

ACT Malaria News

The Official Newsletter of Asian Collaborative Training Network for Malaria
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The Asian Collaborative Network for Malaria (ACTMalaria) and the Bureau of Vector Borne Disease (BVBD), Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Bangkok, Thailand launched the eight international training on the "Management of Malaria Field Operations" (MMFO) last 19 August until 4 October 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.

BVBD and ACTMalaria has been partners in conducting the international training of Management of Malaria Field Operation since inception. The first course was organized by the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) of Thailand in partnership with PR China in 1997. The course was successfully conducted in strengthening participants' knowledge and ability to plan and manage malaria control activities. Since then, BVBD, ACTMalaria and supporting agencies continue to improve the course curriculum and make it as one of the major capacity building of the network in this region, conducted every three years.

MMFO is a prominent training course aimed at the capacity building of mid level malaria control managers of the ACTMalaria member countries. The outstanding characteristic of this course are its designation to serve the need of the organization and learners aiming at improving performances of individuals and thereby improving performances of the organization. Upon completion of this 7-week training course, participants should be able to apply critical thinking and management principles to improve evidence-based malaria control; engage in participatory-based approaches to malaria control and advocate for malaria control. And this course was just currently revised to provide focus also to malaria elimination. These objectives can be achieved through acquisition of skills acquired from the modules of the course. The course will assess both outcomes of learning and design of instruction. Learners' evaluation will consists of pre and post test, group and individual projects. For the participants' life-long learning, evaluation strategy also includes self-evaluation and post-course evaluation. They will use all the acquired knowledge and skills in the training to develop an individual project using their own country's malaria situation that they could propose to their respective malaria programme.

10th Founding Anniversary of ACTMalaria Foundation Inc.



ACTMalaria Secretariat celebrates its 10th founding anniversary last August 22, 2013 in its new expanded office in Ramon Magsaysay Building, Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines

ACTMalaria Foundation Inc obtained its legal status as a non-stock, non-profit organization, registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on August 13, 2003.

The event was graced by Dr Rob Condon (WHO Consultant), Dr Lasse Vestergaard (MVP Medical Officer WPRO), Dr Rossitza Kurdova (WHO Geneva), Dr Allan Schapira (WHO Consultant), Mr Ray Angluben (PSFI), Ms Ynna Lauron (PSFI), Dr Mario Baquilod (IDO) and some people from RITM and DOH. The event was a late celebration due to heavy flooding across the region.



*Congratulations to the New Directors and Program Manager who has just joined the network recently.
Welcome to the family!!!*

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During the past decade, global malaria prevention and control efforts have been scaled up, with notable progress in sub-Saharan Africa. On the occasion of World Malaria Day, 25 April 2012, the World Health Organization launches a new initiative to urge countries and donors to reinforce the malaria fight. The initiative seeks to focus the attention of policy-makers and donors on the importance of adopting WHO's latest evidence-based recommendations on diagnostic testing, treatment and surveillance, and updating existing malaria control and elimination strategies, as well as country-specific operational plans.

Instructional Skills for Supervisor's and Trainer's In Malaria Diagnosis and Quality Assurance

The Instructional Skills for Supervisor's and Trainer's in Malaria Diagnosis and Quality Assurance was carried out from May 20-31, 2013 at the Vector-Borne Disease Training Center, Saraburi Thailand. This was made possible through the collaboration of WHO SEARO, USAID and ACTMalaria.

Instructional Skills Development (ISD) is a powerful hands-on method used to improve the communication and technical skills and knowledge performance of health workers of different categories and specialized skills. The 10 day training was attended by 21 participants who are laboratory technicians, medical technologists, regional malaria officers, researchers and health officers from Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Timor Leste and Thailand.



The concerted and collaborative efforts of the National Malaria Programs of the six (6) countries involved in this training on Instructional Skills Development, the World Health Organization SEARO and USAID is a commendable endeavor. The training served as a good venue to develop the skills of each participant to carry out a training program in their respective countries utilizing tools, which are in sync with international standards. The improvement shown by the individual performances of the participants is a clear manifestation that the an international training curriculum for malaria microscopy can be possibly implemented at their respective national levels.

Excerpts from the Official ISD Report by Ms Arlene Leah Santiago (SAA Philippines)

Regional Meeting for Malaria Programme Managers

WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific convened a Regional meeting for Malaria Programme Managers in the region to accelerate the achievement of the 2015 global and regional targets and move towards malaria elimination. The meeting was held from May 8 to 10, 2013 at the Conference Hall of the WPRO in Manila, Philippines.

At the end of the meeting, the participants have:

- (1) reviewed country progress towards 2015 targets in the reduction of malaria burden and agreed on the way forward to accelerate the achievement of these targets;
- (2) been updated on current developments pertaining to malaria control and elimination in the region, including artemisinin resistance and vivax malaria;

- 3) shared country experiences and received guidance on malaria programme reviews; and
- (4) agreed on the way forward for surveillance, monitoring and evaluation; and elimination especially at the subnational level.

This meeting aims to review recent developments in the fight against malaria in the Region, identify country gaps and review operational plans, including health system strengthening, to accelerate the achievement of the 2015 global and regional targets and agree on the way forward. This was held back-to-back with the Second Meeting of the Pacific Malaria Drug Resistance Network on 6-7 May 2013. Participants were the directors of communicable diseases or vector borne diseases control departments; national malaria control programme managers; and national focal persons for surveillance and monitoring and evaluation.

APMEN Advocates!!!

The Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network took major steps towards strengthening and developing malaria elimination advocacy in the region by holding an Advocacy Workshop last month in Manila, Philippines; the venue for the next annual meeting, APMEN 6, in March 2014.

Co-hosted by Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI), the 3-day workshop covered a range of topics, including the current landscape for malaria advocacy in the Asia Pacific, communications and media strategies and sustaining financial and political will for future activities.

Representatives from six of the 14 APMEN Country Partners – China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines – attended the workshop, as well as three participants from PSFI. A host of guest presenters from varying backgrounds of malaria advocacy facilitated the workshop discussions, namely Dr Jamie Tan Galvez (former Philippines Secretary for Health), Ms Patricia Moser (Asian Development Bank), Dr Matt Lynch (Johns Hopkins University), Ms Hannah Bowen (Malaria No More), and Mr Louis da Gama (Global Health Advocates and Adviser to the Princess of Africa Yvonne Chaka Chaka).

The workshop focused on understanding the current malaria advocacy activities from each respective Country Partner, identifying the stages of the advocacy process required for short- and long-term projects within the public & private sector, and civil society, and highlighted key messaging and campaign strategies for malaria elimination to be used at local and regional levels.

Mr da Gama said the workshop was a great vehicle for not only raising the profile of malaria elimination advocacy, but highlighting existing strategies from in the Asia Pacific region.

“What is useful about a network like APMEN and workshops like this is the ability to share Country Partner knowledge & experience, findings and common issues on the (malaria) elimination agenda,” he said.

Some of the workshop activities included stakeholder analysis of current and potential partners for malaria elimination advocacy, identifying current strategies & challenges for countries, malaria advocacy tag line development, and a “30-second elevator pitch” role play.

Participants heard from respective peers from Ministries and Departments of Health, as well as academic and research institutions with specific advocacy projects based in malarious community settings in Africa. Great examples of successful Private Sector engagements in the Philippines were presented and encouraged a call for similar engagements across all APMEN Country Partners.

Future advocacy workshops are planned to be rolled out in 2014 for remaining APMEN Country Partners.

Source: <http://apmen.org/news/2013/9/6/apmen-advocates.html>

Try some online educational malaria games at [Nobelprize.org](http://nobelprize.org). Click this link for more information:
http://nobelprize.org/educational_games/medicine/malaria/index.html

You may also play the Mosquito Splat game in the Facebook page of ACTMalaria.

ANNOUNCEMENT

APMEN Surveillance and Response Thematic Group Meeting

The Jiangsu Institute of Parasitic Diseases (JIPD), with the support from the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN) and the Global Health Group, University of California San Francisco (GHG UCSF) will conduct a 3-day APMEN Surveillance and Response Thematic Group meeting to be conducted at the Jiangsu Institute of Parasitic Diseases in Wuxi, China from 24-26 September, 2013.

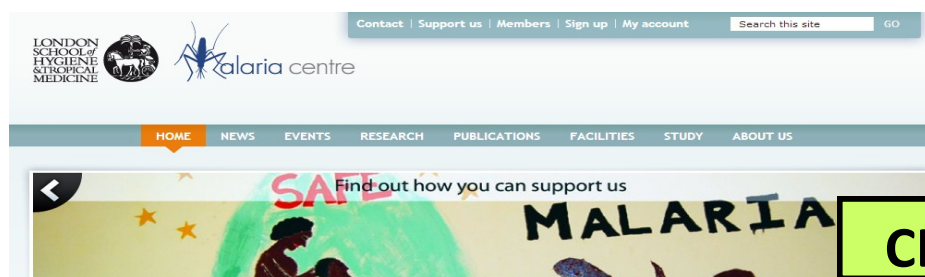
The meeting aim to determine the research and capacity priorities for surveillance and response across APMEN countries including the GIS and monitoring and evaluation activities. The meeting will also focus on the monitoring and evaluation tools for reactive case detection and case investigation which is geared towards APMEN country partners' future roll out. The forum will continue to provide APMEN country partners and partner institutions the opportunity to share best practices in surveillance and response.

3rd Integrated Vector Management (IVM) Course

The inaugural Integrated Vector Management (IVM) Course in year 2011 organized by Malaysia Ministry of Health (MOH), in close collaboration with WHO, was a huge success in delivering knowledge and skills to the vector control team in the region. Following another successful event in year 2012, we are glad to inform you that the third IVM course will be held on 2-10 October 2013 in Mahkota Hotel, Jalan Syed Abdul Aziz, Melaka. The objective of this course is to increase participants' knowledge, skills and competency in the implementation of IVM principles in the control of vector-borne diseases.

Country Update: Philippines

Clinical Management Training was held last August 27-28, 2013 in Lotus Garden Hotel, Manila and Refresher Training on Malaria Microscopy for Barangay Microscopists held in Fersal Hotel, Palawan last July 29-August 2, 2013.

**CLICK ON!!****Malaria Centre**

The Malaria Centre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine houses the largest number of malaria researchers, students and support staff in Europe. The Centre is unique in its size and breadth and draws together the diverse research and teaching activities carried out at the School.

As well as developing tools, techniques and knowledge about malaria, a strong emphasis is placed on translating research outcomes into practice. Centre staff also play an instrumental role in the world-class teaching and training of malaria students and professionals across the world.

The Centre has a range of facilities that contribute to the diagnosis, treatment and research of malaria. The Centre brings members together through regular seminars and events and provides support to research projects in malaria endemic countries.



A bunch of photographs can now be accessed at the online photo gallery of ACTMalaria:

http://www.actmalaria.net/home/photo_gallery.php#base



Asian Collaborative Training Network for Malaria



ACTMalaria (Asian Collaborative Training Network for Malaria) is a training network to which the National Malaria Control Programmes of Bangladesh, Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam are members. The network aims at 2 major activities:

- Provide collaborative training for member countries to meet the needs of malaria control in Southeast Asia and the Mekong Sub-region;
- Improve information and communication exchange among member countries, partners and other stakeholders on malaria problems affecting the region.

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