



Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance

**MBDS**



**BUILD TRUST,  
THROUGH TRANSPARENCY,  
COLLABORATE TO END PANDEMIC**

eNEWSLETTER: No.81



Dear MBDS Colleagues,

The MBDS (Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance) cooperation is a self-organized regional network commenced since 2001. It is a collaboration effort among six Mekong Basin countries: Cambodia, China, Lao P.D.R, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam under The Health Ministerial MOU. It aims to strengthen national and regional capabilities in infectious disease surveillance, inter-regional collaboration, outbreak response and information sharing for rapidly and effectively control Public Health Threat.

## MBDS EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COUNTRY COORDINATORS MEETING

The Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance (MBDS) Secretariat and Office of International Cooperation (OIC), Thailand Ministry of Public Health organized the “MBDS Executive Board and Country Coordinators Meeting” virtually on 15 February 2022. Thailand, as the Chair of MBDS, led the meeting to hear updates on the current COVID-19 pandemic situations from member countries, to enhance the regional collaboration, and to discuss future plans and ways forward of the MBDS network. In this important virtual meeting, the MBDS Executive Board, Country Coordinators, and health officials from Cambodia, the People’s Republic of China, Lao P.D.R, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand and the MBDS Secretariat participated in this meeting.



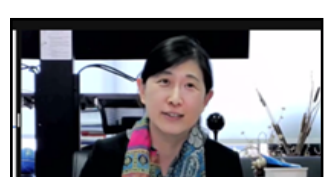
**Dr. Sopon Iamsirithaworn**, Chair of MBDS (Deputy Director General, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand) delivered the opening remarks to all distinguished delegates and expressed appreciation for the effective administrative governance and leadership of the Executive Board and cooperation of all member countries during 20 years of MBDS.



**Ms. Jitra Thajeen** (MBDS Secretariat) presented the brief updates of MBDS activities with support from development partners and activities led by member countries.



**Dr. Ly Sovann**, Executive Board from Cambodia explained the best practice of Cambodia government leadership and commitment, investments in health security, risk communication and community engagement, and global solidarity and cooperation with development partners.



**Dr. Qi Xiaopeng**, Executive Board from China described the global and national trend of COVID-19 cases, mortality, crude case fatality rate, and vaccination coverage, as well as the dynamic zero-COVID-19 approach for effective pandemic prevention and control strategy.



**Dr. Viengsavanh Khitthiphong**, on behalf of the Executive Board from Lao P.D.R., highlighted the importance of fostering strong multisectoral collaboration and coordination with community engagement on COVID-19 response and public health measure implementation in Lao P.D.R.



**Dr. Nyan Win Myint**, on behalf of Executive Board from Myanmar, shared experiences on national health laboratory capacity, risk assessment, and effective risk communication and information sharing mechanism to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.



**Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy**, on behalf of Executive Board from Thailand, presented near-term improving points to support disease control implementations, preparedness and response in Thailand and cross-border areas of collaboration between Thailand and neighboring countries for responding Covid-19.



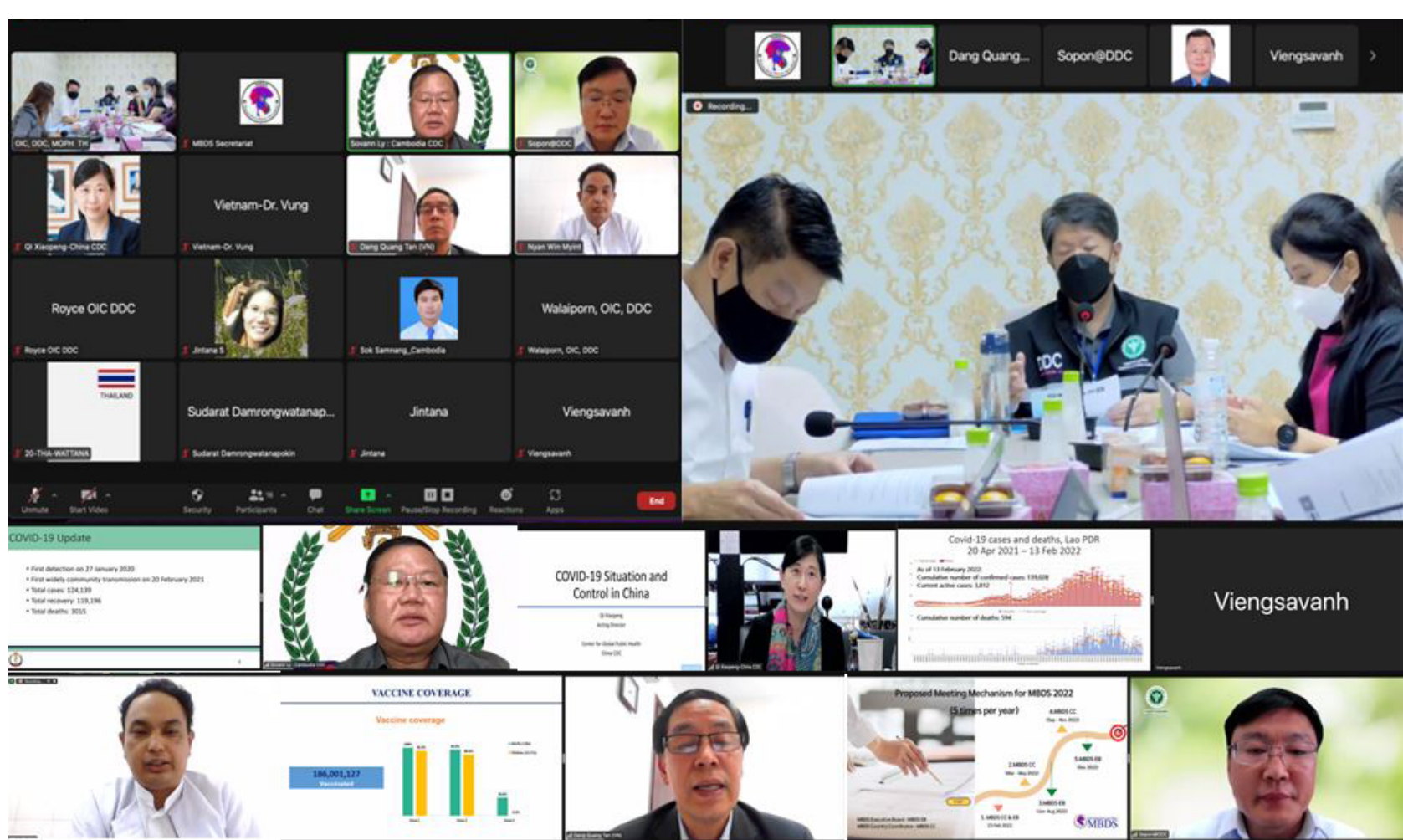
**Dr. Dang Quang Tan**, Executive Board from Vietnam (Co-Chair of MBDS), shared the comprehensive approach in combating COVID-19 and opportunities for enhancing cooperation amongst MBDS countries, including cooperation efforts for resilience.



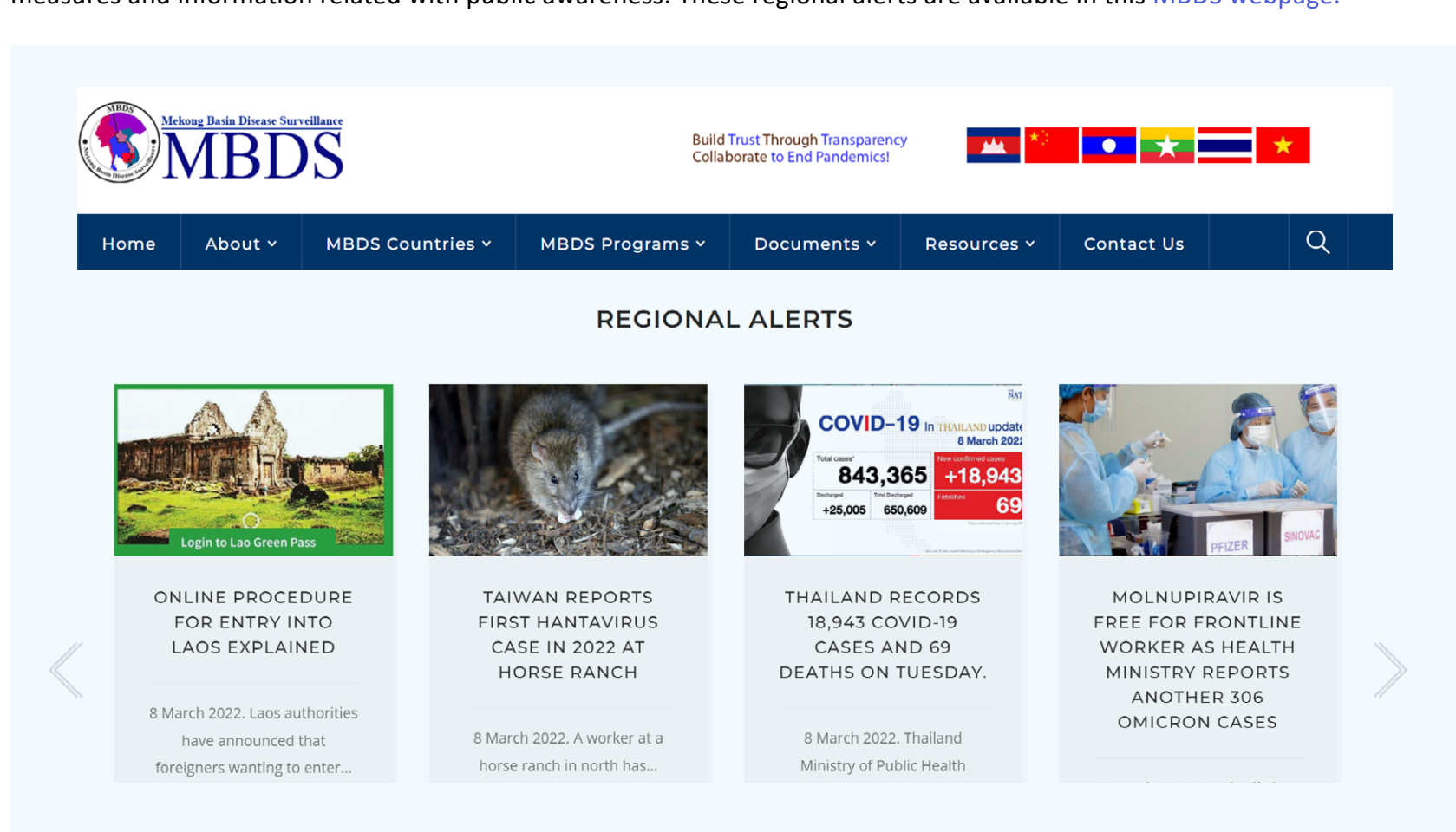
**Mr. Sok Samnang** (Country Coordinator from Cambodia) updated the progress of MBDS event-based surveillance (EBS) system mobile application implementation for regional collaboration purposes in the CLMVT (Cambodia, Lao P.D.R, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand) countries with support from Canada’s Weapons Threat Reduction Program, Rockefeller Foundation and MBDS Secretariat.

Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy also introduced Thailand’s projects titled “**Capacity and Workforce Development to Strengthen Emergency Preparedness and Response Operations (DGHP-iEOC)**” and “**Enhancing multi-sector collaboration capacities for prevention detection and response to public health emergencies along border areas (EMSC)**” and presented how these projects can connect to other MBDS countries for strengthening emergency preparedness and response operations.

The Chair of MBDS proposed future MBDS activities and key areas of implementation. All MBDS Executive Board Members have agreed with proposed activities from Chair and meeting has successfully concluded.



MBDS is regularly updating regional alerts related to public health events including COVID-19 situation, progress of vaccination, measures and information related with public awareness. These regional alerts are available in this [MBDS webpage](#).



## RECENT UPDATE

MBDS Secretariat Office has been updating National and Regional 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

