

Short message from Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports to the distinguished participants, keynote speakers attending the 16th ASEAN Paediatric Federation Congress, held in Novotel Hotel, Yangon, 21st to 24th, September, 2017.

- **Warm greetings to the distinguished participants and keynote speakers attending the 16th ASEAN Paediatric Federation Congress.**
- **It is my distinct privilege and honour to convey my message to all of you.**
- **I consider this congress as one of the important milestones in the paediatrics domain, where state-of-the-art technical, clinical and research information are shared among the highly experienced paediatricians in the ASEAN region and beyond.**
- **The participation of professionals coming from countries outside the ASEAN region is very much conducive to expanding the network of paediatricians.**
- **In the context of this congress being held in Myanmar, we need to strategize how to effectively and efficiently impart or disseminate the knowledge, state-of-the-art information not only to paediatricians working in big cities in our country, but also to GPs and doctors working in various states and regions in the country.**

- This is not an easy task because we have thousands of doctors who are working in more than 1,100 public hospitals, ranging from 16 bedded to 2,000 bedded hospitals. GPs are also practicing all over the country, even in remote and hard-to-reach areas.
- However, with the help of paediatric society and GP society of Myanmar Medical Association, we can make it happen.
- The beneficial effect or impact of any congress or seminar or forum is determined by "the extent of spread of information generated out of the discussions or presentations made at the congress or seminar or forum."
- I particularly appreciate the second aim of the congress which is "to promote cooperation in scientific exchange among member countries and establish closer personal or professional contacts among those interested and working in the field."
- In fact, this is easier said than done. However we have to make it happen by all means, applying various *modus operandi*.
- The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) stands ready to facilitate this process of dissemination of information emanated out of this congress.
- In future years, I am confident that we can have live-stream broadcasting through an efficient and fast internet system. As a stop gap measures, if the discussants or presenters allow or

permit us, I would request the organizers to videotape the proceedings for further dissemination to our doctors working in various parts of the country.

- The health of the new born child and childhood health is the greatest asset for any country in the world. The analogy is that a good start for the sprint or any sporting event is an essential prerequisite for a win or success.
- Therefore, our MoHS will leave no stone unturned to support the paediatrics domain. Here, the role of paediatric society of Myanmar Medical Association, professors and faculty members of Universities of Medicine are prime movers or gate keepers to make this happen.
- As per the objectives and theme of the congress, I noticed that almost all the agenda items are linked to clinical perspective which is good, of course. However, I would like to request the organizers; if time permits, either in informal or any appropriate manner, to deal with two areas, i.e.,
 - undergraduate and post-graduate theoretical and clinical teachings for students and doctors in respective ASEAN countries
 - capacity building activities (*modus operandi*) on paediatrics
 - public health paediatrics or preventive paediatrics

- If we can promote public health paediatrics, we could dramatically reduce the number of commonly occurring newborn and childhood diseases. As a developing country like Myanmar, this aspect is very crucial.
- I especially want to congratulate the organizers and ASEAN Paediatric Federation for identifying the theme of the congress as "Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well being of ASEAN children."
- The theme also connotes the importance of public health perspective to some extent. What I am deriving at is that professionals from clinical domain and professionals from public health domain must work hand in hand to achieve the well-being or wellness status of ASEAN children.
- I would like to make one request to the organizers i.e., to disseminate the text or video file of the keynote lecture "Where is the evidence or evidence-based medicine? The precarious path from research to practice" by professor Eddy Lang from Canada to all professors, associate professors and lecturers of various clinical disciplines of Universities of Medicine, Department of Medical Research, University of Public Health, University of Community Health and Preventive and Social Medicine departments of the Universities of Medicine and all related universities such as Universities of Nursing,

Universities of Pharmacy and Universities of Medical Technology. Because the subject matter pertains to all health professionals in our country.

- **I wish you all the best and the meeting very fruitful, productive and lead to enhancement and expansion of knowledge horizon of paediatricians of ASEAN and beyond.**
- **Thank you.**