



Thailand is hosting the 6th ASEAN Dengue Day under the theme “Community Empowerment: A Sustainable Success to Fight Dengue”.

On 14 June 2016 at Shangri-la Hotel, Dr. Amnuay Kajeena, Director- General of the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, delivered an opening speech at the 6th ASEAN Dengue Day that “10 ASEAN Member States (AMS) consisting of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam have declared the date of 15 June to be ASEAN Dengue Day with the aim to promote people’s awareness and participation in prevent and control of Dengue. Each AMS is rotating to be host for convening the said activity. This year, Thailand has the privilege to host the 6th ASEAN Dengue Day under the theme “Community Empowerment: A Sustainable Success to Fight Dengue”.

Dengue is the problem of countries, including ASEAN member countries, situated in tropical zone where temperatures suit for mosquito breeding. Nowadays, dengue has spread out to other regions and becoming the global problem. Although all countries have continuously implemented measures to combat dengue, there are still multi-factorial obstacles to success. Many organizations, government and private, have joined hands to put a great effort on vaccine research and development against dengue. The first dengue vaccine has come out for a potential measure of the prevention and control program. At present, some countries in ASEAN, the Philippines, starts to use the vaccine in high risk groups. Malaysia is implementing a research on its use. Thailand is also joining hands with its research network. While waiting for an effective vaccine at affordable cost, another sustainable measure is community participation in the elimination of mosquito breeding sites.

Dr. Amnuay also revealed dengue situation in Thailand that during 1 January – 7 June 2016, there were 18,337 dengue cases with 16 deaths. The highest incidence rate of dengue is found in the Central region followed by Northeastern, Southern, and Northern regions respectively.

This year, the Department of Disease Control (DDC) forecasts that there is an increasing trend of dengue cases that might exceed 166,000 cases if no effective prevention and control measures implemented at the community level.

Thailand has set out key measures for preventing and controlling dengue, i.e.1) advise people to avoid mosquito bite by several techniques such as using mosquito-repellent, sleeping in rooms with mosquito screen or in mosquito nets, and wearing long sleeve and light-color clothing for outdoor activities, etc., 2) eliminate mosquito breeding sites aiming to control vector-borne diseases, and 3) spray chemical substance to destroy adult mosquitoes.

Dr. Amnuay also informed that apart from having ASEAN Dengue Day activities on 14 June 2016, the next day on 15 June 2016, Thailand also arranges the dengue campaign at Assumption School presided over by Dr.Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, Minister of Public Health.

In this opportunity, Dr. Amnuay advised people to notice the symptoms of dengue. If anyone develops symptoms including high fever that last for 2 to 7 days, headache and pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pain, skin rash or petechial skin hemorrhage, he or she should seek medical attention immediately. For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1442. In addition, DDC has created a mobile application to give people the knowledge about dengue prevention and control. This free application is available for both Android and IOS user.
