

**Bi-regional Workshop on  
Asia Pacific Strategy for Strengthening Health Laboratory Services (2010-2015)**

**Bali, Indonesia: 23-25 June 2009**

The participants endorsed the Asia Pacific Strategy on Strengthening Health Laboratories and complemented WHO for this timely initiative. They committed to do their best to adapt the strategy in their national context and made following recommendations:

**Recommendations**

The Member states should:

1. Develop national laboratory policy encompassing key elements as enshrined in Asia Pacific Strategy for Strengthening Health Laboratory Services (2010-2015) through a process of national consultation.
2. Designate a senior laboratory professional as National Focal Point for Health Laboratories, preferably within MoH with the mandate of formulating a national lab programme and coordinating it.
3. Establish an efficient oversight mechanism through constitution of national advisory committee on laboratories
4. Provide adequate funding support to laboratories in consonance with the efficient implementation of national policy. Various sources for finances should be explored to ensure sustainable strengthening of lab services
5. Formulate country-specific minimum standards for health laboratories at different levels
6. Ensure that a human resource plan is formulated and implemented that estimates the requirement of lab personnel and institutes mechanism to assure timely supply of lab personnel
7. Forge national network/networks of health laboratories with efficient referral system and feedback
8. Utilize the WHO Quality Management Tool for improving quality of lab results
9. Establish national quality standards and mechanism for implementing/regulating as well as a national body for accreditation of the laboratories
10. Institute appropriate infrastructure (engineering controls) for biosafety and biosecurity and impart training to lab staff to assure biosafety and biosecurity through use of good lab practices.
11. Advocate with the users of lab results (clinical and public health) and train them on rational use of lab services to mitigate mortality and morbidity.
12. Undertake independent appraisal of functioning of national lab services at regular frequency to document the successes and identify the gaps for improving the national lab plans

**To WHO**

WHO should

1. Obtain endorsement of the strategy from the Regional Committee in Western Pacific Region
2. Develop a step by step approach to develop a national lab policy
3. Assist Member countries in mobilizing resources from international developmental partners for establishment of sustainable health lab services.
4. Make available lab assessment tool to the Member states for situation analyses
5. Develop minimum standards at different levels of health laboratories for undertaking essential tests. These standards should include human resource, infrastructure (building and utilities), equipment, reagents, technology, quality system and referral mechanism.
6. Disseminate quality management of labs tool kit through regional and national training activities as well as creation of regional pool of experts to provide post-training support.