



Closing Ceremony Speech

Honorable speakers, delegates, participants, ladies and gentlemen,

Sawadee Ka. Good Afternoon.

The Regional Workshop on Experience Sharing of Nutrition Surveillance System in ASEAN will soon conclude. It was our great honor and privilege to spend the past three days with friends and colleagues from ASEAN Member States. With your active participation and significant contribution to this Workshop, I strongly believe, it has successfully finished all its sessions. Therefore on behalf of the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, I would like to extend our sincerest thanks and gratitude to all participating ASEAN Member States, speakers, delegates as well as the ASEAN Secretariat.

During the three days' workshop and meeting, we have covered a wide array of topics in various disciplines of nutrition, and a lot of productive group discussions, communications, site visits and poster presentations have taken place. And I am also pleased to see that the workshop has provided us with a unique platform to share experiences and information on nutrition surveillance system among the participants of ASEAN Member States. The distinguished speakers and participants have shown amazing wisdom and inspiring enthusiasm to extend our common ground and build up an effective framework of methodologies, successful interventions, strengths and best practices to share with and learn from each other. Not only that, political commitment, engagement with national and local leaders as well as all relevant stakeholders, use of information and communication technologies, and institutional capacity building were emphasized during the workshop to strengthen the effectiveness of Nutrition Surveillance System, and also to address the current challenges, such as double malnutrition, micronutrient deficiency. Therefore I firmly trust that the closing of this Workshop is not an end, but our continuing journey to support, improve and guide

nutrition interventions in the ASEAN population in accordance with relevant Sustainable Development Goals and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community blueprint provisions.

So let us build on our current status and look ahead into the future to keep fostering our mutual friendship and solidarity, and fortifying our regional communication, cooperation and collaboration with effective national policies and strategies beneficial to ONE COMMUNITY.

An old Chinese saying goes that *"there is no never-ending feast"*. Happy and wonderful hours are always so short. I hope the Workshop has left an unforgettable impression on all our honorable guests and given them a unique opportunity to explore our traditional culture and graceful living environment. And we look forward to meeting you again in coming years. But for now, I wish you a pleasant and safe trip back home, and I say "Thank you all" again for your active participation.



Dr. Amporn Benjaponpitak
Deputy Director General
Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health Thailand