

Statement by Dr. Samlee Plianbangchang to accept nomination to WHO/SEA Regional Director Post

Honorable Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a wonderful and exciting moment for me to be nominated to the post of WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia. This will be the most challenging task in my life.

I must thank my government for nominating me and working very hard for me to get through this difficult process. It is well understood that this is a usual nature of the platform such as this, which I have been well aware of since the beginning of the race.

I thank member states for giving me the opportunity to serve World Health Organization and for the trust and confidence given to me to take this important regional responsibility.

I will continue the development work of the Region that has already taken place under Dr. Uton's leadership, with the view to accelerating its process to ensure timely and effective response to the changing needs and requirements in the Member States.

I will also start development in new arrears in responding to the emerging health problems and challenges in the Region.

I will spare no efforts in pursuing the work of high priority for the region, such as:

- mobilizing more extra-budgetary resources while ensuring effective and efficient utilization of the existing funds;
- further strengthening WHO capability and capacity in order to act more proactively and to respond more effectively to countries' needs;
- decentralizing the work of WHO/SEARO, giving more authority and leeway to WHO Country Representatives;
- further promoting inter-country cooperation, with particular attention to the joint endeavours at the border areas.

Certainly, all these and others will have to be done in close collaboration with all levels in WHO and under the DG's policy framework.

I will work diligently to ensure that WHO/SEARO continue to be a real part of "ONE WHO", whereby Headquarters, Regional Office and Country Offices are working in unison.

I will continue to ensure that WHO/SEARO make itself more responsive and relevant to the specific needs of individual countries. Its contribution will really add to their respective efforts already exerted for the development of health for all.

Excellencies, to be effective in my work in serving countries in the Region, I really need your advice, guidance and political support. I hope these will be forthcoming.

Once again, Excellencies, I overwhelmingly thank you for electing me to the post of Regional Director for SEAR.

With my many years of experience at various capacities in this office, being aware of strengths and weaknesses of WHO in this Region, allow me to assure Your Excellencies that I will be able to function efficiently and effectively in serving the countries in tackling the prevailing health problems in the Region.
