



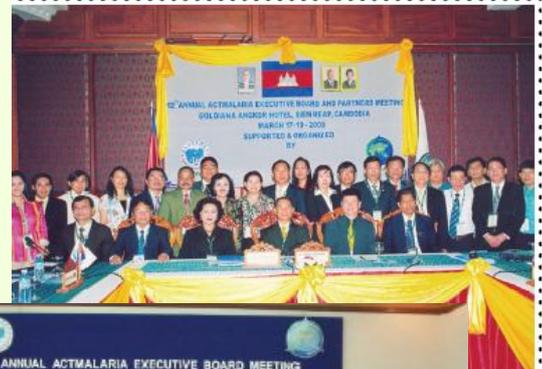
## 15th ACTMalaria Executive and Board Meeting

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The 15<sup>th</sup> annual executive board and partners meeting held at Le Palais Juliana Hotel, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR last March 15-16 was another successful gathering. The Annual EB meeting aims to continuously strengthen the collaboration in capacity development and information exchange in control and eventual elimination of malaria in the region. The partners were invited to help in providing technical and financial assistance for the network. Strategies and Objectives of ACTMalaria for the foreseen future were laid down to the Board especially the planning for the 15th anniversary celebration. The transfer of CCD post from Dr. Bouasy Hongvanthong to Dr. Khin Mon Mon was also held during the event.





### Executive and Board Meeting



### Transfer of CCD Post from Dr. Bouasy Hongvanthong, Acting Director of CMPE, to Dr. Khin Mon Mon, Malaria Program Manager of Myanmar



ACTMalaria and ACTMalaria Information Resource Center (AIRC) activities are made possible with the support from USAID-Asia through WHO.



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**25 April 2011**  
Achieving Progress and Impact



## Laos marks World 'Malaria Day

Laos' northern provinces may be declared malaria free by 2015 as the incidence of the disease is low compared to the south of the country.

Acting Director of the Centre for Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology Dr Bouasy Hongvanthong made the comment in Vientiane on Friday as the centre hosted a press conference to mark World Malaria Day, which is observed every year on April 25. He said the National Malaria Programme recently outlined its National Strategic Plan for 2011-2015, which has been endorsed by the Ministry of Health. The goal of the plan is to intensify malaria control efforts, targeting remaining endemic communities and key target groups, and progressively roll out malaria elimination in selected provinces.

"If any province reports no incidences of malaria for three consecutive years it will be declared malaria free," Dr Bouasy said. The theme for this year's World Malaria Day 2011 is 'Achieving Progress and Impact' to celebrate the successful results of past efforts, highlight significant challenges that still remain and emphasise just how much more must be done to all but eliminate malaria by 2015.

Global citizens have come a long way towards realizing this goal since the first World Malaria Day four years ago, when it was estimated that a child died every 30 seconds from malaria.

"The huge increase in support for malaria control interventions in recent years means we now know a reduction in the death rate," he said, adding that this progress shows that what related sectors are doing is working.

However, medical staff can't afford to ease back until this number is zero, and this year everyone in the malaria control community is discussing the remaining obstacles they face in the fight against malaria.

Malaria is a deadly mosquito-borne disease, which took 781,000 lives in 2009 and afflicts as many as 500 million people in 106 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In Laos, since the late 1950s, malaria control has received support from many donors who have set control measures in various provinces. However, it was only in 2003, due to significant support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, that the malaria control programme was able to cover all provinces in Laos.

This has enabled malaria incidence to be reduced by almost 50 percent (6.6 per 1,000 people in 2003 to 3.7 per 1,000 in 2009) and reduction in malaria deaths by more than 80 percent (187 in 2003 to 5 in 2009) over the last 10 years.

Dr Bouasy said that reducing the impact of malaria is key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which are geared towards not only combating the disease itself, but the improvement of women's and children's health, access to education and the reduction of extreme poverty.

He said this World Malaria Day, everyone in the malaria control community, from district health officers to mosquito net manufacturers, epidemiologists to volunteer health workers, is committed to continuing the fight to reduce the burden of malaria.



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## ACTMalaria Plans for its Crystal Year

ACTMalaria was established from the outcome of a meeting on Human Resources Development for Malaria Control on November 1996. The National Malaria Control Program directors from Thailand, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Vietnam identified national and international training needs and cross-border collaboration. Because of this, a network was set-up to meet the training requirements identified to establish an information and communication network. Today, ACTMalaria has 11 member countries. Four countries were added from the original members: Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Timor-Leste. Singapore became a member but decided to withdraw since they already controlled malaria. The network is being managed by a secretariat which is now based in Manila, Philippines. ACTMalaria is celebrating its 15th year anniversary this year. We invite all stakeholders, country members, training alumni, technical partners and financial donors to celebrate with us through a special event this year.

**Call for Presentations  
To All Alumni**

*Poster or oral form,  
Abstract must be no more than 150-200 words  
Photo of the applicant, training attended, year attended  
Group Picture if available*

Please email Bong Mendoza at [bmj@actmalaria.net](mailto:bmj@actmalaria.net)

**CLICK ON!!**



The world's scientific and social network for malaria professionals

MalariaWorld started back in 2004 as part of the MIMCom project under the National Library of Medicine (Washington DC, USA). It has grown from less than 100 subscribers to 5000+ members as of October 2009. Since mid-2007 MalariaWorld is produced weekly by K&S Consulting, a registered Dutch consultancy firm that focuses on the provision of medical information, management education, and consultancies in infectious disease control.

Visit them at <http://www.malariaworld.org/>.

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](http://nobelprize.org/educational_games/medicine/malaria/index.html)

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

## Malaria Reservoir For Human Disease In Southeast Asia Discovered In Monkeys

Main Category: [Tropical Diseases](#)

Also Included In: [Biology / Biochemistry](#)

Article Date: 08 Apr 2011 - 1:00 PDT



Monkeys infected with an emerging malaria strain are providing a reservoir for human disease in Southeast Asia, according to research just published. The Wellcome Trust funded study confirms that the species has not yet adapted to humans and that monkeys are the main source of infection.

Malaria is a potentially deadly disease that kills over a million people each year. The disease is caused by malaria parasites, which are transmitted by infected mosquitoes and injected into the bloodstream.

There are five species of malaria parasite that are known to cause disease in humans, of which Plasmodium knowlesi is the most recently identified. Previously thought to only infect monkeys, researchers have shown that human P. knowlesi infections are widely distributed in Southeast Asia and that it is a significant cause of malaria in Malaysian Borneo. Until now, it was not clear whether the infection is transmitted from person to person, or is passed over from infected monkeys.

Researchers led by Professor Balbir Singh at the Malaria Research Centre, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, collaborating with Sarawak State Health Department, St George's University of London and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, examined blood samples from 108 wild macaques from different locations around the Sarawak division in Malaysian Borneo. Their results reveal that 78% were infected with the P. knowlesi species of malaria parasite, and many were infected with one or more of four other species of monkey malaria parasites that have not yet been found in humans.

By comparing the molecular identity of the parasites from monkeys and those isolated from patients with knowlesi malaria, the team were able to build a picture of the evolutionary history of the parasite and its preferred host. Their analysis reveals that transmission of the knowlesi species is more common amongst wild monkeys, than from monkeys to humans, and that monkeys remain the dominant host.

"Our findings strongly indicate that P. knowlesi is a zoonosis in this area, that is to say it is passed by mosquitoes from infected monkeys to humans, with monkeys acting as a reservoir host," explains Professor Singh. "However, with deforestation threatening the monkeys' habitat and increases in the human population, it's easy to see how this species of malaria could switch to humans as the preferred host. This would also hamper current efforts aimed at eliminating malaria."

Based on the molecular data, the researchers estimate that the knowlesi malaria species evolved from its ancestral species between 98 000 and 478 000 years ago. This predates human settlement in the area, meaning that monkeys are mostly likely to have been the initial host for the parasite when the species first emerged. This estimate also indicates that the species is as old as, or older than, the two most common human malaria parasites, P. falciparum and P. vivax.

The study is published in the journal PLoS Pathogens.

Source:

Jen Middleton

Wellcome Trust

URL: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/221762.php>

## THAILAND AND LSHTM JOINS APMEN

The Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN) is pleased to announce that Thailand is the eleventh Country Partner to join the network and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine as the latest institution to join the network.

Thailand has made significant progress over the last 10 years, reducing malaria cases by 75% from 2000 to 2009, and has developed a strategy of subnational malaria elimination, focusing on the central and eastern portions of the country. Thailand attended APMEN II in Kandy, Sri Lanka in February 2010 as an Observer country and has since collaborated with APMEN through supporting the Fellowship Program by hosting two inaugural applicants in 2010 (at the Armed Forces Research Institute for Medical Sciences AFRIMS, and Mahidol University).

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is one of the premier schools of public health in the world and was recently awarded a prestigious Gates Global health award. One of the prominent groups in LSHTM is the Malaria Centre established in 1988 which has a major international profile with activities and projects in more than 50 countries. This expansion of the Network confirms the hard work and progress towards achieving elimination in the Asia Pacific region. APMEN welcomes Thailand and looks forward to its future contributions to the malaria elimination agenda.

(Excerpt from the APMEN Newsletter, Issue 1)

## Post-doc/studentship positions available in Khon Kaen - Thailand

Tropical Disease Research Laboratory, Khon Kaen University - a leading laboratory based in Khon Kaen, Thailand, an endemic area of tropical diseases - has opened positions/scholarships for overseas researchers/students who are interested in having experiences in tropical disease research in real endemic environments. All projects are under the main thematic project "Mekong Opisthorchiasis Control Initiative" supported by the Higher Education Research Promotion and National Research University Project of Thailand, Office of the Higher Education Commission - Khon Kaen University, and the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University. This 3-years project covers multidisciplinary studies of opisthorchiasis and control in Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand, started from this Fiscal Year.

### Qualifications for each position are as follows:

1. Post-doctoral trainee (1 position): PhD graduate in Biology, Parasitology, Epidemiology, Environment Health, Public Health or other related fields with experiences in geospatial analysis, GIS, risk mapping and data management. He/she could work independently and capable to lead team in field works. (Salary 35,000 Baht per month)
2. Master degree scholarships (2 positions): Bachelor graduates Biology, Parasitology, Epidemiology, Environment Health, Public Health or other related fields. Working on epidemiology and biology of *Opisthorchis viverrini* and opisthorchiasis. Details will be discussed upon individual interests. (8,000 Baht per month + tuition fee)
3. PhD scholarship (1 position): Bachelor graduate with honor or Master graduate with good grade in Biology, Parasitology, Epidemiology, Environment Health, Public Health or other related fields. The thesis project will cover basic science and epidemiology of liver fluke infection. Details will be discussed upon individual interests. (10,000 Baht per month + tuition fee)

Although our salary is not competitive with those from western laboratories but it is enough for living in Khon Kaen.

Deadline of submission: Please send your CV and letter of support from 2 referees by April 22, 2011.

### Contact Person:

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**PHILIPPINES**

**Basic Malaria Management Training**

This training is to strengthen capabilities of rural health unit staff in providing regular quality malaria prevention and health care services since they are the first health care providers to the people afflicted with malaria. The training is in coordination support with the GF Consolidated Malaria Grant with the Pilipinas Shell Foundation.



**JANUARY 2011**



**FEBRUARY 2011**

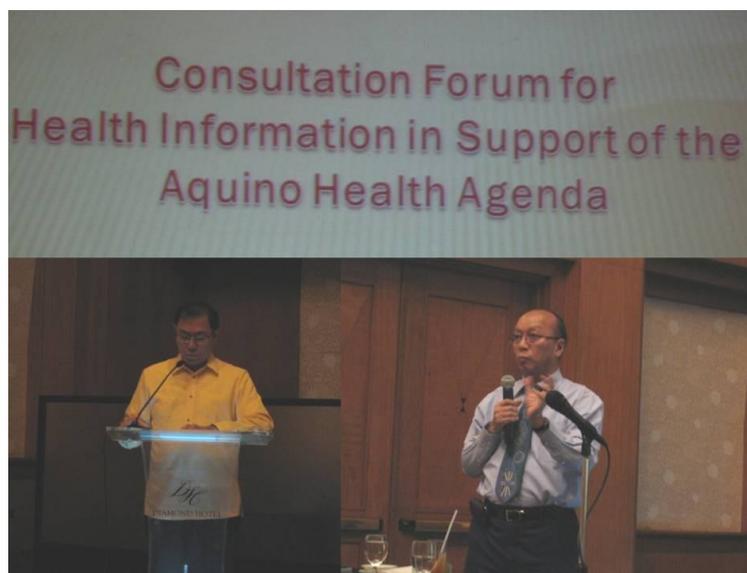


**MARCH 2011**



## Philippine Government supports e-health system

The Philippines' president Aquino launched his agenda about e-health system. It is to provide good information system in all aspects of health care using the Information & Communication Technology. The picture on the right is Dr. Nemesio Gaco, Assistant Secretary of Department of Health giving an opening speech and Dr. Soe Nyunt-U, WHO Representative-Philippines who gave the closing remarks during the forum last March 22, 2011.



A bunch of photographs can now be accessed at the online photo gallery of ACTMalaria:  
[http://www.actmalaria.net/home/photo\\_gallery.php#base](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

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