

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The thirty-fourth session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia was held in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, from 15 to 21 September 1981. It was attended by representatives from all Member countries of the Region, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Labour Organisation and sixteen non-governmental organizations having official relations with WHO (see Annex 1 for list of participants).

The session was declared open by the outgoing Chairman, Mr Mohammed Musthafa Hussain, Minister of Health of the Republic of Maldives. This was followed by a colourful opening, with the beating of the ceremonial "gong" by the Health Minister of Indonesia after his inaugural address, and a graceful Balinese dance performed in the traditional style.

The inaugural meeting was also addressed by the Governor of Bali, the Regional Director and representatives of UNDP, UNICEF and ILO.

At the first plenary meeting, a Sub-Committee on Credentials was appointed, consisting of representatives of Burma, DPR Korea and Thailand. Dr Kim Yong Ik (DPRK) was elected Chairman of the Sub-Committee, which held one meeting and presented its report (SEA/RC34/20), based on which the Committee recognized the validity of the credentials presented by all the representatives.

The Regional Committee elected the following office-bearers:

Chairman : Dr Bahrawi Wongsokusumo (Indonesia)
Vice-Chairman : Mr A.M. Hyder Hussain (Bangladesh)

The Committee adopted its agenda (Annex 2), established a Sub-Committee on Programme Budget, consisting of representatives from all countries, and adopted the terms of reference for this sub-committee (document SEA/RC34/4). Under the chairmanship of Dr L. Poudayl (Nepal) the Sub-Committee held three meetings and submitted a report (Annex 3) which was endorsed by the Committee (resolution SEA/RC34/R11).

The Regional Committee elected Mr N.N. Vohra (India) as Chairman of the technical discussions, on the subject of "The Role of Ministries of Health as Directing and Coordinating Authorities on National Health Work", and adopted the agenda for these discussions (SEA/RC34/5 and Add.1). The conclusions and recommendations arising out of these discussions (Annex 4), which were held on 17 September, were later presented to the Regional Committee.

A sub-committee to draft resolutions was established, consisting of representatives from India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The Regional Committee decided to hold technical discussions during its thirty-fifth session on the subject of "Control and prevention of leprosy in the context of primary health care".

The Committee reconfirmed its decision to hold its thirty-fifth session in Dacca in September 1982 in response to the invitation of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and noted the invitation of His Majesty's Government of Nepal to hold its thirty-sixth session in Nepal in 1983 (resolution SEA/RC34/R9).

The closing session was impressive, as it was attended by the Ministers of Health from seven Member countries. The Director-General of WHO was also present and gave an address.

In the course of seven plenary meetings, the Regional Committee adopted twelve resolutions.

Parts II, III and IV of this report are devoted to summaries of the Committee's discussions on important matters. A complete list of documents is given in Annex 5.