

FOURTH ASIA-PACIFIC DENGUE WORKSHOP

26 AUGUST TO 4 SEPTEMBER 2014

Jointly sponsored by the

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SINGAPORE,
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, SINGAPORE**

and the

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

under the

SINGAPORE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Singapore Cooperation Programme

Singapore has provided technical assistance to other developing countries since the 1960s. As a country whose only resource is its people, Singapore believes that human resource development is vital for economic and social progress. Singapore itself has benefited from training provided by other countries and international organisations. Through the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), Singapore can contribute to the development of other developing countries.

In 1992, the SCP was established, bringing together under one framework the various technical assistance programmes offered by Singapore. Through the SCP, the range and number of training programmes have been increased to meet the needs of developing countries.

Since 1992, Singapore has sponsored training courses and study visits for over 90,000 officials from 170 countries. The SCP is managed by the Technical Cooperation Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore.

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. Key challenges faced by WHO in the 21st century include public health threats and equitable access to essential health care.

Dengue has attracted long-overdue attention by the Member States, due to an increasing trend in outbreaks affecting the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia-Pacific Dengue Partnership (APDP) was set-up in March 2006 to support and facilitate effective implementation of a prevention and control strategy so as to reverse the rising trend of dengue in the Asia-Pacific region. APDP will promote mobilization of resources and advocacy for dengue prevention and control in the region.

In 2007, Member States of the Western Pacific and South-East Asia Regions joined efforts with WHO to formulate the 2008-2015 Bi-Regional Dengue Strategic Plan. The Plan was endorsed at the Regional Committees in September 2008, and is now being used as a roadmap for country national plans.

National Environment Agency

The National Environment Agency (NEA) is the leading public organization responsible for improving and sustaining a clean and green environment in Singapore.

One of the key programmes under NEA is the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases. NEA adopts an integrated dengue control strategy, which comprises field surveillance & control and laboratory surveillance & research in the prevention and control of dengue in Singapore.

The Environmental Health Institute (EHI) is the public health laboratory at NEA. The institute conducts research, surveillance and evidence-based risk assessment of vector-borne diseases and other environment-related health risks. The institute is a WHO Collaborating Centre for reference and research of arbovirus and their associated vectors.

Workshop Objectives

As key members of the Asia-Pacific Dengue Partnership, WHO and Singapore are taking the lead in organizing the Asia-Pacific Dengue Workshop. This is a capacity building programme that supports the Dengue Strategic Plan for the Asia-Pacific Region (2008-2015) endorsed by the WHO Member States.

There is a consensus on the general weakness of surveillance component among member states and stakeholders. There are gaps in laboratory and vector surveillance affecting epidemic alert and response throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The workshop will focus on strengthening the surveillance and vector control components during the inter-epidemic periods so as to avert or lessen the impact of dengue outbreaks. Alignment of the dengue surveillance component with the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases will be emphasized. In addition, it is generally agreed that clinical management of dengue could also be improved through providing practical guidance to clinicians, particularly for identification of patients at risk of severe dengue and for appropriate treatment for all dengue patients.

The objectives of the Dengue Workshop are:

- To impart knowledge and skills relevant to strengthening national integrated dengue surveillance, control and clinical management of dengue; and
- To promote regional dengue surveillance efforts in alignment with the Asia-Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED).

Workshop Outline

The workshop will comprise three parallel sessions. Group 1: Laboratory Surveillance and Group 2: Field Surveillance & Control and Group 3: Clinical Management.

Laboratory and field surveillance sessions will include classroom lectures, site visits, laboratory practical and hands-on field experience. Site visits will be organized to allow participants to get closely acquainted with and to understand the ground implementation and operations of the dengue control programme in Singapore.



Laboratory sessions will be conducted to get hands-on experience on mosquito identification, dengue diagnostics and laboratory-based surveillance, which are among the key strengths of the Singapore's national programme.





Clinical sessions will involve didactic sessions providing an update of the evidence behind current recommendations for clinical management of dengue, and share country experiences and case studies, and small group work on clinical scenarios and cases. Sharing sessions will also be held among the 3 groups to identify linkages and gaps.



The workshop will address learning needs of officials who are or will be managing a dengue control programme or setting up laboratory capability to support dengue surveillance and control or clinicians involving clinical management of dengue.

Workshop Duration

The workshop duration for Group 1 and Group 2 is 10 days from **26 August to 4 September 2014**. The workshop duration for Group 3 is 4 days from **26 to 29 August 2014**.

Application Information

A maximum of **three** participants (1 for each Group) will be selected from each country according to the following criteria:

Profile of Group 1: Laboratory Surveillance

- You are responsible for laboratory dengue surveillance and diagnosis and are looking to enhance your laboratory capability; or
- You are trained in laboratory techniques and will be setting up laboratory surveillance capability to support a dengue control programme.

Profile of Group 2: Field Surveillance & Control

- You are responsible for dengue field surveillance and control, and are looking to strengthen your dengue control programme; or
- You are planning to set up an effective dengue field surveillance and control programme.

Profile of Group 3: Clinical Management

- You are responsible for providing clinical care for adult or pediatric patients, preferably in an acute care setting (outpatient or emergency room setting) in a major public or teaching hospital; or
- You are a clinician with responsibilities in teaching, training or mentoring junior clinicians and are interested in delivering standard training to them for the clinical management of dengue.

Applicants co-sponsored by the Singapore Government and WHO should also be:

- Government officials/experts nominated by their respective Governments
- Mid-level government officials/experts of their respective organization
- Proficient in spoken and written English
- In good health

Terms of Award

(Applies **ONLY** to Eligible Countries co-sponsored by the Singapore Government and WHO)

The workshop is co-sponsored by the Singapore Government under the Singapore Cooperation Programme and WHO.

Under this programme arrangement, the Government of Singapore will bear the following expenses for the successful applicants (thereafter known as participants) during their training in Singapore. These expenses include:

- All training and material cost;
- A daily allowance of One Hundred and Twenty Singapore Dollars (S\$120) from first day to last day of the workshop to cover meals and daily expenses. [Complimentary breakfast is provided in the hotel from first day to one day after the workshop.];
- Local transport (airport and daily transfers between hotel/workshop venue);
- Medical insurance for participants to cover accident and hospitalisation during their stay in Singapore in accordance with the policy of a local insurance company; and
- Accommodation for the entire duration of the workshop.

Other partners including WHO will bear the cost of economy class round-trip airfare for not more than three participants per country

Note:

- (i) Participants are to bear their personal miscellaneous expenses that might be incurred prior to receiving the allowance
- (ii) Any expenses for out-patient medical/dental treatment should be borne by the participants themselves

Regulations

Participants are required to comply with the following:

- (a) To strictly observe workshop schedules and not to change training subjects
- (b) Not to bring any member of their family or personal aide for the duration of the workshop
- (c) To carry out such instructions and abide by conditions as may be stipulated by the

nominating Government or the Government of Singapore, in respect of the workshop

- (d) To refrain from engaging in political activities, or any form of employment for profit or gain while in Singapore
- (e) To return to their respective home countries upon completion of the workshop, and
- (f) To discontinue the workshop, in the event they fall seriously ill and are considered unable to continue the training or have committed an improper act

Application Procedure

(Closing date for nomination: **30 June 2014**)

The Singapore Government and WHO are pleased to invite the Ministry of Health to nominate suitable candidates for the workshop. Maximum of three participants per country will be selected, one each for Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3.

All nominations are to be submitted using the official Singapore Cooperation Programme Application Form.

The application forms should reach the WHO Country Representative Offices not later than **30 June 2014**.

All application forms should be completed in full and endorsed by the nominating Government. Incomplete application forms will not be accepted.

The Selection Committee will review the applications and inform all applicants of the outcome of their applications.

Information on Singapore

For more information about Singapore, you may wish to visit the Singapore Tourism Board website at www.yoursingapore.com

Enquiries

Please contact nea_ehicc@nea.gov.sg if you require further information on the 4th Asia-Pacific Dengue Workshop.

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