

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program
8th Annual Activity Report - Summary
(2019.9 ~ 2020.8)



e-ASIA JRP Secretariat

Basic Information

This yearly report summarizes the activities of the e-ASIA Joint Research Program during the period from the 8th Annual Board Meeting (September 5-6, 2019) to August-September 2020 when the online meetings held in replace of the 9th Annual Board Meeting in Hawaii in principle.

First Edition

This report was originally approved on October 9, 2020

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Annual Activity Report – Summary
(8th year: 2019.9 ~ 2020.8)**

Program Administration

The 8th Annual Board Meeting

1. The 8th Annual Board Meeting was held on September 5-6, 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand, co-chaired by Prof. Prasit Palittapongarnpim, Executive Vice President, National Science Technology and Development Agency (NSTDA), Dr. Nares Damrongchai, CEO, Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences (TCELS), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nattama Pongpairoj, Assistant Director, Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI). The meeting was attended by the Board Members, including proxies of the appointed Board Members from fourteen of the twenty-one Member Organizations of the Program from ten of the fourteen countries, and five Scientific Advisory Council Members.
2. At the beginning of the meeting, the board unanimously approved the participation of National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) to the Program as the 22nd Member Organization, followed by the introduction presentation of Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) of Singapore, that joined the Program in November, 2018.
3. Activities taken place after 7th Annual Board Meeting, such as ad hoc Board Meetings from 23rd to 27th, newly selected projects from 6th and 7th calls, several workshops and update of website and brochure, were reviewed and the 7th Annual Activity Report, which summarized those activities, was approved.
4. Operational policy on the proposal application without ASEAN countries are discussed and the Board concluded that the current requirement of having at least three countries participating in an e-ASIA project is appropriate and there is no need to pose additional requirement for the involvement of ASEAN countries for the 8th call and the future calls.
5. A concept of Working Group (WG) was proposed jointly by AMED, JST and

the Program Secretariat to achieve better utilization of experts' insight and to provide long term call strategy into the call-project management process. Recognizing WG idea and concerns from the Board members, the Board agreed to explore the pilot activities and to come back to the board for the establishment of WGs in an Ad-hoc Board Meeting.

6. As for the 9th calls for proposals, the Board discussed and agreed draft schedule, four topics for the 9th call, involved MOs and lead MO in each topic.
7. As for the 8th calls for proposals, the Board approved ten candidate projects to be awarded and gave provisional approval to two projects pending by NSTDA's decision in the field of Health research and Materials.
8. JST reported how much Early Career Researchers Applicants' ratio of PIs in Japan has improved by the modification of application form. NIAID reported on evaluation findings for the US-supported e-ASIA projects.
9. Other topics discussed at the meeting included update of Japanese government scholarship under e-ASIA and two future workshops planned by JST on Materials field with the event for the 10th year celebration of JST Singapore office and AMED on AMR

The 29th ad hoc Board Meeting

10. The 29th ad hoc Board Meeting was held via email sent on 31st January 2020.
11. Minutes of the 8th Annual Board Meeting was approved on 12nd February 2020.

The 30th ad hoc Board Meeting

12. The 30th ad hoc Board Meeting was held via email sent on 25th June 2020.
13. Establishment of the Infectious Diseases Working Group proposed from AMED was approved on 1st July.

The 31st ad hoc Board Meeting

14. The 31st ad hoc Board Meeting was held via email sent on 31st August 2020.

15. Formal participation of the Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B) of Thailand was approved on 7th September.






Program Secretariat

16. The MOU between JST and NSTDA to locate the Program Secretariat office in NSTDA of Thailand was amended to extend the term of the agreement by three years from 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2023.

Member Organizations and Guest Partner

1. List of current Member Organizations and their Board Members and representatives in alphabetical order by country (as of August 2020).

*23 Member Organizations from 14 countries

	Country	Name	Title & Organization
1	 Australia	Prof. Anne Kelso AO	Chief Executive Officer, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
2	 Cambodia	(TBD)	(TBD), Ministry of Industry, Science Technology and Innovation (MISTI)
3	 Cambodia	Dr. Kheng Sim	Deputy-Director of Communicable Disease Control Department, Ministry of Health (MOH)
4	 Indonesia	Prof. Ocky Radjasa	Directorate General of Research and Development, Ministry of Research and Higher Education (RISTEK/BRIN)
5	 Japan	Mr. Masahiko Noda	Managing Director of Department of International Strategy, Japan Agency of Medical Research and Development (AMED)
6	 Japan	Dr. Michinari Hamaguchi	President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) (as the agent of MEXT)
7	 Lao PDR	Dr. Rattanaxay Phetsouvanh	Director General of the Department of Communicable Diseases Control, Ministry of Health (MOH)
8	 Lao PDR	Mr. Chittaphong Achkhavong	Deputy Director General of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
9	 Malaysia	Mr. Teoh Phi Li	Under Secretary of International Division, Ministry of Science, Technology Innovation (MOSTI)

	Country	Name	Title & Organization
10	 Myanmar	Dr. Win Khaing Moe	Director General, Department of Research and Innovation, Ministry of Education (MOE)
11	 New Zealand	Prof. Sunny Collings	Chief Executive, Health Research Council (HRC)
12	 The Philippines	Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara	Undersecretary for Research & Development, Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
13	 Russian Federation	Mr. Alexander Usoltsev	Head of International Relations, Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)
14	 Singapore	Prof. Andy Hor	Deputy Chief Executive, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)
15	 Thailand	Ms. Kunvara Chotiphansophon	Deputy Director, Agriculture Research Development Agency (ARDA)
16	 Thailand	Dr. Kanyawim Kirtikara	Director, Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU- B)
17	 Thailand	Dr. Narong Sirilertworakul (deputy: Prof. Prasit Palittapongarnpim)	President, Thailand National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) (Executive Vice President, NSTDA)
18	 Thailand	Dr. Sirirurg Songsivilai	Secretary-General for Executive Director, National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)
19	 Thailand	Dr. Nares Damrongchai	Chief Executive Officer, Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences (TCELS)
20	 Thailand	(TBD)	(TBD), Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI)
21	 U.S.	Mr. F. Gray Handley	Associate Director for International Research Affairs, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
22	 U.S.	Dr. Paul Pearlman	Health Science Policy Analyst, Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute (NCI)
23	 Vietnam	Ms. Le Thi Viet Lam	Deputy Director General of Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

2. In addition to the above Member Organizations, National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka is the Guest Partner organization in the Program since October 2017.

Joint Calls for Proposals

The 8th Joint Calls for Proposals

1. Out of 22 proposals submitted to the 8th Joint Call for Proposals on the topic of “Innovative Materials” in the field of “Materials (Nanotechnology)” opened from January 18 to May 14, 2019, the following three projects were approved by the Board to be supported:
 - i “Development of innovative nanobiodevices based on hybrid materials by combination of endemic South Asian biomolecules and nanocarbons” to be supported by JST of Japan, MOST of Vietnam, DOST of the Philippines, and RISTEK/BRIN of Indonesia,
 - ii “Development of New Functional Polymers from Plant Oils by Efficient Catalytic Carbon-Carbon Bond Formation, Post-Modifications” to be supported by JST of Japan, NSTDA of Thailand and DOST of the Philippines,
 - iii “Microfluidic nanowires coupled with gold nanoparticles for Dengue viral disease diagnosis” to be supported by JST of Japan, NSTDA of Thailand and RISTEK/BRIN of Indonesia.

2. Out of 7 proposals submitted to the 8th Joint Call for Proposals on the topic of Conservation, Improvement and Utilization of Animal Genetic Resources in Asia” in the field of “Agriculture (Food)” opened from January 18 to May 14, 2019, the following three projects were approved by the Board to be supported:
 - i “Assessment on Genetic Diversity and Reproductive Biology of Carangid Fishes for Sustainable Use and Conservation” to be supported by NRCT of Thailand, NSF of Sri Lanka, JST of Japan and DOST of the Philippines,
 - ii “Preservation of endangered avian genetic resources through induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) derivation” to be supported by JST of Japan,

RFBR of Russia and NRCT of Thailand,

- iii “Gene evolution and taxonomic relationships of the *Apis cerana* subspecies of Russia, Korea, Vietnam and Indonesia” to be supported by RFBR of Russia, MOST of Vietnam and RISTE/BRIN of Indonesia
3. Out of 38 proposals submitted to the 8th Joint Call for Proposals on the topic of “Infectious Diseases, Antimicrobial and Multidrug Resistance, and Cancer Research” in the field of “Health Research” opened from January 18 to May 14, 2019, the following six projects were approved by the Board to be supported:
- i “The Predict-XDR Project: Predicting genetic markers for pre-XDR and XDR tuberculosis” to be supported by DOST of the Philippines, NIAID of USA and AMED of Japan,
 - ii “An international platform for discovery of novel chemotypes against flaviviral infection” to be supported by NSTDA of Thailand, AMED of Japan and NIAID of USD,
 - iii “Integrated application of human and pathogen genomic information for improvement of treatment outcome and control of drug-resistance in Asian tuberculosis patients” to be supported by AMED of Japan, NSTDA of Thailand, DOST of the Philippines and RISTEK/BRIN of Indonesia,
 - iv “Tools to diagnose carcinogenic liver fluke infection” to be supported by NHMRC of Australia, RFBR of Russia, NIAID of USA and TCELS of Thailand,
 - v “Eliminating the major Helminth Neglected Tropical Diseases from the Lower Mekong Basin” to be supported by NHMRC of Australia, NSTDA of Thailand, MOH of Lao PDR and MOH of Cambodia,
 - vi “Are TB neighbourhoods a high risk population for active intervention?” to be supported by HRC of New Zealand, RISTEK/BRIN and NIAID of USA.

The 9th Joint Calls for Proposals

4. The 9th Joint Calls for Proposals on the topic of “Functional Food and Native Chicken” in the field of “Agriculture (Food)”, on the topic of “Infectious Diseases (including AMR), Cancer, and Mental Health, with a focus on precision medicine in Cancer and Infectious Diseases” in the field of “Health Research”, on the topic of “Water Resource Management” in the field of “Advanced Interdisciplinary Research towards Innovation”, and on the topic of “Climate Change Impact on Natural and Human Systems” in the field of “Environment (Climate Change, Marine Science)” were opened from January 16 to May 21, 2020. Originally it was planned to be opened from January 16 to April 23, but the submission deadline was extended about one month due to the pandemic of COVID-19. These calls were participated by the following Member Organizations (listed in alphabetical order):

Participating Member Organizations and their funding modalities for the 9th Calls for Proposals

	Agriculture (Food)		Interdisciplinary Research towards Innovation	Environment	Health Research (Infectious Diseases, Cancer)		
	Functional Food	Native Chicken	Water Resource Management	Climate Change	Infectious Diseases and AMR	Cancer	Mental Health
NHMRC (Australia)				New, In-kind	New, In-kind	New, In-kind	New, In-kind
MOH (Cambodia)					In-kind	In-kind	In-kind
RISTEK/BRIN (Indonesia)	New	New	New	New	New	New	New
JST (Japan)			New	New			
AMED (Japan)					New	New	

MOST (Lao PDR)	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind			
MOH (Lao PDR)					In-kind	In-kind	In-kind
MOE (Myanmar)					In-kind	In-kind	In-kind
HRC (NZ)					New	New	New
DOST (Philippines)		New	New, In-kind	New, In-kind	New	New	New
RFBR (Russia)			New	New	New	New	New
NSTDA (Thailand)				New			
ARDA (Thailand)	New	New	New				
TCELS (Thailand)					New	New	
NRCT (Thailand)				New			
NIAID (USA)					New, Re-budget, and In-kind		
MOST (Vietnam)			New, In-kind		New, In-kind	New, In-kind	New, In-kind

The selection of the proposals for all these four calls is in progress.

Researcher Interaction

1. The e-ASIA Joint Research Program Workshop on Precision Medicine

The workshop was held on the September 4, 2019, took place in Bangkok, Thailand. This workshop was held as a side event of the e-Asia JRP 8th Annual Board Meeting, which was co-organized by NSTDA of Thailand and TCELS of Thailand. There were 94 participants including leading researchers, representatives of research institutes, government, and universities from Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, USA, and Thailand.

The workshop was divided into two sessions, “Power of Genomics and Multi-omics Technology in Precision Medicine” and “Immunotherapy: Potential Approach for Precision Medicine”. The workshop aimed to discuss issues and concerns in the topic area and develop project ideas for follow up actions and possibility of joint research activities.

Selected Projects

1. The selected projects from the 8th Call for Proposals on the topic of “Innovative Materials” in the field of “Materials (Nanotechnology)”, on the topic of Conservation, Improvement and Utilization of Animal Genetic Resources in Asia” in the field of “Agriculture (Food)”, and on the topic of ““Infectious Diseases, Antimicrobial and Multidrug Resistance, and Cancer Research” in the field of “Health Research” are as follows:

Innovative Materials (3 projects)

- i. **“Development of innovative nanobiodevices based on hybrid materials by combination of endemic South Asian biomolecules and nanocarbons”**

Countries & PIs

Japan: Kazuo Umemura, Professor, Tokyo University of Science

Vietnam: Anh-Tuan Mai, Director of MPH, Ministry of Science and Technology

Philippines: Leo Cristobal II Ambolode, Professor, Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT)

Indonesia: Eko Siswoyo, Assistant Professor, Islamic University of Indonesia

Forms of Funding

Japan: New funds from Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Vietnam: New funds from Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

Philippines: New funds from Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

Indonesia: New funds from Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher education (RISTEK/BRIN)

This cooperative research project aims to develop innovative nanobiodevices by combining endemic South east Asian biomolecules and nanocarbons. The new hybrids will be applied to various sensors to solve environmental problems in Asia. The nanobiosensors can detect specific pollutants in waters which shall be removed. The hybrids can be integrated with microfluids, and will be enhanced by near infrared sensing system.

ii. **“Development of New Functional Polymers from Plant Oils by Efficient Catalytic Carbon-Carbon Bond Formation, Post-Modifications”**

Countries & PIs

Japan: Kotohiro Nomura, Professor, Tokyo Metropolitan University

Thailand: Boonyarach Kitiyanan, Professor, Chulalongkorn University

Philippines: Gilbert Yu, Assistant Professor, Ateneo de Manila University

Forms of Funding

Japan: New funds from Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Thailand: New funds from National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

Philippines: New funds from Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

This international cooperative research project aims to develop new biodegradable and recyclable functional polymers from plant oils by precise olefin (metathesis) polymerization in the presence of catalysts, and the subsequent post-modifications for exhibiting the target properties. The project also aims to develop new efficient catalytic process for synthesis of monomers which do not use hazardous reagents, harsh conditions.

iii. **“Microfluidic nanowires coupled with gold nanoparticles for Dengue viral disease diagnosis”**

Countries & PIs

Japan: Takao Yasui, Associate Professor, Nagoya University

Thailand: Sakon Rahong, Lecturer, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology

Ladkrabang

Indonesia: Mitra Djamal, Professor, Institut Teknologi Bandung

Forms of Funding

Japan: New funds from Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Thailand: New funds from National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

Indonesia: New funds from Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher education (RISTEK/BRIN)

This cooperative research project aims to develop a comprehensive analysis methodology for Dengue viral disease diagnosis using microfluidic oxide nanowires coupled with gold nanoparticles. Since mosquito-borne Dengue viruses have emerging highly contagious, Dengue infection become a worldwide health problem in a recent year. Our approach will provide an efficient tool for highly sensitive, specific, and rapid detection of Dengue infection.

Conservation, Improvement and Utilization of Animal Genetic Resources in Asia

i “Assessment on Genetic Diversity and Reproductive Biology of Carangid Fishes for Sustainable Use and Conservation”

Countries & PIs

Thailand: Uthairat Na-Nakorn, Professor, Kasetsart University

Sri Lanka: Dona Hemali Nandana Munasinghe, Professor, University of Ruhuna

Japan: Masamichi Nakajima, Associate Professor, Tohoku University

Philippines: Brian Santos, Assistant Professor 5, University of the Philippines – Diliman Campus

Forms of Funding

Thailand: New funds from National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)¹

Sri Lanka: New funds from National Science Foundation (NSF)

Japan: New funds from Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

¹ NRCT took over this project from Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI)

Philippines: New funds from Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

This cooperative research project aims to study genetic diversity and reproductive biology of two marine fish species, Golden trevally (*Gnathanodon speciosus*) and Giant trevally (*Caranx ignobilis*) which are important and heavily harvested food fish. The spatial genetic diversity will provide information on genetic variation within and among stocks which is useful for conservation and utilization (i.e. as germplasm for genetic improvement). Reproductive biology information is essential for future studies on captive breeding.

ii “Preservation of endangered avian genetic resources through induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) derivation”

Countries & PIs

Japan: Guojun SHENG, Professor, Kumamoto University

Russia: Oleg Gusev, Principal Investigator/ Laboratory Head/ Associate Professor, Kazan Federal University

Thailand: Sittipon Intarapat, Lecturer, Mahidol University

Forms of Funding

Japan: New funds from Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Russia: New funds from Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)

Thailand: New funds from National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)¹

This cooperative research project aims to use stem cell biology technology to preserve two endangered Gallinaceous birds: the green peafowl (*Pavo muticus*) and purebred red jungle fowl (*Gallus gallus*). According to IUCN, 11% of Galliformes are endangered, higher than the avian average of 4.5%. This project will take advantage of cutting-edge research breakthroughs to spearhead avian genetic resource preservation.

iii “Gene evolution and taxonomic relationships of the *Apis cerana* subspecies of Russia, Korea, Vietnam and Indonesia”

Countries & PIs

Russia: Alexey Nikolenko, Professor/ Head of laboratory, Institute of Biochemistry and Genetics of Ufa Federal Research Center, Russian Academy of Sciences

Vietnam: Pham Hong Thai, Professor/Director, Vietnam National University of Agriculture

Indonesia: Rika Raffiudin, Senior Lecturer, IPB University

Forms of Funding

Russia: New funds from Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)

Vietnam: “In-kind” participation supported by Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

Indonesia: New funds from Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (RISTEK/BRIN)

This cooperative research project aims to research gene evolution and taxonomic relationships of the *Apis cerana* subspecies of Russia, Korea, Vietnam and Indonesia. A phylogenetic analysis will be performed based on an analysis of the full mtDNA of the Korean, Vietnamese and Indonesian populations of *A. cerana*. Our results may be useful in explaining the origin, evolution of *A. cerana*.

Infectious Diseases, Antimicrobial and Multidrug Resistance, and Cancer Research

i. **“The Predict-XDR Project: Predicting genetic markers for pre-XDR and XDR tuberculosis”**

Countries & PIs

Philippines: Raul Destura, Deputy Executive Director, University of the Philippines

USA: Midori Kato-Maeda, Associate Professor, University of California San Francisco

Japan: Satoshi Mitarai, Professor/Head, Research Institute of Tuberculosis

Forms of Funding

Philippines: New funds from Department of Science and Technology

(DOST)

USA: New funds from National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Japan: New funds from Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

This cooperative research project aims to identify novel markers that predict pre-extensively drug-resistant (pre-XDR) and XDR tuberculosis (TB). Genetic markers associated with fluoroquinolones (FQ) and second line injectables (SLI) resistance are incompletely characterized, contributing to the variable sensitivity of molecular assays. We will perform comparative genomic analyses to identify novel mutations and DNA-methylation patterns associated with FQ and SLI resistance.

ii. **“An international platform for discovery of novel chemotypes against flaviviral infection”**

Countries & PIs

Thailand: Chimnaronk Sarin, Assistant Professor, Mahidol University

Japan: Ryuichi Sakai, Professor, Hokkaido University

USA: Daniel Romo, Schotts Professor of Chemistry, Baylor University

Forms of Funding

Thailand: New funds from National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

Japan: New funds from Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

USA: New funds from National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

This research project will establish a unique and modern pipeline for novel drug lead discovery for flaviviruses including dengue and Zika viruses. Goals of the project include collection of bioactive libraries from marine organisms, establishment of reliable high-throughput bioassays, structural and phenotypic validation of mechanisms of action, and chemical synthesis and modifications to identify pharmacophores and improve potency and

selectivity.

iii. **“Integrated application of human and pathogen genomic information for improvement of treatment outcome and control of drug-resistance in Asian tuberculosis patients”**

Countries & PIs

Japan: Katsushi Tokunaga, Director, National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM)

Thailand: Surakameth Mahasirimongkol, Medical Doctor, Ministry of Public Health

Philippines: Ma. Cecilia Ama, Head, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine

Indonesia: Rika Yuliwulandari, Dean, YARSI University

Forms of Funding

Japan: New funds from Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

Thailand: New funds from National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

Philippines: New funds from Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

Indonesia: New funds from Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher education (RISTEK/BRIN)

The integrated analysis of human and Mycobacterium tuberculosis aims to identify genomic biomarkers associated with efficacy of anti-tuberculosis (TB) treatment, risk of adverse drug reactions (ADRs), systemic exposure of antiTB drugs, and occurrence of drug–resistance strain of M. tuberculosis. Biomarkers will be used for establishment of precision medicine for successful treatment and reduction of drug resistance in Asian TB patients.

iv. **“Tools to diagnose carcinogenic liver fluke infection”**

Countries & PIs

Australia: Alexander Loukas, Distinguished Professor, James Cook University (JCU)

Russia: Olga Fedorova, MD/ Dr./ Department Head, Siberian State Medical University

USA: Philip Felgner, Professor, University of California, Irvine (UCI)

Thailand: Thewarach Laha, Associate professor, Khon Kaen University

Forms of Funding

Australia: New funds from National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

Russia: New funds from Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)

USA: New funds from National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Thailand: New funds from Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences (TCELS)

This program aims to develop molecular tests to diagnose carcinogenic infections with parasitic liver flukes. Throughout Eurasia, ingestion of raw or undercooked fish infected with *Opisthorchis* species flukes leads to infection, which over decades culminates in fatal liver cancer. Sensitive point-of-care tests to diagnose fluke infection are urgently needed and will be the focus of this proposal.

v. **“Eliminating the major Helminth Neglected Tropical Diseases from the Lower Mekong Basin”**

Countries & PIs

Australia: Darren Gray, Professor, Deputy School Director & Head of Department, Australian National University

Thailand: Banchob Sripa, Professor and Head, Tropical Disease Research Centre, Khon Kaen University

Lao PDR: Somphou Sayasone, Doctor, Head of Department, Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute

Cambodia: Virak Khieu, Doctor, Vice Chief of Technical Bureau, Ministry of Health, Cambodia

Forms of Funding

Australia: New funds from National Health and Medical Research Council

(NHMRC)

Thailand: “In-kind” participation supported by National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

Lao PDR: “In-kind” participation supported by Ministry of Health (MOH)

Cambodia: “In-kind” participation supported by Ministry of Health (MOH)

This cooperative research project aims to eliminate the major helminth NTDs (Soil transmitted helminths (STH), and *Opisthorchis viverrini* (OV)) in Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Thailand - the Lower Mekong Basin. Our research project will trial

vi. **“Are TB neighbourhoods a high risk population for active intervention?”**

Countries & PIs

New Zealand: Susan McAllister, Research Fellow, University of Otago

Indonesia: Bacht Alisjahbana, Director, University of Padjadjaran

USA: Megan Murray, Ronda Stryker and William Johnston Professor of Global Health, Harvard University

Forms of Funding

New Zealand: New funds from Health Research Council (HRC)

Indonesia: New funds from Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher education (RISTEK/BRIN)

USA: New funds from National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Tuberculosis (TB) elimination requires new enhanced intervention strategies. This research project aims to confirm whether neighbourhoods of TB cases in Indonesia constitute a high TB prevalence and incidence subpopulation for targeted intervention. We will conduct active case finding in both TB households and their neighbouring households and use epidemiological and molecular tools to inform the design of possible intervention strategies.

For more information, please visit the following website:

<http://www.the-easia.org/jrp/>

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