

A Collaboration among Nutrition Societies in Southeast Asia Region

Promoting regional collaboration for community nutrition improvement

Annual Report Year 2021

Members











Associate Members







Message from the Chairman

The Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Network has progressed well over the past 7 years in promoting public health nutrition in the region. The Network has been a unique collaboration that builds on the strength of the professional bodies and the corporate partners. Through several joint activities among the members that are based on nutritional issues of common interest to the region e.g. school nutrition education module development, several scientific publications, webinars and exchange of experiences, the Network has demonstrated that public-private collaboration among nutrition societies and corporate partners is a viable and useful approach towards promoting nutritional wellbeing of the population.

This report highlights the work of the Network in Year 2021. Over the past one year, the Network has focused on providing platform for interaction and networking among nutritionists, dietitians, healthcare professionals and related stakeholders on nutrition issues in the SEA region through a series of webinars and discussion forums. However, much remains to be done for further advancement of Network to enable it to continue to contribute towards public health nutrition promotion in SEA, especially in the era of COVID-19 pandemic. We have not yet seen the end of the pandemic and its impacts, but the effort to promote healthy nutrition must continue, especially that the pandemic has revealed the vital role of nutrition in each phase of pandemic response. For the year 2022 the Network will continue creating more discussion opportunities in the SEA region via virtual platform, and it is optimistic that the virtual setting would bring benefit to reaching a wider audience and stakeholders within the region. The Network thanks the strong and ongoing support and commitment by partner societies and corporate companies to enable the Network activities to be implemented.

E-Siong Tee, PhD
Chairman
Southeast Asia Nutrition Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Network
8 February 2022

Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Network

Established in 2014, the Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Network is a collaboration of nutrition societies/associations in Southeast Asia countries, and working in partnership with other key stakeholders namely government agencies and corporate partners, dedicated to promoting public health nutrition in the region.

The Network aims to:

- Establish and maintain an interactive network among public health nutritionists in the Southeast Asia region
- Promote periodic exchange of experiences, activities in all public health nutrition issues
- Share available information and documentation such as technical publications with all stakeholders involved in public health nutrition, including professional bodies, government agencies and private sector
- Conduct activities to promote public health nutrition to benefit the communities in Southeast Asia region while ensuring avoidance of potential conflicts of interest.
- Consolidate efforts among nutritionists, both in the public and private sector, for the advancement of public health nutrition

The activities of the Network focus primarily on:

- Maintain regular contact among members of the Network through annual meetings (preferably in conjunction with a scientific meeting) and video conference meetings as and when needed
- Interaction through a dedicated website: <u>www.sea-phn.org</u>
- Conduct collaborative projects among members of the Network, private sector and government agencies based on nutritional issues of common interest to the region for community nutrition improvement, in the spirit of public-private partnership
- Organise scientific meetings, webinars or conferences

More details of the Network are available on the Network website: http://sea-phn.org.

Network's Membership and Management

The SEA-PHN Network is a not-for-profit professional organisation, managed by a Council elected every three years by the members. The conduct/running of the Network activities is facilitated by a Secretariat, with the Council overseeing all activities.

Member Societies

The member societies of the Network comprise Nutrition Societies/Associations affiliated to the Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies (FANS) and the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS). Current member societies include:











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 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), discuss nutrition matters, provide technical expertise and contribute to planning of nutrition projects and activities of the Network. Private sector companies also provide financial support for the activities of the Network. Current Associate Members from the private sector companies and their respective technical representatives are:







BENEO-Institute

IFF

PepsiCo Services Asia Co., Ltd

Technical representatives: Ms Anke Sentko Ms Goh Peen Ern Technical representatives: Ms Cyndy Au Mr Le Hoang Vinh Technical representatives: Dr Kit Phanvijhitsiri Mr Liu Feng

Members of the 3rd Council of the SEA-PHN Network (Year 2020 to 2023)



CHAIRMANDr Tee E Siong, Nutrition Society of Malaysia



VICE-CHAIRMANAssoc Prof Dr Nalinee Chongviriyapha, Nutrition Association of Thailand



COUNCIL MEMBERProf Dr Ir. Hardinsyah Ridwan, Food and Nutrition Society of Indonesia



COUNCIL MEMBERAssoc Prof Dr Mahenderan Appukutty, Nutrition Society of Malaysia



COUNCIL MEMBERDr Rodolfo F. Florentino, Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines, Inc



COUNCIL MEMBERProf Dr Le Thi Hop, Vietnam Nutrition Association

Highlights of Year 2021 Activities

1. SEA-PHN Network 10th General Meeting

The 10th General Meeting of the Network was conducted virtually via Zoom online platform on 1st October 2021. The meeting was attended by all Council Members, representatives from Associate Members, invited guest and the Network's Secretariat, as follows:

Members	Chairman		
(Nutrition Societies)	Dr Tee E Siong (NSM)		
	Vice-chairman		
	Assoc Prof Dr Nalinee Chongviriyapha (NAT)		
	Council members		
	Prof Dr Hardinsyah (PERGIZI PANGAN)		
	Assoc Prof Dr Mahenderan Appukutty (NSM)		
	Dr Rodolfo F. Florentino (NFP)		
	Prof Dr Le Thi Hop (VINUTAS)		
Associate Members	BENEO-Institute		
(Corporate companies)	Ms Anke Sentko		
	Ms Goh Peen Ern		
	IFF		
	Ms Cyndy Au		
	Pepsico Services Asia Co., Ltd		
	Dr Kit Phanvijhitsiri		
Guest	Mrs Maria Lourdes Vega (NFP)		
Secretariat	Ms Muhaini Hussin		
(VersaComm Sdn Bhd)	Ms Voon Siok Hui		
	Ms Presanna Arumugam		

Council Members and Associate Members exchanged nutrition experiences by sharing a brief update on major nutrition activities and programmes from respective association or country in the past one year. Members also reviewed the main activities undertaken by the Network in Year 2021 and discussed activities direction for Year 2022.



Figure 1. Group photo of attendees at the 10th General Meeting of the Network

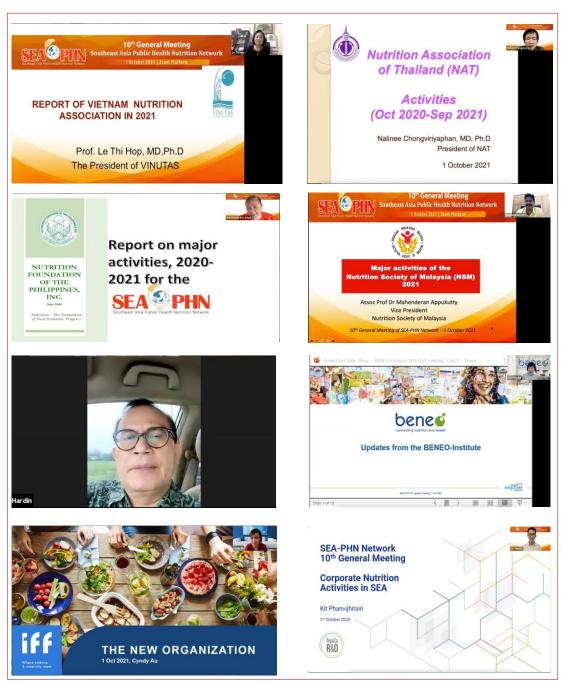


Figure 2. Council Members and Associate Members updated on nutrition activities of respective association/organisation during the 10th General Meeting

2. Public Health Nutrition Webinar Series

With continuous physical events restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Network utilised the virtual setting to create more discussion opportunities and reaching a wider audience and stakeholders within the region. The Network has focused on organising a series of webinars in year 2021 on different topics that are of common interest to the countries in the region.

Webinar Series 1/2021: School Children Nutrition Promotion in Southeast Asia

The coexistence of dual form of malnutrition is a common issue among school children in the SEA region. While undernutrition remains a major nutritional problem among school children, the prevalence of overweight and obesity have been increasing and become more important threats to their health and wellbeing. Schools are important places for nutrition intervention programmes to be conducted as they reach the majority of children, and through them, reaching their parents and caregivers. With the aims to share experiences on nutrition intervention programmes in schools, explore the potential for collaboration among SEA countries and raise awareness of the importance of multi-stakeholders approach to devote adequate resources for effective implementation of such programmes, the Network organised the Webinar on 'School Nutrition Promotion in Southeast Asia' on 7 April 2021 via GoToWebinar online platform.

The Webinar presented school nutrition promotion programmes in SEA countries and discussed the challenges, possible action plans, and way forward for such programmes. The first part of the Webinar was devoted to school nutrition promotion experience sharing by five speakers from SEA (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam), in which they presented school nutrition promotion programme in their respective countries, the success stories and the challenges in conducting such activities in schools. The challenges, possible action plans and way forward for school nutrition promotion programmes were discussed at the second part of the Webinar. The Webinar arrived at recommendations for possible public-private cooperation and other action plans to strengthen nutrition promotion to children through schools. The webinar was attended by 234 nutritionists, dietitians, government representatives, private sectors, educators, and other interested professionals from SEA countries.

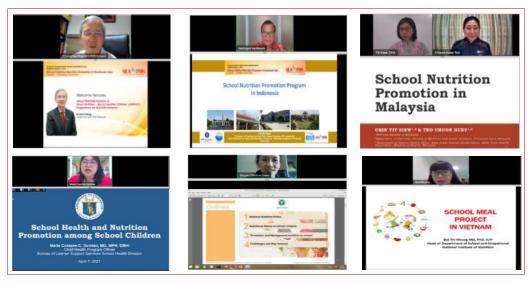


Figure 3. Speakers shared school nutrition promotion experience in respective country

Webinar Series 2/2021: National Plans of Action for Nutrition (NPANs) in Southeast Asia Countries

Countries in the SEA region are facing similar burden of malnutrition, characterised by persistent undernutrition including stunting, wasting, micronutrients deficiencies and coexisting overweight and obesity across the life cycle. Many SEA countries have respectively developed their own NPAN as a vital master plan to address these nutrition issues. With the aims to share the available NPANs in SEA widely with all public health workers in the region, and provide a platform for an exchange of experiences in the development and implementation of NPANs in SEA countries, the webinar on NPANs in SEA countries was organised by the Network on 29 June 2021 via Zoom online platform.

The webinar started with a sharing by the Network of a review of NPANs in SEA countries, providing an understanding on the common approaches taken, similarities and differences of NPANs in the region. This was followed by four invited speakers from SEA (Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) who presented the NPAN experiences of their respective country. The webinar also discussed and identified constraints, success elements, actions and supports required in the NPAN process. The webinar was attended by 123 participants from seven countries in the region including nutritionists, dietitians, nutritionist-dietitians, members of academia/researchers, policy makers, public health workers and other healthcare professionals.



Figure 4. Speakers presented NPAN experience of respective country



Figure 5. Discussion forum on success elements, actions & supports required at several stages of NPAN process and recommendations for way forward

Webinar Series 3/2021: National Plans of Action for Nutrition (NPANs) in Southeast Asia Countries

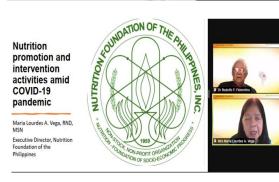
The COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to rage across the globe, has highlighted the importance of good nutrition as key to strengthening immunity so as to combat the pandemic. Nutrition action is needed, and more crucial than ever to ensure COVID-19 pandemic does not lead to malnutrition crisis, as well as to prevent non-communicable diseases that are risk factors for higher COVID-19 morbidity and mortality. With the aims to share nutrition promotion, interventions, innovations and researches experiences undertaken by SEA countries amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and advocate timely exchange of public health nutrition experiences among countries in the region, the webinar on Nutrition Activities during COVID-19 Pandemic in SEA Countries was organised on 15 December 2021 via Zoom online platform.

The one-day webinar started with five presentations on nutrition promotion and intervention activities in SEA countries in response to COVID-19, followed by sharing by private sectors on nutrition effort in response to the pandemic. In the afternoon session, invited speakers from four SEA countries shared the nutrition and COVID-19 researches of their respective country. The panelists and audiences also interacted in discussion forum to foster additional sharing of experiences and opportunities to promote and improve nutrition in response to COVID-19. The webinar was attended by 168 participants including nutritionists, dietitians, nutritionist-dietitians, members of academia/researchers, policy makers, public health workers and other healthcare professionals.









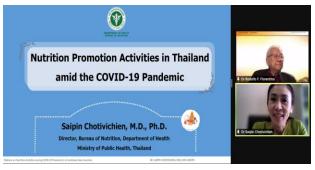




Figure 6. Speakers presented nutrition activities and research during COVID-19 pandemic in respective country



Figure 7. Discussion forums with speakers as panellist members



Figure 8. The reports and materials of all three webinars are downloadable at SEA-PHN Network website: https://sea-phn.org/resources

3. Compilation of Recommended Nutrient Intakes (RNIs)/Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs) in SEA Countries

The project on analysis and review of RNIs/RDAs in SEA countries is progressing, with information from five SEA countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand & Vietnam) have been extracted and tabulated into excel file for further comparison and analysis. This compilation work will be published in a review paper format by mid-year of 2022, and it is hope that the compilation of nutrients recommendation intake Tables of five SEA countries in the paper would serve as useful reference for users.

4. 1st Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition Leadership Programme (SEA-PHN LP)

The 1st SEA-PHN LP which was tentatively scheduled for August 2021 in conjunction with the 2nd Malaysian Nutrition Leadership Programme (MyNLP), has been postponed due to the COVID-19 situation. A new date will be informed after getting clearance from health authority. The Network and the Technical Working Committee of the programme have been in discussion on alternative way to conduct the programme through virtual format. Suggestions from the Council and Associate Members of the Network have been shared with the local technical working group of MyNLP for further discussion and proposal preparation to be conducted locally before it is further adapted for regional scale.

SEA-PHN Network Website – A Repository of Public Health Nutrition Documents in SEA

The Network's website www.sea-phn.org, continued to serve as a channel of communication and information sharing among members and public health nutrition professionals in the region. In addition to the scientific publications, reports of completed projects of the Network, relevant publications from the societies, government agencies as well as Associate Members, more materials such as the presentation slides (with speakers' consent) for all the webinars are being uploaded to be shared with the users.

By having the website maintained and updated, the Network is progressing well in enhancing its visibility regionally. In year 2021, the total number of unique visitors (3231) of the website was doubled and the total total page-views (12415) tripled compared to Year 2020.

Country	Users	% Users
1. Malaysia	765	23.55%
2. United States	397	12.22%
3. China	390	12.00%
4. Philippines	301	9.26%
5. Indonesia	107	3.29%
6. Thailand	84	2.59%
7. India	65	2.00%
8. Germany	52	1.60%
9. Japan	49	1.51%
10. 🟭 United Kingdom	47	1.45%

Figure 9. The breakdown of website visitors for year 2021 by countries (top 10)

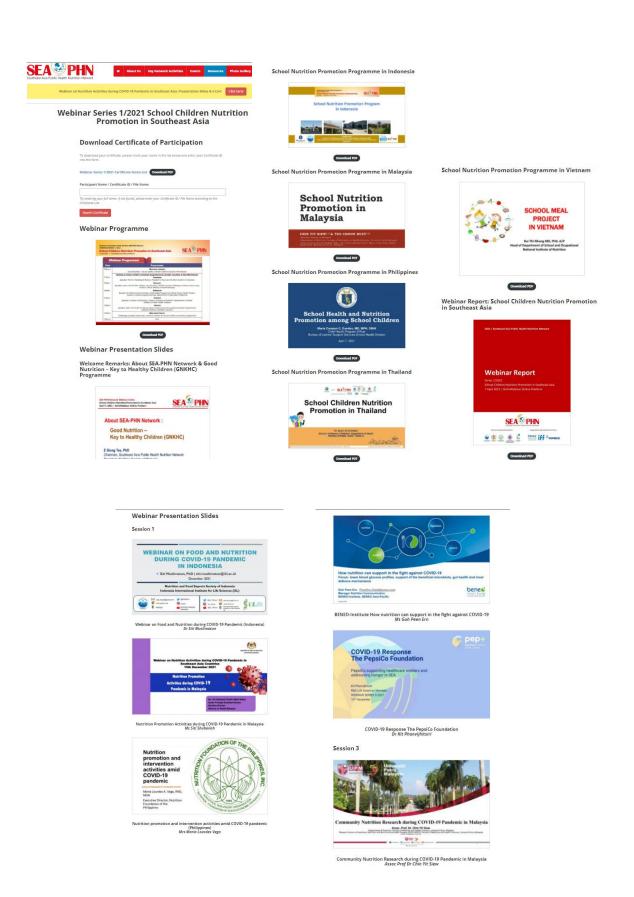


Figure 10a. Snapshots of some of the contents available on the Resource Area of SEA-PHN Network website

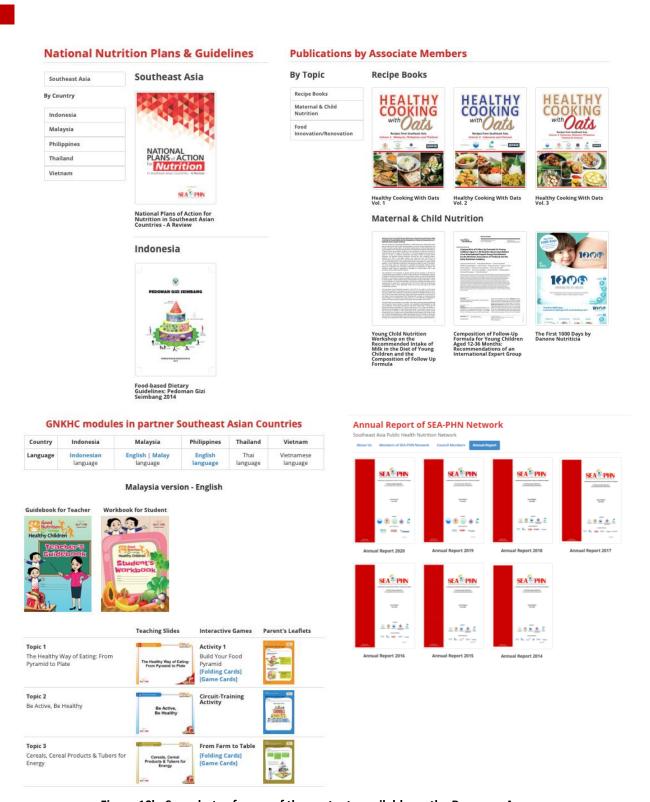


Figure 10b. Snapshots of some of the contents available on the Resource Area of SEA-PHN Network website