



## *News Release*

Embargoed until 20 March 2012, 1pm (Singapore time)

### **Temasek Foundation, Singapore and Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory collaborate on research training and manpower development programmes in Myanmar**

Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL) and Temasek Foundation (TF) are pleased to announce the commencement of a technical co-operation in partnership with Myanmar's National Health Laboratory to develop capabilities in the area of laboratory biorisk management of emerging infectious diseases. The programme will be funded by a grant of S\$200,000 from TF.

An initial group of 25 participants have been selected by their respective agencies to participate in the first phase of a series of training programmes. They will pass on the knowledge and experience to their peers and other technical staff in Myanmar after the training has been completed. The establishment of these training programmes will help to build new foundation for future partnership between Singapore and Myanmar which will accelerate the use and deployment of technology and knowledge towards improving the level of biorisk security as well as preparedness against future emerging diseases in Myanmar.

Through this partnership, TF and TLL hope to develop nationwide and institutional capabilities and capacity building of professionals in Myanmar to manage laboratory biorisks in line with the global health programme of the World Health Organisation in Myanmar. Working closely with the National Health Laboratory in Myanmar, TLL has developed a customised programme that will be developed and used for future training needs in Myanmar.

This programme follows the success of the inaugural training programme in Laos in 2010 where TLL and TF collaborated with the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Coordination Office (NEIDCO), a national agency in Laos to develop nationwide and institutional capabilities in laboratory biorisk management. Laboratory professionals were similarly trained in managing biorisks and have started to share their learning with other key hospitals and laboratories in Laos. TF and TLL will continue to support similar biorisk management programmes in other ASEAN countries over a four-year period.

Since 2004, TLL has carried out various biorisk and biosafety training programmes with governmental agencies from various regional countries and will adapt from the experiences of working with these agencies.



“We are enthusiastic to be partners with TF and Myanmar in the above training programme. We hope that this collaboration with National Health Laboratory will provide a platform where knowledge and experiences are shared, benefitting the country and the region,” said Mr Peter Chia, Chief Operating Officer, TLL.

“This programme is very much in line with Temasek Foundation’s focus on capacity and capability-building of communities in Asia. We hope our support of knowledge and expertise sharing between specialists in Singapore and Myanmar will encourage the development of key capabilities in the area of laboratory biorisk management. We are confident that the collaborations forged through this partnership will translate to innovations that will create a positive impact in Myanmar and Singapore, and possibly, in other communities across the Asia region,” said Mr Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer of Temasek Foundation.

# # #

#### **About Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL)**

TLL is a non-profit organisation established in 2002 to undertake cutting-edge research in molecular biology and genetics utilising a broad range of model organisms. TLL is affiliated to the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University. Our vision is to create an environment which can attract the brightest young minds worldwide, support their research and challenge them to be leaders in their own fields. TLL has extensive experience and complementary expertise in plant biology research, including several research groups working on rice research. TLL has also been an active collaborating partner with government health ministries and international agencies in the promotion of biosafety and biosecurity training.

For more information, visit [www.tll.org.sg](http://www.tll.org.sg)

#### **About Temasek Foundation (TF)**

TF is a non-profit philanthropic organisation anchored in Singapore that seeks to contribute to sustainable growth and a bright future of hope and opportunities for people in Asia. The foundation works with partners to support programmes that develop people through health care, education and research, programmes that build bridges between peoples, programmes that build institutions of excellence through good governance and ethics, and programmes that rebuild lives and livelihoods affected by natural disasters.

For more information, visit [www.temasekfoundation.org.sg](http://www.temasekfoundation.org.sg)



### **About Ministry of Health, Myanmar**

The Ministry of Health is the major organization responsible for raising the health status of the people and accomplishes this through provision of comprehensive health services, viz promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative measures. The Ministry of Health is headed by the Union Minister who is assisted by two Union Deputy Ministers. The Ministry has seven functioning departments, each under a Director General. They are Department of Health Planning, Department of Health, Department of Medical Science, Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar), Department of Medical Research (Central Myanmar) and Department of Traditional Medicine. All these departments are further divided according to their functions and responsibilities. Maximum community participation in health activities is encouraged. Collaboration with related departments and social organizations has been promoted by the ministry.

For more information, visit <http://www.moh.gov.mm/>

### ***For media queries, please contact:***

Diana Lee  
Communications  
Temasek Foundation CLG Limited  
Tel: (65) 6828 6737 / (65) 9652 0569  
Email: [dianalee@temasekfoundation.org.sg](mailto:dianalee@temasekfoundation.org.sg)

Cheryl Chng  
Intellectual Property Office  
Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory Limited  
Tel: (65) 6872 7068  
Email: [cheryl@tll.org.sg](mailto:cheryl@tll.org.sg)