



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



## Concept Brief

### DAAD-SEAMEO TROPMED Network Alumni Forum 28-29 June 2016 Bangkok, Thailand

## Introduction

**Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)** / German Academic Exchange Service is a private, publicly funded, self-governing organization of higher education institutions in Germany. DAAD promotes international academic relations and cooperation by offering mobility programs primarily for students and faculty, but also for administrators and others in the higher education realm. DAAD is the German national agency for the support of international academic cooperation.

One of DAAD's mission is *"To enable young academics and researchers from around the world to become leaders in the fields of science, culture, economics, and politics - as well as friends and partners of Germany"*

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 Organization. The mission of SEAMEO TROPMED is to promote health and to prevent and/or control diseases, thus improving the living conditions of people through relevant programmes and services. One specific objective of the Network is *"to develop the capacity of individuals and institutions in delivering quality healthcare"*.

DAAD and SEAMEO TROPMED have a common mission on human resource development thus a partnership between the two organizations was and is currently being implemented since 1983. The partnership involves DAAD supporting scholarships for health professionals in Southeast Asia to pursue higher education in the academic graduate programmes implemented by the Regional centres of SEAMEO TROPMED Network.

## **Rationale**

To date, more than 300 health professionals from the Southeast Asian countries have received scholarships from DAAD through SEAMEO TROPMED Network since 1983. Majority of these scholars are with the academe or with government Ministries in their home countries, thus meeting the objective and mission of both DAAD and SEAMEO TROPMED Network. It would be interesting to gather in-depth information on how the scholarships truly contributed to the development of a more robust health care system in the developing countries in SEA.

Furthermore, Sustainable Development Goals # 3 & 4 specifically mentioned increasing human resource development efforts through scholarships and training. Scholarships should be viewed within the context of the changing global and regional public health scenario to include the challenges brought about by these changes.

Moreover, a continuous relationship between and among DAAD alumni and their host institutions will not only improve internationalization of higher education but will serve as a platform for sharing of new insights, experiences and innovations that will benefit the entire region as well as host institutions.

It is in this context that an alumni forum is being organized collaboratively by DAAD through the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and SEAMEO TROPMED Network.

## **Objectives**

The forum aims to provide for a platform for:

1. Discussion of the changing global and regional public health scenario and its challenges;
2. Discussion on the impact of scholarships to the countries;
3. Develop recommendations for a forward looking scholarship philosophy in relation to Sustainable Development; and
4. Establishment of a regional DAAD alumni network.

## **Date and venue:**

A 2 -day forum tentatively scheduled on 28-29 June 2016 in Bangkok Thailand

## **Mechanics/Tentative Agenda**

1. Plenary Session: Public Health Scenarios
  - Global Public health scenario and challenges
  - Regional public health scenario and challenges
  - Open forum
2. Panel discussion: Scholarships and its Impact on the Health Systems of the countries in SEA
3. Small group discussions: Forward -looking scholarship philosophy in relation to the changing scenario and Sustainable Development
4. Plenary session: Establishment of an Alumni Network

## **Prospective participants**

It is envisioned that the forum will have about 50 participants. The participants will be a mix of:

- About 30-35 DAAD scholars from the 7 countries in Southeast Asia.
- DAAD officials
- German experts
- Development Partners and Government Ministries' officials
- SEAMEO Centres
- SEAMEO TROPMED Network