

From the Chair – SEACO Board



As I end my term I wish to extend my congratulations to all SEACO staff on establishing this major undertaking on a sound footing. I acknowledge the outstanding leadership of the Director, Professor Daniel Reidpath and the Associate Director, Professor Pascale Allotey. Without the dedication of all staff, however, SEACO would not be secure.

SEACO is filling a major gap in health information in Malaysia and the region. It is an ambitious, complex and long-term undertaking and the full potential of SEACO will take time to unfold. It is gratifying to note the progress over the last 12 months and many milestones have been achieved, including the first publications. The completion of the first census round and the beginning of the health round are major achievements; already the first embedded projects are well established.

Prof Robert Beaglehole

I am pleased that the governance issues have been satisfactorily resolved. The online Board meetings have been successful even if it is not always easy to have the same level of discussion as at a regular meeting. I am pleased that the community engagement is now entrenched; without this engagement SEACO would not succeed. Of course, challenges remain; this type of community-based study is never easy nor straightforward. Capacity building and training of staff are critical issues. I am confident that the SEACO team will meet all the important challenges.

I note with pleasure the developing partnerships between SEACO and a variety of stakeholders, all of which add value to SEACO. The strengthening relationship with the Ministry of Health is very important. I also recognize the importance of the ongoing support from Monash University and Monash Malaysia; this ongoing support is critical to the successful evolution of SEACO.

I am confident that SEACO is now in a position to begin to realize its potential as an innovative national and regional approach to monitoring and evaluating the health of the people. The point of measuring population health is to improve health. Building on the achievements to date, SEACO will undoubtedly make major contributions to health improvement in Malaysia and the region.