



Mission Report

SEAMEO TROPMED Network
54th Governing Board Meeting
19-20 August 2015
Landmark Mekong Riverside Hotel
Vientiane, Lao PDR

Prepared by
Dr Ethel Agnes Pascua Valenzuela, Deputy Director for Programme and Development

A. SEAMEO Officials and Staff Member on Mission

1. Dr Ethel Agnes Pascua Valenzuela, Deputy Director for Programme and Development

B. Background

SEAMEO TROPMED Network is a regional cooperation network established in 1966 for education, training and research in tropical medicine and public health under the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education. The Network serves as a focal point in higher education and research in tropical medicine and public health.

C. Goal of the Meeting

The SEAMEO TROPMED's GBM 2015 provides valuable opportunity to ensure that agreements and resolutions from various SEAMEO meetings namely, the SEAMEO Council Conference, High Officials Meeting, Executive Committee Meeting, and Centre Directors Meeting are put forward and discussed with the Centre's Governing Board. Also, the technical inputs and experts' advice from the members of the TROPMED Network from Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines and plays a vital role in the Centre's operation, and therefore a pivotal role in ensuring the Centre maintains the revered status of regional excellence particularly in tropical medicine.

D. Organizer/s

SEAMEO TROPMED

E. Highlight of the Activity/Summary Points

1. SEAMEO TROPMED Director cited the highlights of the Network's accomplishments during the year such as (i) implementation of the human resource development mandate of TROPMED Network through its 19 academic degree programmes offered by the three TROPMED Centres; (ii) research activities; (ii) provision of technical assistance; and (iv) organization of a forum on harmonization and mobility in higher education focusing on health professions (medical and nursing) in Southeast Asia. He informed the group that the focus of the Thematic Symposium is on "Outbreak

Management of Emerging Health Issues” with a resource person from WHO Country office serving as the resource person. He reiterated the commitment of TROPMED Network to continue to work towards our vision of quality life for the people of the region.

2. The Governing Board, in its capacity as the policy making body of the Network:
 - Acknowledged the accomplishments of the Regional Centres and the Network Office;
 - Endorsed the Report of Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2014-2015
 - Noted and endorsed the Financial Audit Report for 2014-2015;
 - Endorsed the three year Operational Budgets (2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019)
 - Mandated the Network Office to lead further discussion on mechanisms for collaboration, sharing of resources and expertise, within the Network and with development partners and with the Member Countries;
 - Endorsed the planned activities for the 50th Anniversary of TROPMED Network; and
 - Mandated the Network Office together with the centre officials to draft the guidelines and mechanics for the Vimolsri Panichyanon Scholarship Fund.

E. Participants

The 54th SEAMEO TROPMED Network Governing Board Meeting (GBM) was convened and hosted by the Government of Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR) presided by H. E. Associate Professor Dr. SomOck Kingsada, Vice Minister of Health, Lao PDR. All members of the Board were present in the GB meeting.

F. Role/Participation of SEAMEO

1. Delivered the opening remarks in the meeting.
2. Presented the working paper of SEAMEO Secretariat “Significant Policy, Points, Agreements and Actions Taken on Key Agenda Items from SEAMEO Meetings in FY 2014/2015”.
3. Promoted and distributed the pamphlets of Seven Priorities to GB Members.
4. Advised the projects under the implementation of SEAMEO Secretariat.

G. Symposium on Outbreak <Management of Emerging Health Issues”

1. The thematic Symposium on “Outbreak Management of Emerging Health Issues” started with a lead paper presented by Dr. Jennie Musto, an epidemiologist from the WHO Lao PDR Country Office that covered:
 - Image and nature of emerging infectious diseases;
 - Its economic impact which are beyond reported cases and deaths;
 - The mandate of WHO that provided a framework for global efforts on response to the threats of emerging infectious diseases i.e. International health

- Regulations (IHR 2005) and the Emergency Resonse Framework (ERF);
 - Role of Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN);
 - Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging disease (APSED)
 - Outbreak response challenge i.e. no single institution has all the needed capacities to respond;
 - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS CoV) basics, Global situation, the experience in South Korea, and the WHO response;
 - Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) , outbreak in West Africa, the progress in the last 12 months in relation to diagnostic tools, vaccine development, human resources , and foreign medical teams and the WHO response; and
 - Lessons learned from the EVD outbreak.
 -
2. Discussion during the open forum focused on the :
- Experiences of Myanmar and Thailand in containing Ebola cases that reached the countries;
 - Best approach for donation during outbreaks;
 - Safety of health workers;
 - Management of volunteers to assist countries in need;
 - Management of fear about the outbreak;
 - Country monitoring tool for IHR core competencies requirement;
 - Implementation of APSED between two regional offices; and
 - Competency needs of countries based on the IHR self-assessment undertaken by countries.

3. Agreements:

Everyone is in agreement that SEAMEO TROPMED Network has a role to play in the area of human resource development for outbreak management especially on the following;

- Generic training for volunteers
- Risk communication
- Coordination
- Risk assessment
- Infection prevention and control

H. Follow-up Actions Needed

SEAMES will forward the working paper from SEAMEO BTROPMED to 38th HOM that will be held in November 2015.

I. Appendices/Related Conference Materials and Outputs

1. Agenda

2. Working papers
3. Pictures
4. Draft Consensus of the GB

J. Photo



