

Regional Artemisinin-resistance Initiative - Regional Steering Committee

Prof. Arjen M. Dondorp, Chair
Deputy Director, Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit
Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University
420/6 Rajvithi Road, Bangkok 10400- Thailand

23 June 2016

H.E. Lytou Bouapao, Vice Minister
Ministry of Education and Sports
Chair of Country Coordinating Mechanism
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Subject: Nomination of representative from Lao PDR Country Coordinating Mechanism to the RAI Regional Steering Committee

Dear Vice Minister,

In 2013, the Global Fund launched a region-wide malaria initiative, the Regional Artemisinin-resistance Initiative (RAI) which is currently under implementation in five countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam) for a period of three years. The RAI Regional Steering Committee (RSC) was established in 2013 following the Global Fund model for Regional and Country Coordinating Mechanisms.

Each of the Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) of the five RAI countries holds one voting seat on the RAI RSC. The current representative for Lao PDR, Dr. Rattanaxay Phetsouvanh (Deputy Director, CDCD) was appointed to the RSC on 4 July 2013 (*Letter to Mark Edington from CCM Vice-Chair*).

Membership to the RSC is for three years; the current term of the Lao representative will expire in July 2016. We kindly request that the Country Coordinating Mechanism of Lao PDR nominate **one full-time representative** to the RSC for the next three year-cycle (2016-2019), as well as **one alternate** (to represent the CCM when the permanent member is unavailable to attend RSC meetings).

We advise the CCM, when selecting their representatives, to consider the following criteria:

- (1) He/she must be from the Government sector (e.g. senior official from the Ministry of Health).
- (2) He/she should be an active CCM member, in order to facilitate liaison and coordination between the RSC and the CCM. Considering the shared mandate of RSC and CCMs to oversee GF malaria financing in their respective countries, this member is expected to play a key pivotal role. The same member will also be empowered to

participate in RSC decision-making processes and vote, as appropriate, on behalf of CCMs.

(3) He/she must not be from the national malaria program (in order to avoid a conflict of interest). [*Note: National program managers sit in the RSC as non-voting members.*]

(4) The RSC must also make every best effort to ensure gender-balanced representation among its members; we thus encourage you to consider qualified female candidates for this role.

You may also wish to take note of the following provisions from the Regional Steering Committee's Terms of Reference (also annexed herewith for ease of reference):

- Article 24: *"Each RSC member represents the interests of their entire constituency and not those of their own individual self or organization".*
- Article 32: *"At the expiration of a term, which shall last for three years, and with the approval of the RSC, a member may be nominated by their constituency to serve another term, subject to a limit of two consecutive terms (i.e. six years in total)."*

We are available to provide any additional information or clarifications. We look forward to hearing from you. We would be grateful for your response by end of July 2016 if possible.

We take this opportunity to thank the Lao Country Coordinating Mechanism for their continued support to the RAI RSC.

Sincerely,



Prof. Arjen M. Dondorp
Chair of the RAI-RSC

CC: Dr. Rattanaxay Phetsouvanh, Deputy Director of Communicable Disease, Ministry of Health

Enclosed: Terms of Reference of the RAI Regional Steering Committee (Sept. 2013)