

## WELCOME REMARKS

by

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His Excellency Dr Khamphay Rasmy, Deputy Minister of Health, Lao PDR; Professor Dr Tan Chongsuphajaisiddhi, Secretary General/Coordinator of SEAMEO TROPMED Network and Dean, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University; Distinguished Participants of the Seminar; Honoured Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:

May I welcome you to Khon Kaen and to the 2nd Seminar on Food-borne Parasitic Zoonoses.

I may not be wrong in saying that Khon Kaen is the center of studies in food-borne parasitic zoonoses in Thailand. The most outstanding study carried out in this part of the country has been the study of liver fluke infection, a joint study between Khon Kaen University; the Ministry of Public Health Thailand; and the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University with the support of the German Government through GTZ. The outcome of our pilot studies have called the attention of the whole nation on causes and advert effects of liver fluke infection on health of our population and on the economy of our country. The Government of Thailand has enlarged the control program of liver fluke based on our joint studies to cover the whole country. Many modules on health education and community health development have been developed through the studies of liver fluke infection. These modules are now being used and are made applicable to other diseases control programs.

I would like to express my grateful thanks to Professor Tan for choosing Khon Kaen as the venue to convene the 2nd Seminar on Food-borne Parasitic Zoonoses. Our staff and health officials of Khon Kaen and near by provinces will have opportunity to attend the seminar. More importantly, the programme for a one-day visit to Vientiane, Lao PDR can be made possible through Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge. I thank you again, Professor Tan for bringing many outstanding scientists to Khon Kaen. I hope the participants can find time to visit Khon Kaen University, especially to visit our Faculty of Medicine.

I hope the participants will enjoy their stay in Khon Kaen during this beautiful weather. May I recommend you to visit the annual Khon Kaen Fair where you will find all types of handicrafts of northeastern Thailand.

May I wish the Seminar every success and I wish for good health and prosperity to all participants.

Thank you.

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Prof Dr Tan Chongsuphajaisiddhi, Secretary General/Coordinator  
SEAMEO TROPMED Network and Dean, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University

His Excellency Dr Khamphay Rasmy, Deputy Minister of Health, Lao PDR; Dr Somporn Pothinam, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University; Distinguished Speakers and Participants of the 2nd Seminar on Food-borne Parasitic Zoonoses; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:

May I join Dr Somporn to welcome all participants to the SEAMEO TROPMED 2nd seminar on Food-borne Parasitic Zoonoses organized in collaboration with Khon Kaen University and the Ministry of Health, Lao PDR.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to express our gratitude to His Excellency Dr Khamphay Rasmy and to Dr Somporn Pothinam for giving us the honour to participate in the Opening Ceremony of the Seminar.

The 1st Seminar on Food-borne Parasitic Zoonoses was convened in Chiang Mai in November 1990 in collaboration with Chiang Mai University. Both the first and the second seminars received technical support and expert services of Prof John Cross of the University of Uniformed Services of the Health Sciences and of Dr Darwin Murrell of Agriculture Research Service, US Department of Agriculture. Professor Cross and Dr Murrell have introduced many new friends to SEAMEO TROPMED Network. Many of these friends are present here at this seminar.

November 1995 marks the 30th anniversary of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization - or SEAMEO in short. The Organization was founded in November 1965 to promote regional cooperation among Southeast Asian nationals through joint projects in the areas of education, science and culture. Regional Centres and Network include: tropical biology (BIOTROP) situated in Bogor, Indonesia; educational innovation and technology (INNOTECH) situated in Quezon City, the Philippines; education in science and mathematics (RECSAM) situated in Penang, Malaysia; Language education (RELIC) situated in Singapore; higher education (RIHED) situated in Bangkok, Thailand; graduate study and research in agriculture (SEARCA) situated in Los Baños, the Philippines; archaeology and fine arts (SPAFA) situated in Bangkok, Thailand; vocational and technical education (VOCTECH) situated in Brunei Darrussalam; and tropical medicine and public health (TROPMED Network) with central office in Bangkok, Thailand. The TROPMED Network comprises regional center of community nutrition situated in Jakarta, Indonesia at the University of Indonesia; regional center for parasitology, entomology and microbiology situated in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at the Institute for Medical Research; regional center for public health at the College of Public Health,

University of the Philippines, Manila; regional center for tropical medicine at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Activities of SEAMEO Centres include training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences, research and development. Focus is on human resource development through regional cooperation. Courses at TROPMED Regional Centres are postgraduate diploma and degree courses and short training courses and workshops on specific subjects as needed by institutions and ministries of health within and outside of Southeast Asia Region.

At this seminar, I am pleased to report that there are participants from 20 countries, total of about 200 participants. There are about 105 scientific papers to be presented. A Keynote Paper on Food-borne parasitic Zoonoses - where are we? will be presented by Dr Darwin Murrell, Director of Agriculture Research Service, US Department of Agriculture. Presentations of food-borne parasitic zoonoses in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Russia and South Africa will add to information collected from the first seminar in 1990. Professor Cross has kindly accepted to give an overview of the seminar for presentation at the closing session. We would appreciate the cooperation of Chairpersons of the sessions to give their notes and brief accounts of their sessions to Professor Cross to facilitate the preparation of his overview presentation. We hope to publish the proceedings of the seminar as soon as possible as a supplement issue of the Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health. We hope that Professor Cross will agree to be the Editor of the Proceedings as he did for the Proceedings of the 1st seminar.

The highlight of our seminar will be the visit to Vientiane, capital city of Lao PDR on Saturday, December 9, 1995. We are extremely grateful to the Ministry of Health, Lao PDR for arranging the program of visit.

This seminar received support from many sources that I would like to officially acknowledge as follows:

- Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Roche Research Foundation
- US Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service
- BIOMED Group Co, Ltd
- U & V Holding Co, Ltd
- CoAx Group Corporation Ltd
- Chemical House & Lab Instrument Co, Ltd
- Tropical Medicine Alumni Association

I wish to personally thank participating institutions and members of the Organizing Committee for their hardwork and dedication. May I ask the participants and friends to join me in expressing our deep sorrow for the untimely pass away of Professor Dr Savanat Tharavanij, Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the Seminar on November 18, 1995. Professor Savanat expressed his wish to be at the seminar all the time he was hospitalized. He had asked for all incoming abstracts to be brought to the hospital. May he rest in peace. The Organizing Committee would like to dedicate the success in organizing of the seminar to Professor Dr Savanat Tharavanij.

The Organizing Committee could not be more pleased to welcome and to take care of participants from so many countries. Some of you come as far as People's Republic of China, Russia, Canada, United States of America, South Africa, Germany, Denmark and Switzerland. Our friends from Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Republic of China, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Iran, Sri Lanka, Australia and Nepal are likewise most welcome. I appreciate the full participation of friends from SEAMEO member countries including, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines - many of them are from outside of Manila that is from Zamboanga, Vietnam and participants from Thailand. Please feel free to call upon members of the Organizing Committee for assistance to ensure full benefit of your stay in Thailand and your participation in the seminar.

Thank you.