

Objective 3: Education and In-Service Training of Health Officers, Practitioners and Professionals (Current Workforce)

DEVELOPING A SHORT TRAINING COURSE ON SURVEILLANCE OF AND RAPID RESPONSE TO EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS IN COMMUNITIES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PERSONNEL IN THAILAND

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Communicable diseases still remain the most common global public health problem. Its high incidence can cause huge social and economic burden and impact on the quality of life of populations in Southeast Asia, including Thailand. In addition, emerging diseases, such as Influenza A (H5N1) and re-emerging infectious diseases (dengue hemorrhagic fever and chikungunya), represent recurrent threats that also cause human suffering and economic loss in the region. Public health administrators need information to prioritize the problems, plan and monitor public health activities to appropriately and effectively use the available limited resources.

Surveillance constitutes an important epidemiological method used to collect public health problems, and health personnel in the public sector needs to have this kind of knowledge and understanding of epidemiology, methods and benefits of disease surveillance and the effective application of such information in their work. The more surveillance information is utilized, the more effective public health problems can be prevented and controlled. Health personnel should be able to apply epidemiology and One Health strategy to prevent disease occurrence in their regions.

A short training course on "Surveillance and Rapid Response of Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Disease Outbreaks in a Community Using One Health Strategy" was conducted for public health personnel at district and sub-district levels in Khon Kaen and Chiang Mai provinces, and to evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of the course including participants' opinions of course content, course duration, training methods and educational materials. Assessment of participants knowledge before and after the training course showed approximately 85% of participants obtained higher scores after completion of the course.

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