



TropMed Knowledge

My Team and I



Vision

"To be a World Leader in Tropical Medicine"

Mission

"To Strive for Excellence in TROPICAL Medicine"

TROPICAL Excellence

- T = Teaching Excellence
R = Research Excellence
O = Outstanding Clinical Outcome
P = People Excellence
I = Infrastructure Excellence
C = Customer & Social Service Excellence
A = Alliance Excellence
L = Leadership & Financial Excellence



Goal in the year 2017



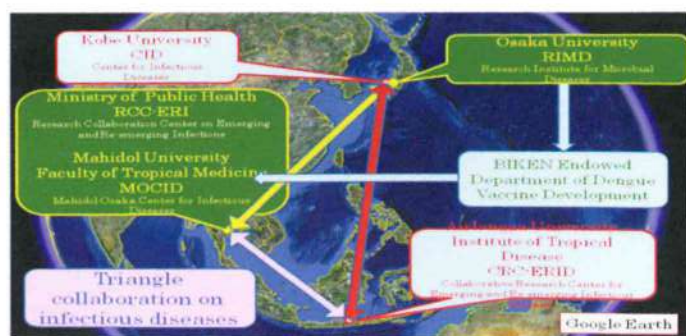
For more information, please visit <http://www.tm.mahidol.ac.th/eng/download/Strategic-Plan-of-the-Faculty-of-Tropical-Medicine-2014-eng.pdf>

This issue introduces an additional role of our BIKEN Endowed Department of Dengue Vaccine Development. We are involved in a program organized by Japanese government, J-GRID (abbreviation of "Japan Initiative for Global Research Network on Infectious Diseases"). This program has already set up 13 bilateral collaborative research centers on infectious diseases in 6 countries in Asia and 2 countries in Africa. Research Institute for Microbial Diseases (RIMD) of Osaka University was selected as the representative institution in Japan side for collaboration with Thailand, while Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University is one of the partner institutions in Thailand. Mahidol-Osaka Center for Infectious Diseases (MOCID) on 12th Floor of 50th Anniversary Chulalongkrajit Building is the J-GRID collaborative research center at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University.



Institute of Tropical Disease (ITD), Airlangga University, Surabaya, Indonesia

In the same way, Kobe University was selected as the representative institution in Japan side for collaboration with Indonesia. Institute of Tropical Disease (ITD) at Airlangga University is the partner institution in Indonesia. Two members of our department, Professor Eiji Konishi and Dr. Atsushi Yamanaka, formerly worked in Kobe University and involved in a J-GRID project. In particular, Dr. Yamanaka stayed in Indonesia for nearly 4 years as a long-term stay researcher under the J-GRID program. Furthermore, Dr. Masanori Kameoka, who had been a member of Osaka University and stayed in Thailand over 5 years, was moved to Kobe University and is now collaborating with Indonesia under the J-GRID network. Thus, a background for strong collaboration between Osaka and Kobe Universities and at the same time between Thailand and Indonesia was built up.



Indonesia-Japan-Thailand (INiTha) collaboration under the frame of J-GRID (Japan Initiative for Global Research Network on Infectious Diseases)

In November 2011, the first Indonesia-Japan-Thailand Joint Forum on Infectious Diseases was held in ITD, Surabaya Indonesia, with about 40 participants from 3 countries. All the participants agreed with the start of trilateral collaboration on dengue research.



First INiTha Joint Forum on Infectious Diseases on 23th November, 2011 in Surabaya, Indonesia

At the end of this Forum, Professor Taroh Kinoshita, Representative in charge of Thailand-Osaka University Research Center, proposed use of a short alternative project name "INiTha" composed of Indonesia, Nippon (another name of Japan) and Thailand. The INiTha collaboration on dengue started after the signed research agreement was completed. The second INiTha Joint Forum was held in Bangkok in May 2012, hosted by Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University. In this Forum, we decided to initiate collaboration on HIV/AIDS under the INiTha frame, in addition to dengue. Thus, the INiTha project is currently running with two study subjects.



Second INiTha Joint Forum on Infectious Diseases on 14th May, 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand

In this year, the fourth INiTha Joint Forum on Infectious Diseases was held on 20th January, 2014 in Sendai, Japan, as a part of the big meeting, Asian-African Research Forum on Emerging and Reemerging Infections – 2014, organized by J-GRID.

In this Forum, a member of our department, Dr. Chayanee Setthapramote, presented her work entitled "Balance of neutralizing and enhancing antibody responses in healthy Thais against dengue type 1 virus currently circulating in Indonesia".



Dr. Chayanee graduated from Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University under the supervision of Dr. Pongrama Ramasoota, Director of Center of Excellence for Antibody Research. She is now working at the Faculty of Medicine, Vajira Hospital, Navamindradhiraj University, but still continuing collaboration with the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University. We believe that this type of the "bottom-up" action is crucial for international collaboration in a sustainable fashion.



**WorldWide Antimalarial Resistance Network (WWARN)
Asia Regional Centre**



WWARN participated in Sand Pagodas Contest on Tropmed Songkran Day 2014



WWARN new rooftop garden

April 2, 2014, Malaria Consortium joins the WHO Malaria Expert Group on Surveillance and M&E

Malaria Consortium is delighted to have been invited to join the World Health Organization's Global Malaria Programme's Technical Expert Group on Surveillance, Monitoring and Evaluation.

This new group will have a vital role in reviewing evidence, summarising progress and providing guidance related to surveillance, monitoring and evaluation of malaria, and will make draft recommendations based on its findings to the Malaria Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC).

The past decade has witnessed tremendous expansion in the financing and coverage of malaria control programmes, which has led to significant decreases in malaria cases and deaths. However, while there has been much progress in programme implementation, the ability to track programme financing, coverage and impact remains weak, particularly in countries where both burden and malaria control investments are greatest. For example, of the 99 countries with on-going malaria transmission in 2012, 41 were unable to submit sufficiently complete and consistent data to reliably assess trends in malaria cases. These countries account for 85 percent of estimated malaria cases.

To address this, in 2013 MPAC endorsed the creation of this expert group to develop guidance on what strategies endemic countries can employ to monitor and evaluate malaria programmes.

"I am delighted to be invited to be a member of this Technical Expert Group and look forward to playing an active role," said Dr Roca-Feltrer, Malaria Consortium's Asia Technical Director, upon her appointment. "I believe recommendations from this group will provide valuable support tools and guidance to national programmes on how to better track programme financing, coverage, and impact with regards to malaria interventions."

As the sole NGO member on the MPAC, this appointment recognises Malaria Consortium's continued pivotal role in helping to develop malaria policies and standards across the globe.

To read more about malaria surveillance in Cambodia, please visit <http://www.malariaconsortium.org/media-downloads/257/>

To read more about Malaria Consortium activities in Asia, please visit <http://www.malariaconsortium.org/where-we-work/asia-mainpage.htm>

February 27, 2014, Malaria Consortium joins APMEN

Malaria Consortium is pleased to announce its membership of the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN).

Established in 2009, the network comprises 14 Asia Pacific country partners with the common goal of malaria elimination in the region, as well as regional partners from the academic, development, non-governmental and private sectors and global agencies, including the World Health Organization (WHO).

The network's members work together to address the unique challenges of malaria elimination in the region providing leadership, advocacy support, capacity building, knowledge exchange, as well as building an evidence base.

"The elimination of malaria and containment of resistance in Asia – both drug resistance and insecticide resistance – are key priorities for Malaria Consortium and we are delighted to join the APMEN network," said Malaria Consortium's Asia Programme Director, Henry Braun. "We look forward to working with partners to strengthen malaria elimination activities in the region."

Malaria Consortium has been working in Southeast Asia since 2003 and currently provides support to national malaria control programmes in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) to strengthen the region's capacity to scale up malaria elimination activities. This includes working with ministries of health and other key partners on plans to move toward the pre-elimination and elimination stages of malaria control as appropriate.

Currently working in Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar, implementing containment strategies as part of the newly created WHO Drug Resistance Containment Technical Expert Group, Malaria Consortium is also a partner in the Regional Artemisinin Resistance Initiative (RAI). A collaboration of multiple partners and ministries of health in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, the RAI, through Global Fund support, aims to contribute to the elimination of *P. falciparum* malaria in the region.

A key area of focus for the initiative is to reach migrant and marginalised populations living and working in border areas. Each country aims to deliver national advocacy and awareness campaigns. Activities will include the purchase of long-lasting insecticidal nets and case management in areas where there was evidence of delayed response to artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACTs).

APMEN's 6th Annual Business and Technical Meeting is being held this year in Manila on March 11-13. Further information on APMEN can be found at <http://apmen.org/>

Find out more about Malaria Consortium's work in Asia at <http://www.malariaconsortium.org/where-we-work/asia-mainpage.htm>

Keeping artemisinin resistance high on the agenda



Mar 28, 2014, 2014 Malaria Consortium Progress Symposium in Asia

Despite real progress towards malaria elimination in this part of Asia, the Greater Mekong Sub-region continues to face the worrying challenge presented by artemisinin resistance. Only by working together will we be able to meet this challenge. The key is to do it before it is too late.

This was a key message of Malaria Consortium's first annual Progress Symposium in Asia, which took place on 25-26 March in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The two day symposium provided space for representatives from national malaria control programmes, research institutions and organisations implementing malaria and neglected tropical disease programmes to come together to share their learning and discuss key issues and, crucially, potential ways forward.

"This meeting has shown the great progress that has been made by the national malaria programmes in the Greater Mekong Sub-region at a time when it faces the huge challenge of artemisinin resistance," said Malaria Consortium's Technical Director, Dr. Sylvia Meek. "There still remains a lot of work to be done but by working together we can find ways to connect research findings, project implementation and national strategies for artemisinin resistance and malaria control and elimination. The key need is to do this in time."

Over 80 people from across the six countries of the region attended the two day event that had seven thematic sessions. These included

- updates from the Greater Mekong Sub-region national malaria control programmes
- regional monitoring and evaluation
- the importance of community engagement through effective communication
- integrated vector management
- new tools for malaria elimination, and
- malaria in pregnancy.

A new Malaria Consortium film highlights a community-based approach to malaria control in Myanmar



In early 2013 Malaria Consortium launched a pilot programme in the Thanintharyi region of southern Myanmar, testing an innovative community-based approach to malaria control. A film documenting the project is now available to view online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1mtuFkDkBY>

The approach, known as "positive deviance", aims to promote positive knowledge, attitudes and behaviour for improved malaria prevention and control. It involves identifying local positive deviants or people within the community who are already demonstrating positive, preventative and care-seeking behaviours for malaria, and empowering them to share those behaviours with the rest of their community.

"They are deviants because they are deviating from the norms and they are positive because they are engaged in behaviours that result in better outcomes," Muhammad Shafique, behaviour change communications specialist at Malaria Consortium, explained to regional partners at a recent seminar on malaria elimination. You can view his full presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNQjnFHCtvM>

"When people see someone from their community who, despite living in similar conditions, sharing similar resources, has managed to avoid the same health problems suffered by their neighbours, they become social proof that behaviour change can impact on health. That expedites the process of behaviour change," added Shafique.

Positive deviance has already been implemented in various countries and with a number of health issues – including malnutrition, health of newborns and HIV/Aids. However, Malaria Consortium is the first organisation to implement the approach for malaria prevention and control in Cambodia since 2010 and in Myanmar since early 2013. Malaria Consortium's work on positive deviance in Myanmar is funded by UKaid / Department of International Development, in partnership with the Myanmar Medical Association.

So far the results have been extremely good. Communities and the positive deviant volunteers have reported some successes and demonstrated ownership over the project.

With malaria particularly prevalent amongst mobile and migrant populations in the region, especially those engaged in forest work such as rubber tapping, reaching out to those groups is essential. In both Kyunsu, Myanmar and Pailin, Cambodia, Malaria Consortium has found the positive deviance approach to be particularly successful in engaging the mobile and migrant population.

The organisation's experience in implementing positive deviance for malaria control in Asia to-date is outlined in a recent learning paper available to download at <http://www.malariaconsortium.org/resources/publications/300/positive-deviance-an-innovative-approach-to-improve-malaria-outcomes-in-myanmar>

Farewell party for Dr. Kazuyoshi Ikuta and Dr. Tadahiro Sasaki

On March 6th at Sukosol hotel, Bangkok, MOCID and collaborators have made a farewell party for Dr. Kazuyoshi Ikuta and Dr. Tadahiro Sasaki.

Dr. Kazuyoshi Ikuta and Dr. Tadahiro Sasaki are leaving, Research Institute for Microbial Diseases, Osaka University and transferred to new position of Research Foundation for Microbial Diseases of Osaka University, Kanonji, Kagawa prefecture from this April.

They contributed a lot of success for many projects between Thailand and Japan. In 2005, Dr. Ikuta group has established RCC in Thai-NIH. Since 2009, they have launched collaboration with Mahidol University under the SATREPS promoted by JST-JICA. Finally based on the experiences of these projects, Dr. Ikuta and Dr. Sasaki established MOCID in Mahidol University under the J-GRID project. Under these projects, they achieved various great results. The research for human monoclonal antibody against dengue virus, influenza virus diagnosis kit and chikungunya diagnosis kit are great example of their contribution.

We appreciated their work with us for all along and wish them every success in their future career.

PVMA in Philippines



Dr. Pongrama and Dr. Ikuta



Dr. Sasaki and Dr. Okabayashi

Dr. Okabayashi had been invited and joined Philippine Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) scientific conference and annual convention (<http://www.pvma.com.ph/81st-pvma-scientific-conference-annual-convention>), in Palawan Island, Philippines and reported on the topic of "Development of Rapid Immunochromatography Test Kit to detect the Chikungunya Virus Antigen". In this presentation, he reported about the rapid diagnostic kits using mouse MAb that react with CHIKV envelope proteins. Through testing sera from chikungunya fever-suspected patients in Thailand, the kit showed high reactivity to these samples. These data suggest that diagnostic accuracy of this kit targeting chikungunya virus antigen is clinically acceptable for the diagnosis of chikungunya fever in acute phase as well as RNA assay.

RITM visit, Philippines

Chikungunya outbreaks are reported in Philippines during 2011-2013. The number of cases has eclipsed over 1600 cases in 2013. The number of cases over 1600 is nearly triple the total of 561 cases reported in 2012 in Philippines. MOCID had launched a collaborating work with the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM; <http://www.ritm.gov.ph/>) in Philippines to investigate the prevalence of chikungunya fever in Philippines using the diagnosis kit of chikungunya fever developed by MOICD. Tohoku University, Japan, also established "Tohoku-RITM Collaborating Research Center on Emerging and Reemerging Diseases (http://www.eid.med.tohoku.ac.jp/index_j.html)" in RITM, Philippines under the J-GRID project as well as MOCID. They are elucidating causative agents and conducting epidemiological analysis of major infectious diseases from public health perspectives in order to establish the sustainable control programs for infectious diseases in the Philippines. On this visit, Dr. Okabayashi also shared his work experience and experiment on chikungunya virus.

(http://www.eid.med.tohoku.ac.jp/kansensyou_e/topics2014_05.html)

Department of Virology, RITM

Dr. Lea Necitas G. Apostol

Dr. Okabayashi

Dr. AvaKristy D. Sy

Dr. Socorro P. Lupisan (Chief of RITM, PH)

Dr. Mariko Saitoh (Tohoku University)



MOCID's New Publication

Low levels of antibody-dependent enhancement in vitro using viruses and plasma from dengue patients. Chaichana P, Okabayashi T, Puiprom O, Sasayama M, Sasaki T, Yamashita A, Ramasoota P, Kurosu T, Ikuta K. PLoS One. 2014 9(3):e92173.

A phenomenon called antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) has been proposed to explain the onset of these severe cases of dengue fever, but the exact mechanism of ADE remains unclear. To clarify the mechanism of ADE, we examined ADE in vitro using virus and antibodies obtained from the sera of dengue patients. Serum taken from patients during the acute phase of a secondary infection showed high levels of ADE with laboratory-adapted virus strains. By contrast, serum of the same patient failed to induce significant ADE when the assays were performed with serum-derived viruses from the ultracentrifugation precipitates (not isolated via cell culture). These results demonstrate the ADE activities differed greatly depending on whether the viruses were derived from patients or were laboratory-adapted strains.

Planning for grant renewal



The MORU Strategy and Science committee held an offsite meeting in Khao Yai on 10-11 January to discuss plans for renewal of the Wellcome Trust core grant. Aj. Yaowalark, the Dean of Mahidol's Faculty of Tropical Medicine (FTM), Aj. Jetsumon, Deputy Dean for Research FTM, and Guy Thwaites, Director OUCRU (Vietnam MOP) joined the meeting which reviewed scientific achievements to date and areas of focus for the future. The first task will be to write a new joint five-year strategic plan with Vietnam before preparing a preliminary application and draft budget for submission in July 2014.

Data management day



Data collection and management is a big part of MORU's work. In the past two years, over 10,000 subjects have been enrolled in the 30+ active trials MORU currently operates across SE Asia, South Asia, Afghanistan and Africa – with 25,000+ new subject enrollments expected in the next two years. The more than 100 staff are involved in data management have collected 1.5m data points in since 2012, with 7.5m more expected in the next two years.

As part of MORU's on-going search for more effective data management tools, the Clinical Trials Support Group (CTSG) hosted on 21-22 January Data Management Day, an information-sharing session on

how Oxford and MOP colleagues handle data management and a look at some new tools available for academic studies.

Presenters included OUCRU Director Dr. Guy Thwaites and Laura Merson, Head of Clinical Trials Unit at OUCRU; Yama G. Farooq, Clinical Trials IT Manager at the Oxford Vaccine Group; and Greg Fegan, Head of Statistics at KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme and CCVTM, Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine.

Attendees then viewed data management systems – MACRO, from the UK; OpenClinica Enterprise from Shanghai; and Databox – and discussed the way forward.

New SEAICRN director

In January, MORU's Head of Microbiology, Direk Limmathurotsakul, was elected Director of the South East Asia Infectious Disease Clinical Research Network (SEAICRN). Having created a SEAICRN presence on Twitter (@seaicrn), Facebook (www.facebook.com/seaicrn) and a Google group, <http://groups.google.com/group/seaicrn>, Direk is currently working on updating the main website www.seaicrn.org.



Direk invites you to follow or like the new SEAICRN platforms.

Pharmacology visits Mae Sot TB clinics

Last week, Joel Tarning and Thomas Pouplin from MORU Pharmacology (PK-PD), joined by Nick White and Guy Thwaites, director of OUCRU, visited Francois Nosten and SMRU's tuberculosis (TB) team and clinics in the Mae Sot area. The visit objective was to begin implementing PK-PD in the region's TB clinics and to discuss how to harmonise clinical projects within the South-East Asia clinical network.

Dr. SeinSein (top right photo), responsible for TB studies and care at SMRU, gave the visitors a tour of SMRU's new Sanatorium Center for Border Communities. Built in 2013 with European Union funds, the sanatorium,



slightly isolated from SMRU's nearby Wangpha clinic, can handle up to 70 TB patients and their relatives. Most of patients stay in the center up to six months to receive their daily TB treatment. Those with multidrug-resistant TB (bottom left) are confined in a special area for 24 months after admission and monitored.

This visit initiated a proposal for a baseline evaluation of the exposure of

the first-line antituberculosis drugs in the population of migrants from Myanmar. Guy Thwaites will work to implement a simple electronic database to record the clinical information of each TB patient from enrolment to treatment completion. A harmonized document will then be created and shared between Vietnam, Thailand and probably Nepal.

Meet BSL3's Som Kiaw Wan

What's sweet, green and orange? The MACSQuant flow cytometer for characterising cell types in immunology, aka 'Som Kiaw Wan', installed in late February and located in MORU's BSL3 under the care of Manutsaun (Ka) Sumonwiriay (pictured left).

Susie Dunachie (right) wants everyone to know that the BSL3 had to close for installation – that's why no one's in lab coats! Her lessons learned from the MACSQuant flow cytometer process, which took just over 13 months? 1. patience patience; 2. liaise with Stuart before ordering re H&S and give plenty of notice for installation in case lab closure is needed; 3. discuss with Dean early about IT requirements as hooking up new equipment to the server is not necessarily straightforward.



Susan Bull at MORU

New Zealand-based Dr. Susan Bull, the PI for Ethics of Data Sharing, a Wellcome Trust-initiated multicentre study, visited MORU the week of 17 February for two days of meetings focused on data analysis and reviewing project progress with study co-investigator Dr. Decha Tangseefa (Thammasat University) and MORU's Phaik Yeong Cheah and the Ethics of Data Sharing research team.

Conducted in Thailand (at MORU and SMRU), Vietnam, South Africa, India and Kenya, Ethics of Data Sharing aims to identify the key features of good ethical data sharing practice in lower and middle income settings. It also seeks to provide insights into the development of ethical public health data-sharing policies. To do that, the study collects inputs from MORU

and SMRU researchers and stakeholders on ethical data sharing practices and good governance, and suggested policies for data sharing in the scientific research community.



Susan Bull (back, 2nd left) and MORU colleagues at dinner at Salt, in Soi Aree.

Sevuparin study period closes

On Tuesday 25 February, Arjen Dorndop and Dr. Prakaykaew (Jib) Charunwathana visited Maeramat Hospital in Tak province to thank the local team and close out the Sevuparin study (TSM02) after its 28-month study period.

Sevuparin is meant to reverse the sequestration of parasitized red blood cells in the microcirculation. Compromised



tissue perfusion of vital organs, mainly through the sequestered red cells causing a traffic jam, is a central feature in the pathogenesis of severe malaria. Sevuparin thus has the potential to restore tissue perfusion. The preliminary results of our trial look very interesting, with late stage parasites appearing in the peripheral blood shortly after administration of the drug. Published results will be provided soon.



Be and Tom visit Saving Brains Tanzania



Pasathorn (Be) Sirithiranont (centre) and Tom Peto (centre back) paid a monitoring and data management visit 24-28 February to Dr. Charles Makasi (standing behind Be) and his Saving Brains study team in Kilosa, Tanzania. Part of Prof. Abul Faiz and Dr. Melba Gomes' "Long-term neurocognitive assessment of children following an episode of severe malaria: the artesunate suppository trial cohort", Saving Brains is an ambitious study that will follow-up thousands of children in rural Bangladesh, Ghana and Tanzania and will complete recruitment later this year.

SMRU community engagement workshop



In mid-March, Shoklo Malaria Research Unit (SMRU) and local health worker partners along the Thai-Myanmar border successfully completed a three-day community engagement workshop recently. Held at Mae Moei National Park, the workshop was organized in preparation of the scale up of the malaria elimination project to combat the spread of artemisinin resistance. Community engagement is essential to maximise local participation in malaria elimination efforts. Supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation and the Wellcome Trust, this is only the first of a series of workshops that aim to train 10 community engagement coordinators who then in turn will train local village workers. Special workshop guests included Francois Nosten, Lorenz Von Seidlein, Dan Meyrowitsch and Akira Kaneko. TCE director Ms. Ladda Kajicheewa, who organized the workshop, gave special thanks to Prof. Decha Tangseefa, Thera Diamond Khin and Thera Saw John, whose team carried out the training.

WHO holds Laos lab quality workshop

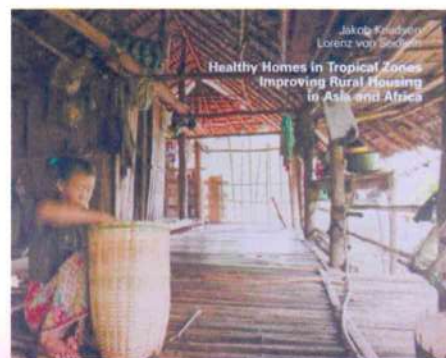


Four Lao Oxford Mahosot Wellcome Research Unit (LOMWRU) and Mahosot Hospital staff – Anisone Chanthongthip, Viengmon Davong, Risara Jaksuwan and David Dance – attended a workshop on Laboratory Quality Stepwise Implementation (LQSI) in Vientiane from 10-14 March. Organised by WHO and supported by the EU Laboratory Project to promote capacity to detect emerging infectious diseases, the workshop involved lab staff from several national reference laboratories and two provincial hospitals, selected as a group to champion strengthening quality management systems in Lao PDR healthcare laboratories.

Covering all aspects of laboratory quality management, the workshop introduced participants to WHO's recently introduced Laboratory Quality Stepwise Implementation Tool (<https://extranet.who.int/lqsi/>). Enthused by what they had learned, they returned to Mahosot ready to start using LQSI as soon as possible to enhance quality management in their laboratory.

Healthy tropical homes

Lovely rhythmic title to this book on improving rural housing in Asia and Africa by Jakob Knudsen and MORU's Lorenz von Seidlein, project manager for MORU's Targeted Malaria Elimination (TME) project. *Healthy Homes in Tropical Zones: Improving Rural Housing in Asia and Africa* is such a beautifully presented book that also draws important scientific conclusions.



The authors describe the architectural designs and materials of rural houses in two countries in Asia – Thailand (Tak Province) and the Philippines – and two in Africa – The Gambia and Tanzania. The effects of design upon indoor climate and the relation to health, notably the risk of mosquito-borne infections such as malaria, are analysed. Every page is beautifully illustrated with photographs and some juxtaposed with high quality architectural drawings. This was the result of a four-year undertaking and notwithstanding the prose is strikingly succinct and the dry language of a scientific journal avoided. Healthy Homes in Tropical Zones can be enjoyed equally by scientists and non-scientists alike.

TME principal investigators meeting

The Targeted Malaria Elimination (TME) principal investigators and team met 25 March at MORU to discuss the TME project's objectives, current status, early results and scale-up plans. Organized by TME project manager Lorenz von Seidlein and Tharisara Skulthaew, the meeting brought together TME investigators from across Southeast Asia to report on site findings and plans, including Francois Nosten (SMRU), Profs Hien and Thanh Thuy Nhen (Viet Nam), Rupam Tripura and Dr Chea (Cambodia), Frank Smithuis (Myanmar) and Decha Tangseefa (Thailand).

MORU attendees included Nick White, Arjen Dondorp, Charlie Woodrow, Malika (Noi) Imwong, Jem Chalk, Pasathorn Sirithiranont, Tom Peto, Mehul Dhorda, Yoel Lubell, Lisa White and Olivo Miotto, among others.

Funded by grants from the Wellcome Trust and the Gates Foundation, the TME study aims to evaluate a whole village treatment strategy for elimination of malaria. Study sites in Cambodia (Pailin), Myanmar, Vietnam and SMRU will each enroll 2,000 subjects. Other topics discussed included laboratory findings, community engagement, data management, models and economics.



CTSG goes SMRU

MORU's Clinical Trials Support Group (CTSG) held a Good Clinical Practice (GCP) for research involving human subjects training for new Shoklo Malaria Research Unit (SMRU) investigators Thursday 13 March, and for SMRU study staff Friday 14 - Saturday 15 March.

Physicians attended a full day of training by Prayoon Yuentrakul and Phaik Yeong Cheah, followed by staff involved in studies who attended training conducted by Prayoon over the next two days. Topics covered included history of GCP, informed consent, investigator responsibilities, study protocol and requirements, essential documents and data collection, good documentation practice, study drug management, monitoring, and audit and inspection.

Response to the training was positive, with requests for further training for staff involved in ongoing pregnancy and infant/child studies and for onsite training in the field. Management of the internal monitoring team by CTSG would be a next step in collaboration.



The Thailand MOPH – US CDC Collaboration (TUC) HIV/AIDS Research Program, which operates the Silom Community Clinic @TropMed in collaboration with the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, has recently hired a CDC epidemiologist for the position of Section Chief, Behavioral and Clinical Research Section.



Dr. Eileen Dunne, from CDC's Division of STD Prevention, is a well-recognized STD expert at CDC. "Dr. Eileen" is a great fit for our medical officer/epidemiologist position (and Silom Community Clinic @TropMed CDC Director), as she has clinical trial experience with persons infected with HIV. She is an infectious diseases board certified physician who joined CDC in 1998 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer in the CDC's Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch. Dr. Eileen did a preventive medicine residency and spent a year at Georgia's Dekalb County Board of Health. She joined the Division of STD

Prevention in 2001 as a research epidemiologist with a focus on human papilloma virus (HPV) and herpes simplex virus (HSV), and has been the principal investigator (PI) on a number of important studies, including a study on the impact of acyclovir on genital shedding of HIV in HIV and HSV-2 co-infected women in Thailand, HPV vaccine impact studies in the US and other settings, HPV prevalence studies in the US, and an assessment of self-collected swabs in males. Dr. Eileen led the development of guidance for HPV vaccine in all males, including men who have sex with men (MSM) and HIV-infected men, in 2011. She also led the development of CDC guidance on chlamydia screening for men. She has been on the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices HPV Vaccine Workgroup since 2005 and has helped lead development of general recommendations for vaccine use, and research questions on HPV epidemiology and vaccine impact. Dr. Eileen led the development of the STD Treatment Guidelines on HPV and Genital warts in 2006, 2010 and 2014. She is an author or co-author of over 60 publications on infectious diseases, epidemiology and STDs. She will join the program in July 2014.

For further information, please visit our website at www.silomclinic.in.th or call 085-123-8738.





Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Tropical Medicine and Public Health Network (SEAMEO TROPMED)

★ SEAMEO TROPMED Network organized the In-house Meeting of the Network in Kuala Lumpur with TROPMED Malaysia (Institute for Medical Research) playing host. The Network officials discussed and planned for the following: (i) Mechanics for the SEAMEO TROPMED Credit Mobility pilot project, (ii) Trust Fund for SEAMEO TROPMED Network, (iii) Development of a comprehensive resource material for school health, including school children with special health needs, and (iv) Mentoring and Evaluation Training courses. The forthcoming Governing Board Meeting to be held in Siem Reap Cambodia as well as the 50th anniversary of the Network were also discussed.



SEAMEO TROPMED Network In-house Meeting

Date: 6-7 March 2014
Venue: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

36th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting 18-20 February 2014, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel Bangkok, Thailand

★ Vice ministers, permanent secretaries and high-level education officials from the Southeast Asian countries met for the 36th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting which discussed, among others, the education agenda in Southeast Asia after 2015 which marks the conclusion of the Education for all movement which has been the flagship education agenda globally for the past three decades. The SEAMEO High Officials Meeting also endorsed three projects which focus on Southeast Asia on the themes of pre-primary teacher development, intercultural dialogues, and learning metrics which were proposed by UNESCO and UNICEF to be implemented collaboratively with SEAMEO. The 36th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting also announced plans for the conduct of SEAMEO Congress in October 2014 and the commemoration of the organization's 50th anniversary in March 2015.



★ The winner of the SEAMEO-Jasper Research Award 2013, Dr. Devanto Shasta Pratomo, Brawijaya University, Indonesia was announced by H E Philip Calvert, Ambassador, Embassy of Canada to Thailand.



★ College of Management, Mahidol University was announced by Mr. Scott Evans, Branch Manager, Scholarships and North Asia Branch, Department of Education, Australia as the winner of the SEAMEO-Australia Education Links Award 2013. Dr. Randall Shannon, Programme Chair, College of Management, Mahidol University, Thailand received the award from H E Mr. Chaturon Chaisaeng, Minister of Education of Thailand.



★ Mr. Shigeharu Kato, Director-General for International Affairs, MEXT, Japan announced the three winners of the SEAMEO-Japan Education for Sustainable Development Award 2013. First prize went to Sekolah Menengah Sayyidina Hasan, Brunei Darussalam. Mrs. Lili Mariam Ismail, Education Officer, International Affairs Unit, Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam received the award from H E Mr. Chaturon Chaisaeng, Minister of Education of Thailand. Ms. Ladda Chulawongs, School Principal, Sathya Sai School, Lopburi, Thailand received the second prize award from the Minister of Education of Thailand on behalf of her school. Dr. Shirley Tay Siew Hong, School Principal, SMK Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia received the third prize award from the Minister of Education of Thailand on behalf of her school.



Mr. Uaichai Putjaike, former School Director and Mr. Suphachai Sriphow, School Director, Nasinuanpittayasan School, Maha Sarakham, Thailand received the special prize from the Minister of Education of Thailand on behalf of their school.

**SEAMEO Consultation and Workshop on Post 2015 Education Scenarios
and Post EFA Education Agenda in Southeast Asia
28-30 January 2014, Empress Hotel
Chiang Mai, Thailand**



★ The consultation and workshop is a core activity of SEAMEO's regional project "SEAMEO Study and Development of the Post 2015 Education Scenarios and Post EFA Education Agenda in Southeast Asia. It was attended by high officials of the 8 Member Countries, 21 SEAMEO Centres and Network, 16 international and Thailand-based non-government organizations and a number of students from Chiang Mai University.



★ Officials of SEAMEO TROPMED Network Office and the TROPMED Centres participated in the workshop. Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon, Secretary General/Coordinator of the Network presented a paper on "Public Health and Environment as Drivers of Change and Shifting Trends in Education in Southeast Asia". Dr. Ma. Sandra B. Tempongko, Deputy Coordination of TROPMED Network served as a facilitator during the workshop.



**SEAMEO CONGRESS 2014
CALL FOR PAPERS**

From 21-22 October 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand, SEAMEO in collaboration with the British Council and Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST) Thailand, is launching the SEAMEO Congress on Education, Science and Culture 2014 with the theme Southeast Asia in Transition: Re-Thinking Education, Science and Culture for Regional Integration.



SEAMEO Congress will bring together a diverse set of actors from government organizations, education institutions, industry and business sector, international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to discuss perspectives on how to best shape education and human resource development policies and practices for regional integration in Southeast Asia. We would also like to invite educators, researchers, scholars, university professors, practitioners, teachers to submit the papers that highlight perspectives from relevant local, national, regional, international or comparative research papers in the following Sub-Themes and Tracks.

Sub-Themes

- Sub-Theme 1: Re-shaping Education to Bridge Skills Gap
- Sub-Theme 2: Prospects and Possibilities for Enhancing Science and Technology Education
- Sub-Theme 3: Cultural Knowledge and Education for Regional Integration and Development

Tracks

Each sub-theme will cover the following tracks:

- Track 1: Policies, Reforms and Innovations
- Track 2: Innovative Teaching and Learning Strategies
- Track 3: Cooperation, Linkages and Partnerships

Deadline of Abstract Submission: 31 May 2014

For more information about the SEAMEO Congress and Abstract Submission Guidelines, please visit www.seameocongress.org or send e-mail to seameocongress@seameo.org



For more information of this contest Please visit <http://www.biotrop.org/news.php?id=416>



Songkran Day 2014 (Thai New Year's Day)



The 5th Phayathai Campus Sports Day

Consultant: Dr. Yaowalark Sukthana, Dean, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University

Editors: Dr. Emsri Pongponratn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs and Jittapim Na Bangchang

Coordinators: Peerawat Maipanich, Rattanawadee Nanlar, Siriprang Chotchaimongkol and Pimrampai Boonyarit

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