**Opening Report**

**Introductory Course on Epidemiology and Biostatistics**

**17thJune 2019**

**By Dr. Walairat Chaifoo**

**The Director, Bureau of Epidemiology**

**Dr.Tanarak Plipat ,** Deputy Director General, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health

**Dr. Banjong Jongrakwattana,** Director of the National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

**Dr. Sujarti Jatanasen**

**Representative from FAO :** Mr.Andrew Sobey (โซ-เบ้)

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

**Representative from TUC/US CDC:** Dr.John R. MacArthur

**Honorable Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the organizing committee of the Introductory Course on Epidemiology and Biostatistics for the year 2019, I would like to thank Dr. Tanarak Plipat, 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. 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.

In 1998, Thailand FETP has started providing training to medical doctors from other countries in South East Asia and neighboring regions. Due to the needs for more effective response to zoonoses, 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.

This one-month Introductory Course on Epidemiology and Biostatistics is the first activity for FETP trainees. 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, Kasetsart University, Mahidol University, Chulalongkorn University, Chiangmai University, PhraMongkutklao College of Medicine, 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.

From this course, we expected that our participant to understand the key principles of epidemiology and biostatistics. Eventually, they will be able to apply the concepts to solve public or animal health problems. In addition, the participants are also encouraged to build up a multi-sectoral network which found to be important for disease prevention, detection and response.

In 2019, we have 45 participants who are from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand. Among the course participants, 8 of them are members of the 40thFETP Class including 1 from Myanmar and 7 from Thailand.

Now, may I request Dr. Tanarak Plipat to give an opening address for the Introductory Course on Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Please

**Opening Address**

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**By Dr. Tanarak Plipat**

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

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**Honorable Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my great pleasure to be here today at the opening ceremony of the Introductory Course on Epidemiology and Biostatistics 2019.

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 which 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, Chiangmai University, PhraMongkutklao College of Medicine,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 2019.

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