CONSULTATION ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND HEALTH (ITH)
Singapore
Wednesday, 2 May 2012

I. Introduction

The ITH consultation was organized with the support of the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM), prior to the 9th Asia Pacific Travel health conference in Singapore. The overall objective of the consultation was to reinforce regional and global health security by promoting the development of travel health information sharing in the Asia Pacific region.

The specific objectives of the consultation were:

(i) to update participants on the current WHO and Asian Pacific work in travel health
(ii) to promote networking between travel health experts in Asia Pacific and globally and
(iii) to identify short, medium and longer term needs, priorities and strategies for the strengthening of travel health in Asia Pacific.

The expected outcomes of the consultation were the identification of short, medium and longer term needs, priorities, strategies and activities in travel health for the Asia Pacific region.

II. Summary of Discussions

Regional characteristics

The Asia Pacific region has several billion inhabitants and is culturally and environmentally diverse. There is a large disparity of income in the region and many countries are experiencing rapid economic growth. Travel —internationally, regionally or within selected countries (e.g. India, China or Indonesia) — is increasing rapidly.

Forecasts indicate that passenger numbers in Asia Pacific are expected to almost triple from 779.6 million in 2010 to over 2.2 billion in 2030. Outbound Asian travel is booming with currently 18% of world’s outbound travel. A 5% annual growth of international tourist arrival in Asia Pacific is observed, boosted by economic growth, increased income and leisure time, breakdown of political barriers, easing of travel restrictions, host countries recognizing benefits and simpler processes for visas, passports and foreign exchange. Over 24 million jobs and $470 billion in GDP in the Asia-Pacific region are supported by aviation.

With diverse travel populations such as migrant workers, students, tourist, business, immigrants or emigrants, it is worthwhile to consider designing travel health programmes targeting broader mobile populations. Services also need to be designed for seniors, who represent an increasing share of tourist travel.

The importance of travel health and the potential economic impact of public health events for this region were highlighted during the 2003 SARS pandemic. There is strong regional concern about the introduction of new communicable diseases with epidemic potential in areas where vectors of transmission exist (such as yellow fever).

While some countries in the region such as Australia, China and Singapore already have a well-developed travel and health clinics networks lack of availability of vaccines or medications (such as malarone) in some countries is a concern and training in travel medicine needs to be expanded.
Conclusions and Recommendations
Consultation on International Travel and Health (ITH), Singapore, 2 May 2012

Also, one current impediment to the implementation of travel and health programmes is reduced budgets for quarantine services and insufficient training of immigration officers.

Finally, while travellers now have easy Internet access to information on travel and health, much of this information is non-standardized and non-validated. A large majority of Asia Pacific travellers don't seek any travel advice.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations

The meeting concluded that the WHO consultation was very useful in highlighting key issues and informing strategic discussions in the region and it would be important to continue the process, regularly updating and sharing experiences, achievements and lessons learnt in implementation of ITH strategies. Three recommendations were made to bolster travel medicine in the Asia Pacific region:

1. Expand partnerships and number of professionals involved in travel medicine
   - Identify and map experts and potential partners for travel health, including general practitioners and nurses within each country
   - Involve country specific leverage such as departments within ministries of health in charge or professional medical and nursing bodies (some countries in the region already have national travel medicine associations)
   - Identify WHO collaborating centers on travel (WHO should support development of national and/or regional bodies on travel health)
   - Develop an Asia Pacific travel health network
   - Develop surveillance capacity for illness during travel, STI, HIV and TB, safety, issues surrounding security and sex tourism, and laboratory capacity for rare infections

2. Expand training in travel medicine
   - Complete country-specific and regional inventories of training resources (such as courses, workshops, printed materials, online training) and utilize existing regional training centers
   - Standardize training materials with the support of the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM) and WHO (body of knowledge of ISTM could be a starting point)
   - Identify country specific experts to be trained in travel medicine

3. Promote information on, and awareness of, travel medicine
   - Promote travel medicine as a discipline
   - Raise awareness of travel health issues among governments, health practitioners and general public ((by professional groups)
   - Develop excellence in travel medicine information with support of international (WHO), national (e.g. US CDC) or supranational resources (e.g. ECDC)
   - Emphasize prevention, education, vaccination, and public health principles (e.g. vector avoidance) through regional information programmes and leave specifics to country
   - Develop evidence-based information programmes for Asia by studying its disease patterns
   - Expand into new applications such as smartphones
   - Develop national websites on travel health
   - Consider eventually proposing a WHO world travel health day

III. Annexes:
   1. Agenda
   2. List of Participants
## Conclusions and Recommendations

### Consultation on International Travel and Health (ITH), Singapore, 2 May 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td>Introduction of participants, objectives</td>
<td>Gilles Poumerol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td><strong>WHO and Travel Health:</strong> Presentation</td>
<td>Fiona Genasi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-13:00</td>
<td><strong>Trends in Travel and Travel Health:</strong></td>
<td>Gilles Poumerol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Global and Asia Pacific trends.</td>
<td>Annelies Wilder Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trends in selected Asian countries</td>
<td>Lim Poh Lian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travel and Health Singapore</td>
<td>Jin Xia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travel and Health China</td>
<td>Santanu Chatterjee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travel and Health India</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00-14:00</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00-15:30</td>
<td><strong>Needs and priorities of travel health in Asia Pacific</strong></td>
<td>Stella Chungong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Working group</td>
<td>3 groups facilitators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and rapporteurs</td>
<td>and rapporteurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:30-16:00</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00-17:00</td>
<td><strong>Needs and priorities of travel health in Asia Pacific (ctd)- Recommendations / conclusions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discuss and agree recommendations and next steps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

## International and Regional organizations

1. **ISTM**
   - **Fiona Genasi**
     - President ISTM
     - NHS National Services Scotland
     - Health Protection Scotland
     - Glasgow
     - Scotland

   **Tropnet Europe**
   - Represented by R. Steffen

2. **Geosentinel**
   - **David Freedman**
     - Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology
     - W.C. Gorgas Center for Geographic Medicine
     - Division of Infectious Diseases
     - University of Alabama at Birmingham
     - Birmingham, Alabama
     - United States of America

3. **EuroTravNet**
   - **Philippe Gautret**
     - EuroTravNet, The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control Collaborative Network for Travel and Tropical Medicine
     - Infectious Diseases & Tropical Medicine Institute
     - North Hospital Infectious Diseases & Tropical Medicine Unit
     - Laveran Military Hospital
     - Marseille, France

## HO Collaborative Centres

4. **Zurich WHO Collab Centre**
   - **Robert Steffen (Representative)(part of the meeting)**
     - University of Zurich Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine
     - WHO Collaborating Centre for Travellers’ Health
     - Zurich
     - Switzerland

5. **Emory University**
   - **Phyllis Kozarsky**
     - Professor of Medicine/Infectious Diseases
     - Medical Office Tower
     - Atlanta, Georgia United States of America
Conclusions and Recommendations
Consultation on International Travel and Health (ITH), Singapore, 2 May 2012

National Centres

6. CDC
   Gary Brunette
   Chief, Travelers' Health Branch
   Division of Global Migration and Quarantine
   Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
   Atlanta Georgia
   United States of America

7. NaTHNaC
   Vanessa Field
   Co-Director
   National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC)
   UCLH NHS Foundation Trust
   London
   United Kingdom

China
   Department of Supervision on Health Quarantine
   General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ)
   Beijing
   China (People's Republic of)

8. Zhang Jiwen
   Director-General

9. Jin Xia
   Chief
   Division of disease surveillance

10. Shanghai Pujiang Entry-exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau
    Shanghai China (People's Republic of)

    Lin Jian Wei
    Deputy Director
    China International Travel Healthcare Association (CITHA)
    Beijing
    China (People's Republic of)

11. Liu Zhihyong
    Director of Liaison Department

12. Jian Yin
    Translator
    mail: jimmyyinmn@yahoo.com
Conclusions and Recommendations
Consultation on International Travel and Health (ITH), Singapore, 2 May 2012

Private sector

13. Shoreland

Donald C. Cook
President, Shoreland, Inc.
Senior Director
Publications and Corporate Relations
Shoreland, Inc.
United States of America

14. Tropimed / Safe travel

Louis Loutan
Hôpital Cantonal Universitaire
Unité de Médecine des Voyages et des Migrations
Genève Switzerland

Experts

15. Annelies Wilder-Smith
Director of Teaching, Institute of Public Health
University of Heidelberg, Germany
President of the Asia Pacific Society of Travel Medicine
Previously: Director, Travellers Health and Screening Clinic, National University Hospital of Singapore

16. David R Hill
Former Director of NaTHNaC (London, UK)
Professor of Medical Sciences
Director of Global Public Health Frank H. Netter MD
School of Medicine Quinnipiac University
Hamden, Connecticut United States of America

17. Marc Shaw
Professor, Public Health, Tropical Medicine
James Cook University, Auckland
Online Information for New Zealand Health Professionals
Worldwide Travellers and Vaccination Centre
Auckland
New Zealand

18. Karin Leder
Royal Melbourne Hospital
Monash University
Melbourne
Australia
19. **John Simon**  
Honorary Professor University of Hong Kong  
Honorary Consultant Tropical Medicine  
Regional Medical Director for DuPont Asia Pacific  
Chairman Scientific Committee Vector Borne Disease  
HK Government  
Hong Kong

20. **Levina S. Pakasi**  
Clinical Researcher  
Digestive Disease Centre,  
Medistra Hospital,  
Jakarta, Indonesia

21. **Pornthep Chanthavanich**  
Associate Professor  
President, Thai Society of Travel Medicine  
Department of tropical Medicine  
Faculty of Tropical Medicine  
Mahidol University  
Bangkok Thailand

22. **Kazunobu Ouchi**  
Kawasaki Medical School  
Okayama Japan

23. **Tadashi Shinozuka**  
Executive Director  
Japanese Society of Travel Medicine  
Tokyo  
Japan

24. **Lim Poh Lian**  
Senior Consultant  
Communicable Disease Centre, and Head, Travel and Health Clinic  
Tan Tock Seng Hospital  
Singapore

25. **Goh Kee Tai**  
Sr Consultant  
Office of the Director of Medical Services  
Ministry of Health  
Singapore

26. **Santanu Chatterjee**  
Consultation Physician (Travel and Tropical Medicine)  
Kolkata  
India
27. Anthony Gherardin  
National Medical Advisor  
Travel Doctor - TMVC Group  
Melbourne Australia

WHO HQ Geneva

IHR Monitoring, Procedures and Information Unit (MPI)  
Global Capacities Alert and Response Department (GCR)  
Health Security and Environment Cluster (HSE)  
Geneva  
Switzerland

28. Stella Chungong  
Coordinator

29. Gilles Poumerol  
Medical Officer

= = =