

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The thirtieth session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 2 to 8 August 1977. Representatives were present from all Member countries of the Region, except from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (later, a message was received by the Chairman from the Health Minister of DPRK). The session was also attended by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Children's Fund. Representatives of one inter-governmental and 30 non-governmental organizations in official relations with WHO were also present (for list of participants, see Annex 1). The session was opened, in the absence of the Chairman, by the Vice-Chairman, Mr Ahmed Ali Didi, who welcomed the delegates and guests and thanked the Prime Minister and the Minister of Public Health of Thailand for being present.

The session was inaugurated by Mr Thanin Kraivixien, the Prime Minister. The inaugural meeting was also addressed by Professor Yongyoot Sujjavanich, the Minister of Public Health, by the Director-General of WHO, and by the Regional Director.

The Regional Representative of the United Nations Development Programme and the UNICEF Regional Director in Bangkok made statements at the inaugural session.

At the first meeting, a Sub-Committee on Credentials was appointed, consisting of representatives from Bangladesh, Burma and Sri Lanka. Dr U Thein Nyunt (Burma) was elected Chairman of the Sub-Committee, which held one meeting and presented a report (SEA/RC30/16) recognizing the validity of the credentials presented by all the representatives.

The Regional Committee elected the following office-bearers:

Chairman	:	Dr Prakorb Tuchinda (Thailand)
Vice-Chairman	:	Professor Jamba (Mongolia)

It established a Sub-Committee on Programme Budget consisting of representatives from all the countries and adopted the terms of reference for this Sub-Committee (SEA/RC30/4). Under the Chairmanship of Mr Prasad (India), the Sub-Committee held four meetings and submitted a report (Annex 3), which was subsequently approved by the Regional Committee. The Committee elected Dr Khatri (Nepal) as Chairman of the technical discussions, which were on the subject of "Health Information Systems with Special Reference to Primary Health Care and Community Development", and adopted the agenda for these discussions (SEA/RC30/5). The discussions were held on 4 August, and the group met on 5 August to consider and adopt their recommendations, which were presented to and noted by the Regional Committee (Annex 4).

One of the first actions of the Regional Committee was to nominate Dr V.T. Herat Gunaratne as Regional Director for a new term (resolution SEA/RC30/R1).

The Regional Committee selected "Expanded Programme of Immunization" as the subject for the technical discussions to be held during its thirty-first session (resolution SEA/RC30/R2).

The Committee accepted with appreciation the invitation from the Government of the People's Republic of Mongolia to hold its thirty-first session in Ulan Bator in August/September 1978 (resolution SEA/RC30/R3).

In the course of seven plenary meetings, the Committee adopted seventeen resolutions, which have been issued separately in the resolutions series and form Part I of this report.

Parts II, III and IV of the Report are devoted to summaries of important matters raised in the discussions. A complete list of documents is given in Annex 5. The Agenda for the session is given as Annex 2.