

Y Bhg Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Ismail Merican  
Director General of Health

Dr Han Tieru  
WHO Representative Brunei Malaysia and Singapore

Distinguished guests & Participants

Good morning

On behalf of Prof. Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon, Secretary General/Coordinator of SEAMEO TROPMED Network I would like to welcome everyone to this Regional Training Course on Disaster Risk Communication. Prof Pratap is unable to be with us today and he sends his apologies.

Tan Sri, SEAMEO TROPMED Network would like to express our appreciation and thank you for finding time to be with us at this Opening Ceremony in spite of your extremely busy schedule.

It is indeed a great honour for SEAMEO TROPED Network to collaborate with WHO Western Pacific Regional Office and with the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department in organizing this course.

SEAMEO TROPED Network shares with its partners like WHO the same vision and mission on developing human resource in order to improve the quality of life of the people in the region. The mission and vision of the Network is operationalized through the four Centres (In Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand)

Risk communication was identified as one of the training needs in the region during the “Asia Pacific Meeting on Health Emergencies and Human Resource Development” organized by WHO WPRO and SEARO together with SEAMEO TROPED Network in October 2006

In February 2007, a regional training on disaster risk communication was organized collaboratively by WPRO and TROPED Network in Manila, Philippines to address

this training need. The feedback gathered from that training served as the impetus in the planning and development of this course.

The goal of this course is to enhance the capacity of health professionals in the various countries on risk communication in health emergencies thereby contributing to a more comprehensive and effective response to health emergencies.

The expectation is that once finalized this training package can be adapted and implemented in Member Countries of WPRO. Thus, ladies and gentlemen, you will be expected to act as a resource person and carry out the next steps in the implementation in your own country.

Before I end I would like to express our thanks to the resource persons and experts for their commitment and active participation starting from the development and packaging of this training course up to the delivery and later to the revision and finalization of the modules.

With that I would like to once again thank our honoured guests for their support and wish the participants success in their endeavours over the next few days.

Thank you.