



## **APEIR-MBDS Second Preliminary Meeting**

**at**

**Thai-Lao-Vietnam border**

**Mukdahan – Savannakhet – Quang Tri**

**Thursday 24 April – Saturday 26 April 2014**

**Jointly presented by**

**Asia Partnership for Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (APEIR)**

**and**

**Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance (MBDS)**

## Participants

### APEIR Team

#### APEIR Research Team

1. **Prof. Prasit Palittapongarnpim** *Deputy Dean of Research, Mahidol University, Bangkok, APEIR Steering Committee member*
2. **Asst. Prof., Arunee Thitithanyanont** *Dept. of Microbiology, Mahidol University, Bangkok*
3. **Lect. Dr. Witthawat Wiriyarat** *Dept. of Veterinary Sciences, Mahidol University, Bangkok*
4. **Lect. Kamolchanok Rukseree** *Mahidol University, Amnatcharoen*
5. **Lect. Arunee Thong-on** *Mahidol University, Amnatcharoen*
6. **Ms. Sirirak Supa-Amornkul** *Dept. of Microbiology, Mahidol University, Bangkok*

#### APEIR CO c/o HSRI

7. **Ms. Pornpit Silkavute** *APEIR Coordinating Office*
8. **Ms. Pat Oungpasuk** *APEIR Coordinating Office*

### MBDS Team

#### Laos Health Officials

9. **Dr. Bounlay Phommasack** *Director General, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR*
10. **Dr. Malyvanh Vongphanya** *Ministry of Health, Lao PDR*
11. **Dr. Manikip Outhayphone** *Ministry of Health, Lao PDR*
12. **Dr. Vilavanh Xayaseng** *Ministry of Health, Lao PDR*
13. **Dr. Panom Phongmany** *MBDS XB Coordinator, Director, Savannakhet Health Office*
14. **Dr. Tiengkham Pongvongsa** *Savannakhet Health Office*
15. **Dr. Nishimoto Futoshi** *Savannakhet Health Office*
16. **Mr. Kolakanh** *Savannakhet Health Office*
17. **Ms. Somphane** *Savannakhet Health Office*
18. **Ms. Chaimaly** *Savannakhet Health Office*

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| <b>19. Ms. Inthava</b>                 | <i>Savannakhet Health Office</i> |
| <b>20. Mr. Hong Sa</b>                 | <i>Savannakhet Health Office</i> |
| <b>21. Dr. Keolevtvisay Xayavonosa</b> | <i>Dansavanh Checkpoint</i>      |
| <b>22. Mr. Chanthakhone</b>            | <i>Dansavanh Checkpoint</i>      |
| <b>23. Dr. Sitthiphone Retlika</b>     | <i>Dansavanh Checkpoint</i>      |
| <b>24. Dr. Phoneseuy Maknalakh</b>     | <i>Dansavanh Checkpoint</i>      |
| <b>25. Ms. Pnoukhao Vorabot</b>        | <i>Food and Drugs Section</i>    |

Mukdahan Health Official

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| <b>26. Dr. Jinnpipat Choopanya</b> | <i>Director, Mukdahan Health Office</i>            |
| <b>27. Mr. Thatchai Jaikong</b>    | <i>Mukdahan Health Office</i>                      |
| <b>28. Mrs. Punchawee Sukbut</b>   | <i>MBDS XB Coordinator, Mukdahan Health Office</i> |
| <b>29. Mr. Piyapong Nasok</b>      | <i>Mukdahan Friend ship Bridge</i>                 |

Quang Tri Health Official

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| <b>30. Dr. Nguyen Quynh</b> | <i>Quang Tri Health Office</i>      |
| <b>31. Dr. Le Viet</b>      | <i>Quang Tri Health Office</i>      |
| <b>32. Dr. Nguyen Cuoug</b> | <i>Health Quarantine, Quang Tri</i> |

MBDS Foundation Secretariat

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| <b>33. Dr. Moe Ko Oo</b>           | <i>Board &amp; Secretary, MBDS Foundation</i> |
| <b>34. Ms. Nattanan Siridiseth</b> | <i>MBDS Admin Officer</i>                     |
| <b>35. Ms. Jittra Thajeen</b>      | <i>MBDS Data Analyst</i>                      |
| <b>36. Ms. Thin Mar Soe</b>        | <i>MBDS ICT Specialist</i>                    |

Summary

Asia Partnership for Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (APEIR) and Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance (MBDS) held its second preliminary meeting at Mukdahan, Thailand; Savannakhet, Lao PDR; and Quang Tri, Vietnam. This particular location was selected as it

is designated as one of the three cross border sites where the proposed project, “Mitigating Biosecurity Threats from Infectious Diseases in Southeast Asia”, will be carried out. It is also the largest of the three sites, as it has more traffic going through this area than the other two sites. In addition to having hosting its second preliminary meeting, APEIR and MBDS will also conduct a risk assessment at this site.

On Thursday 24 April, members of the APEIR and MBDS team traveled from Bangkok to Mukdahan province. They had the opportunity to visit the Mukdahan Provincial Health office, and meet with Mrs. Puncawee Sukbut and Mr. Thatchai Jaikong, Associate Province Coordinators.



Figure 1: Visiting Mukdahan Provincial Health Office, Mukdahan, Thailand

On Friday, 25 April, the second preliminary meeting officially took place at Dansavan International Border Gate office. APEIR’s team, MBDS’ team, two Lao researchers collaborating on the project, and a delegation of officials from Mukdahan’s Provincial Health Office and Savannakhet’s Provincial Health Office traveled together from Mukdahan to this site. This meeting allowed researchers and stakeholders from Thailand, Lao PDR, and Vietnam to meet, visit the site, and discuss details of the research project.



Figure 2: Dansavan International Border Gate office

All the stakeholders and participants met up at the Savannakhet-Quang Tri border on Friday, 25 April 2014. Dr. Prasit Palittapongarnpim, Dr. Bounlay Phommasock, and Dr. Panom Phongmany chaired the meeting. They explained to all the officials what the project was aiming to do, clarified some of the finer details of the project, and provided an overview of the protocol. Dr. Bounlay Phommasack, Director General and Board from MBDS Foundation, introduced the implementing process for biosafety and biosecurity in selected MBDS cross border sites, and discussed about biothreat surveillance and research. After that Prof. Prasit Palittapongarnpim, Deputy Dean of Research at Mahidol University and member of APEIR Steering Committee, explained that the new project involves three networks (APEIR, MBDS, ASEAN+3 FETN). He went on to elaborate that this site,

Mukdahan-Savannakhet-Quang Tri site, is the first site they plan on implementing this project. Prof. Prasit also mentioned that the three diseases under study for this project are Avian Influenza (AI), Melioidosis and Salmonellosis. He went into detail regarding the research methodology in collecting samples on these three diseases.

The Vietnam delegates mentioned that there are regular meeting between MBDS Quang Tri and MBDS Savannakhet for sharing information and planning for future activities. Dr. Jinnpipat Choopanya, Chief Medical Officer, Mukdahan Provincial Health Office also mentioned that the three provinces/countries have meetings together regularly. The next one will

be held at Mukdahan Province on 26-27 May 2014. There will be another MBDS multi-country cross border meeting at Ubon Rathchatani tentatively scheduled for October 2014. The MBDS Foundation Secretariat proposed for assessment and collaboration mechanism between APEIR (Research) and MBDS (Disease Surveillance).



Figure 3: Meeting at Dansavan International Border Gate office



Figure 4: Meeting at Dansavan International Border Gate office

The chairs briefly discussed when to hold the project's kick-off meeting, but the discussion did not yet yield a conclusive date. However, the chairs did agree that they would send representatives from their respective organizations to attend a town hall-styled meeting held in late May between public health officials from Mukdahan, Savannakhet, and Quang Tri. At this meeting, the chairs hope that they can elaborate more on this joint project so that

there can be local support and collaboration at this particular cross border site. They also hope to get an idea of what diseases the officials would like researchers to study most, so that these research findings can be of practical use to these officials and the people in the site region. This meeting is scheduled to be held in Mukdahan on 26 to 27 May 2014.



Figure 5: APEIR-MBDS second preliminary meeting participants



Figure 6: Research facilities at Mahidol University, Amnatcharoen

On Saturday, 26 April, the day after the meeting at Savannakhet-Quang Tri, the APEIR team visited Mahidol University's Amnatcharoen campus. Amnatcharoen is to act as a back-up facility in case of extraneous circumstances at the Mukdahan site. As such, the research team wanted to tour the campus to make sure that it can adequately support their needs if necessary.

infectious diseases – salmonella, influenza, and melioidosis – in detail, and brainstorm any possible issues that may arise during the course of the study. Ms. Pornpit, APEIR CO suggested that the three province meeting in Mukdahan (26-27 May) would be beneficial to our research. Since they will share the current public health situation, and discuss the action plan. Dr. Jinnpipat invited APEIR and MBDS to introduce our research proposal at this event. This will be a very good opportunity for APEIR research team and local officials to meet and get common understanding and working together.

At Amnatcharoen, the Thai research team held a meeting to formally go through their data collection protocol for all three



Figure 7: Discussing research protocol

The meeting concluded with team setting a deadline to draft up the protocol for each disease by Friday, 2 May 2014. It also concluded that it will

send four to five participants to the town hall meeting in late May: 1) Prof. Pasakorn 2) Prof. Kamolchanok Rukseree 3) Prof. Arunee Thong-on, and 4) Ms. Pat Oungpasuk. Dr. Prasit may attend, contingent on his schedule.

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APEIR CO & MBDS Secretariat, April 2014