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 preparedness and 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 rapidly and effectively. The MBDS (Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance) conducted the second regional virtual table top and simulation exercise on 27-28 May 2021. Countries were prepared for the up-to-date information to public on national news portals which include Ministries’ website, social networks, TV and radio. Countries disseminate useful links related to COVID-19. Documentary video from Thailand described MOPH related to exit and entry procedures and other public health regulations.

On 27 May, national and regional health officials in Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam took part in the table top and simulation exercise. The exercise focused on preparedness in Defying the COVID-19 pandemic and form a specific plan to deal with an outbreak. The next day, 28 May 2021, health officials from the three countries participated in the virtual Regional Partner Collaboration Forum. The forum included an exchange of ideas and discussions on the development of Event-based Surveillance (EBS) activity, the role of EBS in health emergency preparedness and response, leading to the development of technical guidelines for EBS.

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 forum focused on the regional EBS activity strategy and the role of EBS in health emergency preparedness and response. The forum also provided an opportunity for countries to share their experiences and challenges in implementing EBS.

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 member countries and integrated with the national surveillance system. MBDS also discussed with the National Institute of Health in Cambodia the mobile app development to support the detect and control of infectious diseases and other health threats, leading to the development of an EBS mobile app to support countries' real-time monitoring, data analysis and documentation, integration of data, surveillance and control, response, and dissemination of information.

Regional Border Health Project. CDC strategy for global health security. Dr. Babara Knust (Asia Field Program Director, Division of Surveillance and Management of Regional Collaboration). The border region is a crucial area for global health security and it is important to strengthen regional coordination in MBDS activities. The second round of the simulation exercise also provided an opportunity to discuss the potential of regional coordination and collaboration in the future.

Recent Update

China-ASEAN Online Training Program for Health Emergency Professionals” on 24 – 25 May 2021, which is organized by the China-ASEAN Regional Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand for future regional activities implementation and also participated in “The 2nd Regional Collaboration Forum via online platform on 28 May 2021, which is supported by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). Health officials from MBDS member countries and partners participated in this regional event.

The MBDS Foundation Secretariat has been updating useful links (Disease Surveillance Networks, Health Related Links, Links for Disaster Management, and Others Links) on MBDS website. Latest updates can be easily accessed via MBDS Facebook, MBDS Instagram, and MBDS Twitter.

Mrs. Punchawee Sukbut, Mr. Narin Suriyon and Thapon Tiawsirichaisakul, MBDS XB Coordinators from Mukdahan, Chiang Rai, and Chaiyaphum, Thailand.

Our MBDS colleagues,

Dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic prevention and control (giving instruction and guidance) on 1 May 2021. Dear MBDS Colleagues

MBDS Vietnam TTX (Vietnam) 28052021

MBDS Cambodia TTX (Cambodia) 28052021

MBDS Thailand TTX (English) 28052021

MBDS Regional TTX and Simulation Exercise

Regional Border Health Project. CDC strategy for global health security. Dr. Babara Knust (Asia Field Program Director, Division of Surveillance and Management of Regional Collaboration).

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