

Remarks by
Secretary-General H.E. Mme. Yang Xiuping
at the 50th Anniversary Symposium of
SEAMEO TROPMED Network
(Bangkok, Thailand, 30 August 2016)

Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, Director of SEAMEO,

Prof. Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon, Secretary General of SEAMEO TROPMED Network,

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

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

Dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning!

It is a great pleasure for me to attend the Symposium of Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of SEAMEO TROPMED Network. On behalf of ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to SEAMEO TROPMED Network, and wish the symposium a great success.

ACC is the only inter-governmental organization co-founded by ASEAN Member States and China. Since its establishment, ACC has dedicated itself

to implementing the consensus reached by the leaders of both sides. As a one-stop information and activities centre, ACC has been promoting functional cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, education, culture and tourism, which were affirmed by the leaders of both sides.

Dear colleagues,

In the field of education, to promote the realization of “Double 100,000 Student Mobility Goals” initiated by our leaders, ACC has been working closely with the governments, educational institutions and regional partners, and actively facilitated cooperation and exchanges in higher education, vocational education, youth exchanges, etc., which achieved fruitful outcomes. SEAMEO is an important platform for promoting regional cooperation in education, and one of the most important partners of ACC as well. Since the establishment of partnership in 2013, cooperation between ACC and SEAMEO have been increasingly expanded, and content of cooperation has been enriched.

First, close contact and communication is well maintained. ACC established connections with SEAMEO and its regional centers, and has been invited to participate in related meetings for many times. At the same time, I myself have gained a good working relationship with Dr. Gatot.

Second, a series of cooperative mechanisms and platforms have been jointly established. ACC, SEAMEO and its regional centres have facilitated

the establishment of several platforms and networks, including “Southeast Asia -China Education Research Network”, the “ASEAN-China Mechanism for Cooperation and Exchanges in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)”, and the “ASEAN-China Network for Cooperation and Exchanges among Engineering and Technology Universities”. These platforms and networks are constantly improving, and will take substantial steps forward in promoting cooperation.

Third, contribution has been made hand in hand to the China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week. During the past years, China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week has become a leading platform for both sides to conduct education cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. Ever since the Letter of Agreement among ACC, SEAMEO and Guizhou Provincial Department of Education was signed in 2013, the three parties have convened tripartite meetings annually to plan and prepare activities to be organized during the China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week. The 9th Education Cooperation Week held from 1 to 7 August 2016 has pushed the 2016 ASEAN-China Educational Exchange Year to a new high. Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong proposed that by 2025 there will be 300,000 students studying in each other’s countries. During this event, ACC co-hosted and co-supported 8 activities, 5 of which were co-organized, co-supported and participated by SEAMEO.

Fourth, a series of visits, forums and workshops to strengthen intercollegiate partnerships have been jointly organized. In January 2016, ACC and SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development

(RIHED) co-organized the 3rd ACC-SEAMEO RIHED Study Visit. In April, ACC, in collaboration with SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC), SEAMEO RIHED, the Ministry of Education of Malaysia and Sabah Institute of Art, successfully facilitated 16 universities of Sichuan Province of China to conduct higher education exhibition and workshop in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

We have bridged hundreds of universities from both sides to find their cooperative partners, assisted more ASEAN students to obtain opportunities to study in China, and made contribution to improving the level of ASEAN-China education cooperation. Upon this opportunity, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to SEAMEO and Dr. Gatot for the great support and assistance to ACC.

Dear colleagues,

ASEAN countries and China share geographical proximity, cultural affinity and strong bonds. At present, to improve the people's livelihood and enhance the level of economic development are the common tasks for both sides. The total population of ASEAN and China has amounted to 2 billion. To strengthen talent cultivation in the areas of public health and disease prevention and control will be beneficial to social and economic development, to coping with non-traditional security challenges such as epidemic diseases, and to expanding ASEAN-China people-to-people exchanges, thus to

benefiting the people of the region.

ACC has been actively exploring ways of exchange and cooperation in the area of traditional medicine and health education between ASEAN Member States and China. In 2014, facilitated by ACC, the Second Military Medical University dispatched Vice Professor Du Yan of Tropical Medicine and Public Health Faculty to attend the 53rd Governing Board Meeting of the SEAMEO TROPMED Network in Siem Reap, Cambodia. In November 2014, ACC facilitated and arranged two experts from the SEAMEO TROPMED Network to attend the ASEAN-China Traditional Medical Education Training Seminar, which was held in Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. In 2015, ACC representatives participated in the 54th Governing Board Meeting of SEAMEO TROPMED Network. In August 2016, ACC, together with SEAMEO TROPMED Network, successfully hosted the Traditional Medicine and Health Professional Education Forum during the 9th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week. Just two weeks ago, ACC invited Chinese medicine experts to Lao PDR and Thailand for lectures, diagnosis and treatment, which was warmly welcomed and received.

Dear colleagues,

2016 marks the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-China dialogue relations and ASEAN-China Year of Educational Exchange. It is also the 1st year of the realization of ASEAN Community and of the 13th Five-Year Plan of China,

presenting the two sides with new historic opportunities and vast potentials for pragmatic cooperation in all sectors. SEAMEO TROPMED Network has been playing a positive role in promoting regional public health service, tropical diseases prevention and control, as well as coping with public health problems. ACC would further strengthen cooperation with SEAMEO TROPMED Network and other relevant regional centers of SEAMEO, to make new contribution to the prosperous development of regional education and to deepening ASEAN-China strategic partnership.

Once again, I wish this event a great success, and SEAMEO TROPMED Network greater achievements.

Happy 50th birthday to SEAMEO TROPMED Network!

Thank you!