



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.

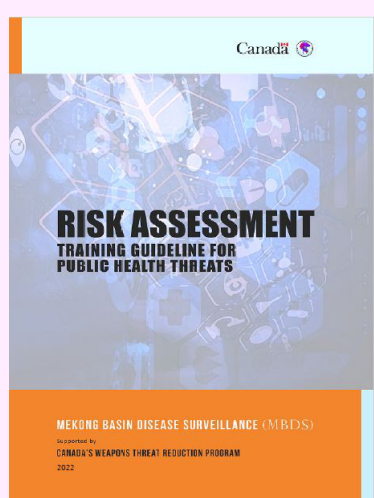


MBDS is proud to be a part of regional capacity building activity in 2nd Regional Infodemic Management Training. This activity is organized by the Office of International Cooperation (OIC), the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (GIZ), WHO and ASEAN member states. The type of training is hybrid model, start with virtual training which has been conducted on 14, 16 and 29 November 2023 and in-person training on 21-23 November 2023 in Pattaya, Thailand

Mr. Sok Samnang, MBDS Country Coordinator (Deputy Director of the Communicable Disease Control Department, Ministry of Health Cambodia) has attended "The ASEAN Risk Assessment and Risk Communication Workshop & Conference" which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 25-26 October 2023. During the meeting, Mr. Sok Samnang has presented and shared about MBDS EBS mobile application, Joint Outbreak Investigation (JOI) and Table Top Exercise (TTX) which have been implementing among MBDS cross-border provinces.



Photo and reported by: Mr. Sok Samnang, MBDS Country Coordinator, Cambodia



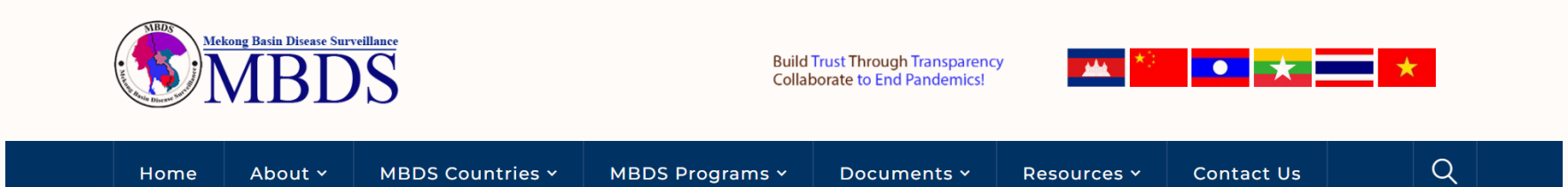
Risk Assessment: Training Guidelines for Public Health Threats

This technical handbook is a gold mine for health officials and professionals who would like to reduce and contain the public health threats encountered in the respective countries. It covers the whole gamut of systematically doing risk assessments for existing and emerging public health threats in the countries. The threats are present in different degrees of seriousness in every country. The activities proposed for consideration in the handbook will unearth all these vividly. One notable fact is the basic principles of the epidemic intelligence process and the types and models of risk assessment are clearly mentioned. All the steps involved, starting from planning and preparation to risk management and communication, are explicitly explained. Monitoring and evaluation aspects are also included.

This handbook could be a supportive building block for international health regulations (2005) for the countries. The stakeholders and relevant entities in the member states might consider how to implement the proposed ideas mentioned in the document. It is also important to carefully consider for further action the findings of the risk assessment made in the member states. All in all, this is one of the essential documents in the arena of disease prevention and control. I would like to profusely congratulate the MBDS secretariat and all the professionals who prepared the document.

Reflection from H.E Dr Myint Htwe former Union Minister for Health and Sports in Myanmar and the retired Director of Programme Management for WHO's South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO).

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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RECENT UPDATE

MBDS Secretariat Monkey has updating Regional and International 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

