

FOREWORD

As agreed upon, at the 3rd Seminar on Food - and Water- borne Parasitic Zoonoses (FBPZ) held in 2000, that the FBPZ be convened every three years instead of very five years, the 4th FBPZ was, thus, held in 2003 in concurrence with the 2nd International Meeting on Gnathostomiasis (2nd IMG) and the Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting 2003 (JITMM 2003). These three scientific events were convened during 2-4 December 2003 at the Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand with 607 participants from 36 countries.

The events were co-hosted by the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand; SEAMEO TROPMED Network; Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Association of Thailand; TROPMED Alumni Association ; Danish Center of Experimental Parasitology; Faculty of Chemical and Biological Science, University of Sinaloa, Mexico; and Asahikawa Medical College, Japan.

The scientific programs of the 4th FBPZ, 2nd IMG, and JITMM 2003 consisted of two Chamlong-Tranakchit Harinasuta Lectures, 1 free paper session, 19 symposia, 2 round table sessions and 82 poster exhibits. The two Chamlong - Tranakchit Harinasuta Lectures were: “Public-private partnership : new ways to discover, develop and deliver drugs for tropical diseases” presented by Dr Chistopher C Hentschel, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member of the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), and “Human fascioliasis : epidemiological patterns in human endemic areas of South America, Africa and Asia” delivered by Prof Dr Santiago Mas-Coma, President-Elect of the Spanish Society of Parasitology.

Seventy-five full papers were submitted, and 73 were accepted for publication in Supplement 1 (Proceedings of the 4th FBPZ and the 2nd IMG, 63 papers) and Supplement 2 (Proceedings of the JITMM 2003, 10 papers) of the **Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health**.

The 5th FBPZ will be held in Thailand in 2006. Those who are interested in food- and water-borne parasite zoonoses are invited to join us.

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