





2. Research and Development

2.1. Research Projects

Research is the primary function of TROPMED Malaysia. The research projects address the more important health issues in the region and are carried out in the field and in the laboratories. The results of these research projects are utilized for generation of new knowledge; contribution towards programme and policy formulation; contribution towards development of better tools for the diagnosis and management of important health problems; improvement in health management and health promotion and innovation, patent & commercialization.

For 2013-2014, TROPMED Malaysia was engaged in 179 research projects on the following main areas:

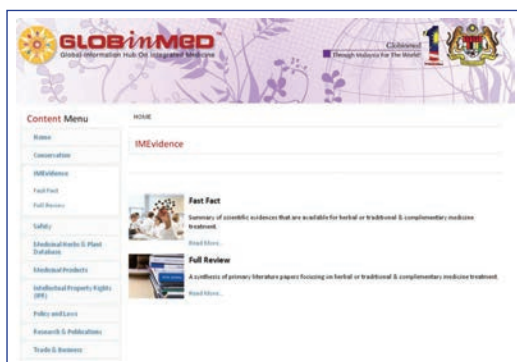
- Infectious Diseases (Dengue, Malaria and TB program)
- Herbal Medicine/Traditional & Complementary Medicine
- Cancer
- Allergy and Immunology
- Environmental Health & Climate Change
- Non Communicable Diseases





2.2. New Research related projects

- A “Research Dialogue on Important Health Research Topic” was launched by TROPMED Malaysia. Three topics were chosen: Dengue, Malaria and Tuberculosis. The dialogue on dengue research was completed during the year. Dialogues on Malaria and TB researches are still on-going.
- Effort in promoting evidence based integrated medicine: **IMEvidence**. A new scope in GlobinMed. This project aims to produce a high quality review write-up i.e. a synthesis of primary literature papers with focus on herbal or traditional & complementary medicine treatment in non-communicable diseases is developed.



2.3. Innovation, Patent & Commercialization

One of the objectives of research and development activities of TROPMED Malaysia is ***“Innovation, Patent & Commercialization”***. For 2013-2014, TROPMED Malaysia has applied for patents for the following:

- Recombinant antigens of Chikungunya useful for the development of diagnostic kit
- Panel of Predictive Markers for Severe Dengue
- Synthesis, characterization and anti-cancer property of [Cu(phen)(aa) (H₂O)] .xH₂O (phen=1,10-phenanthroline; aa=glycine, methylated glycine, viz DL-alanine , 2,2 -dimethylglycine and N-methylglycine)

3. Publication

TROPMED Malaysia as a leading research institution continues to maintain its accessibility to its partners and clients. For 2013-2014 a total of:

- 191 scientific articles were published in peer-reviewed journals;
- 5 technical reports have been prepared; and
- 247 presentations were made at local and international conferences.

4. Seminars

Organizing seminars is one strategy TROPMED Malaysia utilized for purposes of providing platforms for discussion of health issues and concerns; for information dissemination of research results as well as for capacity building. For this reporting period, the Centre was able to organize a total of 15 seminars participated by national, regional and international health professionals.



5. Provision of Technical Assistance/Consultancies

TROPMED Malaysia implements its mission through several approaches and strategies, one of which is providing technical assistance and consultancy services to national, regional and international institutions. It's officials and staff have been very much involved in this role/function for 2013-2014. Examples of consultancy services/technical assistance provided include:

- Membership to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) for DNDi
- WHO Regional Consultation on the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria,
- University of Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta on the use of *Wolbachia* as a tool for controlling dengue
- Dengue Expert Meeting for Sterile Insect Techniques
- National AIDS Reference Laboratory (NARL) for the Study of Cases with Difficult or Unresolved Serology
- Consultancy Services for Babies Born to HIV Positive Women
- Surveillance Programme on Circulating Dengue Virus Serotype, Nipah, JE, Influenza and Hand, Foot and Mouth Diseases for Ministry of Health.



6. Recognition and Awards

The expertise of TROPMED Malaysia's staff on medical research and innovation is acknowledged by award giving bodies. For this year the following awards have been received:

- 2 Gold Medal Awards
- ITEX2014 Best Invention
- International Federation of Inventors' Association (IFIA) Glory
- Medal for the Best Lady Invention
- Recognition and Awards for Invasion/Design at National and International Level



B. Regional Visibility

1. Collaborative Activities with Partners

- COCHRANE Collaboration
 - Critical Appraisal
 - Systematic Review
- ASEAN TaskForce on Traditional Medicine
 - Information Sharing Through Globinmed Platform
 - Development Of Research Guidelines For Herbal Medicine
 - Guideline For Establishment Of Herbal Garden
 - Development Of Medicinal Plants For Primary Health Care
- Bilateral Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Systems of Medicine between Malaysia & India
- IMR and University of Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia on Wolbachia Research
- Sanyo Chemical Laboratories



2. Linkages

2.1. *TROPED Malaysia as WHO Collaborating Centres* on the following:

- WHO Collaborating Centre for the Ecology, Taxonomy and Control of Vectors of Malaria, Filariasis and Dengue
- WHO National Laboratory for Poliovirus, In 2011
- WHO National Japanese Encephalitis Laboratory

2.2. *As National Reference Centre for the following:*

- Immunodiagnostics
- Viral Diagnostics
- Bacterial and Fungal Diagnostics
- Collection of Type Cultures
- Inborn Errors of Metabolism (IEM)
- Multiple Myeloma and Specific Proteins
- Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD)
- Molecular Diagnosis of Leukaemias
- Oral Diseases
- Trace Elements

C. Management

1. Internal Capacity Building

As a Centre of Excellence, TROPED Malaysia makes sure that its official and staff take part in continuous human resource development activities. There are currently 32 staff members of the Centre obtained post graduate degrees (17 PhDs; 15 Masters) in various field of specialization. At the same, in-house workshops, seminars and lectures were organized during the year for purposes of internal capacity building. TROPED Malaysia's requirement is for each staff to attend at least 7 days of training per year. Furthermore, staff and officials regularly attends national, regional and international conferences and fora for scientific updates.



2. Quality Assurance

TROPMED Malaysia has continued to maintain the quality of its services as evidenced by the following ISO:

- MS ISO 9001:2008
- MS ISO 14001:2004
- WHO, RCPA (AUSTRALIA) AND NRL (AUSTRALIA) Quality Assurance Programme for various serological, viral isolation and molecular tests

3. Change in Directorship



- DR. SHAHNAZ MURAD been appointed as the Director General of Health (Research and Technical Support), Ministry of Health Malaysia starting 14 April 2014.



- DR. ZAKIAH ISMAIL appointed acting as Director of SEAMEO TROPMED Malaysia

4. Visitors from TROPMED Thailand

TROPMED Malaysia played host to staff and officials of TROPMED Thailand



5. In-House Meeting

TROPMED Malaysia was the host for the SEAMEO TROPMED Network In-House Meeting organized June 2014.



Regional Centre for Public Health, Hospital Administration, Environmental and Occupational Health (TROPMED Philippines)

TROPMED Philippines is the Regional Centre of the Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization for Public Health, Hospital and Environmental and Occupational Health. It is hosted by the College of Public Health which is under the administration of the University of the Philippines Manila, an autonomous campus under the University of the Philippines System.

The mission of the Centre is:

Center of excellence for public health in education, translational research and community health development through an effective health systems approach.

The six areas of the health systems approach: health information, financing, leadership and governance, health regulation and human resources, medicines and technologies.

TROPMED Philippines's mission is operationalized through its post graduate degree programs for leadership in practice and training in public health and its specialties. At the same time, it continues to play its lead role in research on public health and health – related problems of the Philippine and makes available the expertise of the faculty to other organizations through extension and consultative services.

The year 2013-2014 also marked the passing of the baton for leadership of the Centre. A new Dean/Director was installed 1st July 2013.



TROPMED Philippines has seven departments that implements the roles and functions of the Centre:

- Department of Health Policy and Administration
- Department of Health Promotion and Education
- Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics
- Department of Medical Microbiology
- Department of Nutrition
- Department of Parasitology
- Department of Environmental and Occupational Health



A. Regional Leadership

1. Human Resource Development

1.1. Degree programmes

For 2013-2014, a total of 262 new fellows were admitted to the 7 post graduate degrees and 79 new students to the Bachelor of Science programme of the Centre (Table 1)

Table 1: Distribution of students' admission by degree programme, 2013-2014

Programme	Number
Doctor of Public Health	13
Master of Public Health	102
Master of Science in Public Health	41
Master of Science in Epidemiology (Public Health)	8
Master of Arts in Health Policy Studies (HS)	4
Master of Occupational Health	31
Master of Hospital Administration	63
Bachelor of Science in Public Health	79
Total	341



1.2. Institution of New Programme

- 1.2.1. Master of Hospital Administration – The *Blended Learning Mode* for this programme was started 2013-2014 with 15 students
- 1.2.2. New *Online Courses* are currently being developed for implementation

1.3. Short /Training Courses

Short courses offered by TROPMED Philippines are categorized as institutional i.e. multi-department /joint offerings and specific departmental offerings. A number of these courses were offered to regional and international participants.

1.3.1. Institutional Training Courses

The institutional offerings tap on the expertise of several departments since course content requires different disciplines and different expertise. For 2013-2014, eight institutional courses were organized by TROPMED Philippines.

- National Sanitarian Training Course
- Training Program on the Assessment and Management of Drug Dependence of Physicians, Rehabilitation Workers and Regulatory Officers (3 batches)
- Municipal Leadership and Governance Program (2 batches)
- PHEMAP Training Course (2 batches)

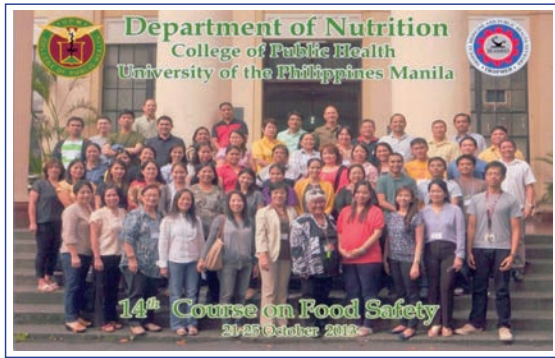




1.3.2. Departmental Courses

The seven departments of TROPMED Philippines conducted 25 departmental training courses in 2013-2014 with more than a thousand participants. Some of the short courses are listed below:

- Strategic Planning and Management,
- Management of Human Resource for Health
- ICD 10 Training for Coders
- Health Monitoring and Evaluation in Health Care Management
- Total Quality Management
- Training of Barangay Health Worker on Action for Healthier Families
- Developing Skills for Data Collection for Qualitative Health Research
- Developing Skills in Qualitative Research
- Health Promotion and Education
- Research Management
- Research Mentoring
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Data Processing & Analysis
- Use of Virtual Classroom for Research Methods Training
- Developing Skills in Communicating Health and Nutrition Using the Social Media
- Food Safety
- Diagnostic Parasitology
- Integrated Microscopy
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Certification Course for Water Refilling Station and Plant Operators



1.4. Curricular Review of Academic Programmes

TROPMED Philippines in the last quarter of 2013 started the process of a curricular review of all its academic offerings (post-graduate and undergraduate programmes). This was undertaken to ensure relevance and effectiveness of these different academic programmes given the changing public health landscape in the country as in the region and the changing competency needs of the health professionals. The academic programmes committees are the ones involved. Several activities were implemented as part of the curricular review to include:

- Workshop on curriculum evaluation that was attended by all chairpersons of the different academic programme committees
- Development of the proposal for curricular review of each academic programme
- Implementation of the proposal is currently being undertaken

1.5. Self-assessment of quality and quality assurance system

Currently TROPMED Philippines is implementing a quality assessment at the programme level utilizing the AUN assessment tool in preparation for accreditation.



2. Research

Research is one of the functions of TROPMED Philippines in addition to teaching and extension services. Research projects address gaps in knowledge for health development. Results of the Centre's research projects play a crucial role in the development of health and health-related policies, restructuring of programs and approaches to address public health issues in the country as well as in the region. Research activities also serve as an approach for its own human resource development and for enhancement of academic degree programmes of the Centre.

Given the different departments of TROPMED Philippines, its research projects cover different dimensions of health issues and health programmes. For the health issues, research projects focus on behavioural, clinical, diagnostic, epidemiological, and environmental aspects. Health program research on the other hand covers health policies, development of interventions, program delivery, monitoring, and evaluation.

For 2013-2014, TROPMED Philippines' staff has completed 28 research projects and is involved in 55 on-going researches. The health issues/concerns covered include:

- Malaria
- Leptospirosis
- Schistosomiasis
- Neglected Tropical Diseases
- Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis
- Food Security and Nutrition
- Environment and Communities/Work Settings
- Disaster-Related Concerns
- Utilization of Services
- Lifestyle Behaviours
- Occupational Diseases
- Health Human Resources Needs and Placement

- Health Facilities Performance
- Health Communication Materials
- School Health



3. Seminars & Conferences

TROPMED Philippines as a health academic and research institution regularly provides platforms for national and international discussions of health and health related issues and concerns. For this reporting period the following have been organized by the Centre:

- 4th International Academic Consortium for Sustainable Cities Symposium
- The Singapore Health Care System
- Water Safety in Disasters: Thirst First
- Got Risk? Let's Deal With It!
- The 3rd Dr. Mariano Yogore Memorial Lecture
- 2nd Dr. Teodora V. Tiglao Memorial Lecture
- Buwan ng mga Kababaihan



6. Community Services

Commitment to service is one of the core values of TROPMED Philippines. This is operationalized in the community services/social responsibility activities undertaken by TROPMED Philippines. This core value is also mainstreamed in the extra-curricular activities of the students. Community services of the Centre vary according to the needs and the events. Examples of these activities undertaken during the year include:

- Basic Life Support training for community members
- Community health education
- Post Disaster Rapid Public Health Assessment in selected areas affected by typhoon Haiyan
- Good Water Initiative in collaboration with WHO for typhoon affected areas
- Healthy Life style campaign for selected communities



B. Regional Visibility

1. Collaborative projects with international organizations and other academic institutions

- 2013 Infectious Disease Control Training Course
- Symposium on NIPH-CPH-UPM Collaborative activities of Public Health Workforce Development National Institutes of Health, Saitama Japan
- 4th Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting (JCC) of the Project on the Prevention and Control of Leptospirosis in the Philippines,



2. Linkages/Networking

2.1. Academic linkages/International Student Exchange Program

TROPMED Philippines as an academic institution maintains linkages at the international, regional and national levels. Specifically, it links with other academic institutions for the exchange student programs. At present the TROPMED Philippines has an academic agreement with the following:

- Boston University
- National Institute of Public Health Japan
- Dokkyo Medical University
- Tokyo University
- Sydney University

TROPMED Philippines continues to expand its linkages with academic, public health and research institutions. For 2013-2014, TROPMED Philippines signed three new Memoranda of Understanding with the following academic institutions:

- Faculty of Medicine, University of Ryukyus
- Teikyo University Graduate School of Public Health for Education and Research Collaboration
- Obihiro University

In addition, several groups visited the Centre for future collaboration.

- Exploratory Meeting/Visit of National University of Singapore Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health
- Courtesy Visit of Yokohama City University Officials
- Study visit on Public Health Education of faculty members and officials of the Institute of Public Health and Medical Technology, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
- Visit of Japanese Embassy officials

2.2. Visiting and Adjunct Professors

There were two visiting and adjunct professors that served the Centre during 2013-2014:

- Dr. Evelina Morales, Environmental Health Expert, Oklahoma, USA
- Dr. Jas Singh, Industrial Hygienist, Hawaii, USA University Officials





3. Management

1. Internal Capacity Building/Staff Development

TROPMED Philippines makes sure that internal capacity building is high in its agenda. For this reporting period:

- Two (2) faculty members obtained their Doctoral Degrees
- Three (3) faculty members obtained their Masteral Degree
- Seven (7) Faculty members currently enrolled in Doctoral Degree Program
- Four (4) Faculty member currently enrolled in the Masteral Degree Program
- One (1) University Research Associate obtained his MS Medical Technology
- Two (2) University Research Associate currently enrolled in the Masteral Degree Program
- One (1) REPs trained in Research on Leptospirosis at Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Kyushu University and Chiba Institute of Science



2. Awards and Recognition

In recognition of outstanding work in their own field of expertise, several staff of TROPMED Philippines received awards and recognition.

- Dr. Pilarita T. Rivera - Masamichi Aikawa Medal given by the Japanese Society of Tropical Medicine, Tokyo Japan



- Dr. Noel D. Lawas & Dr. Ofelia P. Saniel - Metro Manila Commission Professorial Chairs Awards
- Several faculty members and staff also received recognition during the UP Manila Day and Service awards for the year.

3. Visit of Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon, Secretary General/Coordinator, SEAMEO TROPMED Network



Regional Centre for Tropical Medicine (TROPMED Thailand)

TROPMED Thailand, the Faculty of Tropical Medicine (FTM) of Mahidol University, has always been in the forefront of the battle against tropical diseases. Its vision is

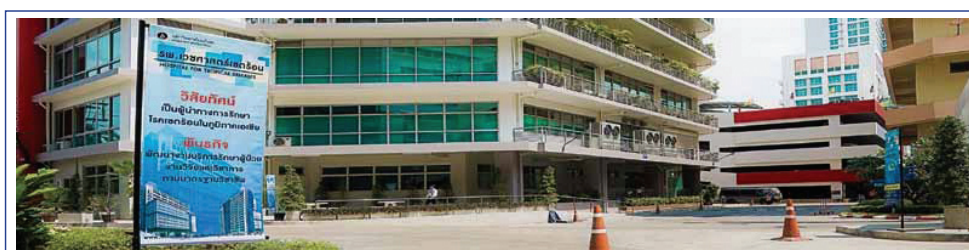
“to be one of the world’s leaders in tropical medicine”

The Centre identified 8 strategic areas that will allow the Centre to achieve its vision. These are:

- Teaching Excellence
- Research and Innovation Excellence
- Outstanding Clinical Outcome
- People Excellence
- Infrastructure Excellence
- Customer and Community Service Excellence
- Alliance Excellence
- Leadership and Management

Faculty of Tropical Medicine is divided into eleven specialized departments, focusing on different areas and disciplines related to tropical medicine. Each department has three main areas of responsibilities – research, education, and services.

- Clinical Tropical Medicine
- Helminthology
- Medical Entomology
- Microbiology and Immunology
- Molecular Tropical Medicine and Genetics
- Protozoology
- Social and Environmental Medicine
- Tropical Hygiene
- Tropical Nutrition and Food Science
- Tropical Pathology
- Tropical Pediatrics



A. Regional Leadership

1. Human Resource Development

1.1. Post Graduate Programmes

TROPMED Thailand offers 9 post-graduate degree programmes for national and international students. For this reporting period, a total of 190 students from 13 countries were enrolled to the programmes listed below. More than 50% of these students are coming from countries in the region and a small number from other region.

- Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
- Diploma in Biomedical and Health Informatics
- Master of Clinical Tropical Medicine
- Master of Clinical Tropical Medicine in Tropical Pediatrics
- Master of Science Biomedical and Health Informatics
- Master of Science in School Health
- Master of Science in Tropical Medicine
- Doctor of Philosophy in Tropical Medicine
- Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Tropical Medicine



1.2. Institution of New Academic Programmes

Two of these nine programmes had their first batch of graduates within this reporting period. These new courses highlight the importance of informatics in health development. There were three (3) graduates for the Diploma in Biomedical and Health Informatics coming from the China, Lao PDR and the Philippines. In addition, there were five (5) who finished the Master of Science in Biomedical and Health Informatics. The students came from Lao PDR (2), Myanmar (1), Thailand (1), and Vietnam (1).



1.3. Short Courses

For 2013-2014, TROPMED Thailand has organized 8 international short courses in various topics/areas in tropical medicine with a total of 250 participants. These training courses were participated by health professionals from SEAMEO Member Countries and from other countries outside of the SEA region. A number of these training courses were developed and organized for specific countries.

- Asian Clinical Tropical Medicine
- Elective Program in Tropical Medicine
- 3rd Training Course on School Health and Nutrition Programmes in Asia
- 11th International Training Course on Management of Malaria
- International Training Course on Dengue
- Global Infectious Diseases Control
- Regional Advance Epidemiology



2. Research

TROPMED Thailand has continuously increased its research outputs. The Centre has expanded its capacity for research in terms of human resources and training. These researches are undertaken either solely by the Centre's staff or in collaboration with international research institutions. Seventy (70) new research projects were started for the year resulting to a total of 208 on-going research projects.

Research conducted at FTM covers: Traditional Tropical Diseases (Malaria, Dengue, Melioidosis, Helminths, Chikungunya, and Japanese Encephalitis and others). The research areas for these tropical diseases include:

- Diagnostics and Prognostics
- Treatment / Therapeutics
- Drug Development
- Immunology
- Epidemiology and Informatics
- Vaccine Development
- Vector Control



The research areas covered by TROPMED Thailand also include other health problems affecting the country and the region such as nutrition and HIV/AIDS. TROPMED Thailand is a pioneer research hub in conducting HIV/AIDS vaccine trials, assessment of the efficacy of antiretroviral therapies, assessment of treatments for opportunistic infections, epidemiological surveys, and analyzing social risk factors.



3. Publication

TROPMED Thailand's faculty and staff has been very productive in terms of publication. For the year under review, there were 233 papers published with an average of 2.16 per researcher per year. More than half of the papers were published in Q1 journals.

In addition, TROPMED Thailand's faculty members presented a total of 78 papers in international conferences and 15 in national conferences.

An internal publication, "*Inter News*" is also published three months to share to the constituents the events and progress of the activities of the different units, Centres and Institutions in the Centre.



4. Centers of Excellence

In addition to the departments of TROPMED Thailand engaged in research, there are four Centers of Excellence that are highly specialized units whose sole responsibility is research.

- *Center of Excellence for Biomedical and Public Health Informatics (BIOPHICS)*

Its goals are to provide the public with quality health informatics through teaching and reaching; the unit provides a range of development, management, and consulting services to both private and public organizations in Thailand and beyond. BIOPHICS manages databases for several large clinical trials, as well as the national electronic malaria information system (eMIS), as well as other large-scale health-informatics initiatives, and is a key player in monitoring the spread of various diseases in Thailand.

- *Center of Excellence for Antibody Research (CEAR)*

The Center's research extends beyond dengue, and researchers have developed MAbs that can be used in the rapid diagnosis of influenza, leptospirosis, and foot-and-mouth disease. The human monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) developed by CEAR have been shown to neutralize all four serotypes of dengue in vitro and in vivo. These findings have resulted in a range of patents.

- *Mahidol Vivax Research Unit (MVRU)*

The unit focuses on the biology of malaria-parasite transmission, including mosquito and human liver stages. The Unit has access to the full malaria life cycle through its insectary, humanized mice containing liver-stage infections, as well as human patients at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases.

- *Vaccine Trial Center (VTC)*

A clinical facility at TROPMED Thailand, which plans and conducts clinical trials for newly developed vaccines. It tests potential tropical-disease vaccines in the environment where they would be used. The center's most noteworthy current projects include a phase II trial of a HIV vaccine, an avian flu stockpiling project with WHO, a HPV vaccine trial, and a Phase III dengue vaccine trial.



5. Awards and Recognition

- Associate Professor Dr. Pongrama Ramasoota and his team received “Outstanding Research Award” from National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)
- Associate Professor Dr. Yaowalark Sukthana, received the National Award for Outstanding Preventive Medicine Physician of the year 2013
- Ms. Saranya Wongsngernyuang received Sood Sangvichein Sculpture Model Award from the Association of Medical Illustration of Thailand.



6. Conferences

- World Melioidosis Conference 2013
- Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting 2013
- 12th Annual Workshop named “Diagnosis of Intestinal and Opportunistic Parasites 2nd Round”

- 7th Sornchai Looareesuwan Oration: “Malaria, Man, and Monkeys”
- Asian School Health Symposium



B. Regional Visibility

1. Collaboration with Different Institutions

As a recognized research and academic institution on tropical medicine, TROPMED Thailand has several existing long term collaborations with regional and international organizations. The nature of the collaboration vary from purely research to policy development and training. The major partners of TROPMED Thailand are the following:

- *Malaria Consortium Asia*

This is a leading international NGO dedicated to comprehensive malaria and neglected tropical disease control in Africa and Asia. Its activities in Asia aim to deliver sustainable, evidence-based health programmes, with a particular focus on strengthening the monitoring and evaluation capacity of national programmes and partners, operational research, cross-border coordination, resistance, containment and working towards elimination.

- *Silom Community Clinic*

Silom Community is a sexual health clinic, specifically for the male homosexual and transgender communities housed at the Hospital of Tropical Diseases of TROPMED Thailand. It provides 30s-minute checks for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as consultations and treatments for those with different conditions.

- *World Wide Antimalarial Resistance Network (WWARN)*

The goal of this Network is to monitor antimalarial drug efficacy and identify emerging drug resistance. Furthermore, the Network is engage in capacity building activities to improve clinical research and support malaria control and elimination efforts in Asia and the Pacific. The regional director and the WWARN Asia team are based at FTM in Bangkok.

- *BIKEN-Endowed Department of Dengue Vaccine Development (BIKEN)*

The BIKEN Endowed Department of Dengue Vaccine Development was established as a joint collaboration with Osaka University. The BIKEN Foundation, a private pharmaceutical organization, supports this collaboration is supported through an endowment to BIKEN Institute. This is a strictly research-focused collaboration working on a six-year project.

- *Mahidol-Osaka Center for Infectious Diseases (MOCID)*

MOCID is a collaborative initiative between the Faculty of Tropical Medicine (TROPMED Thailand) and the Research Institute for Microbial Diseases at Osaka University. This collaboration aims to perform basic research in the field of infectious diseases, leading to the development of prophylactic vaccines and therapeutic strategies. The main areas of research during the year were viral infectious diseases, particularly dengue and chikungunya, and the development of rapid-diagnosis kits to be used in clinical settings.



2. International Visitors

- Professor Takafumi Tsuboi and Professor Motomi Torii from EHIME UNIVERSITY, Matsuyama Japan
- Dr. Takashi Ueda and Mr. Masashi Kawano from Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo Japan
- Medical Doctors from Bangladesh

- Prof. Manuel B. Agulto, Chancellor and delegation from University of the Philippines Manila
- Dr. Takayuki Miyazawa and delegation Institute of Virology, Kyoto University
- Dr. Glyn Hobbs and Dr. Thomas Edwards of Liverpool John Moores University
- Major General (MC) Dr. Detlev Frohlich and delegations from Bundeswehr Medical Service Headquarters, Koblenz, Germany



C. Corporate Social Responsibility

1. Hospital for Tropical Diseases

The Hospital for Tropical Diseases is one of the important service providers of TROPMED Thailand. It provides a comprehensive care in diagnosis laboratory testing and treatment of almost all tropical diseases. In April 2013, the entire hospital has completed its move to the new building and in February 2014 was formally awarded Hospital Accreditation (HA) by the Thai Healthcare Accreditation Institute in recognition for the many years dedicated to improving quality of care, safety procedures, and data management. For the year under review, the Hospital served 64,082 out-patients and 2,386 in-patients.

After several years of preparations, the hospital started a three-year residency training in travel medicine June 2014. This is in keeping with the goal of the hospital (a teaching hospital) which is to train doctors, researchers, and healthcare professionals, and to develop ever more effective treatments. Of the 250 beds available at the Hospital, 100 are allocated to research projects, 100 for inpatient treatment, and 50 for TropMed Homecare. In addition, the Hospital also offers a Travel Medicine Clinic.

2. Tropmed Homecare

A special unit established April 2014 by TROPMED Thailand provides a homecare like atmosphere for the elderly. It provides a comprehensive care and treatment programs for its clients- physical, medical and psychological care.



D. Management

1. Internal Capacity Building

The Centre's Excellence plan underscores the fact that "people is its best resource", thus human resource development is always high in its agenda. Both the academic and support staff are continuously provided opportunities and support for its professional growth. These activities include but are not limited to: (i) academic degree programs; (ii) participation in international, regional and national conferences and for a, (iii) attachment program; and(iv) study visits.



2. Meet the Dean/Director

An open forum hosted by the Dean/Director organized every three months to enable an open dialogue with different constituents of the Centre. This is in addition to the monthly meetings organized by the different departments.



The year under review challenged every organization to prepare for the major changes that will influence the context of public health and education in the region. These changes include the forthcoming ASEAN integration; the end year of the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All, and the formulation of the new Development Agenda. The Network office, as it implements its coordinating function, maximized its potential to ensure that TROPMED Network is able to address the challenges brought about by these changes.

A. Regional Leadership

1. Capacity Building

1.1. Coordination of Scholarship Programme

Coordination and awarding of scholarship grants from partner development agencies is one of the functions of the Network Office. For 2013-2014, TROPMED Network Office awarded a total of 19 scholarships to the regular degree programmes offered in the three Regional Centres of the Network. The distribution of these scholarships by academic degree program and by recipient country is shown in Tables 1 & 2.

Table 1: Distribution of scholarships by academic degree program, 2013-2014

Degree Programme	No. of scholars
Diploma in Applied Parasitology & Entomology (DAPE)	5
Diploma in Medical Microbiology (DMM)	6
M.Sc. in Tropical Medicine	3
M.Sc. in Epidemiology	1
PhD. in Tropical Medicine	1
PhD. in Clinical Tropical Medicine	3
Total	19

Table 2: Distribution of scholarshipsto the degree programmes by recipient country, 2013-2014

Countries	No.
Cambodia	1
Malaysia	5
Myanmar	6
Philippines	1
Thailand	5
Vietnam	1
Total	19

1.2. Provision of Fellowship to Short Courses

In addition to coordinating the scholarships to degree programmes, twenty two (22) fellowships to a number of short courses offered in the TROPMED Centres were provided by the Network Office to health professionals from the Member Countries. The distribution of fellowships by country is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Distribution of Fellowships awarded by the Network Office by recipient countries, 2013-2014

Countries/Centres	No.
Brunei	1
Cambodia	2
Indonesia	1
Lao PDR	3
Malaysia	4
Philippines	4
Thailand	5
Vietnam	2
Total	22

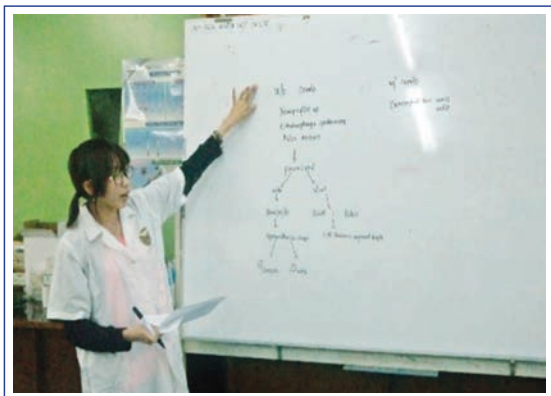
1.3. Regional Course on Advanced Epidemiology

This regional course was organized by TROPMED Thailand with full support from the Network office. Ten fellowships were awarded by the Network Office to participants from Member Countries. This course is regularly offered by the Network and is being organized by the TROPMED Centres by rotation.



1.4. Student/Staff Exchange Project

A student/staff exchange project was piloted among the three Regional Centres of TROPMED Network coordinated and supported by the Network Office. This was in preparation for the forthcoming ASEAN Economic Community and testing the processes and the logistical requirements involved in student mobility in the region for the first year of operation, 2 students/staff from each Centre will be posted to the other TROPMED Centres for six weeks. At this stage of the pilot testing of the project, credit unit for the course was still given by the sending Centre/Institution. To date one PhD student from TROPMED Thailand and two material students from TROPMED Philippines completed their 6 weeks postings.



2. Provision of Technical Assistance

One of the major functions of the Network Office is to provide technical assistance to Member Countries, Development Partners, other SEAMEO Centres and to the three Regional TROPMED Centres. The technical assistance provided were in the areas of:

- Development and Implementation of Training Courses
- Curricular Review
- Organization and Implementation of Workshops



B. Regional Visibility

1. Collaborative Activities with International and Regional Development Partners

1.1. Meeting of Experts for Developing a Strategic Work Plan: As A Follow-Up of Consultative Expert Working Group on Health Research, Innovation and Intellectual Property (World Health Organization, SEARO)

The meeting of national experts (Thailand) was convened by TROPMED Network in Bangkok, July 2013 with the following objectives: (i) Identify priorities for R&D for health products based on public health needs of the country; and (ii) Identify projects in order to develop and deliver health products. The participants were composed of research policy decision-makers; researchers from academic and research institutions and health programme managers.

1.2. Workshop of Institutions in Thailand involved in Dengue Research (WHO, SEARO)

A three-day workshop was organized by SEAMEO TROPED Network 4-6 September 2013 to convene institutions involved in Dengue Research in Thailand. The workshop aimed to enable all research institutions and policy makers involved in dengue discuss and share the current efforts on dengue in the country as well as to arrived at a consensus on how and where should be the direction of dengue research in the country.



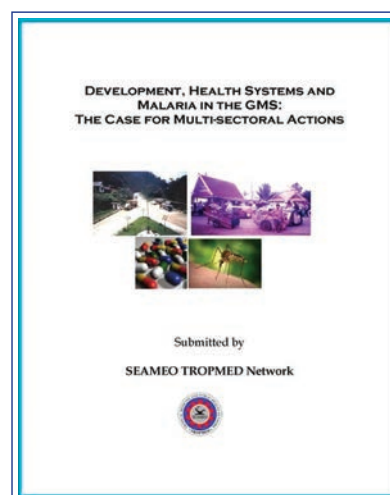
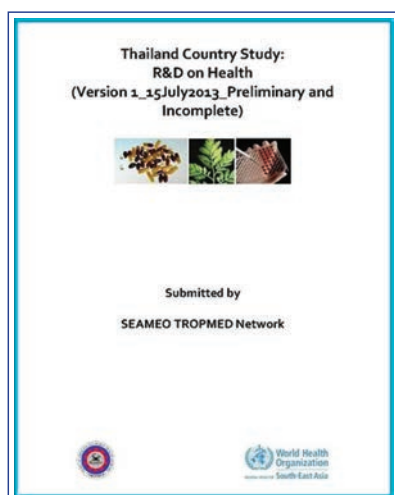
1.3. Workshop on Operational Research to Support Accelerating Malaria Elimination in the Context of Artemisinin Resistance Falciparum Malaria in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (WHO SEARO)

SEAMEO TROPED Network convened the workshop jointly organized by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the Emergency Response to Artemisinin Resistance (ERAR) Programme of WHO which brought together national malaria programmes of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) countries, national and international operational research institutions and regional development partners. The workshop aimed to facilitate the discussion on the role of operational research towards the prevention and spread of artemisinin resistance and elimination of falciparum malaria. The meeting provided a forum for the GMS countries to discuss their OR needs, and to discuss the development of a joint OR agenda and work plan.



2. Special Projects

2.1. Thailand Country Study: State of the Art of Health R&D “Development, Health Systems and Malaria in the GMS: the Case for Multi-Sectoral Actions”



3. Participation in International and Regional Conferences and Fora

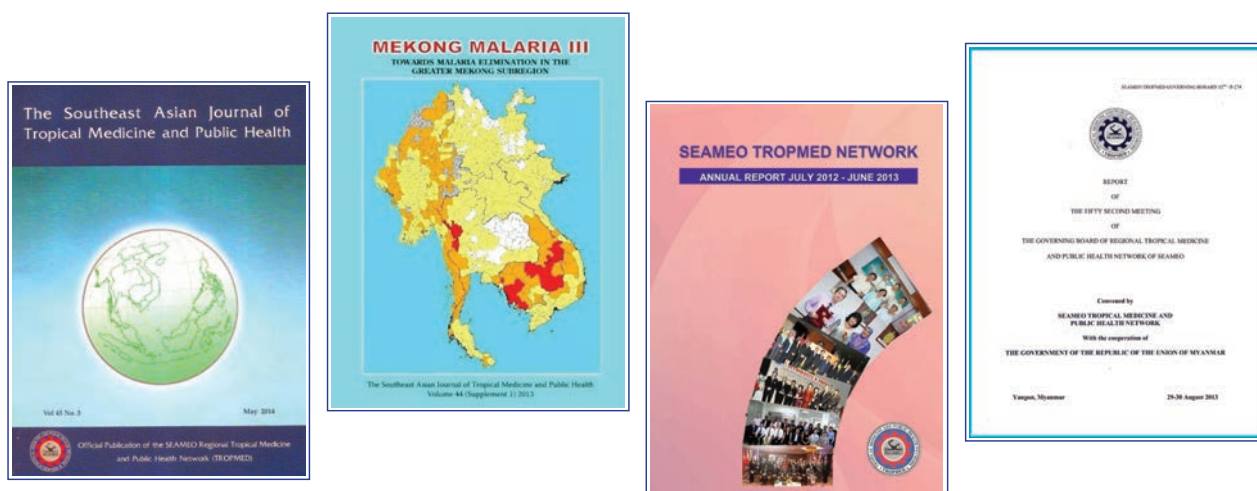
SEAMEO TROPED Network officials participated in international and regional conferences and fora in the following areas and in different capacities.

- Dengue
- Malaria
- One Health in SEA
- ASEAN Congress
- Community Resilience on Emergencies and Disasters



4. Publication

The *Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health* is the official publication of TROPMED Network. Six issues of the journal were published in 2013-2014. In addition, a supplement on “Mekong Malaria III”, one annual report and the proceeding of the 52nd Governing Board Meeting of the Network were also published.



C. SEAMEO – Wide Activities

1. Discussion Forum: Development Evaluation

TROPMED Network as the lead SEAMEO Centre on Centre Mentoring Programme organized a discussion forum on Development Evaluation to advance evaluation practice on SEAMEO. The forum was attended by Directors and High Officials of all SEAMEO Centres.

2. Post 2015 Education Agenda Workshops

Officials of TROPMED Network Office participated in the series of workshops conducted by SEAMES in relation to the Post 2015 Education Agenda.

3. Joint Symposium with Tsukuba University “Bridging the ASEAN Community and Japan through Education”

4. Joint SEAMEO- ASEAN- China Symposium on Education





D. Management

1. In-House Meeting

Two In-house meetings were organized by TROPMED Network Office, July 2013 and June 2014 to discuss policy directions, new initiatives, joint collaboration and common issues of the three TROPMED Centres. The July 2013 meeting was convened in Bangkok while the June 2014 was hosted by TROPMED Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.

2. 52nd Governing Board Meeting (GBM)

The 52nd SEAMEO TROPMED Network GBM was convened and hosted by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and was presided by H.E. Professor Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Health. The thematic symposium elucidated the concept of Sustainable Development with special focus on health in the context of Sustainable Development.



53rd SEAMEO TROPMED Network Governing Board Meeting

20-21 August 2014
Siem Reap, Cambodia

The 53rd SEAMEO TROPMED Network Governing Board Meeting (GBM) was convened and hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia.

The Opening Ceremony was presided by H.E. Dr. Or Vandine, Director General for Health, Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Cambodia representing H.E. Professor Eng Huot, Secretary of State, Ministry of Health and Board Member for Cambodia.

The programme opened with SEAMEO colors and song. The group was welcomed to the province of Siem Reap by Dr. Kros Sarath, Director of the Provincial Health Department on behalf of the Board Governor and the Provincial Council. He cited the varied cultural and historical attractions in the province that provide opportunities for people to get to know the Khmer culture.

Dr. Sung Vinntak, Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Health also welcomed the group to the country and to Siem Reap and expressed great pleasure of the Royal Government of Cambodia in hosting the 53rd GBM. He underscored the participation of Cambodia in human resource development activities of the Network. Dr. Sung stressed that health is a priority of the Royal Government as shown by the Rectangular Strategy Phase III, the National Strategic Development Plan (2014-2018) and the Second Health Strategic Plan (2008-2015) which all aimed to improve the quality of life of the Cambodian people.





Assoc. Prof. Dr Pratap Singhasivanon, Secretary General/Coordinator of SEAMEO TROPED Network welcomed the group to the meeting. He expressed the heartfelt gratitude of the Network to the Royal Government of Cambodia for hosting the 53rd GBM and to H.E. Dr. Or Vandine for presiding over the Opening Ceremony. He acknowledged 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 which contributed to a great extent to everything that the SEAMEO TROPED Network has accomplished during this reporting period. Dr. Pratap cited the highlights of the Network's accomplishments during the year such as (i) creation of new academic programmes and modes of delivery; (ii) student exchange pilot project; (iii) internal capacity building efforts; and (iv) expansion of the Network's linkages. He then requested the group to join him in welcoming the participation of a representative of ASEAN- China Centre. He informed the group that the focus of the Thematic Symposium is on School Wellness. He reiterated the commitment of the Network to continue to work towards our vision of quality life for the people of the region with special focus on school children.

Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, Director of SEAMEO Secretariat opened his remarks by describing the beauty and richness of the culture of Siem Reap. He mentioned that the TROPED Network for this year starts the GBM season for SEAMEO. A season that provides the Secretariat the opportunity to bring to the Governing Boards the programme and operational issues that relate to the SEAMEO Centres. He then cited the Ebola epidemic which highlights the importance of educating people, raising awareness about health issues and the significance of research and development (R&D) in the area of public health which are all key areas of work of SEAMEO TROPED Network. He congratulated the Network for its accomplishments achieved through the leadership of Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon and the TROPED Centre Directors. He mentioned about the working paper that will be presented during the business meeting that reports the significant points, key agreements and actions taken from SEAMEO Meetings held in FY 2013/2014. Dr. Witaya expressed the organization's gratitude to the Governments of Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand for their continued support to SEAMEO TROPED Network.

Dr. Kyaw Khaing, Director of International Health Division, Ministry of Health, Government of the Republic of Myanmar and Governing Board Member for Myanmar gave the report of the Chair of the 52nd GBM. He started by conveying to the group the highest regards from the officials of the Ministry of Health of the Government of the Republic of Myanmar and thanked the Royal Government of Cambodia for hosting the 53rd GBM. He congratulated Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon for his leadership in steering the TROPMED Network towards meeting its vision and mission and commended the Centre Directors for implementing programmes and projects that operationalize the mission of the Network. Dr. Kyaw also underscored SEAMEO TROPMED Network's efforts to continuously address emerging human resource development needs in the region in the light of the forthcoming ASEAN Economic Community and the post 2015 development agenda. He then thanked everyone for the support and cooperation accorded to him while he served as Chair of the 52nd GBM.

H.E. Dr. Or Vandine delivered the keynote address. She first conveyed the warm greetings of Prof. Eng Huot to the group and on behalf of the Ministry of Health expressed her warm welcome and sincere appreciation to the organizing committee of the 53rd GBM. She thanked the Board Members for choosing Cambodia to host the meeting. She articulated her full support to the school health efforts of the Network. Dr. Vandine cited the timeliness of the GBM to discuss how the Network can address the Ebola epidemic to prevent its spread in the region. She congratulated SEAMEO in general and TROPMED Network in particular for their commitment and contribution in improving the lives of the people in the region. She wished to see the continuing collaboration of the Network with all the ASEAN countries. She underscored the post 2015 sustainable development goals and the Universal Health Coverage. Dr. Vandine then shared the policy directions of Ministry of Health (MOH) in order for all people of Cambodia to attain the highest level of health and well-being. These policy directions include:

- (i) Making health services more responsive and closer to the public through the implementation of a decentralized service delivery and management functions ;
- (ii) Strengthen sector-wide governance through the implementation of a sector-wide approach;
- (iii) Scaling up access to and coverage of health services especially comprehensive reproductive, maternal, new born and child services;
- (iv) Implement pro-poor health financing systems; and
- (v) reinforce health legislation, professional ethics and code of conduct, and strengthen regulatory mechanisms.



Given these policy directions of the MOH, Dr. Vandine stressed that there are several areas where Cambodia and SEAMEO TROPMED Network can continue to work closely especially in relation to human resource development and technical assistance. She then reiterated her thanks to everyone and enjoined the group to take time to visit some of the historical sites of the province and enjoy the hospitality and culture of the people. Dr. Vandine wished everyone good health and success in improving the health and well-being of the people in the region and declared the 53rd GBM open.



A video presentation of the 2013-2014 activities of the TROPMED Network was shown and was followed by a group photo. Tokens of appreciation were given by Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon on behalf of SEAMEO TROPMED Network to H.E. Dr. Or Vandine, Dr. Shahnaz Murad, and to Dr. Zakiah Ismail for their continued support to the Network.

CONSENSUS

The 52nd GBM of SEAMEO TROPMED Network agenda included the following:

- The welcome remarks of the Chair of the 52nd GBM, Dr. Kyaw Khaing;
- Self-introduction of the 21 participants comprising the Members of the Governing Board, TROPMED Centre Directors and officials, TROPMED Network officials, representative of partner organization;
- Election of H.E. Dr. Or Vandine as Chair and Dr. Ma. Sandra B. Tempongko as rapporteur;
- Turnover of the chairmanship to H.E. Dr. Or Vandine;
- Approval of the Minutes of the 52nd GBM;
- Adoption of the Agenda of the 53rd GBM;



- Presentation of Accomplishments of the three Regional Centres and the Network Office for the year 2013- 2014. Highlights of the presentations include:
 - TROPMED Malaysia's report covered the four major functions of the Centre i.e. research, specialized diagnostic services, training and consultancies. For 2013-2014, the Diploma in Medical Microbiology and Diploma in Applied Parasitology & Entomology had 8 and 14 fellows respectively. The report underscored the exposure to other field stations, hospitals and other research institutes included in the courses. The report highlighted the importance of capacity building activities for the staff organized by the Centre which included 52 workshops, 15 seminars and 56 short courses. Furthermore, there are currently 32 staff members of the Centre obtained post graduate degrees in various field of specialization. For 2013-2014, the staff of TROPMED Malaysia was engaged in 179 research projects; published 191 scientific papers and produced 5 technical reports; and was involved in 247 presentations at local and international conferences. In addition, three patents were awarded to the Centre in 2013-2014. The report cited the two new initiatives i.e. Research Dialogues on dengue, malaria and tuberculosis that aim to evaluate findings and gaps from previous research and identify new research areas; and the IMEvidence which is a new scope in GlobinMed which aims to promote evidence based integrated medicine. The report also shared the research undertaken on the role of *Carica papaya* leaves juice as food supplement in Dengue Fever and Haemorrhagic Fever. The report also cited the various international collaboration of the Centre such as the Cochrane collaboration, ASEAN Task Force on Traditional Medicine, Bilateral Cooperation programmes with a number of countries, with universities outside Malaysia as well as with industries related to health. The report also emphasized the awards and recognitions received by the Centre and its staff to include OECD Good Laboratory Practice Compliance Certificate, several gold awards during the ITEX 13 in Malaysia, and from the Innovation and Design at national and international levels. The report also included the consultancy activities of a number of the Centre's staff at the national and international arena. Lastly, the report mentioned the changes in the management structure of the Centre i.e. the appointment of Dr. Shahnaz Murad to the position of Deputy Director General of Health (Research and Technical Support), Ministry of Health Malaysia and the appointment of Dr. Zakiah Ismail as Acting Director of TROPMED Malaysia.

- TROPMED Philippines' report focused on the key result areas (KRA) i.e. (i) Enhanced programme excellence and relevance; (ii) Enhance quality and efficiency of management; (iii) Strengthened and increased linkages with national, regional and international institutions; (iv) Ensured financial viability; and (v) increased access to markets. Under the first KRA, the report expounded on the (a) Academic programme improvement activities being undertaken such as the curriculum review and the first phase of the quality assurance efforts using the AUN assessment tool; institution of the blended learning mode for the Master in Hospital Administration academic programme; and MOU/MOA with new international academic institutions. Under the same KRA, the report cited the conduct of a total of 65 short training courses. Seminars with international and local speakers were also organized during the year. In addition, two international collaborative training courses were organized. The research activities of the Centre in 2013-2014 include 28 completed and 55 on-going projects with 38 scientific articles and 11 monographs published. Under the 2nd KRA, faculty and staff development is reported to be the priority with a number of faculty members finishing their PhD (2) and Masteral degrees (3). In addition, several are currently enrolled in doctoral programmes (7) and masteral degrees (4). A number of professional staff (REPS) are also enrolled in post graduate programmes. Two visiting/adjunct professors from the USA joined the Centre for several months during the year. The report also included the national, regional and international trainings and conferences participated by the Centre's staff for capacity building and for paper presentations. Under KRA 3, the report enumerated the international and regional linkages of the Centre with UN agencies, development agencies, academic and research institutions as well as relevant private organizations. At the national level, linkages with the different government agencies, professional societies, private companies and foundations and health facilities were also reported. In addition, the student exchange activities with a number of international academic institutions of the Centre were also included in the report under KRA 3. Examples of community extension activities of the Centre as well as student activities organized were also cited in the report. Under the 4th KRA, the report include the improvement in the facilities and structures of the Centre including the computerization and expansion of the library collection. Website improvement and the creation of Twitter and facebook accounts were all implemented under KRA # 5.





- TROPMED Thailand's report was done through a video presentation. The presentation focused on: (i) the mission of the Centre i.e. education and training, research, academic services and health care services; (ii) new vision – to be a world leader in tropical medicine; (iii) eight pillars – teaching, research and innovation, outstanding clinical outcome, people, infrastructure, customer and community service, alliance, and leadership and management. Under teaching, two post graduate programmes were established - Diploma and Master of Science on biomedical and health informatics. In research and innovation, it was reported that in the past five years, each faculty's article has been referenced 12 times. Several scientists of the Centre has received international grants from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust, and EU. The hospital of the Centre has relocated to a new building and is equipped with the state of the art facilities. TROPMED Homecare for the elderly is a new initiative that offers accomodation to those who need extra care and support. Career development activities were organized for the staff who are considered as the most important asset of the Centre. A number of faculty members received awards and recognitions for their academic and research achievements. With regards to infrastructure, several initiatives are currently being implemented such as the improved waste sorting system, energy awareness conservation programme, and the creation of more green spaces in the campus grounds. Academic services are provided to the public as well as supporting community health programmes. Under the Alliance pillar, the Centre works with international organizations as well as national government agencies, government pharmaceutical organizations for clincial research and bioequivalency studies of generic drugs, and with insurance companies.
- TROPMED Network Office's report focused on the 19 scholarships and 22 fellowships to academic degree programmes and training courses awarded to health professionals in the region for the year; the pilot project on student exchange between and among the three TROPMED Centres that will provide academic and logistical information to a credit mobility program; the internal capacity building efforts for the TROPMED Network officials and staff focused on development evaluation and coaching and mentoring; the collaborative activities with international partners such as conduct of conferences, symposia and consultative meetings; the provision of technical assistance as technical adviser, resource persons, facilitators, trainers for member countries, SEAMEO Centres and for

national, regional and international organizations; participation in post 2015 education agenda discussions; participation in SEAMEO-wide activities; efforts for expanding TROPMED network's linkages; the publication of the six issues of the Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health and one Journal Supplement on Mekong Malaria and two reports of the Network; and the management activities organized by the Network office such as the 2 In-House meetings and the 52nd GBM in Yangon, Myanmar.

- The Financial Report of the Network included: (i) Report of Expenditure for FY2013-2014; (ii) Financial Audit Report for FY2013-2014; (iii) Proposed Operational Budgets for 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.
- The comments and discussions that followed the Centres' and Network office's presentations revolved around:
 - The sharing of research results especially on dengue given that this is an important health concern in the region;
 - Strengthening collaboration of SEAMEO TROPMED Network with partners e.g. ASEAN China Center to further promote traditional medicine;
 - Review of admission requirement to the academic programmes for harmonization and also in preparation for the AEC;
 - Networking with TROPMED alumni through the use of social media
 - Assessment of entering competencies of students that will influence their performance and measures to help prospective students prepare
 - Generation of additional funds for human resource development and research activities of the Network;
 - Curricular review and evaluation of the TROPMED Network's training programmes; and
 - Identification of the specific area of training needs in the region for purposes of identifying/development of courses and programmes
- Presentation of the Member Countries' and Partner's Statements. The highlights are given below:
 - Brunei Darussalam shared the (i) University's collaboration with Chulaborn Research Institute on "Risk Assessment and Chemical Management" as well as the forthcoming 2nd Global Health Forum with Chulalongkorn University Thailand on 2-3 October 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand; (ii) The "global classroom" of its MPH programme; (iii) Health Research Cluster focusing on obesity, exclusive breast feeding and MIYCN, STI's and cervical cancer, diabetes, ageing, communication and patient care. Brunei Darussalam will be hosting One ASIA breastfeeding partners forum on the 27-29 October 2014 in collaboration with IBFAN ASIA. Brunei would like to explore joint research opportunities, opportunities for trainings and expand global classrooms partners.

- Cambodia's appreciation of the continuous support provided by the SEAMEO TROPMED Network to Cambodia, especially to the Ministry of Health in the area of human resource capacity development which remains to be the top priority of the Ministry of Health; the on-going collaboration with different organizations facilitated by the Department of International Cooperation; the challenges posed by the emerging drug resistant malaria along the Mekong borders; and the lesson learned from a multi-sectoral approach to health utilized by Cambodia in addressing health problems.
- Indonesia shared its Center for Research and Integrated Development of Tropical Health and Infectious Diseases (CRID-TROPHID) (i) two major activities i.e. development of tropical and infectious disease study group and development of educational programmes in the field of tropical and infectious diseases; (ii) its collaborative research grants; (iii) disease-based community labs; (iv) seminars and meetings; (v) current research groups priorities and research activities. There is also a suggestion for collaboration between CRID-TROPHID and SEAMEO TROPMED Network.



- Lao PDR's efforts are focused on meeting its MDG goals with special emphasis on MDG 4 & 5 through improving competencies and increasing the number of community midwives who can be posted all over the country and training of TBA. UNFPA is the primary partner of the country in this area. The other priority concern is the health sector reform and efforts along this field is strongly supported by WHO.
- Myanmar's present urgent need to strengthen the health systems towards the provision of equitable universal coverage through improving health outcomes, enhancing financial protection and ensuring consumer satisfaction. To ensure equity, the following priority areas were identified: (i) Essential health package; (ii) Effective human resources planning and management; (iii) availability and affordability of essential medicines and strengthening health infrastructure; (iv) enhancing public-private partnership; (v) scaling up financial protection; (vi) re-orienting community participation; (vii) building up evidence-based information and HMIS; (viii) appropriate health policy; and (ix) governance and stewardship.
- Singapore's restructuring of the National University Health System; areas for collaboration to include medical education and capacity building, joint research, and clinical training; collaboration with ASEAN Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs; public health training with partner country and available scholarships; upcoming training and conferences to be hosted by Singapore.

- China's description of the structure of the Second Military Medical University; the scope of work of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine and Public Health i.e. education, research and logistic supply for the army; the international collaboration; and the areas of exchange.
- Thailand acknowledge the support provided by SEAMEO TROPMED Network in human resource development and research activities that contribute to a successful delivery of services to the people.
- Philippines highlighted the efforts needed for internal harmonization in preparation of the AEC given that there are now standards in place in the three Centres. One of the big challenges for SEAMEO TROPMED Network is to establish equivalent Centres of Excellence in other member countries. One approach is twinning i.e. One Centre twinning with another member country.
- The discussions during the Countries' and Partner's presentations centered on:
 - The discussions during the Countries' and Partner's presentations centered on:
 - Possible areas of collaboration with Singapore's National University Health System, CRID-TROPHID, China (SMMU) with SEAMEO TROPMED Network and with the member countries;
 - Available scholarships in Singapore's MPH programme; and
 - Inviting other institutions in the Member countries for sharing and for possible collaboration e.g. Institutes of Public Health during the GBM.



- SEAMEO Secretariat's presentation of the "Follow up Actions from SEAMEO Meetings and Updates on Recent Developments in SEAMEO". The presentation focused on the: (i) Celebration of the SEAMEO 50th year anniversary in 2015; (ii) Updates on the Conduct of the Regional Study and Development of Post 2015 Education Scenarios and Post- EFA Agenda in SEA; (iii) SEAMEO Database in Education; (iv) Updates on the Implementation of SEAMEO Strategic plan (2011-2020) ; (v) Initiatives under the SEAMEO-ACC Cooperation; (vi) Ki Hajar Dewantara Award for Regional Best Science teacher in SEA; (vii) Phase II- SEA-PLM; and (viii) Updates on SEAMEO Secretariat's Collaboration with Partners.
- The Governing Board, in its capacity as the policy making body of the Network:
 - Acknowledged the accomplishments of the Regional Centres and the Network Office;

- Endorsed the Report of Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2013-2014;
 - Noted and endorsed the Financial Audit Report for 2013-2014;
 - Endorsed the three year Operational Budgets (FY, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018); and
 - Mandated the Network office to lead further discussion on mechanisms for collaboration, sharing of resources and expertise, establishing linkage with the alumni; and generation of additional funds as a follow-up to the discussions.
- The thematic symposium started with a lead paper presented by Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon that covered: (i) The rationale behind the focus on 2015 which is the end of several global conventions and the start of a new set of global development goals; (ii) The concept and themes behind Rio+20 outcome document “The Future we want”; (iii) The Proposed 17 Sustainable Development Goals for Post 2015 Development Agenda (2015-2030) emphasizing Goal # 3 “Healthy in all stages of life “ which is relevant to the mandate of SEAMEO TROPED Network;(iv) Elucidation of the concept of wellness and its elements;(v) Highlighting the importance of the school as the best setting for starting early in life a wellness lifestyle through a comprehensive school wellness programme that involve families, schools and communities; (vi) Two examples of school health programmes in Thailand i.e. “Health Promoting School” and “Use of Real-time Absenteeism Database for Early Detection of Disease”. In response to the need for capacity building on school health TROPED Thailand is now offering a Masters degree on School Health.



- Discussion/Agreements related to the theme of the symposium:
 - Everyone is in agreement that the Network should be able to contribute towards meeting Goal # 3 of the Proposed Sustainable Development Agenda in different roles and capacities. The School Wellness Program is one approach to contribute to sustainable development goals in relation to school children.
 - The other points of discussion include:
 - ▶ All member countries are currently implementing similar programmes but with different focus over the years.

- ▶ There are several ministries involved and a certain level of collaboration between these relevant ministries exist. However, there are challenges faced by these programmes especially in implementation.
 - ▶ TROPMED Malaysia is now implementing a similar wellness program called “My Body Fit and Fabulous” . After 2 years of implementation, it will be evaluated for wider implementation if found successful. Other similar programmes are currently implemented but not evaluated. There is now the intention to evaluate these programmes.
 - ▶ Centres can take more active roles in the implementation of school wellness program of the Ministry of Education
 - ▶ Wellness can also be integrated in the post graduate programmes of the Centres push for the integration of wellness programmes in the Youth module of SEAMEO College
 - ▶ Advocacy for school wellness programmes should be one of the approaches to be utilized by the Network starting with the High Officials of SEAMEO.
- Date and venue of 54th GBM:
 - August 2015 3rd week
 - Potential venue: Shanghai, China, and Vientiane, Lao PDR
 - Dr. Pratap in his closing remarks thanked everyone for their continued support to the Network.
 - The 53rd GBM was declared close by H.E. Dr. Or Vandine , Chair of the Meeting.



ปกหลังใน
(ว่าง)



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