



eNEWSLETTER: **No.82**

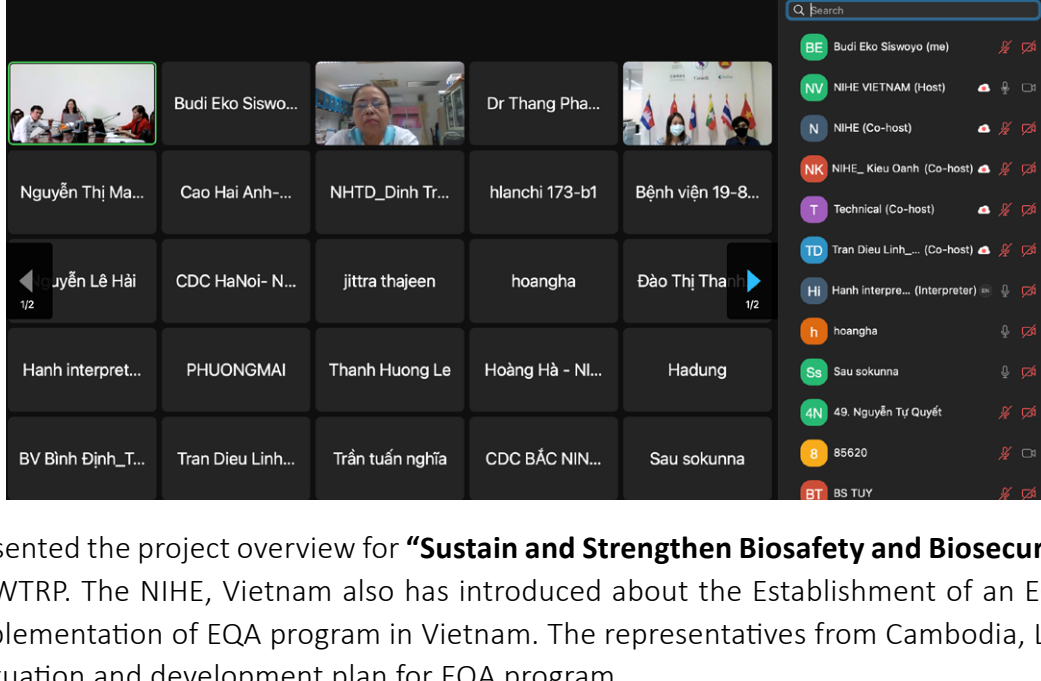


Dear MBDS Colleagues,

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.

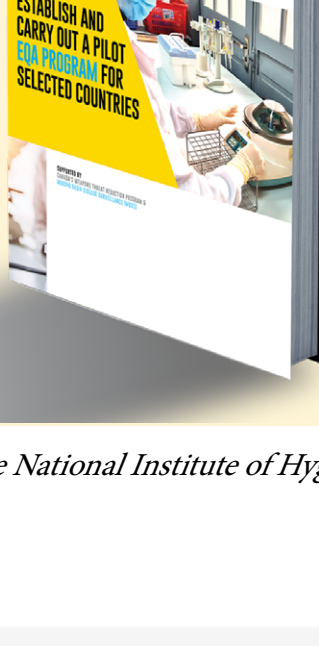
## MBDS REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

The National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Ministry of Health, Vietnam has organized the **“Workshop on Strengthening capacity of Quality assurance among AMS”** within the framework of “Establishment of an EQA network among Southeast Asia Countries” which is supported by **Canada’s Weapons Threat Reduction Program (Canada’s WTRP)** on 7 March 2022 in order to share expertise and experiences on EQA programs among Southeast Asia Countries.



During the meeting MBDS Secretariat has presented the project overview for **“Sustain and Strengthen Biosafety and Biosecurity in CLMV countries”** supported by Canada’s WTRP. The NIHE, Vietnam also has introduced about the Establishment of an EQA network, case study on development and implementation of EQA program in Vietnam. The representatives from Cambodia, Lao P.D.R and Vietnam also sharing the current situation and development plan for EQA program.

- *Credit to the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Ministry of Health, Vietnam*




MBDS Secretariat has published **“Establish and Carry Out a pilot EQA Program for selected countries”** which is developed by The National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Ministry of Health, Vietnam. That activity is supported by **Canada’s Weapons Threat Reduction Program (Canada’s WTRP)** under **“Sustain and Strengthen Biosafety and Biosecurity in CLMV countries”** Project.

This document provides an overview of panel preparation, testing, and distribution processes, reference values, data validation and analysis, as well as performance evaluation of EQA program.

The results can be used by medical facilities in other Member States as references to implement the expanded EQA programs, continuous improvement plan and advocacy purposes, especially in developing countries. The document is available to download at [MBDS website](#).


- *Credit to the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Ministry of Health, Vietnam*

## PUBLICATIONS




ESTABLISH AND CARRY OUT A PILOT EQA PROGRAM FOR SELECTED COUNTRIES

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HEALTH SYSTEM CHALLENGES: A DEVELOPING COUNTRY PERSPECTIVE

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REFLECTIONS OF A PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

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SURVEY REPORT: THE NEED OF EQA SERVICE AND STRENGTHENING THE QUALITY OF LABORATORIES MEDICAL TESTING IN MEKONG REGION

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Over the past year, MBDS Secretariat and Member Countries have published several documents, to sharing essential knowledge and enhance information exchange on public health emergency preparedness and response. The documents are expected not only can support the implementation of inter-related MBDS core strategies, but also can be used as references to strengthen national and regional capabilities for rapidly and effectively control Public Health Threat, especially in developing countries. Those document are available to download at [MBDS website](#).

**28 February 2022:** The kick-off video conference of the Regional Public Health Laboratory (RPHL) Network, which is hosted by Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. During meeting, all participants have discussed about the key outputs from the Annual Partnership Forum 2021, key activities for 2022 and ways forward to enhance collaboration on laboratory under the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Action Package Detect 1: National Laboratory System. This Action Package aims for real-time bio-surveillance with capable national laboratory systems and effective modern point-of-care and laboratory-based diagnostics. MBDS Secretariat has participated this RPHL video conference.

**9 – 11 March 2022:** MBDS Secretariat has participated with multisectoral stakeholders in the “Workshop on strengthening core competencies for reporting on the exchange of information under the International Health Regulations 2005” under “Enhancing multi-sectoral collaboration capacities for prevention, detection and response to public health emergencies along border areas (DGMQ-EMSc) Project”, which is hosted by Office of International Cooperation (OIC), Ministry of Public Health in Pattaya, Thailand. This workshop is to develop the capacity of working groups and officials involved in the targeted areas for information exchange and coordination in response to public health emergencies in border areas especially the target border provinces.

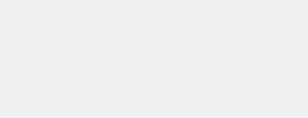
**23 - 24 March 2022:** MBDS Secretariat has participated in the “Asia Regional Partners Meeting” hosted by The Rockefeller Foundation. This meeting brings together of partners from the public, private and civil society sectors, multilateral organizations and academic institutions. Experiences and lessons learned are shared among participants to better understand each other’s work and to strengthen connections across partner community networks. Through this informal network conversations; update on new priorities, 2022 milestones, and future opportunities are also has been explored to deepen partner’s engagement and participation in the upcoming initiatives.

**23 & 30 March 2022:** MBDS Secretariat has brief about risk assessment in public health threats procedure and Training of Trainer (ToT), which is supported by Canada’s Weapons Threat Reduction Program, to Myanmar health officials. MBDS Secretariat has prepared details of training materials and curriculum for risk assessment and the trainer will implement the scale-up training in respected areas.

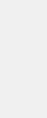
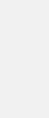
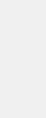
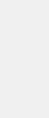
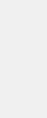
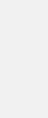
**24 March 2022:** Under the Canada’s Weapons Threat Reduction Program, MBDS Secretariat has meeting with MBDS Country Coordinator from Cambodia, Mr. Sok Samnang, who is leading EBS Application development for LMV countries with Myanmar Officials for updating about application development with Myanmar language. They also discussed about web system requirement for technology transfer, server setup, application modification, maintenance of application, and future plan. Myanmar is planning to implement MBDS EBS real-time reporting application in near future.

**31 March 2022:** Under the Canada’s Weapons Threat Reduction Program, MBDS Secretariat has 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. During the discussion, Vietnam team has shared completed activities, ongoing activities about development of EQA program website, conducting workshop on EQA program re-assessment & planning and develop software for EQA program management and operation. Vietnam team also planning for sustaining of EQA activities.

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](#).




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### REGIONAL ALERTS




CHINESE MAINLAND REPORTS 1,565 NEW LOCAL COVID-19 CASES

30 March 2022. The Chinese mainland on Tuesday reported 1,565 locally transmitted...



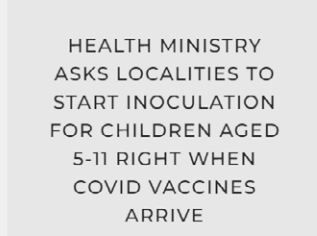
CAMBODIA'S HEALTH DIGITALISATION – A MORE NEEDFUL PRIORITY

30 March 2022. A priority of the Royal Government of Cambodia is...



THAILAND RECORDS 25,389 COVID-19 CASES AND 87 DEATHS ON WEDNESDAY

30 March 2022. Thailand Ministry of Public Health



HEALTH MINISTRY ASKS LOCALITIES TO START INOCULATION FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-11 RIGHT WHEN COVID VACCINES ARRIVE

## 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