



***Celebration of the 50th Anniversary
of SEAMEO TROPMED Network***

30 August 2016
Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

50th Anniversary Symposium

Opening Remarks

Dr. Amnuay Gajeena
Director General, Department of Disease Control
Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Your Excellency, Honorable, **Dr. Paulyn Jean Rusell-Ubial**, Secretary of Health
Department of Health, Philippines

Your Excellency, Honorable, **Mme. Yang Xiuping**, Secretary General, ASEAN- China
Centre

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamjorn Tatiyakavee, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education,
Thailand

Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, Director, SEAMEO Secretariat

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

Distinguished Officials of the Ministries of Health and Education of Brunei, Cambodia,
Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and
Vietnam

Governing Board Members of SEAMEO TROPMED Network

Representatives of the Embassies of Australia, Germany,

Officials of UN Agencies and other Development Agencies

Past and Present Directors and officials of SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centres

SEAMEO Centre Directors and staff

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to everyone and Sawadee Krup

Let me first congratulate SEAMEO TROPMED Network on this 50th Celebration. The 50th Anniversary is indeed a milestone in the history of any organization that is worth celebrating.

I also would like to welcome everyone to Bangkok.

I am indeed honored to be with you today on this your 50th anniversary not only on my personal behalf but that of the entire Ministry of Public Health of Thailand.

Asian cooperation and Asian responsibility has been the guiding principle of SEAMEO TROPMED Network since its inception in 1966. The spirit of cooperation and collaboration continue to serve as a fundamental philosophy of the Network.

Thailand has always been a part of SEAMEO TROPMED Network since the beginning. We do take pride in the fact that in addition to hosting TROPMED Thailand which is the Faculty of Tropical Medicine of Mahidol University, Thailand also hosts the SEAMEO TROPMED Network Central Office here in Bangkok led by Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon. Thailand is also the country host to two more SEAMEO Centres – SEAMEO RIHED and SEAMEO SPAFA. This shows the commitment of the country to the SEAMEO vision and mission.

The Ministry of Public Health of Thailand is an active partner of SEAMEO TROPMED Network in the pursuit of its mission which is to develop the capacities of individuals and institutions in delivering quality health care. This partnership between MOPH and TROPMED Network can be seen in the participation of MOPH officials and staff in the post-graduate degree programmes, short training courses, consultative meetings, conferences and fora, as well as special health projects organized by TROPMED through the years.

SEAMEO TROPMED Network has made and is making significant contributions in the field of tropical medicine and public health through its major activities of human resource development, research and technical assistance. And as the theme of this celebration underscores- there are new challenges that TROPMED will face because of the changing landscape of the region.

I believe that with the commitment and dedication of the entire SEAMEO TROPMED Network and with the support of all its partners, TROPMED will be able to address all these challenges successfully. I also hereby commit our cooperation in addressing these new challenges.

Again my congratulations to the entire SEAMEO TROPMED Network on this your 50th Anniversary Celebration.