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1st International Conference on Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance collaboration among Mukdahan (Thailand)– Savannakhet (Laos) – Quang Tri (Vietnam) Provinces was held on 2nd–3rd, June, 2014 at Mukdahan Grand Hotel, Muang District, Mukdahan Province, Thailand. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen regional collaboration and capacity building for regional disease surveillance in MBDS was signed during the meeting. One hundred and fifty-five participants from MOPH, Thailand, Mukdahan Province, Thailand, Savannakhet Province, Laos PDR, Quang Tri Province, Ubonratchathani Province, Thailand, International NGO, Asia Partnership on Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (APEIR), MBDS Foundation Secretariat attended the conference.
Asia Partnership for Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (APEIR) and Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance (MBDS) held its second preliminary meeting and site visit in conjunction with planning activities to implement joint project for “Mitigating Biosecurity Threats from Infectious Diseases in Southeast Asia” at Mukdahan, Thailand; Savannakhet, Lao PDR; and Quang Tri, Vietnam. Representatives from three MBDS XB member countries Thailand (Mukdahan) – Laos (Savannakhet) – Vietnam (Quang Tri) participated in the APEIR-MBDS 2nd Preliminary meeting convened at Dansavan International Border Gate between Laos (Savannakhet) – Vietnam (Quang Tri) on 25th April, 2014. The participants from Mukdahan Province, Vientiane Capital, Savannakhet Province and Quang Tri Province Health officials, APEIR Teams, MBDS Foundation Secretariat, and researchers from Vientiane Capital and Mahidol University visited the sites, and discussed the details of the proposed project.

Dr. Nyphonh Chanthakoummane, Assistant PR Manager, MOH Laos, MBDS Country Coordinator and Foundation Board member passed away on 7th June, 2014 at Vientiane Capital, Lao P.D.R. His greatest aspiration was to become a public health doctor and help people among the MBDS region. He will be greatly missed and everyone here is saddened by his death.
NGOs, academia, policy makers, governments, international agencies, private industry, donor organizations, and stakeholders. The IFBA is a global community of scientists, biosafety professionals, laboratory personnel, architects, engineers, academic and policy makers from around the world who have common interest in advancing biosafety and biosecurity. More @ http://www.internationalbiosafety.org/

Canada's Global Partnership Program on Enhancing the ASEAN Health Cooperation on Emerging Infectious Diseases and other Relevant Potential Threats was held at the Orchard Hotel in Singapore from 16th to 18th June, 2014. Representatives from ASEAN Members and development partners from Canada's Global Partnership Program, Canadian Government (DFATD), United States (USAID), Australian Government (DFAT), BioDiaspora, International Development Research Center (IDRC), CORDS, MBDS/APEIR, and WHO Headquarter participated in this meeting. This meeting aimed to identify opportunities for engagement and collaboration with other initiatives in the region, and to explore potential new areas for cooperation.

MBDS had a great excitement with the group of enthusiastic technology and health experts to hack for better public health in Laos. In this EpiHack Laos workshop, public health professionals and technology experts worked together and developed a digital disease detection tool over the course from 17th to 20th June, 2014. EpiHack Laos provides an intensive environment to explore, develop, integrate and improve technological solutions on the quest to detect and minimize the impact or retreat of expanding diseases, which could cause borderless outbreaks. This hackathon will address the threat of dengue fever in Laos and will focus on developing a tool to help the public stay informed and provide prevention tips to prevent the dengue.
It's with great excitement that we have launched a MBDS new website recently. The website has more user-friendly features, which are making it easier for the users to better understand our disease surveillance information, documents and MBDS activities. In addition, we've added a news section in order to provide the knowledge of "Mitigating Biosecurity Threats Surveillance in Southeast Asia", which the users will be able to see under the Biosecurity menu. We encourage the users to join our Facebook which is at the lower left hand corner of all pages of the website and also we're providing subscription which allows the users to get the latest information.

We hope that you'll like the new look and we're sure you'll enjoy the new navigation and recreated design content information. We invite you to take a tour to find out more @ www.mbdsoffice.com.

**Vietnam** : The number of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) cases has increased sharply in northern Vietnam this month, while the hand, food and mouth disease (HFMD) is also on the rise in the country’s southern region, health authorities reported. Currently, 10 children with Japanese Encephalitis are being treated at the Central Pediatrics Hospital in Hanoi. Read more @ http://tuoitrenews.vn/society/20676/je-spreads-in-northern-vietnam-hfmd-on-rise-in-southern-region

More information @ http://www.mbdsoffice.com/regional-health-info/