



56th SEAMEO TROPED Network Governing Board Meeting
8th September 2017

Report of the 55th Governing Board Meeting Chair

Dr. Amnuay Gajeena
Governing Board Member, Thailand
Chair, 55th Governing Board Meeting

Represented by

Dr. Rungrueng Kitphati

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

Distinguished Members of SEAMEO TROPED Network Governing Board

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

Mr. Prasert Tepanart, Deputy Director, SEAMEO Secretariat

TROPED Network Centre Directors and Staff

Dr. Gundo Aurel Weiler, WHO Country Representative for the Philippines

Dr. Maria Elena G. Filio-Borromeo, Regional Programme Adviser, UNAIDS ...

Distinguished Representatives of Partner Organizations

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning and Sawadee Khup

Let me first convey to you the highest regards from the officials of the Ministry of Public Health of the Royal Government of Thailand. Dr. Amnuay Gajeena is sending his regrets for not being able to join you today because of circumstances beyond his control. Let me read his report as the Chair of the 55th Governing Board Meeting.

As Chair of the 55th Governing Board Meeting, allow me to thank the Government of the Philippines and the officials of the Department of Health for hosting this 56th GBM just like we did last year. It was indeed an honour for Thailand to host the 55th GBM back-to-back with the 50th Anniversary celebration of SEAMEO TROPED Network.

Let me first congratulate Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon for his leadership in ensuring that the Network remains relevant given the changes in the health development landscape in the region. And at the same time without losing sight of the ideals of the Founding Fathers of the Network.

Let me also commend the commitment of the TROPED Centre Directors in implementing programmes and projects that operationalized the mission of TROPED Network. The TROPED Centre Directors together with their staff were able to demonstrate that the mission and objectives of a SEAMEO TROPED Regional Centre complement their individual mission and objectives as academic and research institutions. At this point, I would like to extend my congratulations to the College of Public Health, University of the Philippines Manila, TROPED Philippines which is celebrating their 90th Anniversary.

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 develop new programmes and projects, test innovative strategies and approaches and strengthen its existing efforts to fulfill its mandate. Just to name a few of these strategic approaches: TROPMED Malaysia has started offering an internship programme on several areas; TROPMED Philippines has expanded the coverage of their Health Leadership for Governance Programme; TROPMED Thailand's Master's Programme on School Health has attracted more students from the region. The TROPMED Network office continues to dialogue with Member Countries on how best TROPMED Network can provide technical assistance.

The Network engages its alumni in the discussion on how to maximize the scholarship programme and other efforts of the Network in 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. Let me mention at this point that we have a new partner joining us here in this meeting- Prof. Dr. Huamin Wang, Dean and Professor of Hainan Medical University. Collaboration of TROPMED with People's

Republic of China started in Traditional Medicine through the ASEAN –CHINA Centre.

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

The report of accomplishments for 2016-2017 to be presented by the Centres and the

Network Office later in 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 Royal Government of Thailand to chair the 55th Governing Board Meeting. We thank you all for your support and cooperation.

Thank you.