

55th SEAMEO TROPMED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
31 August 2016, Bangkok

Brief Remarks by
Dr GATOT HARI PRIOWIRJANTO
DIRECTOR, SEAMEO SECRETARIAT

Honorable Chair and Members of the Governing Board of SEAMEO TROPMED Network including SEAMEO TROPMED/Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPMED/Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPMED/Thailand,

Prof Dr Pratap Singhasivanon
Secretary General/Coordinator, SEAMEO TROPMED Network,

Dato' Dr Fadzilah Kamaludin
Centre Director, SEAMEO TROPMED Malaysia,

Assoc Prof Romeo Reyes Quizon
Centre Director, SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines,

Prof Dr Yaowalark Sukthana
Centre Director, SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. Selamat pagi. Sawadee krub.

I am truly honoured to have been given the chance to address the 55th Governing Board Meeting of SEAMEO TROPMED here in the City of Angels, Bangkok. Also, I would like to extend warmest greetings from SEAMEO Secretariat!

Please allow me to express my appreciation and heartfelt admiration to the Chair and Members of the 55th Governing Board and to the Director of SEAMEO TROPMED Network, Director of SEAMEO TROPMED Malaysia, Director of SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines, and Director of SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand for organizing this important meeting.

SEAMEO Regional Centres' annual Governing Board Meetings are essential in setting the passage of the Centres' directions for the coming fiscal year. SEAMEO Secretariat always looks forward to these Meetings as they provide opportunities for the Secretariat to get involved in the Centres' future directions. We also hope to share with the Centres, the *developments and insights* from various consultations with the SEAMEO Council, High Officials of SEAMEO Member Countries, SEAMEO Executive Committee, other Centre Directors, SEAMEO Associate and Affiliate Members and partners – all these are done in the spirit of SEAMEO family, and SEAMEO Secretariat's role as the executive arm of the SEAMEO Council.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the SEAMEO Secretariat, I applaud SEAMEO TROPMED Network, SEAMEO TROPMED Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand for their accomplishments in the past fiscal year in fulfilling their mandate: SEAMEO TROPMED Network on tropical medicine and public health; SEAMEO TROPMED Malaysia in the field of microbiology, parasitology, and entomology; SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines regarding public health, hospital administration, environmental and occupational health; and SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand also in the area of tropical medicine. We will hear more about their achievements later today.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It had been another fruitful Fiscal Year for SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Centres/Network in 2015-2016. Under my humble leadership and with my “make it happen” attitude, our Organization has been steered to be in the fast lane of the highway to world-class educational excellence. The fact of the matter is that, SEAMEO embraces the challenges to remain relevant and become more efficient in the execution of our mandate. SEAMEO TROPMED Network, SEAMEO TROPMED Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand are part of this endeavor.

On another subject which is the Inter-Centre/Network collaboration, SEAMEO Secretariat is working hard to further promote this model and take it to a higher level. I believe the mutual leverage of expertise and resources between Centres/Network would produce even more meaningful Southeast Asian success stories. Therefore, I applaud innovative collaborations which are relevant and cross-cutting, and focusing on the implementation of our SEAMEO 7 Priority Areas.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This meeting is critical and important for SEAMEO TROPMED Network, SEAMEO TROPMED Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand, and SEAMEO as a whole as it ensures continuous evaluation and adjustments of the organizations’ directions in respond to the regional and global trends in Science and Education. In view of this, I am confident that the outcomes of this meeting will add further to our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of our Science and Education in this region.

On behalf of the SEAMEO Secretariat, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the Government of Thailand including the Government of Malaysia and Philippines for their utmost support to SEAMEO TROPMED Network, SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand, SEAMEO TROPMED Malaysia and SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines respectively, for providing financial contributions and other forms of assistance to these Centres/Network.

Lastly, please allow me once again to thank and congratulate SEAMEO TROPMED Network including SEAMEO TROPMED Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand for all the preparations for the meeting. I look forward very much to our constructive discussions and I wish for a successful conduct of the 55th SEAMEO TROPMED Governing Board Meeting.

Thank you. Terima kasih. Khop khun krub.