EXECUTIVE BOARD
Seventy-seventh Session

APPLICATION FROM AN INTERNATIONAL NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION REQUESTING OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO

1. Name of the international nongovernmental organization (hereinafter referred to as "the organization")
   Council of Directors of Institutes of Tropical Medicine in Europe (TROPMEDEUROP)
   Assemblée des Directeurs des Instituts de Médecine Tropicale d'Europe (TROPMEDEUROP)

2. Address of headquarters and name of person to whom correspondence should be addressed
   Secretariat:
   Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde
   Nationalestraat 155
   B-2000 Antwerpen
   Belgium

3. General objectives
   The purpose of the Council is to sustain and improve the quality of teaching, research and medical practice in the field of both tropical medicine and health.

4. Main activities
   A yearly meeting (several days) at one of the affiliated institutes. This meeting aims at promoting personal acquaintance of the directors of affiliated Tropical Medicine Institutes. During these meetings, discussions are held on joint ventures, common policies (such as vaccination policies) and scientific matters of common interest.

   Promote regional cooperation such as the recent founding of a French branch to encourage cooperation between the Institutes in francophone countries.

   Organization of joint courses, the first of which being a course on Tropical Epidemiology (in French) to be held in Antwerp, in September 1985.

1 Submitted by the applicant on 27 August 1985.

The designations employed in this document are those which have been used by the nongovernmental organization itself in its application and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
An inventory of the overseas centers connected with different participating institutes has been distributed to members in 1974 by the Secretary General at that time, Dr Th. Freyvogel. The aim of this inventory was to facilitate access to each other's possibilities of work overseas. Since this is an international sensitive subject, it was agreed that distribution of this document would be strictly restricted to participating institutions.

The links established within TROPMEDEUROP have made possible a number of official visits between member institutes, the results of which are a strengthening of the participating institutions. As an illustration we may cite the visit of Prof. Sery, Director of the Prague Institute, to the institutes of Hamburg and Antwerp, in order to obtain advice prior to the reorganization of the Prague Institute.

It should not be forgotten that TROPMEDEUROP is almost the only link by which tropical medicine institutes from both Eastern and Western Europe can know what is organized both in and for tropical countries by their respective institutes.

5. How do the objectives and activities of the organization relate to the General Programme of Work of WHO?

The main objectives of TROPMEDEUROP coincide broadly with the objectives of WHO.

The activities of TROPMEDEUROP are aimed at the enhancement of both teaching and research for the benefit of tropical countries. Moreover, collaboration among participating Institutes in Europe results in the provision of better medical care both for persons returning from the tropics to Europe and also in tropical countries. A number of affiliated overseas centers connected with participating institutes have a direct impact on the elaboration of health policies in tropical countries and on the development of health care in those countries.

As a side remark, it might be mentioned that the affiliation of TROPMEDEUROP with WHO would greatly facilitate the adherent members from some countries to get official clearance for participation in TROPMEDEUROP's activities.

6. Specific interest with reference to the work of the World Health Organization
   (a) Activities which the organization has carried out jointly with WHO during the preceding period of working relations

Up to the present time this collaboration has been mainly in the form of the participation of observers both from WHO Headquarters and from the WHO Regional Office for Europe at the annual meetings.

However, a number of other activities have been initiated through the cooperation started and encouraged in TROPMEDEUROP.

Two examples may be cited:

The International Course for the Promotion of Health, organized by the Amsterdam and Antwerp Institutes for a number of years, can be considered as a product of the collaboration through TROPMEDEUROP. This course has produced a great many able health administrators for the tropical world. It is with considerable pride that we have identified a dozen former students amongst national delegations at the latest World Health Assembly. The examination jury for this course is formed on an international basis and for the past 10 years a representative from WHO Headquarters in Geneva has been invited. Also staff from WHO Headquarters is regularly invited for teaching assignments during the course.

Six French-speaking affiliated institutions have decided to launch a Course in Tropical Epidemiology which will have its first test run in Antwerp in September 1985. Following the experience with this course it is expected to explore with WHO the possible application of this course for use of interested countries in tropical areas.
(b) Programmes and activities of the World Health Organization with which the organization will wish to be associated in future, and details of planned collaboration activities with WHO

TROPMEDEUROP being essentially devoted to the improvement of health and the development of medicine in the tropics, is especially interested in close collaboration with the WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, and other related programmes.

Moreover, there is potential expertise, both scientific and educational, which represents a useful source to be tapped by WHO for a number of its activities linked to its health-for-all strategies.

TROPMEDEUROP is ready to assist WHO by making this expertise available for specific requests. For example, it might be foreseen that TROPMEDEUROP could make an inventory of the students enrolled for its training courses and an analysis of both the needs and the possibilities for training. On the scientific side TROPMEDEUROP could give its views as to scientific priorities for research connected with the tropics.

7. (a) Does the organization advocate any special health measures or procedures?

No, the objectives of TROPMEDEUROP are more general in nature. 

(b) Has the organization any special reservations as to treatment or health procedures?

No, the objectives of TROPMEDEUROP are more general in nature.

8. History

The organization was founded in 1964 as an informal group of Institutes of Tropical Medicine, mostly located in Western Europe. The initiative for the first meeting came from Dr Brian Maegraith in Liverpool. From the start, the activities consisted mainly of annual meetings. Over the years, more institutions were affiliated mostly located in Eastern Europe. This provided for unexpected opportunities for collaboration both in Europe and elsewhere, but also raised the question of the criteria to be used for admission, if this working group was not to degenerate into a society of parasitologists and other scientists with some kind of interest in tropical medicine. Therefore, it was decided during the meeting held in the USSR in 1980, to draft a constitution and to define both the objectives and the membership of TROPMEDEUROP. This was done during the following year. The constitution in its present form was discussed and adopted during the meeting held in Antwerp in 1981. This decision was ratified during the 1982 meeting held in Prague.

9. Membership

Membership is restricted to the Director of the affiliated Institution. For this reason there is usually only one member per country. Exceptions to this are: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2), Federal Republic of Germany (2) and France (4).

A list of members is annexed.

Members do not pay contributions to the organization. Meetings are self-financed, the costs of the secretariat are carried by the Institution in which it is located (Basel up to 1983, Antwerp thereafter).

Other types of membership are restricted to one Honorary President and two Honorary Vice-Presidents. These are outstanding former members to be designated by the Council.

Observers may be invited to the meetings at the discretion of the President. These observers - apart from official observers from WHO Headquarters and WHO Regional Office for Europe - are generally either a restricted number of local scientists or prospective members.
10. Is the organization affiliated to any other international nongovernmental organization, or to an organization of the United Nations system?

No.

11. Address of all Branch or Regional Offices

Apart from the General Secretariat located in Antwerp, there is a regional secretariat located at the Institut Santé et Développement, 15-21, rue de l'Ecole de Médecine, 75270 Paris Cedex 06, France (Regional Secretary: Prof Dr M. Gentilini).

12. Structure

The Council has an annual meeting. During this meeting, a 'Private Meeting' is held to which only recognized members are admitted. The Private Meeting is the policy-making body of TROPMEDEUROP. It appoints a President, a President-elect and a Secretary-General. These officers form the Executive Board.

Meetings of the Council and of the Private Meeting (last five years):

1979 Stockholm
1980 Moscow-Samarkand-Tachkent-Achhhabad-Tbilissi-Moscow
1981 Antwerp
1982 Prague
1983 Heidelberg

The next meeting will be held in Bucarest on 5-6 September 1985. The 1986 meeting will be held in Paris.

Last meeting of Executive Board: 14-15 February 1985 in Bucarest; next meeting 5-6 September 1985 in Bucarest.

13. Officers

President: Prof Dr L. PAUN, Director
Clinic of Infectious and Tropical Diseases
Hospital 'Victor Babes'
Bucarest (Romania)

President: Prof Dr J.P. COULAUD, Director
Institut de Médecine et d'Epidémiologie Tropicales
Hôpital Claude-Bernard
10, Avenue de la Porte d'Aubervilliers
F-75019 Paris (France)

Secretary General: Prof Dr L. EYCKMANS, Director
Institute of Tropical Medicine Prince Leopold
Nationalestraat 155
B-2000 Antwerpen (Belgium)

Secretary of the French Branch: Prof Dr M. GENTILINI
Hôpital de la Pitié-Salpêtrière
47, Boulevard de l'Hôpital
F-75013 Paris (France)

TROPMEDEUROP has no paid staff.

14. Can officially designated representatives speak authoritatively for the membership on matters concerned with the stated purposes of the organization?

Article 16 of the Constitution states: the President, the President-elect and the Secretary-General form the Executive Board. This Board takes interim decisions between
meetings. Its members may represent the Council and speak in its name at international meetings. Decisions, actions and views taken by the Executive Board or its members, shall be presented to the next Private Meeting for approval.

15. Finances

There are no finances or membership dues.

For annual meetings the inviting institution usually takes care of some of the costs. Otherwise, participating members pay for their own expenses.

The costs of the Secretariat are carried by the institution at which the Secretariat is located. There is no separate accounting for these costs.

16. Publications

There is no official publication of TROPMEDEUROP.

Reports of the Private Meetings are sent to the members for approval. This is done at the same yearly interval as the meetings themselves.

17. Documentation

The Constitution, membership list and an internal document reviewing the activities of the affiliated Institutes in 1984, together with copies of the minutes of recent Private Meetings (in lieu of annual reports) have been provided.\footnote{Held by the WHO Secretariat.}
TROPMEDEUROP - MEMBERS

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