



★ 46th Anniversary of the Royal Bestowal of Mahidol University's Name and 127th Anniversary Celebration of Mahidol University on 2 March 2015

★ Dean Yaowalark Sukthana together with Administrative team members and FTM personnel joined the celebrations on the auspicious occasion of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's 5th Cycle (60th) Birthday Anniversary hosted by Mahidol University on 2 April 2015



★ Visit of His Excellency Prof. Dr. Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam and President of SEAMEO Council to SEAMEO TROPMED/Thailand and SEAMEO TROPMED Network on 5 March 2015



★ Meeting with H.E. Mr. Felix Denegri, Ambassador of Republic of Peru to Thailand and the team from Latin America Division, Department of American and South Pacific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand to discuss the possibility of collaboration under Forum for East Asia - Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) on 20 January 2015





★ Prof. Polrat Wilairatana, Deputy Dean for Value Creation together with Prof. Srivicha Krudsood, Head, Department of Tropical Hygiene and Asst. Prof. Noppadon Tangpukdee, Deputy Dean for Resource Management welcomed Dr. Peter Ehizibue Olumese from WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland on 2 April 2015. They had a successful discussion on Clinical Management of Malaria.



★ Dean Yaowalark Sukthana together with Deputy Deans welcomed Prof. Dr. G. U. Ahsan (second from the left), Dean of Health & Life Sciences School, North South University, Bangladesh and Member of Technical Advisory Committee of WHO South East Asia region and team members on 9 January 2015



★ Professor Jang-Yang Chang, Dean of National Cheng Kung University College of Medicine, Taiwan and team members visited the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University and Hospital for Tropical Diseases on 11 March 2015



Events:

Malaria Research Day Meeting

On 12 March 2015, Malaria Consortium Asia Regional Office – together with the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University and Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit – organised the Malaria Research Day Meeting to share insights from current research on malaria, dengue and other illnesses and develop a plan to collaborate over the next 6 to 12 months. This initiative is designed to help strengthen relationships and plan for future research activities. At the end of the seminar, a list of potential collaborative opportunities was developed and representatives from each organisation agreed to revisit these at the next meeting in June 2015.



Malaria Consortium will host the Second Regional Symposium in Bangkok

Malaria Consortium will host the Second Regional Symposium in Bangkok in June this year. This event will maintain the momentum of last year's meeting by continuing to communicate learning from the work of Malaria Consortium and other key partners in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). The main topics of discussion will include approaches to control and elimination of malaria and dengue, bringing together stakeholders both in the government and non-government sectors to share findings from research and project implementation in the region, as well as to raise awareness of future work. Discussions will allow participants to identify strategic areas of overlap and potential partnerships.

To receive updates about the above event, please visit Malaria Consortium's website or follow on Twitter:

<http://www.malariaconsortium.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MalariaConsortium>

<https://twitter.com/FightingMalaria>

Malaria Consortium awarded the Certificate of Merit for their work with the Cambodian government

On 26 February 2015, Malaria Consortium was awarded a Certificate of Merit at the Provincial Health Department of Pailin annual conference in recognition of its work implementing the Ministry of Health's malaria elimination strategy in Cambodia. Over 100 participants attended, including village malaria workers, staff from government offices and the NGO sector, and representatives from the Health Center Member Committee. The ceremony was attended by His Excellency Mr. Ing Vuth, Deputy Provincial Governor of Pailin Province. Mr. Lim Kim Seng, Malaria Consortium Pailin Field Office Coordinator accepted the award on behalf of the organisation.



To read more about the event, visit: <http://bit.ly/18WCFZl>

Films:

Active Case Detection and Treatment (ACAT) project (Cambodia/Thailand)

This film, shot in Pailin, Cambodia, looks at a detection and treatment project focused on eliminating malaria in the region. Malaria Consortium has piloted a surveillance project using SMS technology to help prevent this resistant form of malaria from spreading further. As part of this project, health teams identified and treated asymptomatic people who could potentially spread the disease unknowingly. This surveillance pilot project has been proven effective, with the SMS approach now being used more widely in the region as an established reporting tool.



To read more about the film and project, visit:

<http://bit.ly/1MxdP0a>

Malaria Elimination (Cambodia/Thailand)

A new film in Cambodia and Thailand documents multiple approaches to eliminating malaria in Cambodia by 2025, including cross-border surveillance to target hard-to-reach populations. It shows how Malaria Consortium has adapted surveillance techniques to better identify cases within hard-to-reach groups in Cambodia, such as migrant populations.



To read more about the film and project, visit: <http://bit.ly/1L5b5dh>

Publication:

Malaria: the last mile

This special report, published in the New Statesman magazine, is based on a roundtable event held in partnership with Malaria Consortium. The event focused on the threat of drug resistant malaria in Southeast Asia and beyond, bringing together figures from civil society, academia, the private sector and the government to discuss how the UK can contribute to eliminating malaria and control drug resistance.

To read this publication, visit: <http://bit.ly/1HPlE8x>





On 23 April 2015, Prof. Tatsuo Shioda, Director of MOCID joined the 2nd MOCID/BIKEN Committee Meeting in 2015. Dr. Emsri Pongponratn, on behalf of Dean Yaowalark Sukthana presented welcome flowers to Prof. Tatsuo Shioda on the special occasion of his new position as Director of MOCID and also a souvenir to Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi as he will be leaving MOCID to work with the Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Faculty of Agriculture, Miyazaki University in Japan. Prof. Tatsuo Shioda also visited Dean Yaowalark Sukthana and introduced Assoc. Prof. Emi E. Nakayama from Department of Viral Infections, Research Institute for Microbial Diseases, Osaka University to Dean Yaowalark at the Office of the Dean on 27 April 2015.



Chikungunya Diagnostic Management in Guatemala

2 - 6 March 2015, Dr. Okabayashi (MOCID) and Dr. Ronald Enrique Morales Vargas (Department of Medical Entomology, FTM, MU) were invited to Chikungunya Diagnostic Management in Laboratorio Nacional de Salud (LNS), Guatemala. The Guatemala Ministry of Health reported in their latest Epidemiology report that the country now has 21,859 autochthonous transmission cases (December 2014). Dr. Okabayashi and Dr. Ronald made workshop for chikungunya diagnosis using the diagnosis kit that MOCID produced. For Guatemala side, Dr. Leticia Castillo had supported this project.



*Dr. Okabayashi
in LNS, Guatemala*



*(From left)
Dr. Okabayashi, Dr. Leticia,
Dr. Evelin, and Dr. Ronald*

Visiting Embassy of Japan in Guatemala

3 March 2015, Dr. Okabayashi and Dr. Ronald were invited to the Embassy of Japan in Guatemala. They had discussed with Ambassador Eiichi Kawahara on medical and research situations in Guatemala and possible collaboration among Guatemala, Thailand, and Japan. Especially, this year is the 80th anniversary for the Japan and Guatemala diplomatic establishment. Therefore, Ambassador Kawahara also encourages the cooperation and brotherly partnership with the University of Japan.



With Ambassador Eiichi Kawahara



6 March 2015, Dr. Okabayashi made a presentation on the topic “Chikungunya Fever ~Development and evaluation of newly diagnostic kit for detection of chikungunya virus antigen~” in San Carlos University, Guatemala. He reviewed the situation of chikungunya fever in Guatemala and introduced the rapid diagnosis kit that is developing at MOCID. After the presentation, there were many students interested in the diagnosis kit of Chikungunya. They had a great discussion together.



Farewell Party for Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi



25 March 2015, at Suan Kularb Restaurant, Dr. Pongrama Ramasoota, Director of Center of Excellence for Antibody Research (CEAR) had organized a farewell party for Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi as he will finish his duty and go back to Japan.

“I thank you for a kind support and good collaboration for all along. It is such a good chance for me to come here and work with Mahidol University. Anyway, I will continue the collaboration with Mahidol University”, said Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi.

Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi has now got a new position at Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Faculty of Agriculture, Miyazaki University in Japan.



In this issue, BIKEN will present the visitors from Osaka University, Japan. On 9th January 2015, three researchers and one office worker at Center for Global Health, Osaka University Hospital, visited us (Photo 1). The Center for Global Health was established in 2013 for contribution to medical globalization. This new area of medicine has been sought, based on recently increased human activities beyond national boundaries in multiple fields like business, culture, amusement, etc. The Center has 5 missions; (1) to provide consistent support for safe and reliable medical care for patients from abroad, (2) to promote human resource development, education, and research in furthering the practice

of global medicine and medical care, taking advantage of the features of Osaka University as a comprehensive university, (3) to accept participants from throughout the world for medical training, (4) to facilitate the global expansion of Japan's excellent integrated programs of medical technologies and service and of its medical system, and (5) to promote joint international clinical trials and research (URL: <http://www.dmi.med.osaka-u.ac.jp/cgh/en.html>). They visited our laboratory to observe our international collaboration network and to prepare for the International Medical Symposium they plan to hold in Bangkok next year. After our discussion (Photo 2), they took a look at our laboratory (Photo 3).



■ Photo 1 Professor Ken Nakata (front row, the right), Associate Professor Kaori Minamitani (rear row, 2nd from the left), Assistant Professor Yukiko Ogasawara (rear row, the left) and an office worker, Mr. Yoshitaka Sue (rear row, the right) visited us on 9th January 2015. Photo was taken at Kanjika Devakul Conference Room on the 5th floor of Chalermprakit Building.



■ Photo 2 We talked about international collaboration network.



■ Photo 3 They looked at our laboratory.

On 11th March 2015, Professor Taroh Kinoshita from Research Institute for Microbial Diseases (RIMD) of Osaka University came to our laboratory. In a previous issue, we described about the Japan Initiative for Global Research Network on Infectious Diseases (J-GRID). This program has established 13 bilateral collaborative research centers on infectious diseases in 6 countries in Asia and 2 countries in Africa. RIMD is the representative institution in Japan side for collaboration with Thailand, while FTM is one of the partner institutions in Thailand. Mahidol-Osaka Center for Infectious Diseases (MOCID) is the J-GRID collaborative research center at FTM, and our laboratory has been partly involved in J-GRID. Professor Kinoshita has been a leader of J-GRID Osaka University since 2010. He came here to meet Dean Yaowalark Sukthana (Photo 4) and Former Dean Pratap Singhasivanon (Photo 5).

At this time, Professor Kinoshita informed both current and former deans about leaving his position as a leader of J-GRID Osaka University at the end of this March with his sincere thanks for their cooperation over the past years. J-GRID Osaka will continue for the next five years and the new leader will supersede him. He said that through our collaboration on several research projects with FTM, our colleagues have worked together well to achieve a significant progress with great pleasure and honor. He strongly hopes that our close and friendly collaboration will be continued also in the future.



■ Photo 4 Professor Taroh Kinoshita met Dean Yaowalark Sukthana at the Office of the Dean.



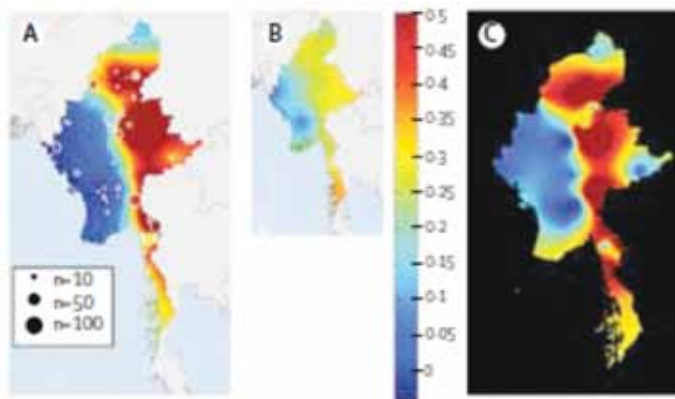
■ Photo 5 Professor Taroh Kinoshita talked to Former Dean Pratap Singhasivanon.

Drug-resistant malaria widespread in Myanmar



Resistance to the antimalarial drug artemisinin is established in Myanmar and has reached within 25km of the Indian border, according to the MORU-led study, Spread of artemisinin-resistant *Plasmodium falciparum* in Myanmar: a cross-sectional survey of the K13 molecular marker, published 20 February in *Lancet Infectious Diseases* reported. Artemisinin resistance threatens to follow the same historical trajectory from Southeast Asia to the Indian subcontinent as seen in the past with other antimalarial medicines.

The spread of malaria parasites that are resistant to the drug artemisinin – the frontline treatment against malaria infection – into neighbouring India would pose a serious threat to the global control and eradication of malaria. If drug resistance spreads from Asia to the African sub-continent, or emerges in Africa independently as we've seen several times before, millions of lives will be at risk.



The collection of samples from across Myanmar and its border regions was led by Dr. Kyaw Myo Tun of the Defence Services Medical Research Centre, Naypyitaw, Myanmar and coordinated by MORU in Bangkok, Thailand. The researchers examined whether parasite samples collected at 55 malaria treatment centres across Myanmar carried mutations in specific regions of the parasite's kelch gene (K13) – a known genetic marker of artemisinin drug resistance. The team confirmed resistant parasites in Homalin, Sagaing Region located only 25km from the Indian border.

The paper's findings and its implications generated tremendous media coverage – well over 200 articles and comments from around Asia and the globe, including the BBC, the New York Times, the Guardian, National Public Radio (USA), Voice of America, Channel News Asia, the Straits Times (Singapore), New Scientist and international news wires like Reuters, Agence France Presse, Deutsche Welle, DPA and RFI Espanol.



Lead author Charlie Woodrow made himself freely available for over a dozen interview requests, and somehow kept smiling and on message – and looking at the camera! – throughout.

A big thanks goes out to all contributors to the study and to Andrea Stewart, WWARN's Head of Advocacy & Communications at the Centre for Tropical Medicine & Global Health, University of Oxford for a wonderful job on spearheading global media outreach efforts.

- John Bleho

OTN 2015 rocks Siem Reap



What a meeting! Held 8-11 March in Siem Reap, Cambodia, this year's Oxford Tropical Network meeting, OTN 2015, kicked off with 199 delegates touring the highlights of the Angkor temple complex in a convoy of 64 tuk-tuks. All told, 300 delegates (plus 12 partners) attended OTN 2015 in Siem Reap, beautifully hosted by Claudia and Paul Turner and their COMRU team.

The scientific sessions covered all aspects of the network's research programme. Participants said it was great to see such high quality presentations from predominantly junior researchers. As one MORU colleague put it: "OTN? Great and interesting talks, widely covering all aspects of tropical medicine. Fantastic opportunities to network and get to better know our colleagues from the other units."

As always, the social programme was an important component of the 2015 OTN: a chance to unwind and reconnect with colleagues from around the world. The programme commenced with a gala dinner and apsara dancing at the Angkor Century hotel on Sunday. Fun was had the Foreign Correspondents Club (FCC) on Monday evening, with Nick Day leading the dancing on the roof of the bar after dinner.

The final evening was spent at the Triangle roof top bar, where delegates were entertained by energetic performances by each of the units. Who will ever forget the MORU Time warp or the unexpected events that occurred during the Kenyan dance?

A special mention should be made of the more than USD 1,000 raised for the Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC) by the live beard shaving of the Oxford Centre for Tropical Medicine business manager, Ed Gibbs. This money will be used to purchase essential hospital hygiene supplies to help control the burden of hospital-acquired infections.

The female members of the COMRU team – Sar Poda, Soeng Sona, Tan Pisey, and Pol Sreymom – demonstrated their excellent Apsara dancing skills before being joined on stage by the rest of the team for a few choruses of Happy.

The meeting closed with the announcement of the next two OTN venues: the 2017 meeting will be held in Oxford and OUCRU will host the 2019 OTN.

Thanks to all for helping to make this the largest and one of the best OTNs yet!

- with thanks to Claudia and Paul Turner for text and photos, to Thomas Pouplin for photos and video, and Sharanjeet Atwal and all the other photo contributors, you know who you are

SMRU marks 28th year



In mid-December 2014, MORU's sister unit the Shoklo Malaria Research Unit (SMRU) marked its 28th anniversary with a day and a half retreat.

Beginning with a small group of doctors and researchers in Shoklo, SMRU is now a 500+ person organization of doctors, clinical staff, drivers, lab technicians, accountants and general admin staff from a wide variety of cultures, backgrounds and languages.

At the retreat, SMRU staff worked on critical subjects such as decision making processes, improving lines of communication, staff empowerment, and how to tackle its mix of humanitarian medicine and research feeding off each other, but creating weight. Working groups identified problems and proposed realistic, measurable action plans to tackle them.

The retreat was a milestone for SMRU, the first of its kind, and something that the team plans to continue as an ongoing, annual process, in order to measure progress and identify new structural problems as they arise.

Mr. Sompert, SMRU's Logistics Director and Mr. Dian, HR Director, took their guitars in the evening and everybody joined to sing oldies but goodies, moving some, including Mr. Tip, SMRU's Admin Director, to dance. Now, on to the next 30 years!

- Text and photos courtesy of Francois Nosten and SMRU team

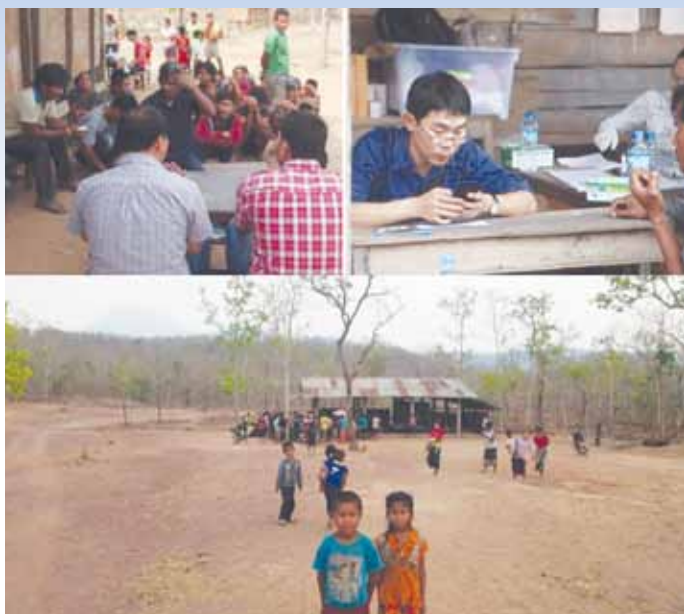
TME prep work begins in Myanmar's South Karen state



In January, in preparation for a targeted malaria elimination (TME) project, the Myanmar Oxford Clinical Research Unit (MOCRUC) in cooperation with Medical Action Myanmar (MAM) held blood collection sessions for qPCR in 43 very remote villages, most only accessible by motorbike, boats and walking, in South Kayin (Karen) state in eastern Myanmar. The project is supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

- with thanks to Frank Smihuis for text and photos

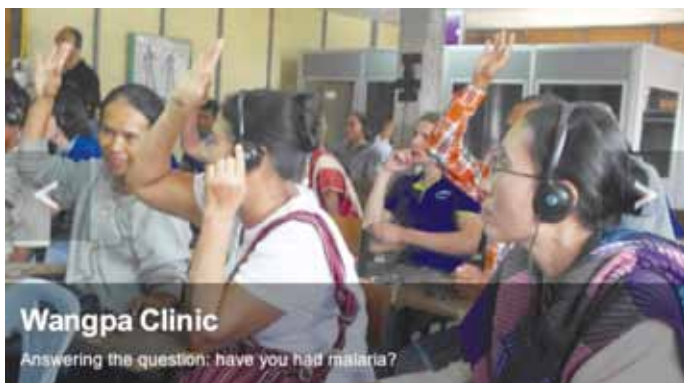
Laos villages selected for pilot TME surveys



The MORU TME team, Jem Chalk, Nicola James, Gisela, Bipin and Lorenz von Seidlein visited Thapangthong district, Savannakhet province, Lao PDR 20-25 March to look for villages appropriate for targeted malaria elimination (TME). Dr. Mayfong Mayxay from LOMWRU and Dr. Tiengkham from Savannakhet Health Department selected eight villages for pilot surveys. Around 50 volunteers were tested in each village. Village sensitisation and community engagement is planned for the end of this year and will be followed by mass drug administrations where needed at the beginning of 2016.

- with thanks to Lorenz von Seidlein, MORU TME Project Manager, for text and photos

Nick White and François Nosten live from Wangpa on BBC Radio



On 15 March, the BBC World Service Radio series Exchanges at the Frontier traveled to Mae Sot and SMRU's Wangpa clinic on the Thai-Myanmar border. There, host Gareth Mitchel discussed drug resistant malaria with MORU SEA Chairman Nick White and François Nosten, Head of SMRU, and took questions in English, Karen and Burmese from a live audience of about 50 including patients and health workers. Visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02lmggg/p02lmcl8> for the broadcast.

TB, melioid researchers meet in Khon Kaen



In early January, Direk Limmathurotsakul, Susie Dunachie and Narisara Chantratita from MORU Microbiology, together with LOMWRU's David Dance, attended the Learning from Each Other workshop in Khon Kaen, Thailand. The purpose of this excellent British Council sponsored meeting was for British and Thai researchers working on TB and melioidosis to learn from each other, as the pathogens share several characteristics.

Researchers from Khon Kaen, MORU, Mahidol University and Chiangmai joined researchers from the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL), Public Health England, Liverpool and Oxford and other places. This helped to consolidate collaborations and forge new ones as well as learning about transcriptomics approaches from Damien Chaussabel of the Sidra Medical Research Center, Qatar.

- Thank you, Susie Dunachie, for text and photos

WT review panel visit



From 15-21 March, the Wellcome Trust (WT) review panel visited MORU and our sister unit OUCRU in Viet Nam to decide on our 2015-2020 core funding. There were 17 visitors all told: 10 external reviewers and seven WT Governors and staff.

Above some photos from the WT review panel's visit to Bangkok, SMRU and LOMWRU. The review visit began Monday 16 March with joint presentations from the Thailand and Viet Nam Major Overseas Programmes (MOPs), after which the Viet Nam WT team left for OUCRU. The Thailand WT review team was at MORU Bangkok Tuesday 17 March, then LOMWRU 18 March, at SMRU on 19-20 March. On Friday 20 March, both WT teams returned to Bangkok, where they gave feedback on Saturday 21 March to close out their visit.

MORU Director Nick Day summarised this feedback in a 21 March email to staff: "I'm delighted to let you know that the Wellcome Trust review team has told us that they were very impressed with what they heard and saw during their week-long visit, and that they will be making a positive recommendation to the Wellcome Trust about our 5 year renewal application. This reflects the strength of all the components of our unit (including those supporting research administratively), the high quality of the research we've done over the last 5 years, and our future research plans. The final decision on our core funding for the next 5 years will be made at a meeting of the Wellcome Trust Governors in either April or July, and will be based on this recommendation from the review team."

"I'd like to thank everyone for all the hard work they put into making this review visit such a success (and this includes not just the visit itself but all the work done over the past 5 years!). It was a fantastic team effort and everyone should feel very proud of the outcome. Congratulations!"

- Photos courtesy of Nick Day, Paul Newton, Phaik Yeong Cheah, Soiratchaneekorn (Tarn) Ruanchaiman and Pornjarus (Jiab) Sukhapiwat

TRACII holds inaugural meeting



On 27 February the MORU-coordinated Tracking Resistance to Artemisinin Collaboration II (TRACII) team held its first meeting, with 63 principal investigators representing 17 nationalities attending. TRACII aims to map the current prevalence of artemisinin and partner drug resistance in seven countries in Asia – Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh and India – and the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa.

As the follow up study of TRACI, which was led by Dr. Elizabeth Ashley and documented the alarming extensive spread of artemisinin resistance in falciparum malaria over Cambodia, southern Vietnam, eastern Myanmar, Thailand and southern Laos, TRAC II will continue to map resistance to antimalarials and also assess the tolerability, safety and efficacy of two new triple artemisinin combination treatments (TACTs): Dihydroartemisinin-Piperaquine combined with Mefloquine and Artemether-Lumefantrine combined with Amodiaquine. The triple combinations will hopefully restore efficacy in areas where ACTs are currently starting to fail dramatically, whereas TACTs also aim to prolong the longevity of the artemisinins and partner drugs in areas where ACTs still work.

TRAC II will also look at the efficacy of i.v. artesunate for the treatment of severe malaria in areas of artemisinin resistance, and will test Synriam (Arterolane-Piperaquine) as a possible alternative treatment for artemisinin resistant uncomplicated falciparum malaria. Finally, community led malaria elimination efforts will be tested, and entomological (i.e. mosquito) factors in the spread of artemisinin resistance will be studied.

During the meeting local investigators introduced all 16 hospital sites. Participants extensively discussed the current protocol and contributed some very helpful remarks to optimise the protocol further.

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) is the funder of the TRACII trial. Malcolm McNeil, one of two DFID guests, said he was very impressed by the team spirit and enthusiasm he witnessed during the day.

Following the day's meetings, the team had a lovely dinner in the Suan Kularb (Rose Garden) restaurant in Phahon Yothin 5.

Rob van der Pluijm will be the TRACII trial coordinator. We wish him good luck with this important large new project.

- Thank you Rob van der Pluijm and Arjen Dondorp for text and Tharisara (Toon) Sakulthaew for the photo

FB Food Challenge video available online



Launched on 16 January, MORU's Facebook Food Photo Challenge attracted over 100 participants who shared their food and dining photos in an attempt to explore social media's potential uses in health research. Organized by Phaik Yeong Cheah, head of MORU's Clinical Trials Support Group (CTSG), the Facebook Food Photo Challenge is part of the Wellcome Trust funded "Food and Drink Initiative" on global food issues, a mini-engagement project designed to bring global stories to audiences in the UK.

You can view the Facebook Food Photo Challenge video by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWMXGKtE5LI>

Cambodia Targeted Malaria Elimination kicks off

The Targeted Malaria Elimination (TME) study in Cambodia kicked off in early February. Jaruwan, Chompoo, Kai and Jem swung over from Bangkok to visit Rupam, Tom, Mr Heng and the Pailin team, and to run a training workshop and initiate the site. In addition, Nicola joined the Cambodia TME team for a month to help set up a satellite office in the foothills of the Cardamom Mountains. And next week the team begins the search for suitable study villages. The Cambodia TME study is a partnership between MORU, the Cambodian National Malaria Control Programme, and the provincial health authorities. Western Cambodia has seen a decline in malaria incidence over the past decade but there are serious problems of antimalarial drug resistance in this area. The TME study seeks to provide evidence to guide Cambodia's malaria control and elimination strategies.

GCP training in Laos



In early February, MORU's Phaik Yeong Cheah (top row, 4th from right), Head of the Clinical Trials Support Group (CTSG), and Naomi Waithira (top row, 2nd from right), Head of Data Management for CTSG, conducted well-attended training on Good Clinical Practice in Vientiane for colleagues at Mahosot Hospital and LOMWRU.

Seminar introduces Global Health Network

In Bangkok on 6 March, Francois van Loggerenberg, Liam Boggs and Tamzin Furtado from the Global Health Network talked to 40+ MORU staff about the resources available on the Global Health Trials website, <https://globalhealthtrials.tghn.org>. These include e-learning courses (e.g. Good Clinical Practice, Data Management, among others), templates, and how-to articles on clinical research. A Professional Membership Scheme is available, and you'll also find discussion forums on the website.

The Global Health Network is an established source of communities, tools, training and resources that aims to increase and improve research in resource-limited settings by providing a way to exchange methods and resources between diseases areas and across regions.





SEAMEO TROPMED Network

SEAMEO COLLEGE: Module 2 (High Officials Country Case Studies)



SEAMEO TROPMED Network led by Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon, Secretary General/ Coordinator, in collaboration with SEAMEO RIHED organized the Forum for Module 2 of SEAMEO College Project with the theme “Promoting Harmonization on Mobility in Higher Education Focusing on Health Professionals in Southeast Asia” during 11-13 March 2015. The forum was participated by higher education officials, medical and nursing regulatory board members, medical and nursing professional association officials, as well as officials of medical and nursing academic institutions. Ten countries were represented in the forum. The frameworks and standards in medical and nursing professional education were shared by the countries. In addition, selected countries presented current efforts towards harmonization and mobility towards the operationalization of the ASEAN MRA in medical education professional practice. Areas for potential collaboration were identified and short-term actions were prioritized for immediate implementation. The second round of the forum is tentatively scheduled on or before February 2016.

SEAMEO Regional Meeting-Workshop on Post-2015 Education Agenda



SEAMEO Secretariat organized a regional meeting-workshop during 9-10 March 2015 which served as a (i) Follow-up on SEAMEO College Module 1 Results; and (ii) Wrap-up of the SEAMEO Study on Post-2015 and Post-EFA Agenda in Southeast Asia. SEAMEO TROPMED Network, represented by Dr. Ma. Sandra B. Tempongko, Deputy Coordinator, presented the plans for the implementation of Module 2 of SEAMEO College.

▼ Visit of the SEAMEC President



H.E. Prof. Dr. Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training (MOET), Vietnam and President of SEAMEO Council visited SEAMEO TROPED Network and SEAMEO TROPED Thailand on 5 March 2015. His Excellency was accompanied by high officials of MOET Vietnam, and SEAMES Director Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul and Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, Director Designate of SEAMES.

▼ Regional Fit for School Conference 2015



SEAMEO TROPED Network officials participated in the Regional Fit for School Conference 2015 organized by GIZ and SEAMEO INNOTECH during 11-13 February 2015 at Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference aimed to provide governments, research and development partners with a forum to exchange implementation experiences, research results, as well as concepts and strategies for program scale-up beyond model schools. The conference was participated by high officials and program implementers of the Ministries of Education of the countries involved in the Regional Fit for School Program i.e. Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines. The GIZ evaluation of the three year program was also shared during the conference.

▼ ASEAN-EU STI Days 2015



Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon, Secretary General/Coordinator of SEAMEO TROPED Network participated in the three day forum of ASEAN-EU STI Days 2015 organized in Paris, France. The event focused on presenting ASEAN research excellence to European stakeholders as well as raising awareness for current developments in Science and Technology in the region. Dr. Pratap presented a paper on regional research activities.

▼ Wilton Park Meeting: Antimicrobial resistance in humans and animals in low and middle income countries

Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon, Secretary General/Coordinator of SEAMEO TROPED Network, was a paper presenter during the Wilton Park Meeting on antimicrobial resistance from 13-15 March 2015 in London, United Kingdom. Dr. Pratap's paper is entitled "Facing drug resistance to treatments; lessons from malaria." The meeting provided a platform bringing together medical, veterinary and scientific experts together with representatives from health and livestock ministries from 24 countries.

▼ Expert Group Meeting of Focal Points for Assessment of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action (GSPA) on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property

WHO SEARO organized an Expert Group Meeting during 10-11 March 2015 for consolidation of the self-assessment undertaken by Member States to complete the process of country situational analysis related to the progress of efforts undertaken in relation to the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property. SEAMEO TROPMED Network, represented by Dr. Ophelia M. Mendoza, presented a preliminary consolidated report and a literature review on global and regional activities implemented in this area.



▼ International Symposium on ASEAN Studies



SEAMEO TROPMED Network represented by Dr. Ma. Sandra B. Tempongko, Deputy Coordinator, participated in the International Symposium on ASEAN Studies on 24 February 2015 at University of the Philippines Open University, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines participated by 5 Open Universities in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam).

▼ 2014/ 2015 SEAMEO Service Awards



On 7 May 2015, Ms. Sompan Srinukham, Deputy Director of the Hospital for Tropical Diseases and Mr. Ruam Sangkaram from SEAMEO TROPMED Network received 2014/2015 SEAMEO Service Awards at the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference, Royal Cliff Hotels Group, Chonburi, Thailand.

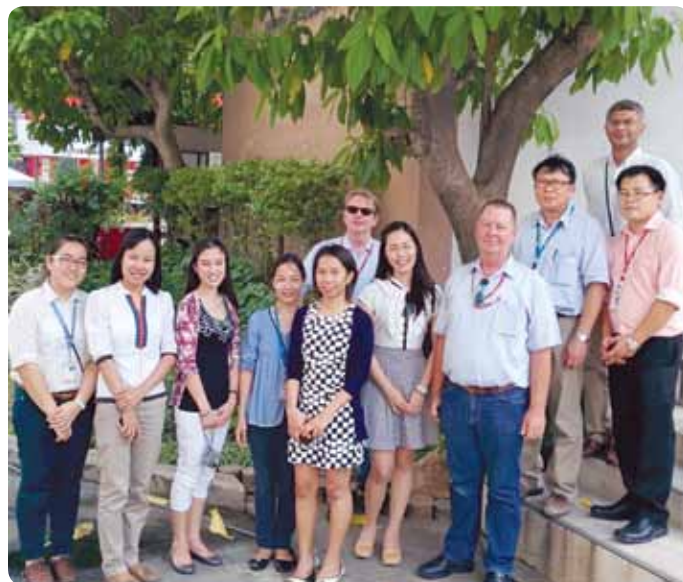


Dr. Timothy H. Holtz and Dr. Eileen Dunne took part as a lecturer of FTM Elective Program in Tropical Medicine on the topic of HIV prevention research globally and experience at Silom Clinic for 12 medical doctors and medical students on 7 April 2015



During "TROPMED Happy Songkran 2015" event, Dr. Timothy H. Holtz was pouring water on the hands of elders and Dr. Eileen Dunne was joining FTM Songkran Long Drum Parade on 8 April 2015

WORLDWIDE ANTIMALARIAL RESISTANCE NETWORK (WWARN) ASIA REGIONAL CENTRE @TropMed



WWARN Asia Regional Centre Update

Mr. Jeffery Smith has handed over his responsibilities as the Director of the Asia Regional Centre of the WorldWide Antimalarial Resistance Network (WWARN-ARC) to Dr. Mehul Dhorda, Head of the WWARN EQA Programme for malaria research.

The WWARN-ARC will continue to support malaria research activities through its QA-QC programme and Specimen Management Centre. In combination with the WWARN Pharmacometrics group, led by Dr. Joel Tarning of the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit, these activities help to generate high quality information on the efficacy and optimal use of antimalarial drugs. The WWARN QA-QC programme offers Reference Material (RM) and Proficiency Testing (PT) schemes to laboratories performing pharmacological analyses for antimalarial drugs. A Molecular PT scheme for recrudescence versus reinfection determinations based on genotyping of *P. falciparum* gene polymorphisms is also available and is being expanded to include assays for malaria parasite detection and quantitation and for markers of antimalarial drug resistance. For additional information, please contact qaqc@wwarn.org.



▲ Celebrating TROPMED Reunion - 55th Anniversary of the Founding of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University and TROPMED Happy Songkran 2015 on 8 April 2015



▲ Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University won the 1st prize for cheerleading competition at 6th Mahidol-Phayathai Sport Day event on 14 January 2015



▲ Mahidol Game 2015 at Mahidol University, Salaya Campus on 2 March 2015



▲ Mr. Edward Gibbs, Business Manager from Centre for Tropical Medicine, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, UK visited Dean Yaowalark Sukthana and Administrative team members at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University on 13 March 2015



▲ Training Course on Tropical Medicine for Doctors from Lao PDR under Her Royal Highness Princess Sirindhorn Project during 26 January - 6 March 2015



▲ Elective Program in Tropical Medicine for 3 medical doctors and 9 medical students from Indonesia, Japan and USA during 1 - 30 April 2015



▲ Opening Ceremony of Graduate Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H), Master of Clinical Tropical Medicine (MCTM) and Master of Clinical Tropical Medicine (Tropical Pediatrics) [MCTM (Trop Ped)] Courses for Academic Year 2015 (a total of 24 students from 10 countries enrolled)

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