

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

October 26 - November 1, 2023

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On October 25, 2023, the Sinhavari National Hospital held its inauguration ceremony in Cambodia. This is the country's largest state hospital, located on the western outskirts of Phnom Penh. It boasts almost 10,000 beds and is equipped with state-of-the-art medical technology. The hospital offers a wide range of medical services, including emergency care, surgical departments, and patient transport services.
- On October 25, 2023, the Provincial Livestock Office of Phayao Province, Thailand, declared a temporary epidemic zone as per the Animal Epidemics Act of 2015. This declaration was made due to the discovery of buffaloes afflicted with swollen throats and hemorrhagic septicemia in Ban Rong Khoi, Village 10, Tambon Jam Pa Wai, Muang District, Phayao Province. This can affect both cattle and buffalo. It is emphasized that farmers who raise these animals should not move or transport sick or dead animals. In the event of a sick or dead animal, they must inform the local authorities within 12 hours of its occurrence.
- The Lao Times news reported on the 74th Regional Committee Meeting for the Western Pacific of the World Health Organization (WHO), which took place from October 16 to October 20, 2023, in Manila, Philippines. During the meeting, the WHO announced that in 2023, the Lao People's Democratic Republic had successfully eliminated elephantiasis, making it the second country to do so after Bangladesh.

THE DENGUE SITUATION IN THAILAND AND THE ASEAN REGION

Currently, many ASEAN countries including Thailand are facing dengue outbreaks. This may be due to the seasonal weather conditions with heavy rainfall, creating breeding grounds for the *Aedes* mosquito, which is vector for dengue. According to the Department of Disease Control, from January 1st to October 26th, 2023, Thailand has 119,465 reported cases and 122 deaths attributed to dengue. This year, the number of cases is 3.4 times higher than in 2022. There have also been reports of three dengue cases in Moscow, Russia that had travel history in Thailand in May. This situation not only affects the public health of the country but also has an impact on tourism, which plays a significant role in the country's economy.

As for the dengue situation in the ASEAN region, there have been outbreaks in several countries. In Vietnam, since the beginning of 2023, there have been 99,693 cumulative cases, resulting in 27 deaths. The situation in Hanoi has been particularly severe, with approximately 2,500 cases per week in September. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, there have been 4,437 cases and 21 deaths. Singapore and Indonesia have reported 210 and 12 cases, respectively, with no reported deaths. In India, there have been outbreaks in various areas, especially in Ghaziabad, where 113 cases have been reported with no reported deaths. From the beginning of the year until September, there have been 75,958 cases and 396 deaths in Bangladesh. Each country has implemented measures to control and prevent the disease, including collaborating to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and providing public education on how to protect themselves from mosquito bites, which is the most effective method of prevention.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officials are coordinating with local authorities to plan public awareness campaigns for to eliminate mosquito breeding sites in communities, especially at schools, temples, and markets. Additionally, they are conducting regular surveys of *Aedes* mosquito breeding sites in households to ensure that the community is free from these breeding sites. They are providing local residents with information about the causes of the disease, initial symptoms, and self-care measures to prevent mosquito bites. Proper mosquito breeding site management is emphasized, along with improving home cleanliness and ventilation. In addition to preventing dengue fever, these efforts also help prevent other diseases like chikungunya and Zika. If someone experiences high fever, body aches, and severe eye pain, they should consult a doctor and avoid self-administering pain relievers, as some pain relievers can worsen internal bleeding in cases of dengue, which is one of the factors that can lead to death.

INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

Multisectoral Capacity Development Program for Public Health Emergency Detection and Response in Border Areas

Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
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