



A Collaboration among Nutrition Societies in Southeast Asia Region

***Promoting regional collaboration
for community nutrition improvement***

Annual Report Year 2017

Members



Nutrition Foundation of
the Philippines, Inc



Nutrition Society of
Malaysia



Food and Nutrition
Society of Indonesia



Nutrition Association of Thailand
under the Patronage of
Her Royal Highness Princess
Maha Chakri Sirindhorn



Vietnam Nutrition
Association

Associate Members



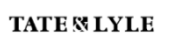
connecting nutrition and health



Early Life Nutrition



Good Food, Good Life



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Executive Summary

It is slightly over 4 years ago that the Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Network was established. The Network has gained a strong footing since then and has been implementing its planned activities in earnest, in line with the objectives of this unique collaboration.

As such, 2017 has been another busy and productive year for the SEA-PHN Network. The landmark inaugural 1st Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition Conference 2017 was successfully held in Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur on 14 -17 May 2018. Two projects, namely multi-country school nutrition initiative and compilation & analysis of National Plan of Action on Nutrition (NPAN) in Southeast Asia Countries are progressing well. This year also marked the election of the 2nd SEA-PHN Network Council (Jun 2017 – Jun 2019). The Network has had two physical meetings held in this year as well as three teleconference calls.

This 4th Annual Report of the Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Network provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the Network in 2017.

The report is structured into five parts:

Part 1 provides a short introduction about the Network.

Part 2 provides information of the Network's membership profile for Year 2017.

Part 3 reports the main activities of the Network in 2017.

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

Part 5 provides a conclusion of the activities for 2017 and outlines the priorities for year 2018

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 1st 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 as deemed appropriate

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:

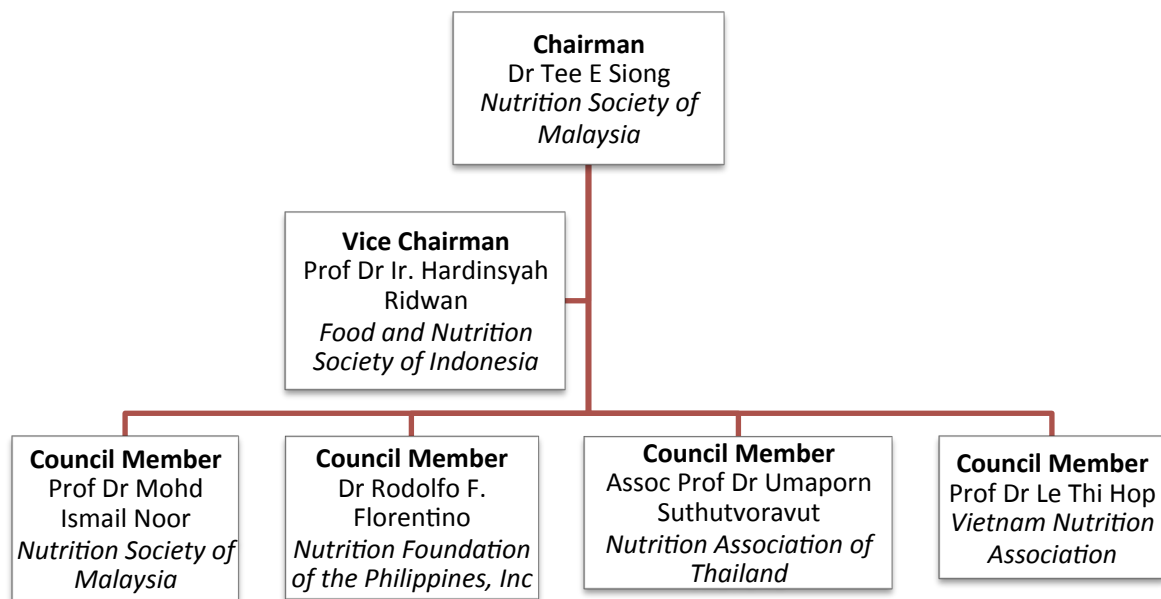


Figure 1. Founding Council of the SEA-PHN Network (year 2014 to 2017)

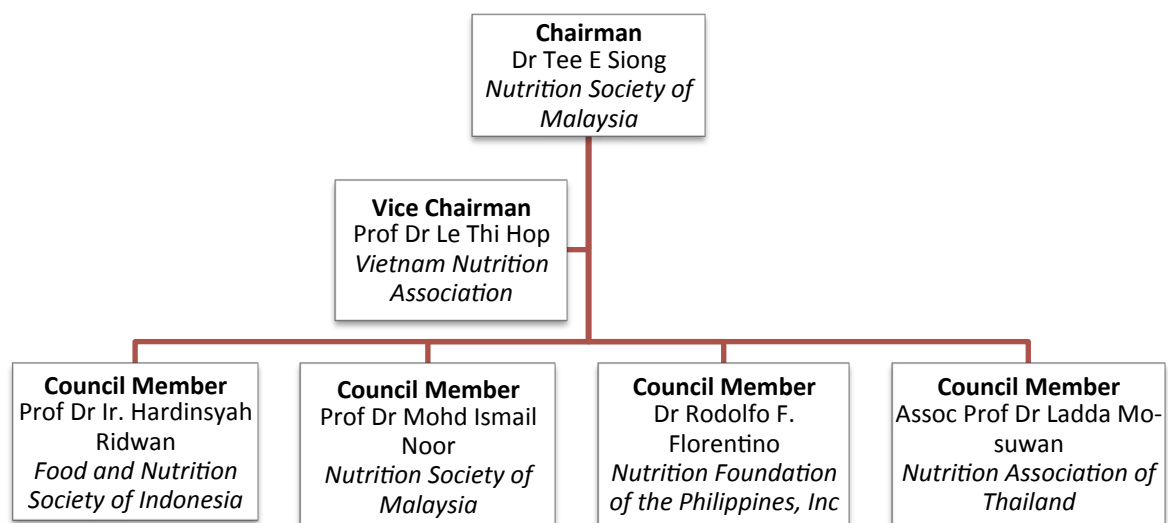


Figure 2. Second Council of the SEA-PHN Network (year 2017 to 2019)

2.0 Membership Profile for Year 2017

Member Societies

The member societies of the Network comprise Nutrition Societies/Associations affiliated to the Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies (FANS). There has been no change to the Member Societies since its inception which are:



Food and Nutrition Society of Indonesia (Pergizi Pangan Indonesia)



Nutrition Society of Malaysia (NSM)



Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines, Inc (NFP)



Nutrition Association of Thailand (NAT)



Vietnam Nutrition Association (VINUTAS)

The membership to the Network is confined to societies who are affiliates of FANS and IUNS. As the Network grows, other nutrition societies may be invited to be part of the Network. Nevertheless, activities of the Network are not restricted to the Member Societies as other food and nutrition-related societies are welcome to participate in its scientific and public health nutrition activities.

Associate Members

Corporate companies with similar objectives and aspirations of the Network are invited to participate in Network activities as Associate Members, including attend annual Network meetings (represented by appropriate senior technical experts), collaborate in projects of the Network, and access to documents on the Network website. These corporate companies also provide financial support and technical expertise for the activities of the Network. The Associate Members for year 2017 and their respective technical experts (name in *italics*) are:



Beneo GmbH

Ms Anke Sentko



Danone Asia Pacific Holdings Pte Ltd

Dr Jacques G. Bindels



DuPont Nutrition & Health

Ms Cyndy Au



Nestle Products Sdn Bhd

Ms Susan Kevork



PepsiCo Services Asia Ltd

Dr Kit Phanvijhitsiri



Tate & Lyle PLC

Dr Kavita Karnik

Invited guests of the SEA Network

Senior nutritionists/public health specialists from government ministries and agencies are invited to participate in Network activities, including attending general meetings and scientific activities.

3.0 Main Activities of the Network in Year 2017

3.1 1st Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Conference 2017

The Network recognises that there is a need to provide a regional platform for multiple stakeholders working on public health nutrition to share strategies, develop partnerships and coordinate their efforts in combating the dual burden of under- and overnutrition in the region. It is also noted that there has not been a public health nutrition conference in Southeast Asia. Thus, a regional conference on public health nutrition was proposed by the Council of the Network.



Nutrition Society of Malaysia, under the auspices of the SEA-PHN Network, had organised the 1st Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Conference in Kuala Lumpur on 14 - 17 May 2017.

The 1st SEA-PHN Conference with the theme 'Together in Advancing Public Health Nutrition' brought together diverse stakeholders to share and discuss the latest scientific knowledge, experiences, effective intervention policies, strategies, research programmes and regulatory updates to promote and sustain public health nutrition in the SEA region.

There was a good mixture of scientific sessions ranging from keynote address and plenary lectures by distinguished senior/pioneer nutritionists in Southeast Asia, symposia sessions by various key opinion leaders in their respective fields of food and nutrition, lunch symposia by corporate partners with valuable learning from their scientific work in the private sector and academic institutions around the world, exciting round table discussions covering topics that are of common interests and concerns in the regions.

Besides that, there were the competition for the Young Researchers' Awards (oral & poster) and Free Paper Presentations as well as more than 200 posters displayed, covering the whole of topics centred around the theme of the conference, in the area of promoting public health nutrition.

Attendance in the conference was most encouraging as there was a total of 477 attendees from 23 countries and 54 speakers from 17 countries. Two-thirds of these speakers were from outside Malaysia.

The key photo, programme book, abstract book, presentation slides of invited speakers have been uploaded onto the conference website <https://seaphnconference2017.org/>.

The SEA-PHN Network Council agreed that organising a scientific conference on a rigid periodic basis is not of the main activities of the Network. Nevertheless, the Network agreed that depending on need, future public health nutrition conferences can be considered to be organised.

Registration Topline Findings

- **Total attendees: 477 pax**
 - 390 delegates
 - 87 members of faculty (organising committee, speakers, panellists, judge)
- **Breakdown of attendees by country:**

No	Country	No. of Delegates	No. of Faculty Members	Total
1	MALAYSIA	218	31	249
2	INDONESIA	51	7	58
3	PHILIPPINES	37	7	44
4	SINGAPORE	27	1	28
5	THAILAND	8	14	22
6	CAMBODIA	13	1	14
7	AUSTRALIA	3	6	9
8	TAIWAN	5	2	7
9	JAPAN	1	5	6
10	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	6	0	6
11	BANGLADESH	3	1	4
12	UNITED KINGDOM	1	3	4
13	USA	2	2	4
14	VIETNAM	1	3	4
15	BRUNEI	1	1	2
16	MYANMAR	1	1	2
17	CHINA		2	2
18	THE NETHERLAND	2	0	2
19	GERMANY	2	0	2
20	CANADA	1	0	1
21	FRANCE	1	0	1
22	HONG KONG	1	0	1
23	SRI LANKA	1	0	1
	DIDN'T INDICATE	4	0	4
	TOTAL	390	87	477

Selected photographs of Conference Highlights:



Scientific session in progress

Conference Scientific Programme

- 1 Keynote Address
- 5 Plenary Lectures
- 3 Roundtable Discussions
- 11 Main Symposia
- 8 Sponsored Lunch Symposia
- Young Researchers' Awards
 - Oral category (6 candidates)
 - Poster category (7 candidates)



Registration

Sunday, 14th May 2017, 5pm – 7pm

Monday, 15th May 2017, 7.30am – 6.00pm



Welcome Reception

Sunday, 14th May 2017, 6.00pm – 8.00pm



Opening Ceremony by the honourable Minister of Health Malaysia, Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam

Monday, 15th May 2017, 9.00am-10.00am



Cultural Performance

Drums Symphony



Launch of the Recommended Nutrient Intake (RNI) Malaysia 2017 by YB Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam



Tour of Exhibition Booths by Guest of Honour



Press Conference



Keynote Address by Prof Dr Teruo Miyazawa, Japan, President of Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies (FANS)



Regional Roundtable Discussions



Plenary lectures by senior/pioneer nutritionists and public health professionals in Southeast Asia



Poster presentation in action



Young Researchers' Awards (Oral)



Conference Dinner

Tuesday, 16 May 2017, 6pm – 8pm



Prize Presentation & Closing Ceremony Wednesday,
17th May 2017, 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm

3.2 Multi-country School Nutrition Initiative [Good Nutrition - Key to Healthy Children]

In recognition of the existence of the double-burden of under- and over- nutrition among school children in the countries of the region, a collaborative nutrition intervention project by the member societies targeted at school children has been proposed to contribute towards empowering these children with knowledge on healthy eating and active living. This will be a unique multi-country collaborative effort where Member Societies and Associate Members can gain valuable experiences in promoting healthy nutrition in school children.

The multi-country school nutrition initiative was discussed in several meetings of the Network and the approach was finalised during the 6th general meeting held in 28 & 29 July 2017, at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The council members agreed upon various aspects of the initiative including setting up a Technical Working Group (TWG) in each country respectively to oversee the implementation.

In a nutshell, this initiative involves the conduct of nutrition lessons to primary school children in selected schools using a specially designed nutrition module developed by member societies / associations of the SEA-PHN Network. Teachers in these schools shall be trained on the use of the module and to conduct the nutrition lessons. There is a total of 9 topics in this module which include the basics of healthy eating and active living.

Preparatory work for the modules is on-going. The modules developed will be sent to each participating country for translation and customisation in early 2018. Upon completion of these, the Train-the-Trainer Workshop will be conducted by the member societies in their respective country.

It is anticipated that the programme will be implemented in full in the later part of 2018 where each of the participating countries will commence with two pilot schools, which includes about 200 children in each country. This programme can subsequently be replicated by implementing larger scale interventions in more schools in each of the country.

3.3 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 upon by the Council during the 3rd general meeting in 2016. 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. The countries involved are Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. A template for the data compilation and analysis (which include introduction of NPAN, general objectives and details such as strategy, indicator, activities, etc) was developed and sent to the participating countries to provide the needed information. The Chairman of the Network, assisted by the Secretariat has been working on collecting the available NPAN in the SEA region and extracting necessary information and tabulate for analysis as preparation for a report.

3.4 Support of participants from member countries of SEA-PHN Network to the 1st Malaysian Nutrition Leadership Programme (MyNLP)

Nutrition Society of Malaysia (NSM) implemented a leadership training programme for young budding nutritionists, titled, Malaysia Nutrition Leadership Programme (MyNLP). The MyNLP is an initiative of the Nutrition Society of Malaysia with the objectives of assisting the development of future leaders in the field of human nutritional sciences in Malaysia through a well-rounded training programme.

It is envisioned that MyNLP is able to provide a platform of convergence to connect and provide networking opportunities among food and nutrition professionals across the country and also within the Southeast Asia region. NSM aimed to accomplish this mission through leadership training of the highest quality and by fostering innovative capabilities and internal growth through life-long learning. Most of the sessions will be informal and are designed to encourage interaction among participants and faculty.

The 1st MyNLP was conducted from 4 – 8 August 2017 at Eagle Ranch Resort, Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan. The 5-day programme consists of modules by a training partner through discussions, lectures, role play, games, and case studies.

As this programme is in line with the mission of SEA-PHN Network, the SEA-PHN Network had supported the travelling cost of 4 young members from the SEA-PHN Network member societies/ associations (PERGIZI PANGAN, NFP, NAT and VINUTAS) to Kuala Lumpur and the course venue. The Network hoped that with the participation of members from Southeast Asia, it will further enhance

the exchange of knowledge as well as providing networking opportunities among food and nutrition professionals across the Southeast Asia.

3.5 SEA-PHN Network 5th General Meeting (AGM)

The 5th General Meeting of the Network was held successfully at the Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 18 May, 2017, held in conjunction with the 1st Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Conference. 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. The attendees were as follows:

Members (Nutrition Societies)	Chairman <i>Dr Tee E Siong (NSM)</i>
	Vice-chairman <i>Prof Dr Hardinsyah (PERGIZI PANGAN)</i>
	Council member <i>Emeritus Prof Dr Mohd Ismail Noor (NSM)</i>
	Council member <i>Dr Rodolfo F. Florentino (NFP)</i>
	Council member <i>Assoc Prof Dr Umaporn Suthutvoravut (NAT)</i>
	Council member <i>Prof Dr Le Thi Hop (VINUTAS)</i>
Associate Members (Corporate companies)	Beneo Asia Pacific Pte Ltd <i>Ms Anke Sentko</i> <i>Ms Goh Peen Ern</i>
	Danone Nutricia Early Life Nutrition Asia-Pacific <i>Dr Jacque Bindels</i>
	DuPont Nutrition & Health <i>Ms Cyndy Au</i> <i>Mr Victor Basuki</i>
	Nestle <i>Ms Susan Kevork</i>
	PepsiCo Services Asia Ltd <i>Dr Kit Phanvijhitsiri</i>
Representatives from Government Ministries	Representative from Ministry of Health Brunei Darussalam <i>Hj Zakaria Kamis</i>
	Representative from Ministry of Health Myanmar <i>Dr May Khin Than</i>
	Representative from Ministry of Health Malaysia <i>Ms Zalma Abdul Razak</i>
	Representative from Ministry of Health Vietnam <i>Dr Do Thu Thuy</i>
	Representative from Nutrition Society of Malaysia <i>Dr Mahenderan Appukutty</i>
	Representative from Nutrition Foundation of Philippines Inc <i>Dr Ma Socorro Ignacio</i>

All Council Members and Associate Members shared a brief update on activities from their respective association or country in the past year. Meeting attendees also discussed the progress of the key activities undertaken by the Network, as well as the proposal and direction for future plans and activities. An important activity of the meeting was the election of the Second Council of the SEA-PHN Network for the term 2017-2020. Kindly refer to Figure 2 in pg 5 for the elected 2nd SEA-PHN Network Council.

Minutes of the 5th general meeting has been circulated to all attendees of the meeting.



Figure 3. Group photo of SEA-PHN Network's Council Members, representatives from Associate Members (corporate partners), representatives from Government Ministries and Network secretariat at the 5th General Meeting on 18 May, 2017 at Kuala Lumpur

3.6 SEA-PHN Network 6th General Meeting

In order to further discuss on the key activities undertaken by the Network, the Council decided to have the 6th general meeting held on 28 & 29 July 2017, at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in conjunction with Ho Chi Minh City Open Nutrition Conference 2017. The meeting was attended by Council Members, representatives from Associate Members and observers from VINUTAS and HCMC Nutrition Centre. The attendees were as follows:

Day 1 (Friday, 28 July 2017)

Members (Nutrition Societies)	Vice-chairman <i>Prof Dr Le Thi Hop</i> (VINUTAS)
	Council member <i>Prof Dr Hardinsyah</i> (PERGIZI PANGAN)
	Council member <i>Emeritus Prof Dr Mohd Ismail Noor</i> (NSM)
	Council member <i>Dr Rodolfo F. Florentino</i> (NFP)
	Council member <i>Assoc Prof Dr Umaporn Suthutvoravut</i> (NAT)
Associate Members (Corporate companies)	Danone Nutricia Early Life Nutrition Asia-Pacific <i>Dr Jacques Bindels</i>
	DuPont Nutrition & Health <i>Ms Cyndy Au</i> <i>Mr Victor Basuki</i>
	PepsiCo Services Asia Ltd <i>Dr Kit Phanvijhitsiri</i>
Observers	Representative from VINUTAS <i>Dr Tu Ngu</i>
	Representative from HCMC Nutrition Centre <i>Dr Do Thi Ngoc Diep</i>
Secretariat (VersaComm Sdn Bhd)	<i>Ms Muhaini Hussin</i> <i>Ms Yvonne Chwee</i>
Absent with apologies	Chairman <i>Dr Tee E Siong</i> (NSM)
	Beneo Asia Pacific Pte Ltd <i>Ms Anke Sentko</i> <i>Ms Goh Peen Ern</i>
	Nestle <i>Ms Susan Kevork</i>
	Tate & Lyle <i>Dr Kavita Karnik</i>

Day 2 (Saturday, 29 July 2017)

Members (Nutrition Societies)	Chairman <i>Dr Tee E Siong</i> (NSM)
	Vice-chairman <i>Prof Dr Le Thi Hop</i> (VINUTAS)
	Council member <i>Prof Dr Hardinsyah</i> (PERGIZI PANGAN)
	Council member <i>Emeritus Prof Dr Mohd Ismail Noor</i> (NSM)
	Council member <i>Dr Rodolfo F. Florentino</i> (NFP)
	Council member <i>Assoc Prof Dr Umaporn Suthutvoravut</i> (NAT)
	Danone Nutricia Early Life Nutrition Asia-Pacific

Associate Members (Corporate companies)	<i>Dr Jacques Bindels</i>
	DuPont Nutrition & Health <i>Mr Victor Basuki</i> <i>Mr Vinh Le Hoang</i>
	PepsiCo Services Asia Ltd <i>Dr Kit Phanvithsiri</i>
Secretariat (VersaComm Sdn Bhd)	<i>Ms Muhaini Hussin</i> <i>Ms Yvonne Chwee</i>
Absent with apologies	Beneo Asia Pacific Pte Ltd <i>Ms Anke Sentko</i> <i>Ms Goh Peen Ern</i>
	DuPont Nutrition & Health <i>Ms Cyndy Au</i>
	Nestle <i>Ms Susan Kevork</i>
	Tate & Lyle <i>Dr Kavita Karnik</i>



Figure 4. Group photo of SEA-PHN Network's Council Members, representatives from Associate Members (corporate partners) and Network secretariat at the 6th meeting on 28 & 29 July 2017, at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Minutes of the 6th general meeting has been circulated to all attendees of this meeting.

As proposed by the host of the 6th meeting, Vietnam Nutrition Association, SEA-PHN Network Council Members, Associate Members and Secretariat of the Network visited Binh Duong Health Service Department, which is located at the north of Ho Chi Minh City, to understand their efforts in addressing maternal and child health issues.



Figure 5. Group photo of SEA-PHN Network's Council Members, representatives from Associate Members (corporate partners) at Binh Duong Health Service Department on 28 July 2018

On the way to Binh Duong Health Service Department, SEA-PHN Network's Council Members, Associate Members and Secretariat of the Network visited Dai Nam Tourist Complex as an activity to enhance networking, understanding and social relations among the members.



Figure 6. Group photo of SEA-PHN Network's Council Members, representatives from Associate Members (corporate partners) at Dai Nam Tourist Complex on 28 July 2018

3.7 SEA-PHN Network Teleconference Calls

Teleconference facilitates interactions among the Network's members in between annual physical meetings. The Network had its 5th teleconference in February 2017 to discuss on the preparation for the 1st SEA-PHN conference 2017 and the 5th SEA-PHN Network General Meeting (in conjunction with 1st SEA-PHN Conference).

Several important items of the conference were discussed, including the topics and speakers for the scientific programme, lunch symposia, opening ceremony, website, announcement on Young Researchers' Award and promotion on the conference. Besides that, the venue and agenda for the 5th Annual General Meeting were also discussed during the teleconference.

The Network had its 6th Teleconference in July 2017 to discuss on the activation of the Multi-country School Nutrition Initiative. Several items were discussed, including the preparation on the module development, discussion on the expected outcome of the school nutrition initiative, identity and timeline. Other matters discussed were the preparation on the 6th general meeting at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and sponsorship of airfares for 4 participants from SEA-PHN member society/association to MyNLP, Malaysia Nutrition Leadership Programme organised by NSM in August 2017.

A 7th Teleconference was organized in October 2017 to discuss the participation of a new corporate company, Mondelez International and their proposed collaboration in the Multi-country School Nutrition Initiative.

4.0 SEA-PHN Network Website as Channel of Information Sharing

The Network's official website www.sea-phn.org, serves as a repository of public health nutrition resources and activities by the Network members, was viewed by 2496 users in the year 2017. These users were from Malaysia, United States of America, Indonesia, India and Singapore with the top five countries with most users being Malaysia. On average, users spent about 1 minute 17 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 17 National Nutrition Plans & Guidelines, 7 Nutrition Society Publications & Reports, 5 Publications by Associate Members, 9 Journal Portals and 6 Professional Links.

The number of users who have subscribed to the resources area has increased to 177 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 7. SEA-PHN Network official website and snapshots of some of the contents available.

5.0 Conclusion for Year 2017 and Preview of 2018

During this year, the SEA-PHN Network has made excellent progress in implementing/executing the activities undertaken. The planned activities were implemented successfully.

The Network successfully organised the 1st SEA-PHN Conference that took place on 14-17 May 2017 in Kuala Lumpur. Council Members of the Nutrition Society of Malaysia had put in much effort and dedication in the preparation work to ensure the smooth conduct of this Conference. This scientific meeting enabled networking among nutritionists not just in the SEA region but also in other parts of the Asia-Pacific. Through the conference, more public health scientists are aware of the Network and its objectives and activities.

The multi-country collaborative school children intervention programme has also progressed well with the on-going preparation work on developing the special designed nutrition education module and the needed teaching aids. The project on compilation of Nutrition Policies/National Plan of Action on Nutrition in Southeast Asia Country has also commenced satisfactorily. These two projects are public health nutrition activities that have important practical use and application for countries in the region. The school intervention initiative can potentially contribute to better understanding of nutrition intervention programmes that can be implemented in all schools in the region. The NPAN review project can become a useful resource to countries in the preparation of nutrition policies and action plans. The projects will certainly help to enhance the understanding of the public health nutrition programmes in the region and enable experience exchange among the societies.

The Network members and associate members were able to continue to have effective communications in the year via two physical meeting and several teleconference calls. It is encouraging to note that senior government officials from several countries in SEA participate in the meetings of the Network to share their programmes/activities and exchange views with the Network members and associate members.

For the coming year 2018, the priorities of the Network are as follows:

1. Completion of the development, translation and customisation of educational module of the multi-country school nutrition initiative and roll-out of nutrition education/lessons in schools by trained teachers in all the 5 participating countries.
2. Completion of the compilation and analysis of National Plan of Action for Nutrition in SEA countries and preparation of a manuscript for publication.

The Network is upbeat about the future of this collaboration among five nutrition societies/associations in SEA, working in strategic alliance with corporate companies. This multi-stakeholder public-private collaboration of the Network is confident that it will be able to meet the challenges and will continue its objectives of promoting public health nutrition in the region. The Network will continue to contribute to government efforts in the alleviation of the nutrition status of the population in SEA.

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

July 2018