

**48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO TROPED Network  
Governing Board Meeting  
13-14 August 2009  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

The 48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO TROPED Network Governing Board Meeting (GBM) was convened and hosted by the Ministry of Health, Malaysia. The Opening Ceremony was presided by Dr. Shahnaz Murad representing H.E. Tan Sri Dato Seri Hj. Mohd Ismail bin Merican, Director General of Health, Ministry of Health, Malaysia.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pratap, Singhasivanon, Secretary General/Coordinator of SEAMEO TROPED Network welcomed the group. He expressed the Network's gratitude for the Government of Malaysia through the Ministry of Health for hosting the event. He specifically acknowledged the support provided by the Board Members, SEAMEO Council, SEAMEO Secretariat, Member Countries and development partners. He emphasized the efforts of the TROPED Regional Centres in increasing the number and types of short courses offered to the Member countries as well as in identifying new sources of funding and mobilizing resources for their human resource development activities. He also reported the action taken by TROPED Network on capacity building of the Regional Centres in response to the recommendations of the Board Members.

Dr. Tran Thi Giang Huong, Chair of the 47<sup>th</sup> GBM also welcomed the group and thanked the Government of Malaysia for hosting the 48<sup>th</sup> GBM. She then presented a brief summary of the accomplishments of SEAMEO TROPED Network in 2008-2009 in the areas of education, training, research and extension and consultancy services which were implemented in collaboration with partners.

H. E. Tan Sri Dato Seri Dr. Hj. Mohd Ismail bin Merican, in his opening speech read by Dr. Shahnaz, welcomed the group. The speech cited the contributions made by SEAMEO TROPED Network in the region and described the TROPED Network as a "living testimony" of regional cooperation. It stressed that the demand to work collaboratively through health initiatives and programs are more pronounced today and proceeded to identify education and training, research and information sharing as specific areas where more collaborative efforts can take place. The comparative advantage of SEAMEO TROPED Network in providing opportunities and facilitating discussions between the Ministries of Health and Education at the national and regional levels was also cited. It underscored the relevance and timeliness of the topic H1N1, chosen for the Thematic Symposium. It urged the group to discuss how SEAMEO TROPED Network can best support the Member Countries to meet the demands of this pandemic. On behalf of H. E. Tan Sri Dato Seri Dr. Hj. Mohd Ismail bin Merican Dr. Shahnaz declared the meeting open.

Assoc. Prof. Pratap Singhasivanon as a token of appreciation to the Ministry of Health, Malaysia presented gifts to Dr. Shahnaz Murad.

A one minute of silence was observed for the demise of Prof. Dr. Chamlong Harinasuta, one of the founding fathers of SEAMEO TROPED Network last 4<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

A video presentation of the 2008-2009 activities of the TROPMED Network was presented followed by a group photo.

## CONSENSUS

The 48<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting of SEAMEO TROPMED Network agenda included the following:

- Election of H. E. Tan Sri Dato Seri Dr. Hj. Mohd Ismail bin Merican represented by Dr. Shahnaz Murad as the Chair of the 48<sup>th</sup> GBM and Dr. Ma. Sandra B. Tempongko, Deputy Coordinator of the Network as rapporteur;
- Approval of the 47<sup>th</sup> GBM report;
- Adoption of the 48<sup>th</sup> GBM Agenda;
- Introduction of the new Governing Board Members: Dr. Nao Boutta of Lao PDR, Dr. Tran Thi Giang Huong of Vietnam, Dr. Ko Ko Naing of Myanmar and Dr. Anita Abdul Aziz of Brunei;
- Self-introduction of the 26 participants comprising the Members of the Governing Board, TROPMED Centre Directors and officials, TROPMED Network officials, and representatives of partner organizations;
- Presentation of Accomplishments of the four TROPMED Regional Centres (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand) and the Network Office along the following key result areas: (i) Enhanced Program Excellence and Relevance: degree programs, short courses, researches and publications; (ii) Strengthened and Increased Linkages; and (iii) Enhanced Management Efficiency.

Highlights of the Centres' and the Network Office's presentations included:

- ❖ TROPMED Indonesia's new vision, mission and goals and the positioning of the Centre at the University level that will enable it to expand its linkages to different disciplines within and outside of the university utilizing the horizontal approach.
- ❖ TROPMED Malaysia's current efforts on researches on H1N1. Other researches were also presented.
- ❖ TROPMED Philippines' strategic plan's approval aligned with the University of the Philippines system for the formulation of the roadmap for the next 100 years, increase in the number of enrollees, development of new courses and the increase in the number of short courses.
- ❖ TROPMED Thailand's activities as a member of the SEA Influenza Clinical Research Network such as the on-going several clinical trials on several anti-influenza drugs with the goal of finding future drugs to overcome possible Tamiflu drug resistance.

- ❖ Network Office's collaborative efforts on development, packaging and pilot testing of new courses based on the current demands;

The comments and discussions that followed the Centres' presentation revolved around:

- ❖ appreciation of the contribution of the Centres to the health human resource development of the countries in the region;
  - ❖ possibility of credit mobility, and ladderized curriculum between the Centres taking into consideration the academic requirements of the mother institutions;
  - ❖ inter-centre collaborative research with common protocol
  - ❖ creation of a knowledge management hub for dissemination
- Presentation of the audited financial report of the Network Office for the year under review, proposed revisions to the approved budget for fiscal years, 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012 and proposed budget for 2012/2013.

The recommendation given is to exert efforts to ensure availability of financial resources without economizing on human resources

- Statements/Presentations from Member Countries stressed the long standing and fruitful relationships the Network has with all of them and the contribution of the Network to the countries especially on the areas of human resource development, and provision of technical assistance. The Member countries shared their health human resource policies, training needs, and recommendations on how the countries can maximize the training opportunities offered by the Network.
- Statements of Partner Organizations included the appreciation of the relationships with the Network, description and assessment of current collaborative efforts and recommendations to accelerate collaboration.
- Statement of Dr. Tinsiri Siribodhi, Deputy Director (Administration and Communication) of SEAMEO Secretariat. Dr. Tinsiri shared with the group the commitment expressed by the Centres of the organization to be visible as one SEAMEO, the current activities to include the approval of the 44<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference for the establishment of four (4) new Regional Centres (3 In Indonesia and 1 in Malaysia) bringing the total number to 19, and the launching of the the three Centres in Indonesia with the Council President H.E Jurin Laksanawisit, presiding, the Strategic Planning of the entire organization, the evaluation of the Centres, and efforts directed towards strengthening of inter-Centre collaboration. She also expressed thanks to all the Board Members, Member Countries and partners to the support provided to SEAMEO TROP MED Network in general and to TROP MED Malaysia in particular for the organization and conduct of the 48<sup>th</sup> GBM.

- Thematic symposium on the topic “H1N1 Pandemic”.

In its capacity as the policy making body of the Network, the Governing Board:

- Acknowledged the accomplishments of the Regional Centres and the Network Office;
- Endorsed the budgetary proposal including the revisions for 2010-2013 and the revision on the approved budget for 2009-2010;
- Expressed appreciation for the collaboration, invaluable support and linkages with the member countries and partner organizations.

The thematic symposium on “H1N1 opened with a presentation of a lead paper by Dr. Shahnaz Murad, Director of IMR. The presentation included:

- Basic facts about H1N1
- Current Epidemiology of H1N1
- Containment and mitigation
- The current efforts of Malaysia and the issues faced in the process of responding to the pandemic
- Suggested measures on mitigation with particular emphasis in the school setting

The comments that followed dealt on the possible other cause of death of those affected, major decisions that will affect other ministries and people’s behaviours, and issues faced by the MOH and government when responding to the pandemic.

The presentation was followed by small group discussion and later in a plenary the presentation of the small group outputs.

The results of the small group discussions are summarized below:

#### Q1. Needs of the MOH

Strategic, technical, informational and communication needs of the MOH related to H1N1 were defined by the groups. Examples of these needs include but not limited to:

- Case management
- Epidemiology
- Risk communication
- Best practices
- Monitoring/Information system
- Logistics

#### Q2: Recommendations on how to strengthen partnerships between MOE, MOH and other ministries:

- Coordinating bodies/Task force involving different sectors need to be organized
- Improve communication between these ministries in terms of time, adequacy and consistency;
- Advocate for preparedness plan within each sector and country preparedness plan

Q3: Identified role of the Network in relation to H1N1:


- raise the level of the Network as a Regional organization e.g. formalizing relationships with development partners through MOUs
- serve as a platform to facilitate timely discussion, information and experience sharing with technical people from relevant ministries and regional organizations (e.g. ASEAN);
- undertake advocacy activities for raising the issue high in the agenda
- mobilize resources within SEAMEO Centres and from other sources both at the national, regional and international levels;
- should be involved in the preparedness phase activities of the countries;
- undertake inter-Centre researches for both technical and policy purposes;
- organize training focused on needs of countries;
- documentation of best practices/lessons learned and dissemination;
- knowledge management of the different phases of the pandemic; and
- report progress of the recommendations to the GBM

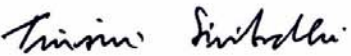
Prof. Ian Riley's last words about the SEAMEO TROP MED Network


- SEAMEO TROP MED Network has grown as an organization
- It has made tremendous contribution to the human resource development in Asia
- Its activities should be geared towards providing immediate response to the changing environment in the region
- One of a major source of resource that can tap by the Network is its alumni.

Proposed Venue and Date of 49<sup>th</sup> GBM

The Philippines is the proposed venue of the 49<sup>th</sup> GBM and is tentatively scheduled on the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September 2010.

*for*   
**Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Hj. Mohd. Ismail Merican**  
Chair, 48<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting  
Director General of Health  
Ministry of Health Malaysia

  
**Dr. Tinsiri Siribodhi**  
Deputy Director (Administration & Communication)  
Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Secretariat (SEAMES)

  
**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon**  
Secretary General/ Coordinator  
SEAMEO TROPMED Network