



The Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network is dedicated to supporting malaria elimination in Asia and the Pacific by 2030.

Today the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN) and its partners celebrate World Malaria Day. This day is an opportunity to focus on both the great accomplishments of the recent past and to prepare for the challenging work needed to eliminate malaria in the future.

Some of the great successes in the fight against malaria include:

- Since 2000, malaria cases in Asia Pacific have dropped by over 45% according to the WHO.
- Sri Lanka was [declared malaria-free](#) by the WHO in September 2016, becoming only the second country in the South East Asia Region to do so. Sri Lanka's successful elimination is a remarkable achievement, particularly given their decades-long civil war. We strive to follow them and have an opportunity to learn from their effective strategies.
- A [trilateral agreement](#) between Australia, China and Papua New Guinea, forged a new collaboration to accelerate malaria control and elimination by improving diagnosis, laboratory services, and operational research.
- During the 2016 East Asia Summit, [leaders reaffirmed](#) their commitment to malaria elimination in Asia Pacific by 2030—a goal that would save more than a million lives and generate more than US \$300 billion in economic benefits across the region.
- For the first time, [Joint Malaria Week](#) brought together stakeholders across the Asia Pacific region to collaborate and coordinate actions that will drive future progress towards the goals outlined in the [APLMA Malaria Elimination Roadmap](#).

Despite this progress, the challenges to eliminate malaria remain. Along with other partners in the region, including WHO, APMEN has played a [pivotal role](#) in supporting and providing a collegial platform for national malaria programs to share evidence and strengthen capacity in addressing the most persistent programmatic problems.

APMEN countries not only want to reduce the burden of malaria but to eliminate it in the region by 2030. We aim to achieve this by focusing on regional challenges: *Plasmodium vivax* diagnosis, treatment and surveillance; vector control especially residual and outdoor transmission; and surveillance and response with particular attention to under-served populations. Last month, APMEN released a [new strategic plan \(2017-2020\)](#) and has recruited [new leadership](#). APMEN also received a [generous gift](#) of US \$175,000 from Sumitomo Chemical to address capacity and implementation bottlenecks related to entomology and vector control programs in the region in addition to support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for working group activities and coordination.

Our joint APLMA-APMEN efforts are dedicated to strengthening elimination efforts through combining the political advocacy and multisectorial access of APLMA with APMEN's technical expertise and engagement with national malaria programs. For each WMD until 2030, APLMA/APMEN will reflect on its



contribution to evidence and action for malaria elimination, human resource capacity development and network with malaria elimination stakeholders through collaborative partnerships.

Dr. Effie Espino, Co-Director, Research Support and Country Engagement, APMEN

Messages from APMEN country members:

As the member country of APMEN, China has launched malaria elimination project since 2010. The National Malaria, Entomology and Malaria Control Working Plan (2010-2020) was issued by 13 ministries of China government and followed by all of provincial governments with malaria endemic. The new '1,3,7' strategy as well as case-based surveillance and response as key intervention have been carried out in malaria elimination in China. There were only three indigenous cases reported in China in 2016. In addition to the World Malaria Day, China also celebrates China Malaria Day in 26 April. Tomorrow, the Ministry of Health will announce that it will increase its efforts to elimination malaria in China by 2020 (Prof. Gao Qi, Jiangsu Institute of Parasitic Diseases, China).

Cambodia takes malaria elimination seriously. We target visitors to the country, and citizens who travel between malaria-free and non-malaria-free areas, and transition and burden reduction zones. We encourage them to follow appropriate malaria treatment, preventive and control behavior and practices, among others. (Dr. Dysoley Lek, National Center for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control, Ministry of Health, Cambodia).