**Opening Report**

**Introductory Course on Epidemiology and Biostatistics**

**12thJune 2017**

**By Dr. Potjaman Siriarayapon**

**Director Bureau of Epidemiology**

**Dr. Pairoj Hengsaengchai,** Deputy Director General, Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

**Dr.Panumard Yarnwaidsakul ,** Deputy Director General, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health

**Dr. Sujarti Jatanasen**

**Representative from FAO :** Dr.Wantanee Kalpravidh

**Representative from WHO:** Dr.Daniel Kertesz

**Representative from TUC/US CDC:** Dr.Sopon Iamsirithaworn

**Honorable Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the organizing committee of the Introductory Course on Epidemiology and Biostatistics for the year 2017, I would like to thank Dr. Panumard Yarnwaidsakul, Deputy Director General, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand for his kindness to chair this opening ceremony.

Since 1980, the Ministry of Public Health of the Royal Thai Government in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has established the Field Epidemiology Training Program, or FETP, in response to the need for well-trained medical epidemiologists in the country. In 1998, Thailand FETP advanced itself from a local training program to an international institute by recruiting and providing training to medical doctors from other countries in South East Asia and neighboring regions. Since then, International FETP, or IFETP, has started.

In addition to the original FETP, The Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians or FETP-V was initiated in 2005,with strong support from the Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations or FAO, under the needs of more effective response to zoonosis. In 2008, the two organizations signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to produce the field epidemiologists. Veterinarian in the program will join activities at the Ministry of Public Health as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. And, in 2013, when the needs for collaborative approaches to protect human health, animal welfare, and environment, or One Health, were fully developed and well recognized, FETP for Wildlife, or FETP-W, was established and veterinarian trainees from wildlife sectors have been recruited.

In the curriculum of the 2-year Field Epidemiology Training Program, all Thai and international trainees are required to analyze situation of public health problems, investigate disease outbreaks and conduct an epidemiological field research. A unique feature of this field epidemiology program is that the trainees work in real situations in the field under close supervision of program advisors.

The first activity for trainees is attending a one-month Introductory Course on Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Many topics in the course will be given by guest lecturers from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Organization for Animal Health, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Kasetsart University, Mahidol University, Chulalongkorn University, Phra Mongkutklao College of Medicine, Chiang Mai University, The Zoological Park Organization under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King, Thai Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, and Thai Ministry of Public Health.

Goals of the course are for participants:

To understand the key principles of epidemiologic surveillance, outbreak investigations and response in public health crisis.

To be able to analyze and interpret epidemiological data and apply the results to public health intervention.

To build relationships and networking with colleagues from other countries, so that surveillance and response capacity can be strengthened throughout the region.

For this 2017 Introductory Course, we have 43participants who are from China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar and Thailand. Among the course participants, 11 of them are members of the 38thFETP Class including 2 from Myanmar and 9 from Thailand.

Now, may I request Dr. Panumard Yarnwaidsakul to give a opening address for the Introductory Course on Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Please

**Opening Address**

**Introductory Course on Epidemiology and Biostatistics**

**12thJune 2017**

**By Dr. Panumard Yarnwaidsakul**

**Deputy Director General of the Department of Disease Control**

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Dr.Pairoj Hengsaengchai Dr.Sujarti Jatanasen**

**Dr.Wantanee Kalpravidh**

**Dr.Daniel Kertesz**

**Dr.Sopon Iamsirithaworn**

**Honorable Guests, Ladies andGentlemen,**

It is my great pleasure to be here today at the opening ceremony of the Introductory Course on Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Since late 2012 until now, the threatening MERS-CoV,several strains of avian influenza virus as well as Ebola outbreak in Africa and Zika virus infection have shaken the world, and caused significant impacts to many countries worldwide, including Thailand and countries in this region. It is indeed a public health threat of international concern and highlights the need for effective surveillance and timely responses to this global health problem. Meanwhile, other public health challenges including non-communicable diseases and injuries, are increasingly threatening health of the people in Asia and other countries worldwide.

The Field Epidemiology Training Program is one of the top program priorities of the Thai Ministry of Public Health and Department of Disease Control. Since its beginning in 1980, trainees and graduates from the program has played an important role in responding to health crisis, particularly surveillance and disease outbreak investigations.

I would like to emphasize about the differences between field epidemiology and academic work or clinical practice. Field epidemiology combines intellectual tools and applied skills to protect public health particularly during crisis such as a disease outbreak.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

The Department of Disease Control and Ministry of Public Health strongly supports close cooperation to combat public health challenges of international concern. I am confident that this training course will help us work together toward the goals of effective disease control, and ultimately, public health security. I also hope that the outcomes of this training course will strengthen our surveillance and response capacity and fortify an information-sharing network for early warning system among countries in the region.

On behalf of the Ministry of Public Health, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Organization for Animal Health, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Kasetsart University, Mahidol University, Chulalongkorn University, Phra Mongkutklao College of Medicine, Chiang Mai University, The Zoological Park Organization under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King and Thai Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. for their kind contributions to this course.

I now declare the opening of Joint Training Course on the Introductory Course on Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*