

## FOREWORD

The Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting (JITMM) was first organized in 1997. Since then, the JITMM has become an international annual scientific event to foster a dialogue on scientific and medical advancement in the field of tropical medicine. As the name implies, the JITMM is a combination of several scientific events which are jointly organized by the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand and other local and international institutions, organizations and professional associations. The JITMM 2002 combined seven major events: the 8<sup>th</sup> Chamlong-Tranakchit Harinasuta Lecture; the Interim Meeting of the International Federation of Tropical Medicine and Malaria; the Joint Conference of the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health-Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University; the Annual Scientific Meeting of the TROPMED Alumni Association; the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Association of Thailand; and the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Tropical Pathology. The theme of the JITMM 2002 was “Tropical Medicine and Malaria: from Molecular to Community Approaches.”

The JITMM 2002 was co-hosted by the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University; Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand; Bernhard-Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Hamburg, Germany; Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Association of Thailand; TROPMED Alumni Association; SEAMEO TROPMED Network; and the Asian Centre of International Parasite Control. The Meeting was held at the Montien Riverside Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand on 20-22 November 2002, with 969 participants from 27 countries.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Chamlong-Trankchit Harinasuta Lecture, the highlight of JITMM 2002, entitled “**The privatization of poverty reduction,**” was delivered by Mr Mechai Viravaidya, Chairman of the Population and Community Development Association (PDA), Thailand, on 20 November 2002. The Meeting had 16 symposia, 8 free papers sessions, 3 satellite sessions and one special lecture, with a total of 185 papers (97 oral presentations and 88 posters). Among these, 46 full papers were submitted and 37 were published in this supplement to the **Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health**.

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