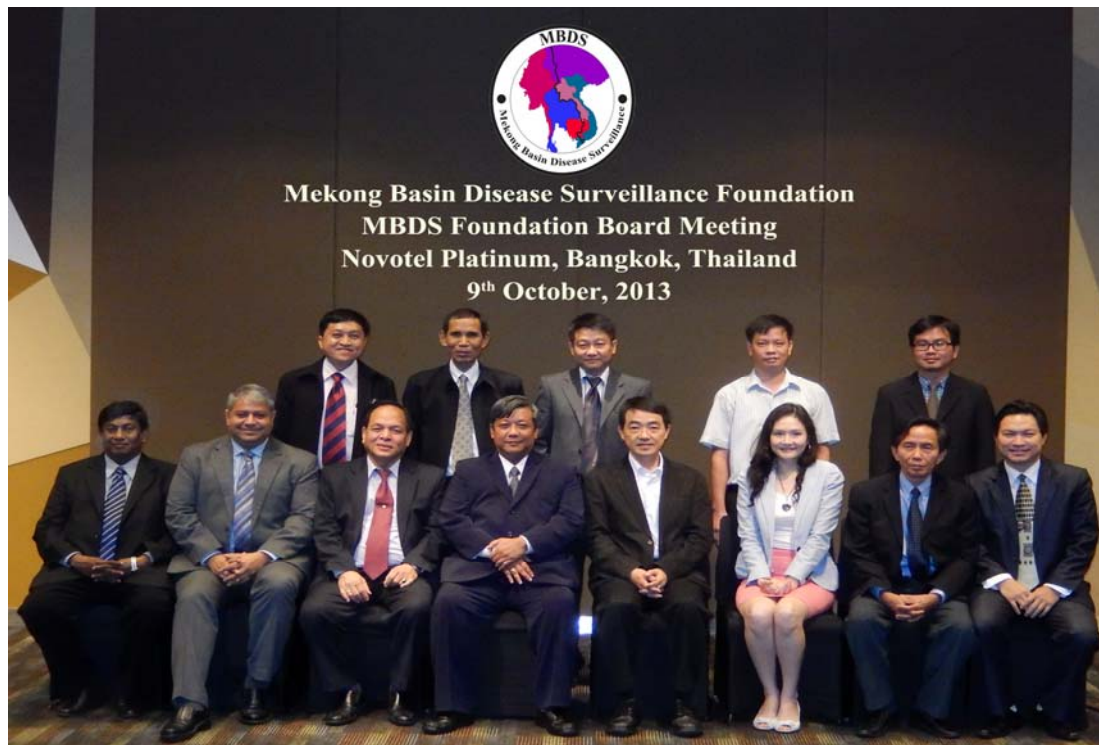




Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Foundation (MBDS)

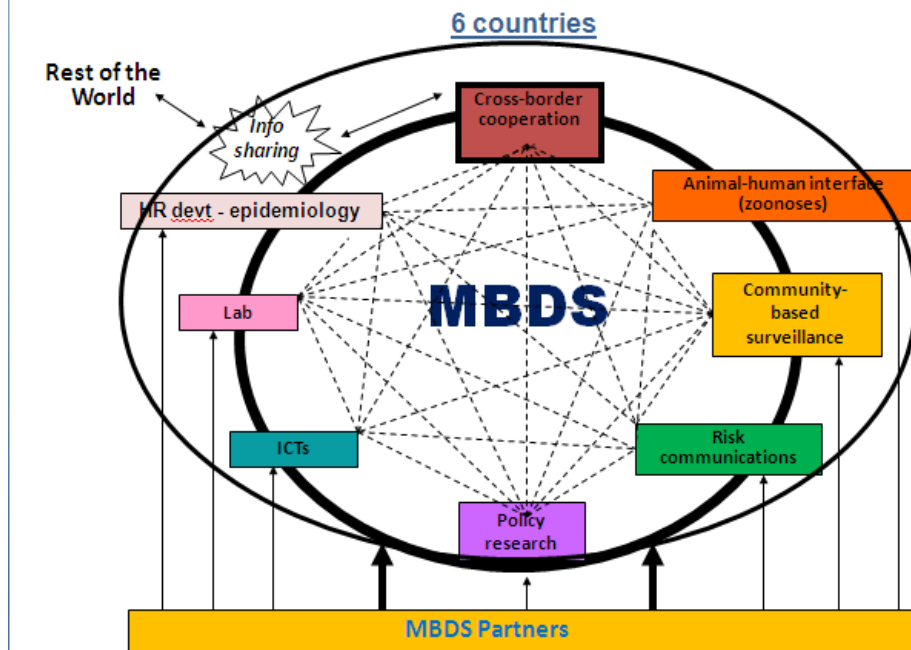


Background

The MBDS (Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance) cooperation is a self-organized sub-regional network commenced in 2001 among six Mekong Basin countries (and provinces of China), including Cambodia, Yunnan (and, since 2006, Guangxi) provinces of China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. It aims to strengthen national and sub-regional capabilities in infectious disease surveillance and outbreak response, especially on 18 currently designated priority diseases, to rapidly and effectively control them.

The cooperation focuses on collaborative cross-border disease surveillance and response activities, through programming at approximately 25 designated “cross-border sites” and implementation of seven core strategies aimed at building capacity and advancing programming in the following areas: (1) cross-border cooperation, (2) animal-human interface and community surveillance, (3) human resources in epidemiology, (4) information and communications technologies, (5) laboratory, (6) risk communications, and (7) policy research.

The MBDS core strategies - Inter-related & converge at X-Border



MBDS Ministerial MOU (2007)

The Extension of Memorandum of Understanding among the Health Ministries of the Six Mekong Basin Countries on the Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance (MBDS) Cooperation

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a revision of the first MOU on the Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Project which was expired in November 2006. This second MOU was jointly prepared and approved by the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, hereafter referred to as "partners". The purpose of this MOU is to continue and reinforce the legal and policy framework of the Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance (MBDS) in order to facilitate disease surveillance cooperation in the sub-region. Under this MOU, the partners agree that:

1. The cooperation aims at strengthening national and sub-regional capabilities in disease surveillance of, and outbreak response to priority diseases listed in Item 2 of this MOU and public health emergencies of international concern as stated in International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) in order that they can be rapidly and effectively controlled. This would also provide essential information for the development of health and social policy to finally reduce the burden arising from these diseases.
2. The priority diseases are Dengue Infection, Malaria, Plague, Severe Diarrhea (including Cholera), Vaccine Preventable Diseases, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis, Emerging Diseases like SARS and H5N1 Influenza and outbreak of diseases with sub-regional significance.
3. The scope of the cooperation includes system development, institutional and laboratory capacity strengthening, human resource development, information technology development and exchange, cross-border activities, joint outbreak responses and other joint activities.
4. The MBDS cooperation recognizes that there are many other existing cooperation mechanisms on disease surveillance and partnership building is one of the main focuses of this project. It welcomes the involvement of other institutions.
5. The MBDS cooperation is responsible by an Executive Board (EB) comprising the policy makers and health managers assigned by each of the six partners. The EB is assisted by the Coordinating Committee, comprising the contact persons assigned by the partners, which is in charge of implementation and follow-up of regular activities.
6. The chairmanship of the MBDS cooperation will be chaired by each partner in rotation each year.

7. A permanent coordination office will be continued in Thailand, in the most effective and economical manner.
8. A six-year action plan will be developed and approved by the Executive Board. This will provide the milestones for the implementation. The action plan can be revised at each meeting of the Executive Board.
9. The partners are committed to provide strong support to, and participate actively in the collaboration. The partners are also committed to mobilize adequate resources, nationally and internationally, to support the cooperation.
10. This MOU will be effective from the date of official endorsement by all six ministries. The MOU can be revised with the agreement of the Health Ministries of the six Mekong Countries.

Done in Geneva on the 15th Day of May 2007, in duplicate in the English language for six originals.

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| (H.E. Prof. Eng Huot) Secretary of State for the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia | (H.E. Mr. Gao Qiang) Minister of Health for the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China |
| (H.E. Dr. Pompek Dalaloy) Minister of Health for the Ministry of Health of the Lao People's Democratic Republic | (H.E. Prof. Kyaw-Myint) Minister of Health for the Ministry of Health of the Union of Myanmar |
| (H.E. Dr. Mongkol Na Songkhia) Minister of Public Health for the Ministry of Public Health of the Kingdom of Thailand | (H.E. Dr. Cao Minh Quang) Vice Minister of Health for the Ministry of Health of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam |

The MBDS network operates based on its core values of mutual respect and trust. A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by MBDS health ministers in May 2007 in Geneva renewed the formal cooperation for an indefinite period of time. MBDS leadership endorsed a new Master Plan for 2011-2016 which encompasses the seven core strategies. Moreover, MBDS leaders have also emphasized the need to align MBDS programming with requirements of the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), to build core capacities to respond promptly and effectively to Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEIC).

Creation of the MBDS Foundation

After close to ten years of existence, the Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance (MBDS) Network, composed of six countries (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam), have decided to institutionalize the network into a legal entity. The institutionalization process, which has been agreed to by all the six member countries, consists of setting up a foundation in Thailand as an intermediary step in building long-term sustainability to the MBDS network. The foundation has been registered in Thailand and serves as the legal entity for the MBDS network.

The setting-up of the MBDS Foundation is a milestone for the MBDS network. It represents a crucial step for the long-term sustainability of the MBDS network because, by becoming a legal entity foundation in Thailand, By registering a foundation in Thailand, the MBDS network is now represented by a legal entity which can receive donor funding and channel the funds to all six member countries and the Secretariat.

The MBDS Foundation has been created recently and it needs to develop into a strong entity in order to support its six member countries. The MBDS Foundation's Secretariat Office (SO), based in Bangkok, will play the crucial coordinating role between the member countries, as well as mobilizing resources and donor support to support country-based as well as network activities.