



## **56<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO TROPMED Network Governing Board Meeting**

7-8 September 2017  
Makati, Philippines

### **Welcome Remarks**

**Paulyn Jean Rosell-Ubial, MD, MPH, CESO**  
Secretary of Health, Department of Health, Philippines

On behalf of the Government of the Philippines and the Department of Health, let me welcome all of you to the 56<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting (GBM) of SEAMEO TROPMED Network. We are indeed honoured to host this 56<sup>th</sup> GBM.

Let me first congratulate again, SEAMEO TROPMED Network for a successful and meaningful celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last year in Bangkok. Accept our sincerest appreciation of TROPMED Network's commitment to serve and contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the people of the Southeast Asian Region for the past 50 years.

The Philippines is not only a Member country of SEAMEO but has always been an active partner as evidenced by the country's hosting of SEAMEO INNOTECH and SEAMEO SEARCA. Furthermore, The Philippines is also the host of one of the Regional Centres of TROPMED Network, i.e. TROPMED Philippines or the College of Public Health, University of the Philippines Manila. At this point, let me also congratulate the College of Public Health /TROPMED Philippines which is celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.

The Department of Health of the Philippines has been working closely with SEAMEO TROPMED Network on different programmes and projects in health. One of the most notable collaborative efforts between the Philippines and TROPMED Network is in the area of human resource development. Health professionals from the Department of Health and other agencies involved in health and health development programmes

attend the post-graduate degree programmes of TROPMED Philippines as well as TROPMED Malaysia and TROPMED Thailand. In earlier years, health and health-related professionals from the Philippines have also participated in the academic programmes of TROPMED Indonesia. Significant numbers of the current high officials of the Department of Health are graduates of TROPMED Philippines. I am proud to say that I myself is a graduate of the Master of Public Health programme of TROPMED Philippines. Moreover, TROPMED Network researchers and staff are our partners in undertaking health development efforts in relation to the health agenda of the country. The Department of Health fully recognizes the expertise and research capabilities of the three TROPMED Regional Centres on different areas of Tropical Medicine and Public Health.

As a member country of SEAMEO and as a partner of TROPMED Network, I would like to share with you this morning the policy direction of the Department of Health in general and in particular, our human resource development objectives and programmes.

Given the health agenda of the country,, there are several areas where the Department of Health Philippines and SEAMEO TROPMED Network can continue its partnership on health development.

Once again, our warmest welcome to all of you. Please take time out to visit some of our historical sites and enjoy the hospitality and culture of our people. I now declare this 56<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting open.