



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.

In collaboration with different Ministries and partners, MBDS member countries are trying to contain coronavirus pandemic situation with respective countries' National Action Plan, and Infectious Disease Act/ Law. Countries provide useful and up-to-date information to public on national portals such as Ministries' website, social networks, TV and Information Education Communication (IEC) materials.

There are National level committees for prevention, containment, control, settlement, information dissemination, public support and law enforcement. All member countries are preparing hospital case management facilities, quarantine facilities, PPE supply, dis-infection at public areas, border areas quarantine, strengthening lab testing capacity and logistics management for pandemic situation.

COVID-19 situation in Mekong Region (As of 4 January 2021)

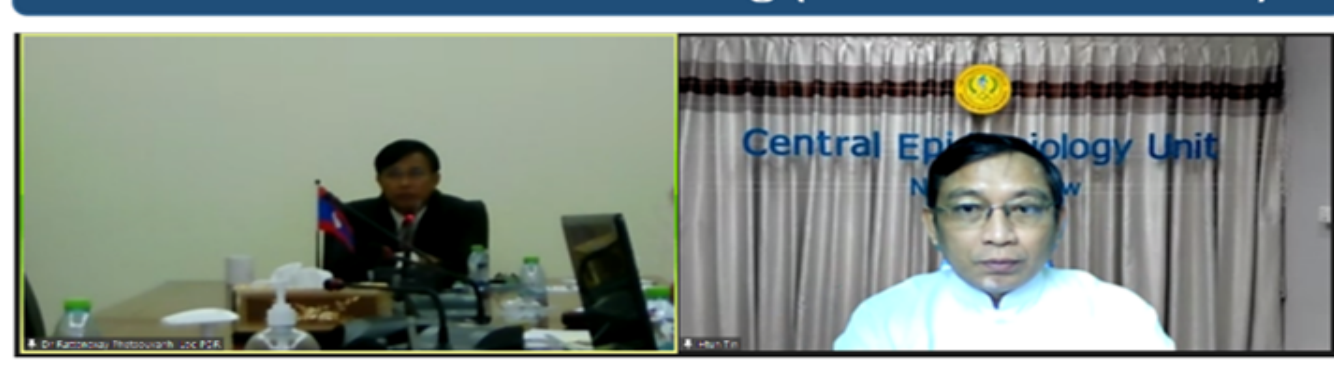
| Country | Total Cases | Active Cases | Critical | Recovered | Deaths |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------|-----------|--------|
| Cambodia | 382 | 20 | - | 362 | - |
| China | 87,150 | 411 | 10 | 82,105 | 4,634 |
| Lao P.D.R | 41 | 1 | - | 40 | - |
| Myanmar | 126,345 | 14,069 | - | 109,548 | 2,728 |
| Thailand | 7,694 | 3,293 | 1 | 4,337 | 64 |
| Vietnam | 1,494 | 120 | - | 1,339 | 35 |

| (Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>)

MBDS Annual Board Meeting

MBDS has been conducted Board Meeting on 15 December 2020 and MBDS Board and Country Coordinators from Cambodia, China, Lao P.D.R, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam are participated virtually. One of the objectives of this Board meeting is handover of MBDS Chairmanship from Lao P.D.R to Myanmar and to share the experience, lesson learned and achievement related with current COVID-19 situation and other regional important. Board are also discuss about future collaboration activities among MBDS member countries including MBDS Secretariat.

MBDS Annual Board Meeting (15 December 2020)



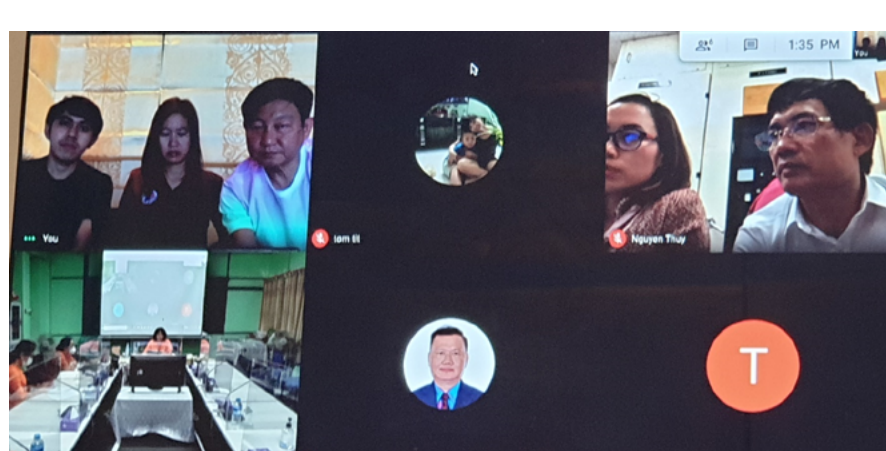
Dr. Rattanaxy Phetsouvanh, DG, MOH Lao P.D.R
(Former MBDS Chair)

Dr. Htun Tin , DyDG, MOHS Myanmar
(Current MBDS Chair)



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

MBDS Regional Activities



The National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Vietnam has organized the meeting for “Survey on the needs of EQA service in Southeast Asia” together with Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar virtually on 17 November 2020.

The representative from Cambodia Ministry of Health, Officials from

National Health Laboratory, Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar, Vietnam National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology and MBDS Secretariat have participated in strengthening Establishment of an External Quality Assessment (EQA) network among CLMV countries.

| Credit to NIHE Vietnam

MBDS Cross Border Coordinator from Quang Tri Provincial Health Department (Vietnam) has participated the “Opening of Emergency Vaccine Center” in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam on 12 December 2020.

| Reported by Dr. Mai Nam, MBDS XB Coordinator (Quang Tri Province, Vietnam)



MBDS Cross Border Coordinator from Mukdahan Provincial Health Office, Thailand has participated together with other officials from Ministry of Public Health, Thailand in the “Integration meeting for work plan to promote physical and mental health Environmental for control and manage health service system” on 14-16 December 2020 in Nakhon Phanom Province, Thailand.

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

Upcoming International Events

- MBDS Regional TTX and Simulation Exercise (January 2021)
- Lessons learnt on COVID from Thailand (January 2021)
- China experience on COVID (January 2021)
- Workshop on “Strengthening capacity of Quality assurance among ASEAN Member States”, Hanoi, Vietnam (TBD)
- Experience on COVID-19 from MBDS (TBD)
- Cambodia experience on MBDS Event Based Surveillance Application (TBD)
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Recent Update

MBDS Secretariat Office has been updating Regional and International disease information on [MBDS website](#)

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

