

11/f Ramon Magsaysay Center,  
1680 Roxas Blvd., Malate,  
Manila, Philippines

# ACTMalaria News

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*The Official Newsletter of the Asian Collaborative Training Network for Malaria*

## ACTMalaria TDR Awards: CALL FOR NEW GRANTEEES

The “*ACTMalaria-TDR Awards*” supports short-term projects (one year or less) that require no more than \$2,000 — 4,000 to complete. Introduced in 2002, the program creates opportunities for alumni and researchers from member countries who are interested in implementing their individual projects submitted at the end of the courses they have attended or any other projects deemed relevant to the national malaria control programme. The program is appropriate for small-scale projects that develops and/or enhances the management, training or research skills and competencies in malaria control of the proponent(s). The program specifically encourages alumni to apply. (please see page 2 for application details)



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### Dato Dr. Tee Ah Sian, New Director of Division Combating Communicable Diseases in WPRO



The former ACTMalaria Coordinating Country Director, Dato Dr. Tee Ah Sian from Malaysia, is now the Director of the Division Combating Communicable Disease (DCCD) at the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office. Dato Tee was CCD of ACTMalaria in 2000-2001 before Prof. Tang Lin-hua of China took over the helm.

It was during her tenure in office that the external evaluation of the organization was conducted, the strategic plan was developed and the new office was established in Manila. It was also within this period that the course on Transfer of Training Technology was organized and conducted in Malaysia. Soon after her retirement as the Deputy Director General of Public Health of the Ministry of Health in Malaysia in 2002, she worked first as a Short-term Professional with the Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response in WPRO in 2003.



## Editorial Notes

We decided to release our first issue of the newsletter for 2004 in April to mark our first year in the office here in Manila and in ACTMalaria. We are glad to have overcome most of our difficulties during our infancy. Although, we still have moments of uncertainties, situations have much stabilized and we have more or less understood the INs and OUTs of our organization and our members and partners

We are grateful that the year started off quite nicely for everyone. We received 2 additional funds for 2004—one is from DFID/UK thru WPRO for the implementation of OR baseline studies and second was from TDR extension of support for communication, researches and projects of alumni. Both MMFO and BITTW have already conducted their curriculum refinement and both MOHs of Thailand (+Cambodia) and Indonesia are getting ready to host the courses, respectively, in the last quarter of this year. Having enough financial support to run the courses, however, is a concern that will be discussed in this year's EB meeting. The EB meeting has been set for June 8-10—t'was bit delayed because last year's meeting was held only in September of 2003.

We, along with our members, do expect more challenges this year and in the years to come but we also hope for more support from our old and new partners. We should be able to continue to promote the ACTMalaria network as a model in partnership development by showing not only what we have done but also what we can accomplish in the next five years that is relevant not only in the control of malaria but other vector-borne diseases as well. An even deeper commitment from our member countries is but expected with the participation of the DGs in this year's advisory and partners meeting. We hope to continue with what we have enthusiastically planned together and translate our commitment into action. We should be able to show our adaptability to the changing organizational structures and our flexibility to expand beyond malaria.



*Information Is the Difference Between Your Present and Your Future*  
-Mike Murdock

## ACTMalaria TDR Awards . . . (continued from page 1)

**Eligibility:** Proponents must be from a member country or is an ACTMalaria alumni and is affiliated with the Malaria Control Programme of the Ministry of Health. Proposals may be individual effort or collaborations. Alumni will be given first priority.

**Restrictions:** Grantees of other scheme may not apply for 2 ACTMalaria grants at the same time.

### Application Procedures:

- All proposals should be submitted using the TDR proposal form for capacity strengthening grant (download from TDR website or request from ACTMalaria);
- Submission should include an endorsement by the in-country technical team and/or the National Programme Manager/Director;
- Approval will be facilitated if proposal is accompanied by an endorsement of a malaria technical officer in the WHO country offices (having reviewed the proposal);
- Proposals originally submitted as an individual project in a previously attended ACTMalaria course should include the name of the advisor in the submission for our reference;
- Two original signed copies and electronic copies of the proposal are requested. Proposals with complete information as required in the TDR form will be acted upon approximately within 2 months of receipt by ACTMalaria Foundation, Inc.

**Deadlines and Contact Information:** Submission should not be later than 30 July 2004. Inquiries are welcome at any time and should be addressed to:

### “ACTMalaria-TDR Awards”

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## QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

### SEED GRANTS to Support Baseline Studies for Operations Research

DFID-UK/WPRO financial aid enabled ACTMalaria Foundation, Inc. to initiate the program "OR SEED GRANTS". The program is intended to sustain the organization's efforts to advance OR training by providing support to alumni and to encourage malaria control programmes in conducting operational researches.

The proposal review process involved an initial panel review at the end of the course, an in-country review and endorsement of the proposal by the country

program manager or head of institution of the participant and a final review by a technical and process expert. The country teams are to carry out their data collection over a six-month period, after which the principal investigator will be invited to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the training.

*To date, 6 of the 8 participating member countries have already received grants for their baseline studies, namely, Dr. Siv Sovannaroeth and Dr. Srey Sophanaroeth of Cambodia, Dr. Le Xuan Hung and Dr. Trieu Nguyen Trung of Vietnam, Mr. Xia Zhigui of China, Mr. Tanrang Yusin of Malaysia, Dr. Supawadee Konchom and Ms. Suteera Poolthin of Thailand, and Dr. Rizal Leo Cala, Dr. Gil de la Cruz & Mr.*

*Franklin Luna of the Philippines. Each country proposal received financial support as stipulated in their budgetary requests, not exceeding US\$5,000.*

The initial amount of US\$60,000 available for this program will be used to finance not only the baseline studies but also for the conduct of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the OR training which will aim to assist the participants in data analysis, technical report writing, and drafting of the actual Operations Research Proposal. As a follow through activity of all ACTMalaria courses and to generate and disseminate knowledge about the OR training, project reports will be compiled for publication.



### Curriculum Committees of International MMFO and BITTW: *Getting Ready for this Year's Course Offering*

Two ACTMalaria International Courses, the Malaria Management of Field Operations (MMFO) and the Broadening Involvement Team Training Workshop (BITTW) are scheduled to be organized this 2004 by Ministries of Health of Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia, respectively.

MMFO curriculum refinement workshop was organized by Course Organizers from VBDC-MOH Thailand in collaboration with ACTMalaria headed by Dr. Chaiporn Rojanawatsirivet and Dr. Jeeraphat Sirinchisinthop in Bangkok last April 5-9, 2004. The review was held with the participation of Dr. Duong Socheat and Dr. Chea Nguon of CMPE Cambodia, Dr. Holly Williams and Dr. Peter Bloland of CDC, Dr. Sunil Mehra of Malaria Consortium, Dr. Olya Duzey of RPM Plus project, Dr. Thada Bornstein of Quality Assurance Project, Dr. Chang Moh Seng and Dr. Krongthong Thimasarn of WHO, Prof. Tan Chongsupajaisiddhi of Mahidol University and Dr. Stephen King.

During the same period, the NMCP in Jakarta, headed by Dr. Ferdinand Laihad also met with resource persons and team of facilitators in preparation for the BITTW in September. Dr. P.K. Arbani, the former regional advisor for malaria in SEARO was among the key technical resource involved in the curriculum review process.

*" You will always remember what you teach. "*

*Mike Murdock*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### National MMFOs conducted in Cambodia, Laos, Philippines and Myanmar



*Participants, trainers and facilitators in the National MMFOs in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Philippines*

Four national MMFO courses were conducted during the last quarter of 2003 and 1st quarter of 2004. Trainings held in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar were supported by USAID while the Philippine course was co-funded by RBM/WR-Phil and AUSAID ADS-MCP Project. WHO country offices provided the needed technical assistance in running the courses while ACTMalaria alumni were tapped as facilitators. Technical resources were not only from the NMCP but lecturers were also invited from the academe and research institutions from the countries and as well as available technical consultants.



### National Workshop on Impact of Insecticide Use on Health, Agriculture & Environment held in the Philippines

*Although malaria parasite itself has been reported to develop resistance to drugs, limited insecticide susceptibility studies done on malaria vectors in the Philippines revealed otherwise. In most areas where such tests were conducted, Philippine malaria vectors still remained susceptible except in Isabela area where tolerance was observed. This is true for the most important pyrethroid compounds used at the moment in malaria control program. Since no other insecticide groups are available as alternative to pyrethroids at the moment, the major concern is to prevent or retard resistance development to the said compounds.*

Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in collaboration with the ACTMalaria Foundation Inc. conducted an Insecticide Resistance Network Workshop on the Impact of Insecticide Use in Agriculture and Public Health last March 2-5 2004 at Bayview Park Hotel in Malate Manila. The workshop was attended by thirty participants from six government agencies & bureau (Fertilizer Pesticide Authority, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment & Natural Resource, Department of Health, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Environmental Management Bureau), the

academe (University of the Philippines Los Banos) and the private sectors (Bayer & Enviro Crop Vet Products Inc.).

The primary aim of the workshop is to bring the concerned agencies to come up with an insecticide policy through inter-sectoral collaborative efforts that will give protection to the currently used insecticide by preventing or delaying the development of resistance. Different speakers and sector representatives were invited for the initial consultation on possible strategies on how to manage insecticide use in high risk areas of disease transmission as well as in agriculture. The workshop also aimed to determine the magnitude of insecticide use for the

development of a tracking mechanism on the distribution of different kinds of

insecticides in the country. The workshop started with the presentation of FPA mandates and regulatory procedure (National, Provincial and municipal level) and the current and future insecticide needs in Agriculture (Dept. of Agriculture) and in Public Health (Department of Health). Insecticide Environmental Concerns from Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Insecticide Poisoning from the Poison Control Department was also tackled. Capability could be strengthened with the knowledge of existing regulatory mechanisms.



*Participants to the workshop*

*"Every Season has a Product."*

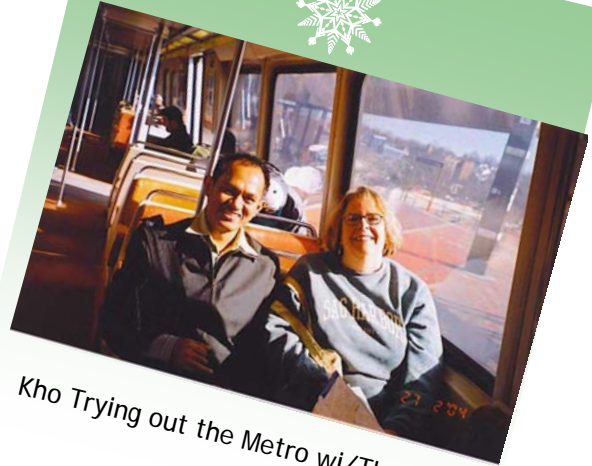




## E-missives in Pix



Kho and Thada in front of the White House in Washington DC



Kho Trying out the Metro wi/Thaida



Time-out with TTT Alumni from Thailand



Seeing it as it is in the field with Suteera (Thailand), Xia Zhigui (China), Dr. Hung (Vietnam), Dr. Cala (Philippines) and Dr. Sovannaroeth (Cambodia)



Participatory Approach during MMFO Training in Borikhamxay, Laos



Hello from TTT Alumni from the Philippines

# ANNUAL EXECUTIVE BOARD & PARTNER'S MEETING

Shanghai, china

June 8-10, 2004

*I take great pleasure in inviting Member Countries and Partners to the 2004 Executive Board and Partners Meeting.*

*This year's meeting will highlight the thrust of the organization for the next five years and will welcome to the advisory board the Director Generals of the Ministries of Health of member countries. Once again, we will have the opportunity to exchange information and further strengthen collaboration and partnership in the control of malaria in the region.*

*June 8-9 will be executive board meeting and June 10 will be the advisory board and partners meeting. Nighttime is reserved for social interactions.*

*We look forward to welcoming you all to our bustling city of Shanghai!*

*Yours truly*



*Tang Lin-hua, MD, Professor  
Director IPD, CDC, China  
CCD-ACTMalaria*

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ACTMalaria (Asian Collaborative Training Network for Malaria) is a training and information network to which National Malaria Control Programmes of Bangladesh, Cambodia, PR China, Republic of Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are members. The network aims at 2 major objectives:

- Provide collaborative training for member countries to meet the needs of malaria control in Southeast Asia and Mekong valley;
- Improve communications among member countries on malaria problems affecting common borders.



## ACTMalaria Scheduled Trainings and Meetings

- ☺ Executive Board and Partners Meeting , to be hosted by Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Shanghai China, June 8-10, 2004
- ☺ International Course on Management of Malaria Field Operations, hosted by MOH of Thailand and Cambodia, October 4 to December 19, 2004
- ☺ Broadening Involvement Team Training Workshop, hosted by MOH Indonesia , September 2004 (exact dates to be announced later)

## Other Trainings and Workshops in the Region

- ☺ 3rd International Training Course on Tropical Diseases Control with emphasis on malaria and schistosomiasis, Jiangsu Institute of Parasitic Disease, China, 1 Sep. to 31 Oct. 2004.
- ☺ International Training Course on Case Management of Dengue/DHF, Thailand, September 6-11, 2004
- ☺ 2nd International Training Course on Management of Malaria, Faculty of Medicine, Mahidol University, October 4-15, Thailand