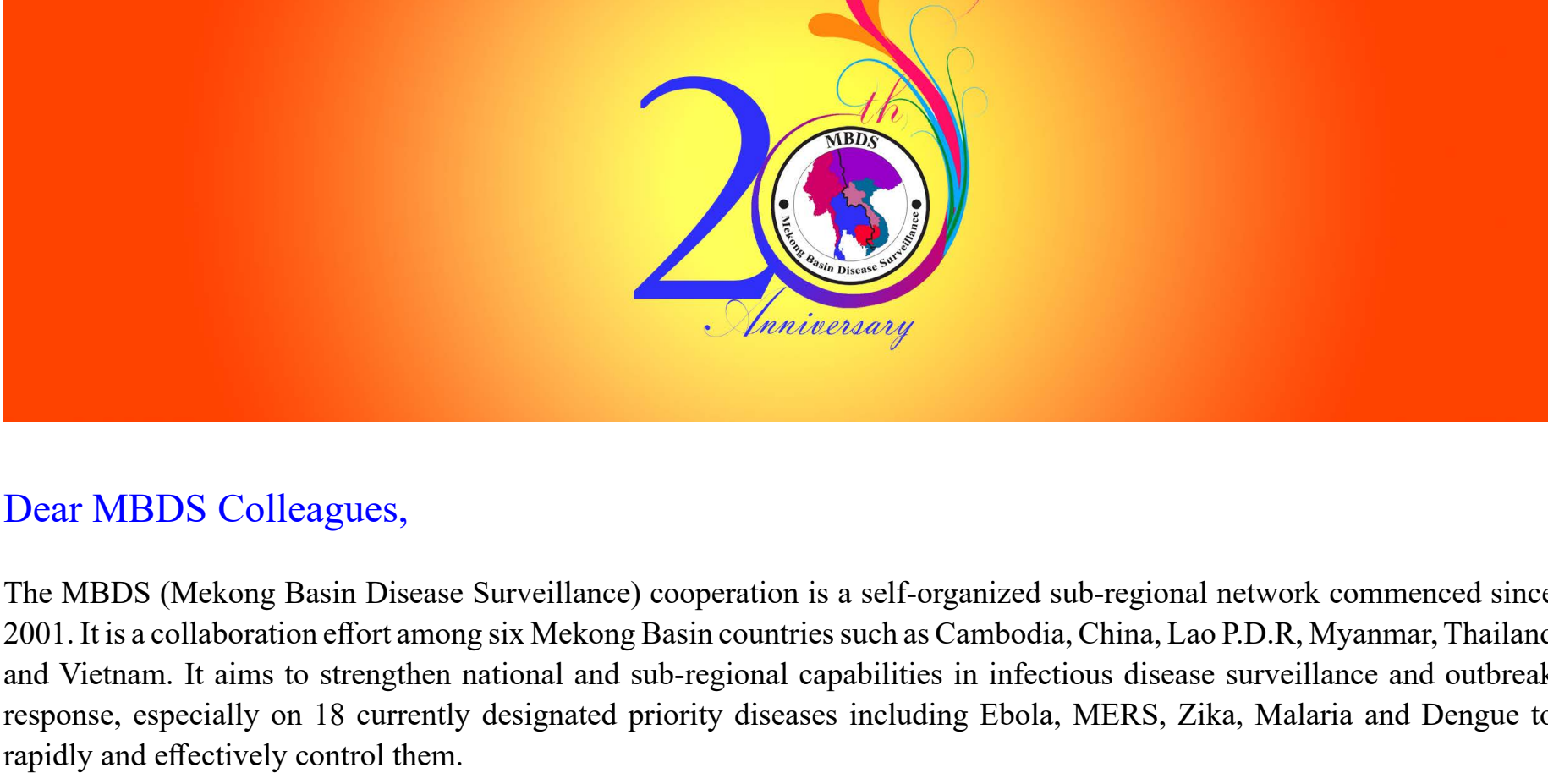




Build Trust...
Through Transparency...
Collaborate to End Pandemics!



Dear MBDS Colleagues,

The MBDS (Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance) cooperation is a self-organized sub-regional network commenced since 2001. It is a collaboration effort among six Mekong Basin countries such as 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 disseminate useful and up-to-date information to public on national news portals which include Ministries' website, social networks, TV and Information Education Communication (IEC) materials.

MBDS Regional TTX and Simulation Exercise

Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance (MBDS) conducted the second regional virtual table top and simulation exercise followed by the partners collaboration forum on the 27 - 28 May 2021, which is supported by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). This is the second regional collaborative activity during pandemic situation and the first regional activity was conducted during January 2021. The objectives of the meeting were to simulate the current challenges related to COVID-19; to identify each member country's vaccine rollout plan, sharing outbreak information, coordinated responses, case management, and stakeholders collaboration; and to control present outbreak and prepare for national and regional resilience.



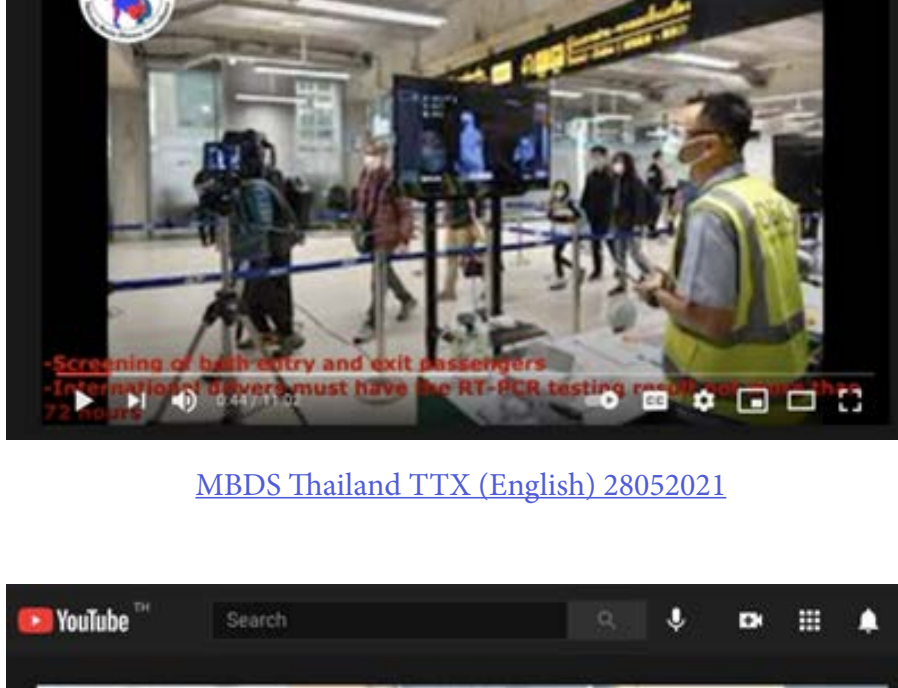
28 May 2021: Virtual Regional Meeting

On 27 May, national and regional health officials in Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam took part in the table top and simulation exercise based on same scenario parallelly and simultaneously. The next day, 28 May 2021, health officials from those countries met virtually to share the discussion points of the scenario and presented the multi-media focusing on the vaccine rollout plan, point of entry (POE) exit and entry procedures, COVID-19 testing, quarantine, transportation, contact tracing, risk communication, multisectoral collaboration mechanism, outbreak control activity and preparedness for resilience, challenges and recommendations. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Darika Kingnate (Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand). Health officials from MBDS member countries and partners participated in this regional event.

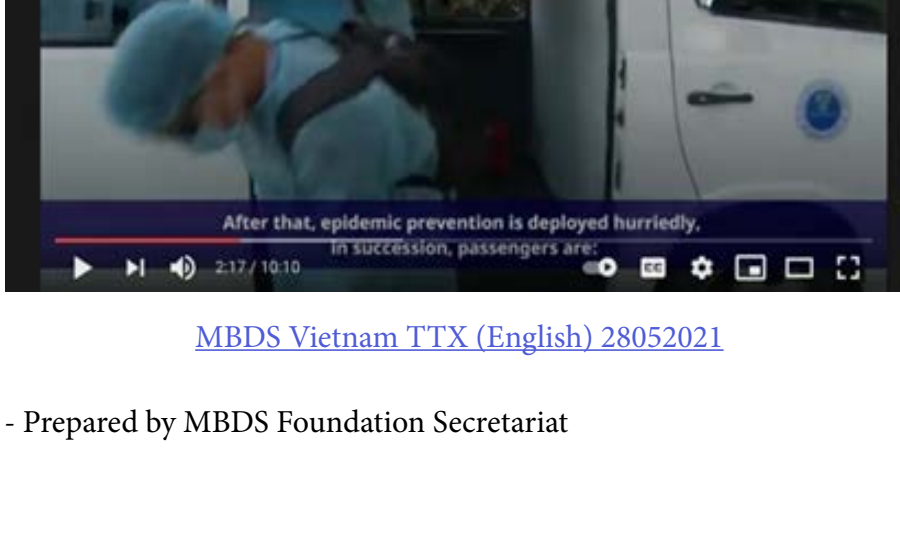
In addition to presentations related to discussion points, the photo and video documentations were also shared by the countries. Cambodia MOH developed the video based on the real situation and mitigating activity for the new wave of COVID-19. Documentary video from Thailand described MOPH related to exit and entry procedures and other public health measures. Vietnam MOH developed the video (both in English and Viet version) based on the situation in point of entry (POE) related with travelers coming from Cambodia to Vietnam. Those videos are uploaded on MBDS Foundation YouTube Page and the video links for countries are as follows.



MBDS Cambodia TTX (English) 28052021



MBDS Thailand TTX (English) 28052021



MBDS Vietnam TTX (English) 28052021

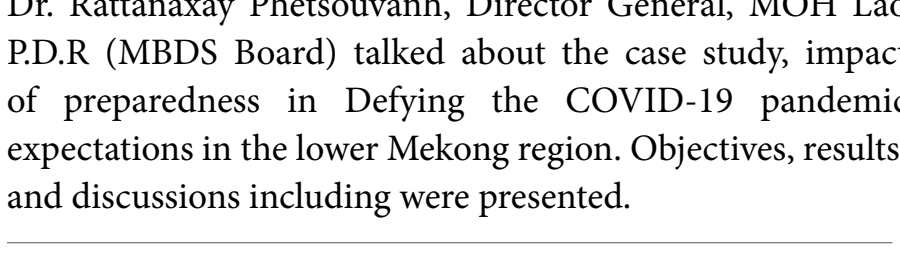


MBDS Vietnam TTX (Vietnam) 28052021

- Prepared by MBDS Foundation Secretariat

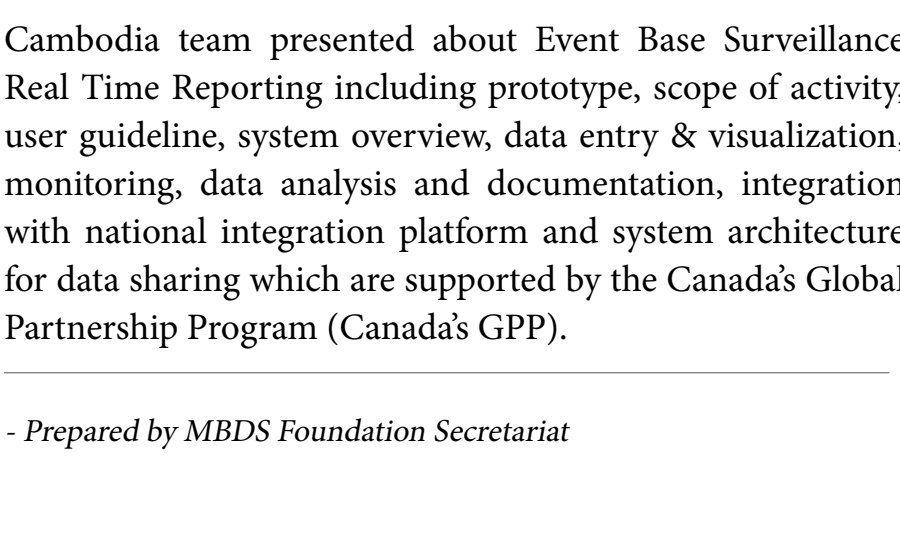
MBDS Partner Collaboration Forum

MBDS team collaborated with counterparts from Cambodia, Lao P.D.R, and Thailand and partners to conduct the Partner Collaboration Forum via online platform on 28 May 2021, which is supported by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). The objective is to identify and strengthen potential multi-sectoral collaboration among development partners for preparation of public health threats in Mekong Region.



Dr. Rattanaxy Phetsouvanh, Director General, MOH Lao P.D.R (MBDS Board) talked about the case study, impact of preparedness in Defying the COVID-19 pandemic expectations in the lower Mekong region. Objectives, results, and discussions including were presented.

Dr. Babara Knust (Asia Field Program Director, Division of Global Migration & Quarantine, US CDC) presented on CDC Regional Border Health Project. CDC strategy for global response to COVID-19 objectives, and related activities are shared.

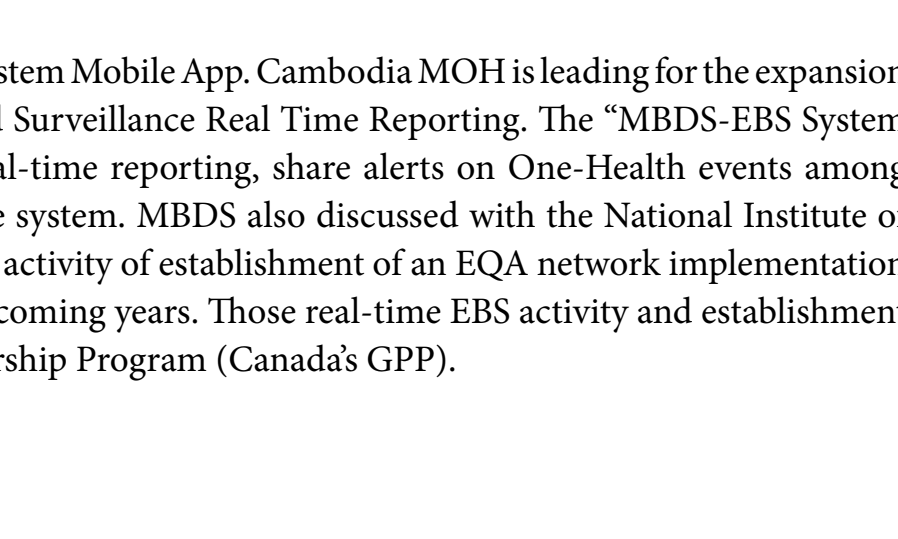
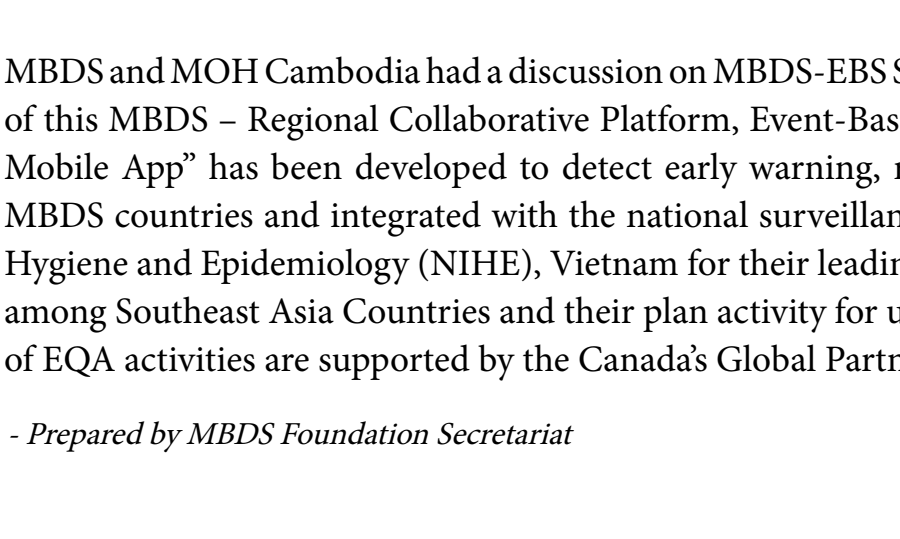


Cambodia presented about Event Base Surveillance Real Time Reporting including prototype, scope of activity, user guideline, system overview, data entry & visualization, monitoring, data analysis and documentation, integration with national integration platform and system architecture for data sharing which are supported by the Canada's Global Partnership Program (Canada's GPP).

Dr. Saowapak Hinjoy (MOPH, Thailand) presented the collaborative activities in region under cooperation framework, the potential of regional coordination, strengthening regional coordination in MBDS activities, Surveillance and Management of Regional Collaboration.

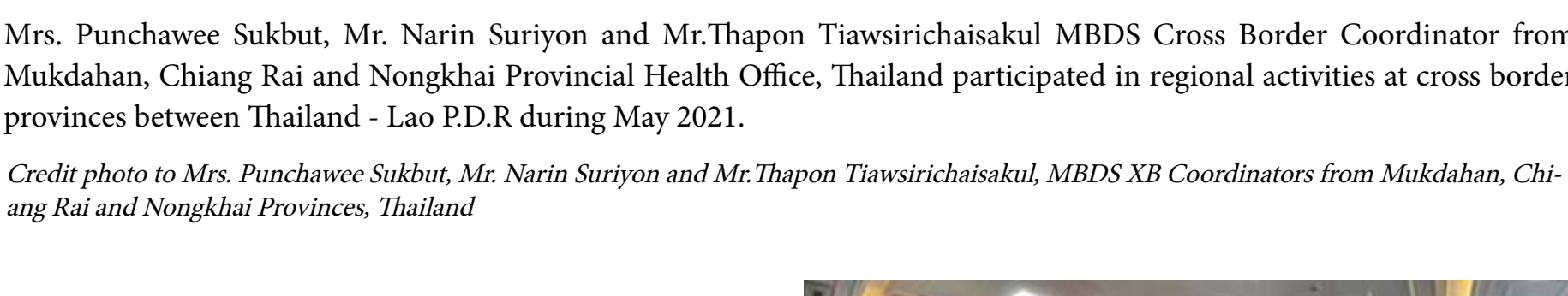
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MBDS Regional Activities



MBDS and MOH Cambodia had a discussion on MBDS-EBS System Mobile App. Cambodia MOH is leading for the expansion of this MBDS – Regional Collaborative Platform, Event-Based Surveillance Real Time Reporting. The “MBDS-EBS System Mobile App” has been developed to detect early warning, real-time reporting, share alerts on One-Health events among MBDS countries and integrated with the national surveillance system. MBDS also discussed with the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Vietnam for their leading activity of establishment of an EQA network implementation among Southeast Asia Countries and their plan activity for upcoming years. Those real-time EQA activity and establishment of EQA activities are supported by the Canada's Global Partnership Program (Canada's GPP).

- Prepared by MBDS Foundation Secretariat



Mrs. Panchawee Sukbut, Mr. Narin Suriyon and Mr. Thapon Tiawsirichaisakul MBDS Cross Border Coordinator from Mukdahan, Chiang Rai and Nongkhai Provincial Health Office, Thailand participated in regional activities at cross border provinces between Thailand - Lao P.D.R during May 2021.

Credit photo to Mrs. Panchawee Sukbut, Mr. Narin Suriyon and Mr. Thapon Tiawsirichaisakul, MBDS XB Coordinators from Mukdahan, Chiang Rai and Nongkhai Provinces, Thailand

Dr. Pham Hung and Dr. Hoang Van Ngoc, MBDS Vietnam attending the meeting with H.E Minister of Health, Prof. Nguyen Thanh Long in Ha Nam Province regarding Covid 19 pandemic prevention and control (giving instruction and guideline to province) on 1 May 2021.



Credit photo to Dr. Hoang Van Ngoc

MBDS Foundation Secretariat have regular meeting with Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand for future regional activities implementation and also participated in “The 2nd China-ASEAN Online Training Program for Health Emergency Professionals” on 24 – 25 May 2021, which is organized by National Health Commission People's Republic of China.

DR. BOUNLAY PHOMMASACK (1950–2021)

Dear Colleagues,

We are saddened to hear the passing of Dr. Bounlay Phommasack and would like to express our condolences. He was one of the MBDS Founding Members and pioneers of MBDS Cross Border Information Sharing project. Many of us knew him personally and his dedication to public health was well-known in the region. We could not possibly measure the impact he has had on public health arena. It is rare to find a leader like him and he will be deeply missed.

May his soul Rest In Peace!

Recent Update

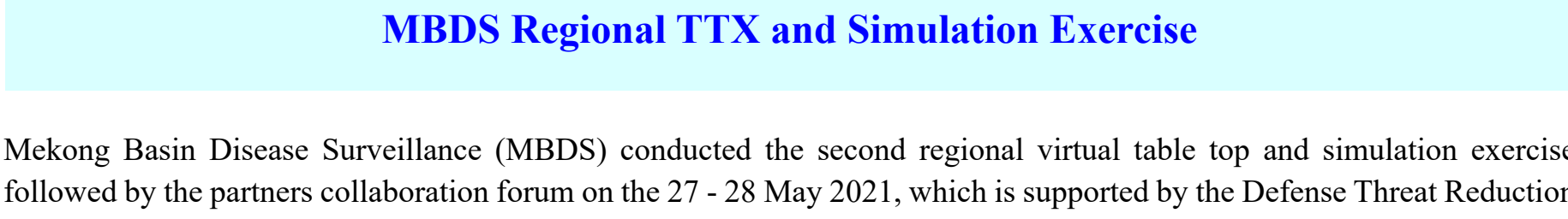
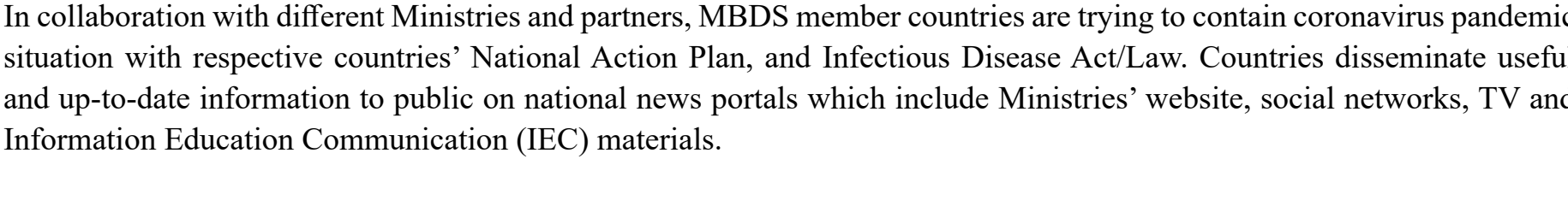
MBDS Secretariat Office has been updating Regional and International disease information on [MBDS website](#) and those updates can be easily accessed via [MBDS Facebook](#), [MBDS Instagram](#), and [MBDS Twitter](#).

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



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