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 capacities in infectious disease surveillance, inter-regional collaboration, online awareness and information sharing for timely and efficient 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 (BMZ) and MBDS 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 MBDS Risk Assessment and Risk Communication Workshop & Conference” which held in Hua Lamphong, Bangkok on 30 October 2023. During the meeting, Mr. Sok Samnang has promoted 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 prevent the public health threats 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 values. One can complete this in the basic principles of the risk assessment 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 members in the member states might consider how to implement the proposed ideas described in the document. It is also important to carefully select the suitable steps to follow the logic of the risk assessment model in the member states. All this is one of the essential documents in the arena of disease prevention and control. It would be particularly 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, programs of vaccination, measures and information related with public awareness. These regional alerts are available in the MBDS website.

© 2018 Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Foundation | Rajakaramphan Building 8, Ground Hour, Twonend Road, Nonthaburi, 11000, Thailand