

56th SEAMEO TROPMED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Manila, Philippines

7-8 September 2017

Brief Remarks by

Mr Prasert Tepanart

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

(ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATION),

SEAMEO SECRETARIAT

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

Her Excellency Leonor Magtolis Briones, Secretary of Education,
Department of Education, Philippines represented by Attorney Albert Muyot

His Excellency Dr. Amnuay Gajeena, Chair of 55th Governing Board
Meeting represented by Dr. Runngrueng Kitphati

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

Honorable Chair and Members of the Governing Board of SEAMEO
TROPMED Network including SEAMEO TROPMED Malaysia, SEAMEO
TROPMED Philippines, SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand,

Prof Dr Pratap Singhasivanon

Secretary General/Coordinator, SEAMEO TROPED Network,
Centre Director, SEAMEO TROPED Thailand,

Dato' Dr Fadzilah Kamaludin
Centre Director, SEAMEO TROPED Malaysia,

Assoc Prof Romeo Reyes Quizon
Centre Director, SEAMEO TROPED Philippines,

Dear partners of TROPED from China, Japan and UNAIDS

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

1. It is truly an honour for me to have the opportunity to address the 32nd Governing Board Meeting of SEAMEO TROPED here in Manila, the bayside city on the island of Luzon.

2. On behalf of the SEAMEO Secretariat, please allow me to express my appreciation and heartfelt admiration to the Chair and Members of the 56th Governing Board and to the Director of SEAMEO TROPED Network, Director of SEAMEO TROPED Malaysia, Director of SEAMEO TROPED Philippines, and Director of SEAMEO TROPED Thailand for organizing this important meeting along with dedicated staff.

3. SEAMEO Regional Centres' annual Governing Board Meetings are essential in setting the way forward for the direction of SEAMEO Centres in the coming fiscal year. SEAMEO Secretariat always looks forward to these Meetings as they provide opportunities for us to collaboratively promote SEAMEO Education Agenda and support our Centres' unique contributions to education, science and culture in the region. Currently, SEAMEO Secretariat leads 24 SEAMEO Centres as 3 new Centres: CECCEP, TED and CED which have been endorsed at the 49th SEAMEO Council Meeting recently in Jakarta. We are pleased to assist our Centres in setting their future directions, as the executive arm of the SEAMEO Council and our coordinating function for the Organization. Therefore, it is imperative for us to share with the Centres the *developments and insights* from various consultations with the SEAMEO Council, High Officials of SEAMEO Member Countries, SEAMEO Executive Committee, other Centre Directors, SEAMEO Associate and Affiliate Members and partners – in the spirit of the SEAMEO family.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate SEAMEO TROPMED for all the significant accomplishments and important activities they have undertaken in the past fiscal year in fulfilling its mandate in responding to human resource development needs of the region in tropical medicine and public health and responding to health research needs of the region.

5. The successes of SEAMEO TROPED's activities include the academic degree programmes with accomplishments of over 400 research projects; and 19 post graduate degrees of TROPED Regional Centres with 720 student enrolled and 15 scholarship awarded. In conducting 130 short training courses, 4.365 participants were reached through 38 fellowships. More than 30 events were conducted as platforms for discussing emerging health and health-related issues and for sharing of new knowledge and information during the year. Needless to say, I look forward to hearing more about their achievements later on today.

With that note, I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations and express my admiration for the leadership of SEAMEO TROPED Network, SEAMEO TROPED Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPED Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPED Thailand and their achievements.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. It has been another fruitful year for the SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Centres in 2016-2017. Under the leadership of SEAMEO Secretariat Director, Dr Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, we have been advancing our work through closer collaborations and technology. We are bringing relevant and quality education in the context of lifelong learning, supported by research and development. Many of our Centres embraced technology to continuously lead the education highway, making SEAMEO relevant and efficient in the execution of our mandate. SEAMEO TROPED Network, SEAMEO TROPED Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPED Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPED Thailand are indeed important Centres of SEAMEO,

among all the specialized Centres in the effort of establishing education, training and research in tropical medicine and public health

7. We have institutionalized Inter-Centre Collaborations and worked with the Governments of all Southeast Asian countries, thereby developing the 3-year cooperation programmes. In the past 2 years, Thailand was the President of SEAMEO Council of Ministers and the next 2 years will be Indonesia. SEAMEO Secretariat is striving to further promote the model of ICC and MOE-SEAMEO partnerships to take it to a higher level. We believe that the mutual leverage of expertise and resources between Centres would produce even more meaningful Southeast Asian success stories. Therefore, we applaud innovative collaborations which are relevant and cross-cutting when focusing on the implementation of our SEAMEO 7 Priority Areas.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. The Southeast Asian Seven Priority Education Agenda 2015-2035 is key in all SEAMEO activities since its inception in 2014. Subsequent Ministerial-Level Meetings, namely the 3rd Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers (SDEM) during the 49th SEAMEO Council Conference in July 2017 have further defined the direction of the Agenda as stated in the Jakarta Framework for Action for the SEAMEO Education Agenda Towards Achieving Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs.

8. Our role in charting the course of the Agenda's implementation, the Action Agenda and the Education Agenda of all member countries will be

shared with you today (in the USB), to show our commitment to the strategic plan to achieve the Southeast Asian New Education Agenda 2015-2035. We believe that the SEAMEO Centres, especially key players such as SEAMEO TROPED Network, SEAMEO TROPED Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPED Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPED Thailand will vigorously work with the SEAMEO Secretariat in coming up with concrete supports to its agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. This meeting is important for SEAMEO TROPED Network, SEAMEO TROPED Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPED Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPED Thailand to continue its assessments and adjustments of its programme in response to the regional and global trends in providing references for the world and becoming a leading-knowledge centre on Southeast Asian tropical medicine and public health through workshops, training and seminars as well as networking among academics, resource persons, and institutions specialised in these fields. In view of this, I am confident that the outcomes of this meeting will further enhance our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of education, science and culture in the region.

11. On behalf of the SEAMEO Secretariat, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the Government of Thailand, Malaysia and Philippines for providing support to SEAMEO TROPED Network, SEAMEO TROPED Malaysia, SEAMEO

TROPMED Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand in terms of financial contributions and other kinds of assistance.

12. Last but not least, please allow me to once again thank and congratulate everyone at SEAMEO TROPMED Network, SEAMEO TROPMED Malaysia, SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines, and SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand for all the preparations for this important meeting. I very much look forward to the constructive discussions and wish everyone a successful conduct of the 56nd SEAMEO TROPMED Governing Board Meeting. Thank you very much and salamat po!