Emergency support to strengthen the fight against Covid-19 pandemic in South-East Asia

"COVID-19 - HEALTH IN COMMON" INITIATIVE

ECOMORE II (ECOnomic Development, ECOsystem MOdifications, & Emerging Infectious Diseases Risk Evaluation), an AFD-funded project since 2013, aims to better understand how climate change and human activities can modify ecosystems and to assess their impact on the emergence of infectious diseases and the health of local population in South-East Asia (SEA).

Implemented by the Institut Pasteur International Network (France, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam), the National Health Laboratory (Myanmar), the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (Philippines), and the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), the project’s ultimate objective is to improve surveillance systems and strengthen national and regional cooperation in order to issue consistent public health recommendations.

The Covid-19 epidemic underlines the relevance of deploying an integrated methodology (ecosystem, human and animal health) and developing such regional projects in South-East Asia.

**PROJECT PARTNER COUNTRIES**

- **MYANMAR**: National Health Laboratory
- **CAMBODIA**: Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC)
- **LAO PDR**: Institut Pasteur du Laos
- **VIETNAM**: Institut Pasteur in Nha Trang*, Institut Pasteur in Ho Chi Minh City*, National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology*
- **PHILIPPINES**: Research Institute for Tropical Medicine

**OBJECTIVES**

- Support the partner institutes to ensure the successful implementation of their Covid-19 National Reference Laboratory mandates
- Support partner countries’ policies and strategies for controlling the spread of the virus in order to counter the resurgence of contagion in SEA

**ACTIONS**

- Reinforce reference laboratory activities (equipment, consumables, reagents, personal protective equipment)
- Support the expansion of laboratory diagnostics
- Promote laboratory staff training and capacity transfer
- Strengthen national digital monitoring to enhance surveillance, and support national authorities in the epidemic control
- Develop and decentralize diagnostic capacity, facilitating technology transfer of new testing methods
- Share expertise on Covid-19 epidemic and scientific key knowledge with the Partners and abroad**
- Assess capacity building needs**
- Mobilize Pasteur network solidarity**

**€2M of additional funding**

to support partner countries in South-East Asia in their fight against Covid-19 pandemic

**The Covid-19 national reference laboratories designated by the Ministry of Health of each country are in charge of:**

- most, if not all, of diagnostics in their countries
- technology transfer
- database development & regular production of surveillance reports for public health authorities

**The Institut Pasteur International Network**

* Members of the Institut Pasteur International Network

**IPC mandate**

17th in the world and 2nd in low-income countries after the Institut Pasteur in Dakar, Senegal

IPC is WHO Global Reference Laboratory for Covid-19 since April 2020

17th in the world and 2nd in low-income countries after the Institut Pasteur in Dakar, Senegal

IPC mandate**

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