

FOREWORD

The 33rd SEAMEO-TROPED Regional Seminar, held at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 14-17 November 1990, was the first international conference held on food-borne parasitic zoonoses which emphasized the enduring and increasing problems attributable to eating habits of people worldwide. There were over 100 participants from Asia, Europe, and North America. The meeting was sponsored by SEAMEO-TROPED (ASEAN-USAID funds), the University of Chiang Mai, Smithkline Beckman Corporation, International Research Development Center of Canada, Roche Asian Research Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Amoco Foundation, EXXON Company International, International Commission on Trichinellosis, United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, World Health Organization, GTZ of the Federal Republic of Germany, Office of Science and Technology Development Board, Ministry of Science, Technology and Energy of Thailand, United States National Academy of Sciences, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and Henry M Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine.

There is a wide variety of parasites acquired from food products and most were discussed during the conference. Country and area reports described the prevalence and distribution of these food-borne parasitic zoonoses. Rather than decreasing, evidence presented indicated an increase in prevalence of some of these diseases. Population growth, migration, and changes in eating habits brought on by the availability of certain foods, are contributing factors. Improved economic conditions and affluence have diversified diets, and people are eating foods formerly unaffordable.

The biology and life cycle of some zoonotic parasites were reviewed. New technologies for improving diagnosis and biotechnological methods used to develop candidate vaccines, including a recombinant vaccine for ovine cysticercosis, were discussed. The implementation of these new developments will be significant control strategies.

Administrative problems involving food safety and regulatory issues were discussed. Regulatory agencies are becoming more concerned and involved with controlling potential risk of food-borne and water-borne parasites and other disease producing agents. Specific and general recommendations were presented at the conclusion of the meeting with the hope that some will be implemented by concerned governments and agencies.

The meeting was highly successful and there was unanimous consensus that such meetings be continued. Persisting problems and emerging ones should be discussed and, hopefully, solutions provided.

The Proceedings of this meeting are presented in the following pages. The majority of papers given are included, but those presented only by abstract have been excluded.

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