

Opening Remarks
by
Assoc. Prof. Kamjorn Tatiyakavee
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education, Thailand
at the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary
of SEAMEO TROPMED Network
on Tuesday, 30 August 2016
at Watergate Ballroom AB, 6th Floor
Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok

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

Your Excellency, Honorable, Madam Yang Xiuping,
Secretary-General, ASEAN-China Centre,

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

Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, Director, SEAMEO Secretariat,

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

/Honorable Guests...

Honorable Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first to congratulate SEAMEO TROPED Network on this auspicious occasion of their 50th Anniversary. It is indeed a privilege for the Ministry of Education of Thailand to be part of this celebration. As you know, The Minister of Education of Thailand is the current President of the SEAMEO Council which is the highest policy making body of the entire SEAMEO.

I would like to commend today all the TROPED Centres and the Network Office for their commitment to serve and contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the people of Southeast Asia. TROPED activities for the past 50 years are evidence of its achievements in fulfilling the mission as defined by its Founding Fathers.

In addition, I also would like to acknowledge the successful collaboration of SEAMEO TROPED Network with its partners most of whom are represented here today.

SEAMEO TROPED Network has stayed relevant through all these years working with different partners in addressing issues and concerns that threaten the health of the people of the region through their human resource development activities, research and provision of technical assistance to Member countries.

/In the Ministry...

In the Ministry of Education, we believe that human resource is the greatest asset of any country. We share this belief with TROPMED Network. The capacity building activities undertaken and currently being undertaken by the Regional Centres of TROPMED Network are guided by this philosophy. Capacitating individuals and institutions is the primary concern of this organization.

Let me also highlight the special attention which is accorded by TROPMED Network to school children – the future leaders of the countries, through its capacity building activities for teachers and school officials as well as through the implementation of special projects that serve as models for school health programmes in the region.

The Thai Ministry of Education was involved as partners in a number of special projects in mental health, HIV and AIDS, Intestinal parasitism, Infectious diseases like malaria, and dengue, disasters and emergencies to name a few.

SEAMEO TROPMED Network through its development projects in the school setting provides a platform for the Ministry of Education officials and staff of the Member countries to collaborate with other agencies in implementing school health programmes. These programmes and projects focus on the prevalent health concerns of the school children

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and also the emerging health issues such as climate change, and disasters.

The school children of the region as well as the general population will continue to face challenges brought about by new and emerging health issues and concerns.

I am sure that TROPMED Network imbued with commitment and dedication will be able to address these challenges for the next 50 years.

Last but not least, I wish to congratulate TROPMED Network for its success in developing quality of life of people. Thank you.
