

A Collaboration among Nutrition Societies in Southeast Asia Region

Promoting regional collaboration for community nutrition improvement

# Annual Report Year 2016

### Members











**Associate Members** 











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### **Executive Summary**

2016 has been another busy and productive year for the SEA-PHN Network.

The Network has had one teleconference and two physical meetings held in this year. The two manuscripts derived from the compilation and analysis of the Food Based Dietary Guidelines in Southeast Asia, had also been successfully published as a supplement in Malaysian Journal of Nutrition. While busy preparing for the coming 1<sup>st</sup>Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition Conference in 2017, initiative has been taken to organise a team building session among the Council and Associate Members. The Council has agreed to embark on the school children intervention programme that has long been discussed. The Network also identified a new project to work on - the compilation and analysis of the Nutrition Policies/National Plan of Action on Nutrition in Southeast Asia Country.

This 3rd Annual Report of the Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Network provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the Network in 2016.

The report is structured in five parts:

Part 1 provides a short introduction about the Network.

Part 2 provides the information of the Network's membership profile for Year 2016.

Part 3 reports the main activities of the Network in 2016.

Part 4 gives an overview of the resources available at the Network website and the website users' profile.

Part 5 gives a conclusion to the year 2016 and outlines the priorities for year 2017

### 1.0 Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Network Background

The Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Network is a collaboration of nutrition societies/associations in the region, and working in partnership with other key stakeholders namely government agencies and corporate partners, dedicated to promoting public health nutrition among the population and alleviating nutrition problems. It is believed that this network can contribute to more effective implementation of public health nutrition measures in the region.

The Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Network was established on June 2, 2014 with the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting in Kuala Lumpur and officially launched on 3 June 2014 by YB Dato' Seri Dr Hilmi bin Haji Yahaya, Deputy Minister of Health, Malaysia.

The main objectives of the Network are to:

- 1. Establish and maintain an interactive network among public health nutritionists in the Southeast Asia region
- 2. Promote the periodic exchange of experiences, activities in all public health nutrition issues, including nutrient deficiencies and diet-related chronic diseases
- 3. Consolidate efforts among nutritionists, both in the public and private sector, for the advancement of public health nutrition
- 4. Share available information and documentation with all stakeholders involved in public health nutrition, including professional bodies, government agencies and private sector
- 5. Conduct activities to promote public health nutrition to benefit the communities in Southeast Asia region while ensuring avoidance of potential conflicts of interest.
- 6. Promote and conduct collaborative projects amongst members of the SEA-PHN Network, government agencies and private sector for community nutrition improvement, in the spirit of public-private partnership.

The key activities of the Network are:

- Conduct annual meetings among members of the Network, preferably in conjunction with a scientific meeting.
- Interaction through a dedicated website: www.sea-phn.org.
- Conduct collaborative projects among members of the Network and its partners.
- Teleconferences as and when needed.
- Organise scientific meetings or conferences.

The SEA-PHN Network is a not-for-profit professional organization, managed by a Council elected every three years by the members (see below). The conduct/running of the Network activities is facilitated by a Secretariat, oversee by the Council:

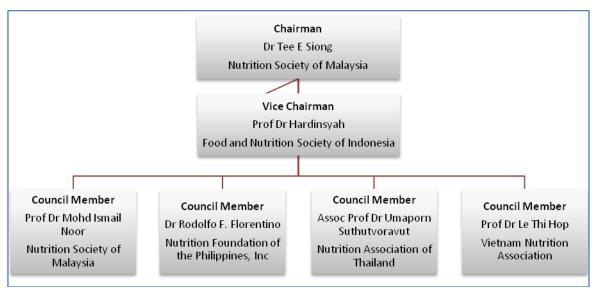


Figure 1. Council Members of the SEA-PHN Network (year 2014 to 2017)

### 2.0 Membership Profile Year 2016

#### **Member Societies**

The member societies of the Network comprise Nutrition Societies/Associations affiliated to the Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies (FANS). Current members include:



The membership to the Network is confined to societies who are affiliates of FANS and IUNS. As the Network grows, other nutrition societies shall be invited to be part of the Network.

### **Associate Members**

Government ministries/agencies and private sector companies are invited to participate in Network activities as associate members, including attend annual Network meetings (represented by appropriate technical experts), collaborate in projects of the Network, and access to documents on the Network website. Private sector companies also provide financial support and technical expertise for the activities of the Network. The Associate Members for year 2016 from the private sector companies and their respective technical representatives are:











Beneo GmbH	Danone Asia Pacific Holdings Pte Ltd	DuPont Nutrition & Health	Nestle Products Sdn Bhd	PepsiCo Services Asia Ltd
Technical representative:	Technical representative:	Technical representative:	Technical representative:	Technical representative:
Ms Anke Sentko	Dr Jacques G.	Ms Cyndy Au	Ms Susan	Dr Kit
	Bindels		Kevork	Phanvijhitsiri

#### 3.0 Main Activities of the Network in Year 2016

### 3.1 SEA-PHN Network 4<sup>th</sup> Teleconference

Teleconference facilitates the interactions among the Network's members in between annual physical meetings. The Network had its 4<sup>th</sup> teleconference in April 2016 to discuss on the preparation for the 1<sup>st</sup> Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition Conference.

Several important items of the conference were discussed, including conference theme, conference logo, sponsorship marketing strategies, development of an official website for the conference, preliminary programme, topics to be included in the programme and potential speakers. On the other hand, the venue and agenda for the 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM were also discussed during the teleconference.

### 3.2 SEA-PHN Network 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Network was held successfully at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Manila, Philippines on 26 July, 2016, held in conjunction with the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) Philippines Symposium on Food-based Dietary Guidelines. The meeting was attended by all Council Members, representatives from Associate Members, several representatives from the Ministry of Health of respective member countries as well as observers from the member societies and corporate company (Figure 2). The attendees are as follows:

	Chairman
	Dr Tee E Siong (NSM)
Members (Nutrition Societies)	Vice-chairman
	Prof Dr Hardinsyah (PERGIZI PANGAN)
	Council member
	Prof Dr Mohd Ismail Noor (NSM)
	Council member
	Dr Rodolfo F. Florentino (NFP)
	Council member
	Assoc Prof Dr Umaporn Suthutvoravut (NAT)
	Council member
	Prof Dr Lee Thi Hop (VINUTAS)

	Malaysia
	Ms Zalma Abdul Razak
Representatives from Government Ministries	Thailand
	Prof Dr Chulaporn Roongpisuthipong
	Vietnam
	Prof Dr Do Thu Thuy
	Beneo Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
	Ms Anke Sentko
	Ms Goh Peen Ern
	Danone Nutricia Early Life Nutrition Asia-Pacific
Associate Members (Corporate companies)	Dr Jacques G. Bindels
	DuPont Nutrition & Health
	Mr Victor Basuki
	Nestle
	Ms Susan Kevork
	PepsiCo Services Asia Ltd
	Mr Liu Feng
	Dr Kit Phanvijhitsiri
Observers	Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines
	Dr Socorro Ignacio
	Dr Imelda Agdeppa
	Tate & Lyle
	Ms Koo Pei Fern
Secretariat (VersaComm Sdn Bhd)	Ms Muhaini Hussin
	Ms Voon Siok Hui

All Council Members and Associate Members shared a brief update on activities from their respective association or country in the past year. Members also discussed the progress of the key activities undertaken by the Network, as well as the proposal and direction for future plans and activities. The main items discussed and outcomes were, as summarised below:

### **SEA-PHN Network Website-Updates**

• The meeting viewed the website traffic for the past one year. It was noted that the Network's website is a good platform for sharing of resources but more promotion for its use is needed.

# Compilation and analysis of Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs) in Southeast Asia Countries

 Two articles derived from the FBDGs compilation project were published in the supplement of Malaysian Journal of Nutrition. The 1st article compared the key messages of the FBDGs of 6 SEA countries whereas the 2nd article compared the pictorial guide that accompanies the FBDGs. Members and Associate Members were encouraged to share the publication with their colleagues.

### 1st SEA-PHN Conference 2017

- The meeting discussed the preparation work for the 1st SEA-PHN Conference 2017, including development of conference website, conference's scientific programme, potential speakers, promotion, sponsorship and marketing of the conference.
- Recognising that this conference will be a good chance for young nutritionists in the
  region to attend an international level conference, the meeting expressed hope to
  see applicants from all countries in the region for the young researchers' symposium.
  The meeting also discussed on the approaches to attract other professionals
  interested in public health nutrition e.g. public health doctors to attend the
  conference.
- The meeting discussed and considered the possibility of inviting Director General,
   Ministry of Health Malaysia to give the keynote address at the conference in order
   to address the important of nutrition in basic health foundation, as well as to
   promote nutrition to the senior policy makers in the countries in order to make
   progress in promoting nutrition as a key towards human well being.

# Collaborative Project on School Children Intervention Programme to Promote Healthy Eating and Active Living

- The meeting went through the compilation of intervention studies for primary school children that have been conducted in the region, and re-viewed the proposal for the collaborative project that has been presented at 2nd AGM.
- There was general agreement that the project proposed is too large and complicated
  for implementation by the Network. Members agreed to review the proposal, with
  the view of trimming down the project. The meeting also discussed and agreed that
  the Network could consider submitting the proposal for international funding
  agencies consideration.

### **Future Plans of SEA-PHN Network**

 The meeting agreed to work on two new projects, i.e. analysis of nutrition situation and National Plan of Action for Nutrition of the countries in Southeast Asia region.
 Members were urged to share related publication/documentations for the compilation.



Figure 2. Group photo of SEA-PHN Network's Council Members, representatives from Associate Members (corporate partners), representatives from Government Ministries and Network secretariat at the 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM on 26 July, 2016 at Jakarta

# 3.3 SEA-PHN Network 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting

In order to further discuss on the key activities undertaken by the Network, the Council decided to have the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting held in October 2016, at Hanoi, Vietnam in conjunction with Vietnam Nutrition Association (VINUTAS) scientific conference. The meeting was attended by five Council Members, five representatives from Associate Members and one observer from Ministry of Health Vietnam (Figure 3). The attendees are as follows:

	Chairman
	Dr Tee E Siong (NSM)
	Council member
	Emeritus Prof Dr Mohd Ismail Noor (NSM)
Members (Nutrition Societies)	Council member
	Dr Rodolfo F. Florentino (NFP)
	Council member
	Assoc Prof Dr Umaporn Suthutvoravut (NAT)
	Council member
	Prof Dr Lee Thi Hop (VINUTAS)
	Beneo Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
	Ms Goh Peen Ern
	Danone Nutricia Early Life Nutrition Asia-Pacific
Associate Members (Corporate companies)	Ms Angie Low
	DuPont Nutrition & Health
	Ms Cyndy Au
	Mr Victor Basuki
	PepsiCo Services Asia Ltd
	Dr Kit Phanvijhitsiri

Observer	Representative from Ministry of Health Vietnam	
	Dr Nguyen Duc Vinh	
Secretariat (VersaComm Sdn Bhd)	Ms Muhaini Hussin	
	Ms Yvonne Chwee	

The main items discussed were as summarised below:

### 1<sup>st</sup> SEA-PHN Conference 2017

- The meeting attendees were given an update on the preparation progress by the Secretariat.
- The meeting further discussed and finished several items including registration fees and categories, ways to obtain more sponsorship, conference marketing and promotion, programme structure as well as topics and speakers for the conference.

### School Children Intervention Programme to Promote Healthy Eating and Active Living

- The meeting reviewed the proposal of this collaborative project that has been revised post 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting, where the meeting had proposed to scale down the school children intervention programme and its activities.
- Two options of conducting the intervention programme have been put forward for consideration i.e. Train-the-Trainer Workshop for Teachers (option 1) or to train the school children by teaching nutrition in classroom by a team of nutritionists/volunteers.
- Considering the sustainability of the programme, the meeting decided to adopt Option 1 for the implementation of this collaborative project. It was proposed that the preparation work to be completed in year 2017 so that the programme will have full force implementation in 2018.
- The implementation of the project will be supported by the Network's fund, with additional sponsorship from the Associate Members.

### **Compilation of Nutrition Situations and NPAN of SEA Countries**

- The meeting reviewed the compilation templates developed for the analysis of nutrition situations and NPAN of SEA Countries.
- The meeting agreed that the compilation of NPAN is straightforward and doable.
   Members were urged to share NPAN of respective countries for the compilation purpose.
- Upon discussion, the meeting decided to keep in view the project on analysis of the nutrition situations of SEA countries to a later date due to the massiveness and complexity of the data collection process.



Figure 3. Group photo of SEA-PHN Network's Council Members, representatives from Associate Members (corporate partners), observer from Government Ministry and Network secretariat at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on 21 October, 2016 at Hanoi

In order to enhance networking, understanding and social relations among the members, the host initiated the idea for an excursion networking session among the members of the Network. The 1-day trip to the Halong Bay was participated by the Council Members, Associate Members and Secretariat of the Network. It was conducted the day after the Network 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in Hanoi and arranged by Prof Le Thi Hop and its Secretariat from VINUTAS.



Figure 4. Group photo of SEA-PHN Network's Council Members, representatives from Associate Members (corporate partners) at the Halong Bay, 22 October 2016.

# 3.4 Food-Based Dietary Guidelines in Southeast Asia Countries - Publication in Malaysian Journal of Nutrition

Started in August 2014, the compilation and analysis work of the Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs) in Southeast Asia Countries had completed in May 2015. The two manuscripts derived from this project had been published this year, as a supplement of Malaysian Journal of Nutrition. This publication could be a useful reference for other countries in the region that have yet to develop their own FBDGs as well as for those which are reviewing and updating their current guidelines.

Each member society had received 50 copies of the publication for distribution and sharing with the colleagues. The piece of work has also been promoted and shared by the Network in several scientific occasions this year, including ILSI Philippines Country Committee Symposium on Food Based Dietary Guidelines: Mining the Evidences, Exploring their Full Benefits and Vietnam Nutrition Association (VINUTAS) scientific conference.



Figure 4. Compilation and analysis of FBGDs of SEA Countries published in Malaysian Journal of Nutrition.

# 3.5 1st Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Conference 2017 Preparation Progress

This year, the Network has been busy preparing for the biggest event on the Network calendar - the coming 1<sup>st</sup> SEA-PHN Conference 2017.

The teleconference and two general meetings conducted this year were mainly about the Conference. With the commitment from the council members, associate members and the local organising committee, major progress has been done for the Conference preparation.

There are a total of six lunch symposia, 12 symposia, one young researchers' symposium, four parallel sessions of free paper communications and three roundtable discussions set for the conference. In order to entice members of the academia to attend the conference, oral are provided. Foreseeing that the conference will be a good chance for the young nutritionists in the region to participate in international level conference, and in recognition of outstanding achievements and

contributions of young nutrition scientists in the region, the Network is also planning to offer Young Researchers' Award at the conference through two categories, namely oral and poster presentations.

Post the discussions at 2 general meetings and with the hard work by the local organising committee, the topics and subtopics for the symposia, as well as the potential speakers have been identified. Invitations have been sent to all of the short-listed speakers and majority of them had confirmed their attendance.

Besides, the sponsorship packages offered received encouraging response from the industries. There are a total of 9 different sponsorship packages offered, namely Diamond Sponsor (RM 70,000), Platinum Sponsor (RM 50,000), Gold Sponsor (RM 35,000), Silver Sponsor (RM 25,000), Bronze (RM 18,000), Dinner Sponsor (RM 9,000), Exhibitor (RM 9000), Advertisement in the programme book (RM 5000 - RM 9000) and Contribution to travel bursary for young nutritionists (RM 7,500). The Network also successfully obtained funding for the conference from the Malaysian Bureau of Exhibition, a funding body under the Ministry of Tourism Malaysia who offers funding to associations to carry out conferences.

A mobile responsive website has also been developed for the conference and lives with important details such as preliminary conference programme and topics, preliminary announcement flyer, sponsorship opportunities, important dates etc. Besides being promoted through the SEA-PHN Network website, the conference has also been actively promoted by the member societies at different scientific occasions/conference in their respective country.



Figure 5. Preliminary Announcement Flyer of 1st SEA-PHN Conference

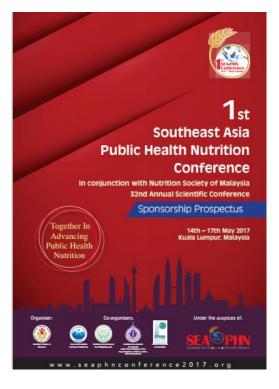


Figure 6. Sponsorship Prospectus of 1st SEA-PHN Conference



Figure 7. 1<sup>st</sup> SEA-PHN Conference official website

### 3.6 School Children Intervention Programme to Promote Healthy Eating and Active Living

In recognition of the existence of the double-burden of under- and over- nutrition in the countries of the region, a collaborative nutrition intervention project by the member societies targeted at school children has been long discussed since the Network's establishment.

An initial proposal for the nutrition intervention programme has been drafted in early 2015. After much discussions and consideration, the Network has decided to scale down the school intervention programme and its activities proposed. The Network reviewed the second revised proposal (modelled after the Nutrition Society of Malaysia-Nestle Healthy Kids Programme Malaysia) at the 4<sup>th</sup> general meeting with two options of execution method being put forward for consideration. The revised proposal was approved and endorsed by the Council at the 4<sup>th</sup> general meeting.

In summary, the tentative name for the project is Be Healthy & Active Kids Programme. The primary target is primary school children and the secondary targets are parents and teachers. The expected outcomes of the programme are improved nutrition knowledge of selected school children in participating countries. In terms of the intervention mechanism, the Network has decided to train the teachers by conducting Train-the-Trainer Workshop for the teachers, in order to ensure the sustainability of the programme. The school children will then be taught by the trained teachers using 10 educational modules (nutrition and physical activity) developed.

Preparation work for the modules will soon be carried out and it is expected that the modules may be finalised by May 2017. The modules developed will be sent to each participating country for translation and customisation. Once the translation and customisation works are completed, the Train-the-Trainer Workshop will be conducted by the member societies in respective country.

It is anticipated that the programme will have full force implementation in 2018 where each of the participating country will commence with one pilot school, which is about 50 - 80 children in each country. This programme can subsequently be replicated by implementing larger scale interventions in more schools in each of the country.

# 3.7 Compilation & Analysis of National Plan of Action on Nutrition (NPAN) in Southeast Asia Countries

Compilation and analysis of the NPAN in Southeast Asia is another project agreed by the Council during the 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM this year. This project aims to look into the differences and similarities and of the NPAN in different countries in the region, as well as to provide useful insight on the approaches other countries used in planning nutrition programmes.

The compilation work has begun in August 2016. A template for the data compilation and analysis (which include introduction of NPAN, general objectives and details such as strategy, indicator, activities, etc) had been developed and reviewed at the 4<sup>th</sup> general meeting in October 2016. The Network is now working on collecting the available NPAN in the SEA region. The necessary information will then be extracted and tabulated for analysis.

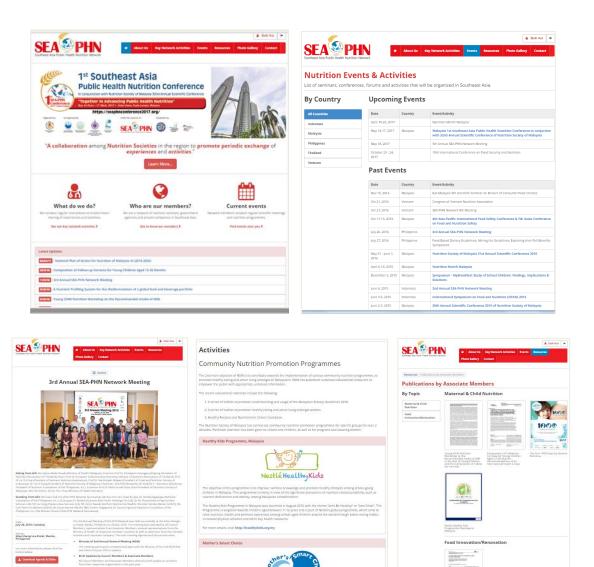
### 4.0 SEA-PHN Network Website As Channel of Information Sharing

The Network's website <a href="www.sea-phn.org">www.sea-phn.org</a>, serves as a repository of public health nutrition resources and activities by the Network members, was viewed by 1890 users in the year 2016. These users were from Malaysia, United Kingdom, United States of America, Russia and Indonesia with the top five countries with most users being Malaysia. Most of the visitors who viewed the Network's website were 18 – 34 years old. On average, users spent about 1 minute 37 seconds on the website for each visit.

The Network continuously works on making the website a better channel of communication among members in between annual physical meetings. The current/upcoming public health nutrition related activities and scientific meetings in the region are updated regularly. More reports/abstracts of completed projects and scientific meetings as well as relevant publications from the societies and government agencies have been uploaded. The annual reports of the Network and summary report of each Annual General Meeting are also available on the website for members and public viewing.

To date, the resources available have increased to 16 National Nutrition Plans & Guidelines, 7 Nutrition Society Publications & Reports, 5 Publications by Associate Members, 9 Journal Portals and 6 Professional Links.

The numbers of users who have subscribed to the resources area has increased to 69 subscribers. The Network recognises that the language used at the website could be one of the barriers for more of the members of member societies to visit the website. More promotion work is needed to encourage the use of the website especially by the nutritionists and public health nutrition workers in the region.





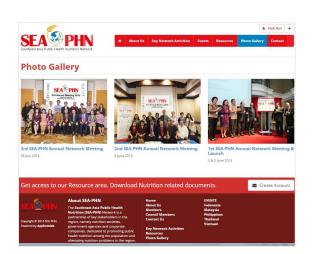


Figure 9. SEA-PHN Network official website and snapshots of some of the contents available.

#### 5.0 Conclusion for Year 2016 and Preview of 2017

During this year, we have made excellent progress in implementing/executing the activities undertaken.

This year, we have prioritised spending much of the time in discussing and preparing the 1<sup>st</sup> SEA-PHN Conference that will be taking place on 14-17 May 2017 in Kuala Lumpur. Council Members and Associate Members have been putting much efforts and dedication in the preparation work to ensure the smooth progress of this Conference.

For the first time ever, the Network has two physical meeting held in a year. It is encouraging to see an increase in the interest of government agencies and corporate companies in working together with the nutrition societies as we welcomed several observers from government and private company to join the 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM in order to understand the conducting of the Network.

The long discussed collaborative school children intervention programme has also seen better progress with the revised proposal approved by the Council and programme preparation work will soon be initiated. The Network has also begun work on the new project identified, which is to compile and analyse the Nutrition Policies/National Plan of Action on Nutrition in Southeast Asia Country, which will certainly help to enhance the understanding of the public health nutrition programmes in the region and enable experience exchange among the societies.

Last but not least, the team is confident that the Network will be able to meet the challenges in years to come and will continue its dedication in promoting public health nutrition in the region.

For the coming year 2017, the priorities of the Network are as follows:

- 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition Conference
- 2. The development, translation and customisation of educational modules for the Be Healthy & Active Kids Programme
- 3. Compilation and analysis of the NPAN of SEA countries.

E-Siong Tee, PhD Chairman Southeast Asia Nutrition Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Network

May 2017