

SEAMEO TROPMED Network

55th Governing Board Meeting

31 August 2016

Amari Watergate Hotel

Opening Remarks

Dr. Anupong Sujariyakul

Acting Medical Physician, Advisory Level

Department of disease Control

Ministry of Public health, Thailand

Representing

Dr. Amnuay Gajeena

Governing Board Member, Thailand

Your Excellency, Dr. Paulyn Jean Rosell-Ubial, Secretary of Health, Department of Health, Philippines

Your Excellency, Dr. Or Vandine, Director General for Health, Ministry of Health, Cambodia

Distinguished Members of SEAMEO TROPMED Network Governing Board

Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, Director, SEAMEO Secretariat

Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon, Secretary general/Coordinator, SEAMEO TROPMED Network

TROPMED Network Centre Directors and Staff

Ladies and Gentlemen

Sawadee Krub, Good morning

As the representative of the host country to the 55th SEAMEO TROPMED Network Governing Board Meeting, I have the honor and the privilege to welcome you all to this meeting and to the city of Bangkok. Furthermore, I would like to lead everyone here to congratulate again the SEAMEO TROPMED Network on its 50th Anniversary.

Yesterday's activity was indeed a celebration of 50 years of dedication and commitment to the people of Southeast Asia.

Looking back at the past 50 years, regional cooperation in health under the umbrella of SEAMEO, was unimaginable to some and a big challenge to those who were assigned by their respective governments to undertake the "Regional Tropical Medicine Project".

Thanks to the Founding fathers who were never discouraged by skeptical remarks of many potential funding agencies. Within the first three years of the nurturing period, SEAMEO TROPMED could prove to the world that "Asians can work together".

Regional postgraduate courses, regional scientific meetings were conducted. Research Grants were awarded to young scientists. Exchanges of personnel and experts were introduced. The Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health was published to disseminate research works and to give opportunity to young scientists to have their research published.

New challenges will emerge in the region and in the world that will test the effectiveness of TROPMED Network in the coming years. But I am confident that the fighting spirit of the founding fathers of SEAMEO TROPMED will continue to be strong under the guidance of the Governing Board, the support of Member States and Partner Institutions, and most important of all, the strength and dedication of SEAMEO TROPMED Network Office and the SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centres.

On behalf of the host government, may I now have the honor to welcome you again and to declare open the 55^h SEAMEO TROPMED Network Governing Board Meeting. I look forward to fruitful discussion with you during the sessions today.