

PREFACE

Zoonosis is defined as a disease of animals which can be transmitted to man by various means. Eating partly cooked meat, fish or vegetables is a major factor in the process leading to infectious diseases of this class. SEAMEO-TROPMED has realized the public health and medical importance of food-borne parasitic zoonoses in the tropical world that afflict human health and cause problems due to improper nutritional practices and eating habits of the people, especially those involved in consuming partially cooked food, raw snails and unwashed vegetables together with local alcoholic drinks. The 33rd SEAMEO-TROPMED Regional Seminar on "Emerging Problems in Food-Borne Parasitic Zoonosis: Impact on Agriculture and Public Health" was organized with the assistance of Dr John H Cross of the USA, a great friend of SEAMEO-TROPMED who has devoted himself to work for the benefit of the health of people in Southeast Asia; his outstanding achievements are well known to us. This 4 day seminar was attended by more than 100 participants from all over the tropical world, including Southeast Asia, East and South Asia, Europe, Africa, North America and Oceania. The main sponsoring agency of this Seminar was ASEAN-USAID, with the collaboration of additional sponsorship of various friendly international and private organizations/agencies/foundations, which have the common aim of combating these diseases, to which SEAMEO-TROPMED gives special thanks.

The Seminar reviewed the current status of food-borne parasitic zoonoses in various countries in Southeast Asia, East and South Asia, Eastern and Western Europe, North and South America, the Mediterranean and African Regions. The diseases emphasized included toxoplasmosis, sarcocystosis, anisakiasis, capillariasis, opisthorchiasis, clonorchiasis, angiostrongyliasis, gnathostomiasis, echinostomiasis, cysticercosis, taeniasis, trichinosis, paragonimiasis, fascioliasis and hydatidosis. It also reviewed the potential of new technologies in the field.

The impact of these zoonoses on economics and industry was discussed, as well as planning research and control strategies. Recommendations for further work were also made.

The Seminar ended with very satisfactory and successful results.

As the Coordinator of SEAMEO-TROPMED, I wish to express my esteem, gratitude and appreciation for the generous cooperation of the ASEAN-USAID and other co-sponsors to make this Seminar an excellent one. Special thanks also extended to all members of the Organizing Committee, especially Dr Santasiri Sornmani and Dr Chirasak Kamboonruang, Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Dr John H Cross, Dr K Darwin Murrell and other local members who put their efforts into making this seminar possible, complete and pleasing. Finally, I wish to thank all the participants for their valuable contribution of knowledge and experience for the success of the Seminar.

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