

## **BRIEF CONFERENCE REPORT**

CHORDS Conference  
17-19 March 2010, Annecy – France

### **1. Introduction**

Connecting Health Organizations for Regional Disease Surveillance (CHORDS) Conference-2010 was held at Fondation Mérieux's Les Pensières conference centre in Annecy, France from March 17-19, 2010. CHORDS is a unique global forum for disease surveillance experts to interact with each other, in a community of practice, to strengthen capabilities to meet country requirements under the International Health Regulations using a One Health approach.

This conference attended by 53 participants<sup>1</sup> from 9 Regional infectious disease surveillance networks such as PAHO, SEE, SACIDS, EAIDSNet, MECIDS, MBDS, EpiSouth\*, APEIR and a number of development partners and organizations (WHO, OIE, Wildlife Trust, ProMed, NTI-GHSI, Global Health Corps, Ministry of Health ( Jordan, Pakistan, Laos, Thailand ), University of Washington; Fondation Monrieux, The Rockefeller Foundation, The CDC Foundation, French Development Agency, Rand Corp, Public Health Foundation of India, and IDRC.

The conference was organized by NTI Global Health and Security Initiative, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and Fondation Merieux.

During the 2.5 day conference, issues related to IHR, networks, case clinics on AI and Rift Valley Fever, exploring challenges and opportunities and next steps of CHORDS were presented and discussed.

The conference was participatory in nature, including case clinic, focus group discussion (fish bowls, booths). Plenary feedback sessions allowed time for further discussion of points raised and sharing of ideas among network participants and development partners.

### **2. Lesson learned**

- We realized there are networks in the other parts of the world which concerns with One World One Health.
- We realized that the networks have opportunities to voice the unheard concerns to the world when it deals with issues of interface of animal, human and environment (One World One Health).

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<sup>1</sup> Three participants from APEIR: Dr. Wiku Adisasmito, Ms. Pornpit Silkavute and Dr. Dinh Xuan Tung

- The effort to manage knowledge among networks using booth, Fish Bowl & Case Clinics have enlightened our approach when deals with different interest but a same problem.
- We realized that networks which are semi-formal have leverage and can complement to already exist International Organizations, such as: WHO, FAO, OIE in sharing issues, contributing solutions.
- We appreciate CHORDS which has taken us to manage the knowledge of networking among different networks. The knowledge managed is: governance, disease surveillance, communication mechanism, facilitation, increase visibility of network concerns, values, forum, and diversity.

### 3. Follow-up actions

What activities APEIR should do with CHORDS?

- (i) APEIR will play more active role in connecting to other network by sharing experience in designing and implementing multi-country, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral research projects on animal-human interface, since many CHORDS's networks focus mainly on disease surveillance and few networks just start doing research.
- (ii) In collaboration with other networks, APEIR will co-organize workshop with other networks to share experience in partnership development, including successful cases studies, fundraising experiences and policy advocacy.
- (iii) Facilitate the development of region-specific research that responds to regional needs in the context of one world, one health. For example, in collaboration with MBDS to assemble best available team of researchers to address topical issues for research on EIDs.

\*Notes:

EAIDSNet	East African Integrated Disease Surveillance Network
EpiSouth	Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean
MECIDS	Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance
MBDS	Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Network
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
SACIDS	Southern African Center for Infectious Disease Surveillance
SEE	South-Eastern Europe Health Network