



Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance

**MBDS**

Build Trust...

Through Transparency...

Collaborate to End Pandemics..!

## Dear MBDS Colleagues,

The MBDS (Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance) cooperation is a self-organized sub-regional network commenced in 2001. It is a collaboration effort among six Mekong Basin countries including Cambodia, China, Lao P.D.R, 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 including Ebola, MERS, Zika, Malaria and Dengue to rapidly and effectively control them.

We would like to update the MBDS activities, upcoming international events, recent updates and useful links and thank you for all the support.

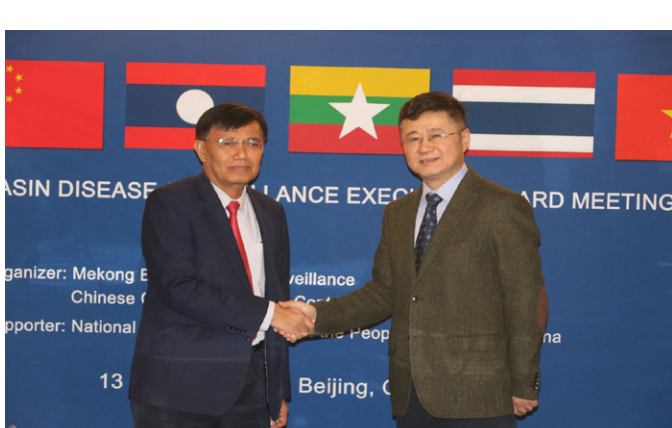
## MBDS Foundation Activities

MBDS Executive Board meeting was held in Beijing, China on 13 January 2020: the meeting was hosted by Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, People's Republic of China. Executive Board and representatives from Cambodia, China, Lao P.D.R, Thailand, Vietnam and MBDS Secretariat participated in the meeting. During the meeting, China handed over the MBDS chairmanship to Lao P.D.R for the year 2020. All Board and country representatives have discussed about current regional health situations, strengthening and aligning of regional activities and future collaboration among member countries.

*Reported by Ms. Jittra Thajeen, Assistant Project Coordinator, MBDS Secretariat*



Executive Board and representatives from Cambodia, China, Lao P.D.R, Thailand, Vietnam and MBDS Secretariat



MBDS chairmanship handover from China to Lao P.D.R.



New MBDS Chair from Lao P.D.R giving the remarks



Discussion among MBDS Executive Board member



Representative from MBDS Secretariat participated in APEIR Inception Meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia in January 2020. The objective was to discuss work plan and timeline within network and among countries also visited the Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology, which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (RISTEKDIKT), Indonesia. Prof. Amin Soebandrio, AMR Coordinator, welcomed the team and shared the mission, and research being conducted in medical molecular biology and biotechnology.

*Reported by Ms. Jittra Thajeen, Assistant Project Coordinator, MBDS Secretariat*



Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)'s Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) conducted back to back "Partners' Exchange Strategy Development Writeshop" at Vientiane Capital, Lao P.D.R and Phnom Penh, Cambodia in January 2020. The objectives were to follow-up on synergies and collaboration opportunities with all partners and develop a joint engagement strategy for health security capacity building in country. Representatives MBDS Secretariat and from other international organizations participated in those events.

*Reported by Ms. Jittra Thajeen, Assistant Project Coordinator, MBDS Secretariat*



MBDS Secretariat team met with Dr. Katherine Bond and Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Former Associate Directors from Rockefeller Foundation, in Bangkok, Thailand.

*Reported by Ms. Jittra Thajeen, Assistant Project Coordinator, MBDS Secretariat*

## MBDS Regional Activities



MBDS Cross Border Coordinator from Mukdahan Provincial Health Office (Thailand) participated in "Joint Investigation Team (JIT) Border for Control Outbreak Measles Disease between Mukdahan (Thailand) – Savannakhet (Lao P.D.R)" at Savannakhet Province, Lao P.D.R on 16 – 17 January 2020.

*Reported by Mrs. Punchawee Sukbut, MBDS XB Coordinator from Mukdahan Province, Thailand*



MBDS Cross Border Coordinator from Mukdahan Provincial Health Office (Thailand) participated in "Meeting Network Health Volunteer Buddy for Surveillance Prevention and Control Disease in Border between Mukdahan (Thailand) – Savannakhet (Lao P.D.R)" in Savannakhet Province, Lao P.D.R on 28 – 29 January 2020.

*Reported by Mrs. Punchawee Sukbut, MBDS XB Coordinator from Mukdahan Province, Thailand*

## Upcoming International Events

Workshop on "Strengthening capacity of Quality assurance among ASEAN Member States", Hanoi, Vietnam, 19 – 20 March 2020

## Recent Update

MBDS SO has been updating Regional and International disease information on [MBDS website](#) and those updates can be easily accessed via [MBDS Facebook](#).

## Useful links

MBDS has been updating useful links (Disease Surveillance Networks, Health Related Links, Links for Disaster Management, Research Links, Global Conference Alerts and Others Links) on [MBDS website](#).

Sincerely yours,  
MBDS Foundation Secretariat

