



**56<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO TROPMED Network Governing Board Meeting**  
8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**Welcome Remarks**

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

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

**Your Excellency, Dr. Alberto Muyot**, Undersecretary of the  
Department of Education, Philippines representing the Honorable  
Secretary of Education, **Dr. Leonor Briones**

**Dr. Rungrueng Kitphati**, Director, Bureau of General Communicable  
Diseases Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health,  
Thailand representing

**Dr. Amnuay Gajeena**, Director General, Department of Disease  
Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, and Chair, 55<sup>th</sup>  
Governing Board Meeting Governing Board Member, Thailand

Distinguished Members of SEAMEO TROPMED Network Governing Board

**Mr. Prasert Tepanart**, Deputy Director (Administration and  
Communication) SEAMEO Secretariat

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

**Mr. Zimmbodilion Mosende**, UNAIDS Country Director

**TROPMED Network Centre Directors and Staff**

**Distinguished Representatives of Partner Organizations**

**Dr. Carmencita Padilla, Chancellor, University of the Philippines Manila**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Colleagues in SEAMEO**

**Good morning and Sawadee Khup**

On behalf of SEAMEO TROPMED Network, it is my honor and privilege to welcome all of you to the 56<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO TROPMED Governing Board Meeting in this vibrant city of Makati, Philippines.

I would like to express the Network's heartfelt gratitude to the Government of the Philippines, particularly the Department of Health and University of the Philippines Manila for hosting this 56<sup>th</sup> GBM. Our special thanks to her Excellency, Dr. Paulyn Rosell-Ubial, for presiding over our Opening Ceremony.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to maximize this occasion to express and put on record the Network's acknowledgement and recognition of the invaluable support accorded to TROPMED

Network by the Board Members, SEAMEO Secretariat, the SEAMEO Council Members, Member Countries, and by the national, regional and

international partners. Your continuous engagement with TROPMED Network in its programmes and projects contributed to a great extent to everything that the SEAMEO TROPMED Network has accomplished during this reporting period and of all its 50 years of existence.

At this point allow me to reiterate our wholehearted gratitude to everyone's support and participation in making the year-long celebration of the Network's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary a meaningful one.

The different activities undertaken in relation to the anniversary celebration highlighted the mission and functions of TROPMED Network as envisioned by the Founding Fathers. Let me cite some examples. There was an Alumni Forum that brought together previous scholars of the Network in different academic programmes. The forum served as a platform to engage our alumni in meaningful participation in maximizing the scholarship program of the Network.

The forum on Traditional Medicine organized during the 9<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week in Guizhou, China served as the

opening activity for expanded collaboration with Universities in People's Republic of China.

The training on "Mixed Methods for Development Evaluation" for SEAMEO Centres' officials and staff underscored the high priority accorded by TROPMED Network to internal capacity building.

And lastly, the Symposium on the "Challenges for Sustainable Development in Health" brought together development partners of TROPMED Network.

At the three TROPMED Centre level, activities that addressed the goals and objectives of TROPMED Network were likewise organized throughout the year.

The detailed reports of the Centres and the Network Office, to be presented during the Business Meeting, will highlight the achievements, partnerships and collaborative efforts undertaken during the year. A short video that will be shown in a little while will summarize these accomplishments.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Board Members, Partners, friends and

colleagues, let me assure you on behalf of SEAMEO TROPMED Network that it will continue to work towards our vision of quality life for our people in the region. As Secretary General/Coordinator, it has been an honour and a privilege for me to have worked with all of you and look forward to more fruitful working relationships in the next years.

Again, our gratitude for the excellent organizing and support provided by the Department of Health, the Government of the Philippines and to the University of the Philippines Manila.

Thank you and good morning.