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From the Editor's Desk

Dengue fever (DF) and dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) continue to maintain ever-increasing endemicity in countries of the South-East and Western Pacific regions. In the South-East Asia Region, Indonesia and Thailand contributed 56.42% and 22.5%, respectively, to the disease burden. During 2006, the disease also spread its reach in Nepal which reported 18 indigenous cases for the first time in November.

Research directed towards early diagnosis of dengue infection in the acute phase of illness culminated in the development of a commercial kit – “Dengue Ns1 antigen capture ELISA”. The test could detect dengue Ns1 antigen as early as day 0 after the onset of illness so crucial for case management and to reduce DHF mortality. Field evaluation of this kit showed high specificity and sensitivity in primary dengue infections as compared to the three available laboratory diagnostic tests available for acute dengue.

A new variant of Chikungunya virus (genus Alphavirus, family Togoviridae) of East African genotype and transmitted by *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti* struck the Indian Ocean islands in 2005. By 2006 it had swept through coastal India causing about 1.4 million cases concurrently with dengue transmission posing a statistical challenge for assessing disease burden for these two infections.

The current Volume 30 (2006) of *Dengue Bulletin* includes contributions from WHO's South-East Asia Region (15), the Western Pacific Region (9), the American Region (7) and the European Region (2).

A misprint in an article entitled “Community Perception Regarding Mosquito-borne Diseases in Karnataka State, India” by K. Ravi Kumar and G. Gururaj, in *Dengue Bulletin* 2005;29:159-164, is highly regretted. The corrected article is re-published in the current volume.

We now invite contributions for Volume 31 (2007). The deadline for the receipt of contributions is **15 September 2007**. Contributors are requested to please follow the instructions carefully while preparing the manuscript. Contributions accompanied by CD-ROMs/diskettes using MS Word for Windows should be sent to the Editor, *Dengue Bulletin*, WHO/Regional Office for South-East Asia, Mahatma Gandhi Road, I.P. Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi-110002, India, or by e-mail as a file attachment to the Editor at dengue@searo.who.int and dengue@whosea.org. Readers desirous of obtaining copies of *Dengue Bulletin* may contact the WHO Regional Offices in New Delhi or Manila or the WHO Country Representative in their country of residence.

Dr Chusak Prasittisuk
Coordinator, Communicable Diseases Control (CDC) and
Editor, *Dengue Bulletin*
World Health Organization
Regional Office for South-East Asia
New Delhi, India