Dear MBDS Colleagues,

Sustainable and strengthening biosafety and biosecurity (SBB) is an important aspect of managing public health threats. This document provides an overview of panel preparation, testing, and improvement plan and advocacy purposes, especially in developing and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the region. This document is intended to support public health professionals in managing and responding to public health threats.

The National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Ministry of Health, Vietnam has organized the "Workshop on Strengthening capacity of an EQA network among Southeast Asia Countries" which is supported by Canada's WTRP. The NIHE, Vietnam also has introduced about the Establishment of an EQA network in CLMV countries supported by Canada's WTRP.

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 National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Ministry of Health, Vietnam for their leading activity of establishment of an EQA network.

The MBDS cooperation has been updating useful links (Disease Surveillance Networks, Health Related Links, Links for Disaster Management, MBDS Research Links, Global Conference Alerts and Others Links) on MBDS website. MBDS has been updating useful links (Research Links, Global Conference Alerts and Others Links) on MBDS website.

MBDS has published "Sustain and Strengthen Biosafety and Biosecurity (Canada's WTRP)" which is developed by The National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Ministry of Health, Vietnam for their leading activity of establishment of an EQA network.

During the discussion, Vietnam team has shared completed activities, planning and development of Software for EQA program management and operation. Vietnam team also planning for sustaining of implementation among Southeast Asia Countries. During the discussion, Vietnam team has shared completed activities, planning and development of Software for EQA program management and operation. Vietnam team also planning for sustaining of implementation among Southeast Asia Countries.

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 the key outputs from the Annual Partnership Forum 2021, key activities for 2022 and ways forward to enhance network conversations; update on new priorities, 2022 milestones, and future opportunities are also been explored to understand each other's work and to strengthen connections across partner community networks. Through this informal meeting, MBDS Secretariat has participated in the "Asia Regional Partners Meeting" hosted by The Rockefeller Foundation and "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 the targets for the national Public Health Laboratory System improvement plan and advocacy purposes, especially in developing and communicable diseases (NCDs) in the region. This document is intended to support public health professionals in managing and responding to public health threats.

In March 2022: MBDS Secretariat has participated in the "Sustain and Strengthen Biosafety and Biosecurity (Canada's WTRP)" which is supported by Canada's WTRP. The NIHE, Vietnam also sharing the current situation and development plan for EQA program. Myanmar is planning to implement MBDS EBS real-time reporting application in near future.

MBDS Secretariat has prepared details of training materials and curriculum for risk assessment and the trainer will implement the training to Myanmar health officials. MBDS Secretariat has also presented experiences and lessons learned from EQA program implementation in CLMV countries.

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Sincerely yours,

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