

**ASIA PACIFIC MALARIA ELIMINATION NETWORK  
SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE WORKING GROUP  
ONLINE ANNUAL MEETING**

**4-6 December 2023, 2 – 4.30 PM Singapore time**

**Speaker Profiles**

**Opening session**



**Professor Xiao-Nong Zhou**

*Chief Scientist on Parasitic Diseases  
National Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and Vice Dean of the School of Global Health, Chinese Center for Tropical Diseases Research. Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine;  
Co-Chair of APMEN Surveillance & Response Working Group*

Professor Zhou is a leading expert in the research and control of parasitic diseases, with over 40 years' experience by implementation of One Health approaches. He was the Director of the National Institute of Parasitic Disease from 2010-2023 and has long-term collaborations with international agencies, such as World Health Organization. He is currently the Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Tropical Diseases.



**Dr Sarthak Das**

*Chief Executive Officer, Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance, Singapore*

Dr Das joins APLMA from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health where he holds appointments as Research Scientist in the Dean's Office & Department of Health Policy and Management, and as Senior Advisor for Research Translation & Global Health Policy at the Harvard Global Health Institute. He brings twenty-five years of experience as a public health scientist, development practitioner, and global health policy advisor. His worked spanned from diverse Asia-Pacific settings, in countries such as Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Papua New Guinea, as well as in West Africa.



**Prof Richard Maude**

*Head of the Epidemiology Department at MORU, Thailand;  
Co-Chair of APMEN Surveillance & Response Working Group*

Professor Maude is Head of the Epidemiology Department at Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU), Bangkok, Thailand, Professor of Tropical Medicine at the University of Oxford, UK and Honorary Consultant Physician at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. He has worked at MORU since 2007 where he leads a portfolio of policy-focused epidemiological and multidisciplinary research on malaria, dengue, scrub typhus and COVID-19.

## Session 1: Data Informed Interventions

### Session Chair: Prof Xiao-Nong Zhou



#### Dr Huynh Hong Quang

*Vice-Director & Head of Tropical Diseases Clinical and Treatment Research department in the Institute of Malariology, Parasitology, and Entomology Quy Nhon, Vietnam*

Dr Huynh Hong Quang is Principal investigator in WHO-GMS's Therapeutic Efficacy Study (TES, iDES) study in Vietnam, and co-investigator for GenRe-Mekong Project based in Vietnam. At the present, he is also chairman of the Tafenoquine trial's Data Safety Monitoring Committees (DSMC). Dr. Quang is also a Professor of Infectious Emerging and Re-emerging diseases & Global Health in Tokyo University (Japan) and Taipei Medical University (Taiwan).



#### Dr Varanya Wasakul

*Scientific Coordinator of the GenRe-Mekong project*

Dr Wasakul is the Scientific Coordinator for GenRe-Mekong Project, a malaria genetic surveillance project led by Prof. Olivo Miotto, at the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit, Bangkok. Her work encompasses two major areas: scientific data analysis and knowledge exchange, which revolves around translating malaria genomic data into meaningful knowledge to support public health's decision making in activities relating to the elimination efforts in the Greater Mekong Subregion. She holds a PhD in plant genomics from the University of York.



#### Dr Yang Liu

*Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, Hong Kong Baptist University Associate Director of the Health Informatics Center*

Dr Liu received his B.Eng. and M.Eng. degrees in Automation from National University of Defense Technology in 2004 and 2007, respectively, and his Ph.D. degree in Computing from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2011. He was a Visiting Scholar in the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, and a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Statistics at Yale University. Dr Liu's research interests include artificial intelligence, machine learning, applied mathematics, as well as their applications in high-dimensional/heterogeneous data analytics, computational epidemiology, and infectious disease modeling. He has published more than 80 peer-reviewed papers in reputable venues, including top-tier journals such as The Lancet Discovery Science, T-NNLS, T-Cyber, T-IP, T-AC, T-AMD, T-IST, PR, and NeuroImage, among others.




#### Dr Shouqin Yin

*Head of Infectious Diseases Control and Prevention Department, Tongchong City Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Tongchong CDC), Yunnan Province, PRC*

Ms Yin has received a Master degree of Public Health from Chinese Center of Disease Control and Prevention and Bachelor of Medicine from Kunming Medical University. She has published 26 papers, and was awarded numerous prizes including Yunnan Provincial Health Science and Technology Progress, Baoshan City's Outstanding Natural Science Academic Paper, and Yunnan Provincial Parasitic Disease Prevention and Control Technical Competition, among others. Tengchong Municipal People's Government has also awarded the honorary title of "2022 Outstanding Medical Worker" to Mis Yin.

	<p><b>Professor Jiming Liu</b>  <i>Associate Vice-President (Research Development), Chair Professor in Computer Science, and Dean of the Faculty of Science at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) Director of the HKBU/CS &amp; CCDC//NIPD Joint Research Laboratory for Intelligent Disease Surveillance and Control</i></p> <p>Professor Liu received his MEng and PhD degrees from McGill University, Canada. His research interests include: Data Analytics; Artificial Intelligence for Social Good; Complex Systems and Autonomy-Oriented Computing; Complex Networks and Web Intelligence; and Computational Healthcare. He is a Fellow of the IEEE, and was the Chair of IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Intelligent Informatics. He has served as Editor-in-Chief of Web Intelligence Journal (IOS), and Associate Editor of IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering, IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics, Big Data and Information Analytics (AIMS), Neuroscience and Biomedical Engineering (Bentham), and Computational Intelligence (Wiley), among others.</p>
<p><b>Breakout Group Discussion Facilitators:</b></p>	
	<p><b>Farah Yeasmin</b>  <i>Grant and Knowledge Management Coordinator, GroupMappers, Bangladesh</i></p> <p>Farah is an experienced GIS analyst with an environmental science background. Her past professional experience includes working in the private sector and at the Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services in Bangladesh. She also holds a master's degree in GIS for Environment and Development from Jahangiranagar University.</p>
	<p><b>Wynn Zaw</b>  <i>GIS &amp; Data Specialist, Data Sciences Team, Epidemiology Department, Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU)</i></p> <p>Wynn is a GIS and data specialists based in Yangon, Myanmar. His research interests include GIS and geospatial and statistical analysis, risk mapping, and data repository development. Holder of an honours BSc in Computing &amp; Information Systems from London Metropolitan University, Wynn's research contributions include studying spatio-temporal analysis of Malaria and Dengue, analysing association of vector borne disease and climate, environment and population.</p>
	<p><b>Afrida Asad</b>  <i>Research and Development Officer, GroupMappers, Bangladesh</i></p> <p>Afrida is a geographer from Bangladesh, who is currently pursuing a Masters in Global Health Science and Epidemiology at the University of Oxford. Her skills cover Geospatial analysis (ArcGIS), statistical analysis (STATA, R) and systematic reviews and meta-analysis in epidemiology. She has been involved with GroupMappers since 2018 with contributions in projects such as Crisis Ready, Facebook mobility data for COVID-19 situation, accessibility analysis of health facilities and village mapping.</p>
	<p><b>Dr Chawarat Rotejanprasert</b>  <i>Biostatistician, Epidemiology Department, Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU) Lecturer in Biostatistics, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University</i></p> <p>Dr Rotejanprasert received his Ph.D. in Biostatistics from the Medical University of South Carolina with a focus on spatial epidemiology. His research interests include statistical development in epidemiological applications especially in spatial epidemiology and surveillance.</p>

	<p><b>Pengby Ngor</b> <i>Data Manager and GIS Specialist, Epidemiology Department and Mathematical and Economic Modelling (MAEMOD), Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU)</i></p> <p>Pengby has worked in database management and mapping in Cambodia for over 10 years. Pengby's PhD is on the mathematical modelling and epidemiological analysis for malaria elimination in Cambodia. He is currently developing an individual-based model for malaria infection under the 'Economic-epidemiological models to support malaria elimination in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (MEEM) project and plans to use this model to examine options for malaria elimination in Cambodia.</p>
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## Session 2: Panel discussion on data sharing and cross-country collaborations for the surveillance and response of border malaria

### Session Chair:

	<p><b>Dr Li Xiao Hong</b> <i>Technical officer (certification of malaria elimination), Malaria Elimination Unit, Global Malaria Programme, World Health Organization</i></p> <p>Dr Li is a Technical Officer at the Malaria Elimination Unit within the Global Malaria Programme of the World Health Organization (WHO), based in Geneva. Serving as the lead for WHO certification of malaria elimination, she has spearheaded the development of guidance and tools for the certification process. Since joining in 2015, Dr Li has successfully overseen malaria-free certification in nine countries and played a pivotal role in global initiatives such as Elimination-2020 and Elimination-2025. With a background in parasitic diseases research, she has contributed significantly to the last mile of malaria elimination in China.</p>
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### Panelists:

	<p><b>Dr Jigmi Singay</b> <i>Executive Secretary, South East Asia Regional Coordination Mechanism Forum (SRCMF) Director, International Health Relations, New Delhi, India</i></p> <p>Dr Singay, former Health Minister of Bhutan (2003 – 2007), is a distinguished public health professional with a career spanning over 25 years in the Royal Government of Bhutan. Holding various key positions, including Secretary to the Royal Government and Chairman of Special Task Force for restructuring Government Agencies, Dr Singay has played a pivotal role in the development of primary health care network in Bhutan. His extensive international engagements include serving as a delegation leader to the World Health Assembly and Executive Board Member in WHO. Recognized for his meritorious service, he received the Red Scarf from His Majesty the Fourth King of Bhutan.</p>
	<p><b>Dr Elsa Herdiana Murhandarwati</b> <i>Head of The Malaria Research Group, Center for Tropical Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada</i></p> <p>Dr Murhandarwati has been a Parasitology lecturer at UGM Faculty of Medicine since 1998. She shares her extensive research experience by facilitating WHO's Southeast region's Good Clinical Practice and Good Clinical Lab Practice courses at the TDR Regional Training Center. Additionally, she conducts research at the Center for Tropical Medicine, focusing on the malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTD) divisions. Her research interests include malaria, tropical medicine, microbiology, protozoology, parasitology, and biomolecular science.</p>



**Dr Zhigui Xia**

*Director & Professor, Malaria Department of the National Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Chinese Center for Tropical Diseases Research)*

Dr Xia is a senior epidemiologist on malaria and its control and elimination. He is now a member of the National Technical Committee on Malaria Elimination of China, and a member of several associations and journals in China.

**Session 3: Panel discussion on sustaining malaria services and health access in diverse setting**

**Session Chair:**



**Dr Prudence Hamade**

*Senior Technical Advisor, Malaria Consortium*

Dr Hamade is a trained pediatrician with over 20 years of experience across multiple countries. His expertise lies in implementing and spearheading capacity-building initiatives to enhance the quality of care and manage infectious diseases, malnutrition, and child health. Additionally, he has played a pivotal role in providing technical oversight and management for neglected tropical diseases programs in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

**Panelists:**



**Dr Win Han Oo**

*Regional Program Manager for Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness, Burnet Institute*

Dr Win Han Oo is a registered medical doctor and regional program manager for Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness program in Southeast Asia at Burnet Institute. He has been managing a variety of research and service delivery projects to fight against infectious diseases, especially COVID-19, malaria and tuberculosis. He is also a postdoctoral research fellow in Burnet Institute who takes different positions in Institute-led research. He has over 15 years of experience in public health, research, and disease control and elimination.



**Monnaphat Jongdeepaisal**

*Social Scientist, Epidemiology Department, Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU)*

Monnaphat specializes in infectious disease interventions, health policy and systems research, and policy issues, particularly in Thailand and the Southeast Asian region. Her projects aim to minimize malaria risk among forest goers, sustain village malaria volunteer programs, and strengthen the linkage of community-based workers with primary care units in remote Thai settings. Currently pursuing a DPhil at the University of Oxford, Monnaphat brings a background in policy research, holding a Master's in Public Policy from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, and a BA in Political Science from Thammasat University, Thailand.



**Professor Maxine Whittaker**

*Civil Society Representative for the Global Fund Regional Artemisinin Initiative 4 of the Greater Mekong Subregion Regional Steering Committee*

Professor Whittaker is a public health and health systems researcher dedicated to enhancing health systems and services for increased accessibility and quality. Engaging with global civil society groups like Rotary against Malaria and RBM Partnership to End Malaria, Maxine's work includes leading community engagement efforts for the Global Fund Regional Grant for Malaria in the Greater Mekong Region. With a focus on vector-borne disease prevention, surveillance, and community systems strengthening, Maxine is the Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Vector Borne and Neglected Tropical Diseases and chairs the Technical Advisory Group at the Western Pacific Region of the World Health Organization. She was also the founding Co-Secretariat for APMEN.



**Bram Piot**

*Project Director, Population Services International (PSI)*

Bram leads PSI's disease surveillance and health security work in Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on leveraging Public Health Emergency Operations Centers to support sustainable malaria elimination efforts, and is providing technical support to PSI's regional private sector malaria project. Currently based in Laos, he has also worked extensively in West and Central Africa as PSI's regional Evidence Advisor. He was previously employed at the WHO and has worked as a consultant on geospatial applications, digital health, and information systems for UNFPA, Roll Back Malaria, MSH, Medicines for Malaria Venture and other organisations.

**Speaker:**



**Luigi Nuñez**

*Digital Health and Monitoring Advisor for Malaria and WASH, Population Services International (PSI)*

As the Digital Health and Monitoring Advisor for Malaria and WASH at PSI, Luigi is the focal point for M&E and digital health for malaria and WASH programs and provides technical assistance to more than 20 countries for the use of digital health for programmatic improvements, data-driven decision-making, and new business development. His subject matter expertise includes DHIS2, such as its use in aggregate and tracker for mass net and seasonal malaria chemoprevention campaigns, monitoring enterprise performance and product sales in the sanitation sector, and quality improvement activities such as supportive supervision. Luigi is fluent in English, French, and Spanish and lives in Washington DC.

## Session 4: Geo-enabling Malaria Interventions

### Session Chair: Prof Richard Maude



#### **Anupma Sud**

*Geospatial Health Consultant, Digital Health and Information Systems Unit, UNICEF*

Anupma has over 21 years of experience in technology and innovation, and is currently a geospatial health consultant in the Digital Health and Information Systems unit at UNICEF. In this role, she offers technical assistance to UNICEF regional and country offices, deploying GIS solutions for health service programming. With prior experience as a Technology for Development Business Analyst at the UNICEF EAPRO, Anupma provided advisory services on digital transformation strategies and played a pivotal role in implementing and scaling up innovation and digital programming across the region. Anupma holds a Master's degree in International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



#### **Dr Siv Sovannaroth**

*Malaria Program Manager and Chief of Technical Bureau, National Center for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control (CNM), Cambodia*

Dr Sovannaroth received a degree of Medical Assistant of General Medicine from the University of Science, Cambodia in 1995; a Diploma in Applied Parasitology and Entomology with Distinction at the Institute for Malaria Research in Malaysia in 2002; and a Master's of Science in Biology and Control of Parasites and Disease Vectors at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in 2005. He began working at the Provincial Hospital at Takeo province in 1995 in general medicine before transferring to the National Center for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control (CNM) as the Chief of Technical. As an expert in malaria, he also serves as Malaria Program Manager of CNM and also PIP Manager for CNM-Global Fund.



#### **Sazid Ibna Zaman**

*GroupMappers Lead and GIS Specialist at the Epidemiology Department, Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU)*

Sazid leads GroupMappers, a Bangladeshi crowdsourcing initiative established in 2017 that utilizes geospatial technology for public health issues. Additionally, he provides technical support to the different disease control programs, CDC, DGHS in Bangladesh. He focuses on epidemiological field studies, collation of data from a wide range of partners, GIS mapping, spatial statistical analysis and modelling, as well as building capacity in epidemiology and mapping across the region.



#### **Dr Steve Ebener**

*Lead Health GeoLab Group, Epidemiology Department, Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU)*

Dr Steve Ebener has 25 years of experience advising and working with international, regional, and national governmental and non-governmental organizations regarding the management and use of geospatial data and technologies for public health and emergency management. He is the coordinator and technical assistance lead of the Health GeoLab Hub within the Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU) to support countries across Asia and Pacific with the geo-enablement of their health information system.

## Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network



### **Dr Phone Si Hein**

*Associate Director, Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network*

Dr. Phone Si Hein is the Associate Director at Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN). He joined APLMA/APMEN from Population Services International where he worked as Deputy Programs Director managing multiple programs and became the Myanmar Malaria CSO representative in the Regional CSO Platform. He has over 16 years of expertise in public health and emergency operations with a variety of organizations including UNICEF, IOM, Save the Children and Red Cross in Myanmar. He holds a medical degree from the University of Medicine (I), Yangon and a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from Mahidol University, Thailand.



### **Massaya Sirimatayanant**

*Project Manager, APMEN Surveillance and Response Working Group, & Epidemiology Department, Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU)*

Massaya is trained in public policy research, with a strong interest in the analysis of economic development policies. Recently she has delved into the public health sector after joining Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit, but her professional portfolio also includes coordinating and supporting programme activities at national and inter-governmental organizations. Massaya received a Master's in Public Administration, specializing in economics and governance, from Leiden University in the Netherlands.

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