



ROLE OF WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES IN SUPPORTING REGIONAL NETWORKS

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Abstract

A WHO Collaborating centre (WHO CC) is an institution designated by the Director-General to form part of an international collaborative network carrying out activities in support of Organization's programmes at all levels. The Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences (AFRIMS) is designated as a Collaborating Centre of the WHO for diagnostic infection, reference, training and investigation of emerging infectious diseases since 2005. AFRIMS, located in Bangkok, Thailand, originated in 1958 to study Cholera epidemic in Thailand by a group of scientists from Thailand and the United States and operates as a joint American–Thai military medical research venture with a mission to provide medical research, disease surveillance, and development and evaluation of medical products for militarily important infectious diseases in order to lead to ultimate goal: to protect, treat and optimize the health and performance of military and civilian. The roles of WHO CCs of AFRIMS are 1) To provide training on Laboratory Biosafety and Laboratory Diagnostics of endemic, emerging or reemerging diseases of epidemic potential to the countries of the region. 2) To act as a Diagnostic Reference Laboratory for endemic, emerging or reemerging diseases of epidemic potential to the countries of the region. 3) To provide technical expertise for the laboratory based diagnosis of endemic, emerging or reemerging diseases of epidemic potential to the countries of the region. 4) To assist in Outbreak investigations and in the development of preventive measure for endemic, emerging or reemerging diseases of epidemic potential to the countries of the region. 5) To collaborate with regional and global alliance and partners for strengthening laboratory-based disease surveillance and response and public health research in the region. 6) To disseminate research findings and technical information on diagnosis, prevention and control of endemic, emerging or reemerging diseases of epidemic potential to the countries of the region.

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