

Background information on the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA)



What is APLMA?

- The APLMA is a regional initiative of Heads of Government in the Asia Pacific region, with Australia and Viet Nam serving as the co-Chairs. The Asian Development Bank serves as a secretariat for APLMA.
- The APLMA is being established to respond to the call by Leaders at the 7th East Asia Summit (2012) for coordinated action to fight malaria and, in particular, to address drug resistant malaria.
- The APLMA supports malaria leadership across the region, particularly in those countries that have high malaria transmission: Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and the Pacific Region (Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands).
- Other EAS members are encouraged to join as political solidarity is needed on this regional issue.

Why is APLMA important?

- Malaria remains a major cause of death and illness with an estimated 36 million cases and around 49,000 deaths in the region each year. This high rate of illness and loss of human life affects economic development and is both unacceptable and preventable.
- The highest levels of political leadership have acknowledged the urgent need to accelerate progress toward the 2015 World Health Assembly target of 75 per cent reduction in malaria cases and deaths, and to address the critical issue of drug resistant malaria which threatens to reverse progress in achieving this goal.
- Malaria and drug resistant malaria are regional public health threats that do not recognize national borders and which require cooperation across countries and sectors to prevent the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives and billions of dollars.
- APLMA is the first regional high-level alliance to tackle public health threats. The APLMA will translate this strong political commitment into action.

What will APLMA achieve?

- APLMA will promote regional political leadership and collaboration to
 - Accelerate progress toward the target of 75 per cent sustained reduction in malaria cases and deaths, and
 - Catalyze action to reduce and control the spread of drug resistant malaria in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.
- The APLMA will oversee two streams of regional policy action: 1) improving access to quality malaria medicines and technologies and 2) financing the gap between available domestic and global resources for sustained malaria control.
- The APLMA is the starting point for a high-level regional alliance for other communicable diseases and public health threats. APLMA will promote partnership and mutual accountability across countries in the region for ensuring evidence-based, effective action on malaria and drug resistant malaria.

How can countries participate in the APLMA?

Countries are invited to reconfirm their commitment to the declaration of the 7th East Asia Summit by regional leaders on malaria and drug resistant malaria through the following action:

- Participate at the highest political level in the inaugural meeting of the APLMA during the 8th East Asia Summit (10 October 2013, International Convention Center, Brunei Darussalam);
- Concur with the APLMA 2013-2015 program of action;
- Support APLMA actions at Senior Officer and Ministerial levels.

ASIA PACIFIC LEADERS MALARIA ALLIANCE SECRETARIAT

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, 6 ADB AVENUE, MANDALUYONG CITY 1550, PHILIPPINES

APLMA@ADB.ORG