As the year ended ACTMalaria has completed several tasks at hand all for the improvement of Information Exchange and Communication among member countries. It has dedicated yet another year to eradicate the threat of malaria in the region and as it faces another year of challenges she hopes to do more especially since this year ACTMalaria is celebrating its 10th year in service. This issue will outline most of the activities that ACTMalaria will be doing this 2006 as well as taking into account what has transpired in the last quarter of 2005.

For the past year, ACTMalaria has been strengthening its Information and Communication Exchange activities with the support of The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Disease (TDR) by conducting the On-the-Job Exposure Trip to the ACTMalaria Foundation, Inc. office where ACTMalaria members get to experience what it is like to work with information distribution and sharing.

Since the last on-the-job exposure trip last August, two more groups of countries have already concluded their visit to the ACTMalaria secretariat office in Manila to experience the information exchange work being done. These countries were namely Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines who visited the Philippines last November & Bangladesh, Myanmar and Lao PDR who visited last December.

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In this two day activity they also learn of the many modes in which information can be channeled and shared among the different countries, they are also exposed to the different IT tools that are at their disposal for the easy facilitation of the different tasks at hand.

This activity was made possible by the support of TDR aims to foster an atmosphere of camaraderie and sharing among people who have the same vision, doing the same work in different parts of the world.

Showing them how the information that they will be providing to the network will be shared to others and how this is made possible by the use of Information Technology.

Putting heads together to discuss collaboration efforts among the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia to address issues in their border areas.

The Information Education and Communication (IEC) Project for the awareness of indigenous people of the China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam, which is being supported by the Asian Development Bank through the World Health Organization, for the strengthening of Malaria Control in the said countries is now in its second phase.

An Inception meeting for the 2nd Phase was held last November 25-26, 2006 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Representative from Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam, China and Cambodia as well as representatives from WHO-WPRO, ADB and ACTMalaria were present.

To show its support to this effort the ACTMalaria Secretariat has volunteered to provide a webpage specially dedicated to the project. It features the different materials produced for the different ethnic groups of the said countries. For more details please visit http://iecadb.actmalaria.org
The ACTMalaria Secretariat has recently launched a game to solicit an appropriate name for our Online Information Resource Center from our members.

As a result, here are the list of the short-listed names that we would want you to vote on:

- MRCA: Malarial Resource Centre of Asia
- MCRC: Malarial Control Resource Centre
- ARCM: Asian Resource Centre for Malaria
- MIRC: Malaria Information Resource Center
- RCM: Resource Center for Malaria
- MIC: Malaria Information Clearinghouse
- CMIA: Clearinghouse for Malaria Information in Asia
- AMC: Asian Malaria Clearinghouse
- CIRMA: Center for Information Resource on Malaria in Asia

Please select one of the entries and send your vote to infonetwork@actmalaria.org or to namegame@actmalaria.org.

The winner for this activity will be announced in the next issue of our newsletter and our website at http://www.actmalaria.org.

ACTMalaria’s Information Resource Center, which aims to provide different tools for information exchange and sharing among its members has provided an online forum to facilitate a venue for discussions among people working in the field of malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases.

With the advent of ACTMalaria’s 10th anniversary, we would like to invite all to join this forum. The ACTMalaria Online forum will be venue for pre-conference discussions as well as latest updates on the conference’s applications, abstract submissions, scholarship grants, registration, etc.

To join visit http://forum.actmalaria.org
His year the Asian Collaborative Training Network (ACTMalaria) celebrates its 10th year of service. Expect more activities and a grand celebration for this joyous event this November 2006. To mark this special occasion we will be holding a Scientific Symposium which aims to convene all brilliant minds working in the field of Malaria and other vector-borne diseases.

Updates and announcements for the scientific symposium and other activities will be available from our website http://www.actmalaria.org. Preliminary discussions for topics as well as updates will also be available on our online forum. To join, visit http://forum.actmalaria.org

Call for Abstracts

In relation to our 10th year anniversary celebration, we would like to invite those who are interested to submit abstracts, posters and papers on Malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases for presentation at the Scientific Symposium this November 2006.

Submissions from those who have been beneficiaries of the different ACTMalaria trainings and activities are highly encouraged. Deadline for submission is on September 30, 2006.

For more details please contact:
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Executive Board Meeting 2006

very year the board members of the Asian Collaborative Training Network for Malaria (ACTMalaria) holds its annual board meeting. This year it will be held on March 21-22, 2006. It will be hosted at the incumbent’s Country Coordinating Director’s hometown of Hanoi, Vietnam.

BROADENING INVOLVEMENT TEAM TRAINING WORKSHOP

CTMalaria, in collaboration with Indonesia, will conduct a 3-4 week training workshop on Broadening Involvement in Malaria Control. This year the 3rd BITTW Course will be held in Province of Yogyakarta for the theoretical course and Banjarneagara District for the field practice in April 2-29, 2006.

This workshop aims to initiate the broadening of involvement in malaria control. Special features of this course:

- participants from each country will be trained as a team,
- existing malaria control programs in respective participating countries will be used as scenarios for Problem-based Learning and preparation of action plans, and national directors will be asked to participate extensively in course design and delivery, and, especially, in following up the identified projects.

For more information and to download training application forms, Brochures and syllabus please visit our website.

http://www.actmalaria.org

Training for the Information Resource Key Contacts

he Information Resource Center will hold a training for the recently selected key contacts identified by each member country. The said training aims to develop capabilities of the inforresource contacts to enable them to facilitate the exchange of information and use the different tools provided for them by the network.

More details of the training will be available on our website http://www.actmalaria.org or send your inquiries to infonetwork@actmalaria.org
TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT OF MALARIA MICROSCOPY

WPRO and SEARO, has collaborated with ACTMalaria in planning to establish a bi-regional network to support quality assurance for malaria microscopy. The plans for the network were informally agreed by country participants at the bi-regional workshop on quality assurance for malaria microscopy in Kuala Lumpur in April 2005 and during the ACTMalaria Executive Board meeting in May 2005. The workshop recommended that training commenced at a national level for senior microscopists in cooperation with national ministries of health, based on a model developed by WPRO, WHO-WR Philippines together with the DoH Philippines- Malaria Control Programme and the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine. In collaboration with ACTMalaria, training workshops were successfully conducted in Cambodia, Indonesia and the Solomon Islands in 2005 by Mr. Ken Lilley of the Australian Army Malaria Institute, an expert in malaria microscopy quality assurance. More workshops have been proposed to be conducted at the request of the malaria control services of member countries for 2006.

The 2nd batch for the assessment are Myanmar and Lao PDR. In these succeeding batches, participant from the previous workshops, with demonstrated competence, will accompany Mr. Lilley to train as a trainer for future workshops.

For more information please visit our website http://www.actmalaria.org