

**55<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO TROPED Network Governing Board Meeting**  
31<sup>st</sup> August 2016

**Report of the 54<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting Chair**

**Dr. Somchanh Xaysida**  
Chair, 54<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting

**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

**Dr. Opert Karnkawinpong**, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, representing **Dr. Amnuay Gajeena**, Governing Board Member of Thailand

Distinguished Members of SEAMEO TROPED Network Governing Board

**Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto**, Director, SEAMEO Secretariat

**Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon**, Secretary general/Coordinator, SEAMEO TROPED Network

TROPED Network Centre Directors and Staff

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning

Let me convey to you the highest regards from the officials of the Ministry of Health of Lao Peoples Democratic Republic and their congratulations for the 50th Anniversary of SEAMEO TROPED Network.

As Chair of the 54<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting, allow me to thank the Royal Government of Thailand and to the officials of the Ministry of Health for hosting this 55<sup>th</sup> GBM just like we did last year. It was an honour for Lao PDR to host the 54<sup>th</sup> GBM in Vientiane.

Let me first congratulate Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon for leading the TROPMED Network towards meeting its vision and mission of the Founding Fathers and where it is today.

Let me also commend the leadership of the Centre Directors in implementing programmes and projects that operationalized the mission of the Network.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me underscore SEAMEO TROPMED Network's efforts to address emerging human resource development needs in the region. The Network through the three Regional Centres and the Network Office continuously developed new programmes, strategies and approaches, and strengthened its existing efforts to fulfill its mandate on human resource development. Moreover, realizing the contribution of SEAMEO TROPMED Network scholars to health development at the national, regional and international arena, I have the pleasure to inform you that the Network organized an Alumni Forum in collaboration with DAAD last June 2016. The forum provided a platform for discussion of the experiences of the alumni and recommendations were sought from them on how best to maximize the partnership on human resource development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me report to this body that the collaborative efforts undertaken by TROPMED Network with its partners have expanded and new areas of concern have been addressed

It is with great honour that I share with you the fact that TROPMED network, had undertaken activities related to Harmonization of Medical and Nursing Education in the 10 Member Countries. These efforts are part of a bigger collaboration between SEAMEO and Asian Development bank- the SEAMEO COLLEGE Project.

Let me also mention here that the Network in fulfilling its mandate, placed a high premium on its internal capacity building as evidenced by its activities for its own human resource.

The report of accomplishments for 2015-2016 to be presented by the Centres and the Network Office during the Business Meeting will attest how TROPMED Network fulfilled its mandate and contributed towards improving the quality of life of the people in the region.

Again, let me put on record that it was a great honour for the Government of Lao PDR to chair the 54th Governing Board Meeting. We thank you all for your support and cooperation. Thank you.