

Preface

REMARKABLE PROGRESS TOWARDS MALARIA ELIMINATION HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION. Since 1950, six countries have eliminated the parasite, and since 2000, 10 countries have halved the number of reported cases. Today, 11 countries in the region are working to eliminate the disease. Yet much of the success in these countries has gone unnoticed due to the historical focus of attention on Africa's malaria burden.

The Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN) was established in 2009 with funding from the Australian government to increase awareness and understanding of malaria elimination efforts in the Asia Pacific region. The Network is comprised of 11 countries (each of which have declared the short- or medium-term goal of eliminating malaria at a national or sub-national level) as well as leaders and experts from key financing, advisory, and research agencies. APMEN is collaboratively addressing the challenges of achieving and sustaining elimination and garnering political and financial support for elimination across the region.

The Global Health Group at the University of California, San Francisco and the Malaria Atlas Project (MAP) have come together to produce the *Atlas of the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network*. The maps contained within the APMEN *Atlas* were developed by MAP in close collaboration with each APMEN country's malaria program. Many of the maps have already been published in peer-reviewed literature, while others have been recently updated and are shown here for the first time. APMEN Country Partners played a critical role in the development of the APMEN *Atlas* by contributing data, reviewing country maps and drafts, and providing suggestions for improvement. Additional information on individual contributions can be found in the Acknowledgments section.

The APMEN *Atlas* is a visual tool intended for countries eliminating malaria in the Asia Pacific region and their partners. The APMEN *Atlas* furthers understanding about malaria at the country and regional levels through a series of maps: first, maps that show the limits and intensity of *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax* transmission; second, human population density maps that show where populations live in the eliminating countries; and third, maps that show the distribution of the dominant malaria vector species

together with summary bionomics data to predict the behavior and location of each vector species. In addition to these maps, country information such as malaria burden, health and economic indicators, and goals for malaria elimination are presented.

The APMEN *Atlas* is intended to be a living document and will undergo periodic updates as new data and information become available. The APMEN *Atlas* is available on the Web (www.apmen.org) and in hard copy. In addition to the APMEN *Atlas*, a global *Atlas of Malaria-Eliminating Countries* highlights the 36 malaria-eliminating countries across the globe. The global *Atlas* is available on the Web (www.malariaeliminationgroup.org) and in hard copy. We encourage all those working in malaria to contribute feedback on the information provided in these documents in order to facilitate and improve future editions of these malaria elimination atlases.

The APMEN *Atlas* brings together national malaria programs, researchers, and specialists in geospatial modeling to examine and enhance malaria mapping to the benefit of countries eliminating malaria. In doing so, we hope to highlight the current progress being achieved in the Asia Pacific and to contribute to the goal of a malaria-free world.

Professor Sir Richard Feachem, DSc(Med), PhD

Director, The Global Health Group
University of California, San Francisco
Co-Chair of the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network

Simon I. Hay, DPhil

Reader of Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Spatial Epidemiology and Ecology Group
University of Oxford, UK

Dr. Jong-Koo Lee, MD, PhD

General Director
Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Republic of Korea
Co-Chair of the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network

Dr. Lokman Hakim Sulaiman, MD, PhD

Deputy Director General (Public Health)
Ministry of Health, Malaysia
Former Co-Chair of the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network,
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