

Introduction

Five of the countries in Southeast Asia that comprise the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), share common borders with each other. The phenomenal growth of international travel and trade has vastly increased the speed and ease with which communicable diseases can cross continents and cause outbreaks and epidemics. The avian flu epidemic, historically unprecedented in its scale, geographical spread, and economic consequences for the agricultural sector, affected six countries in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam), is a proof of the ease with which epidemics spread in the region.

The relevance and advantages of collaborative efforts with special emphasis on cross border issues have been recognized by officials and technical experts in the GMS. Initiatives have been undertaken to work collaboratively and in partnership to maximize resources and to increase efficiency of activities/interventions. An example is the UN Task Force on HIV/AIDS and Mobility in the Southeast Asian Region. This is convened by UNDP Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand. The Task Force works closely with ASEAN on matters of HIV/AIDS and mobility.

Another initiative that is present in the region is the Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance project (MBDS) supported by Rockefeller Foundation. This is a cross border collaboration to prevent and control communicable diseases. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Ministers of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao PDR, Union of Myanmar, Kingdom of Thailand and Socialist Republic of Vietnam in November 2001 in Kunming, PRC related to the MBDS. The MBDS aims to strengthen national and sub-regional capabilities in disease surveillance so priority diseases can be rapidly and effectively controlled. The scope of the cooperation includes system development, institutional strengthening, human resource development, information exchange, joint outbreak responses and other joint activities.

An "International Training Course in Partnership Building for Healthy Border" was implemented by the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University in collaboration with Faculty of Public Health, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, and SEAMEO TROPMED Network for selected health directors and mid-level health workers posted along the border areas in 2004. The course was funded by the Thailand International Cooperation Agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This used to be the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation under the office of the Prime Minister.

Through the partnership with Rockefeller Foundation two more regional border health courses were implemented involving health human resource in selected border areas, primarily the border areas involved in MBDS within the period of June 2005-December 2007. The graduates of these training courses collaborated with the officials involved in surveillance and in the implementation of the GIS country projects.

Rationale

The existing public health and non-health scenario in the different regions underscores the need for collaboration, sharing of information and a broader understanding of border health issues and concerns. The economic activities usually present along the borders trigger the influx the people to these areas causing greater demands for services. At the same time, this movement of people makes the environmental issues and concerns more complex. A regional consultative meeting organized by SEAMEO TROPMED Network in 2008 underscored a number of issues related to border health:

- mobility/migrant workers
- small scale economic activities e.g. poultry farms
- infrastructure development
- disease transmission
- information exchange
- drug trafficking
- inadequate human resource development

The need for human resource development in the area of border health was reinforced in this meeting. The experiences of the three border health courses offered in the last three years and the feedback received validated the relevance of the training course. Thus, it was perceived that there's a need to package an international training course on border health. A packaged training strategy will allow rolling out the training to the countries for national implementation as well as sharing the experience and the methodology to academic/training institutions and other relevant organizations for utilization.

The curriculum of the previous courses was reviewed and revised based on the agreed upon roles and functions related to border and the necessary competencies needed to perform the roles and functions. These were agreed upon in a consultative meeting that was participated by health professionals involved in border health, graduates of the previous training, content experts and resource persons, and curriculum designer.

Educational Goal

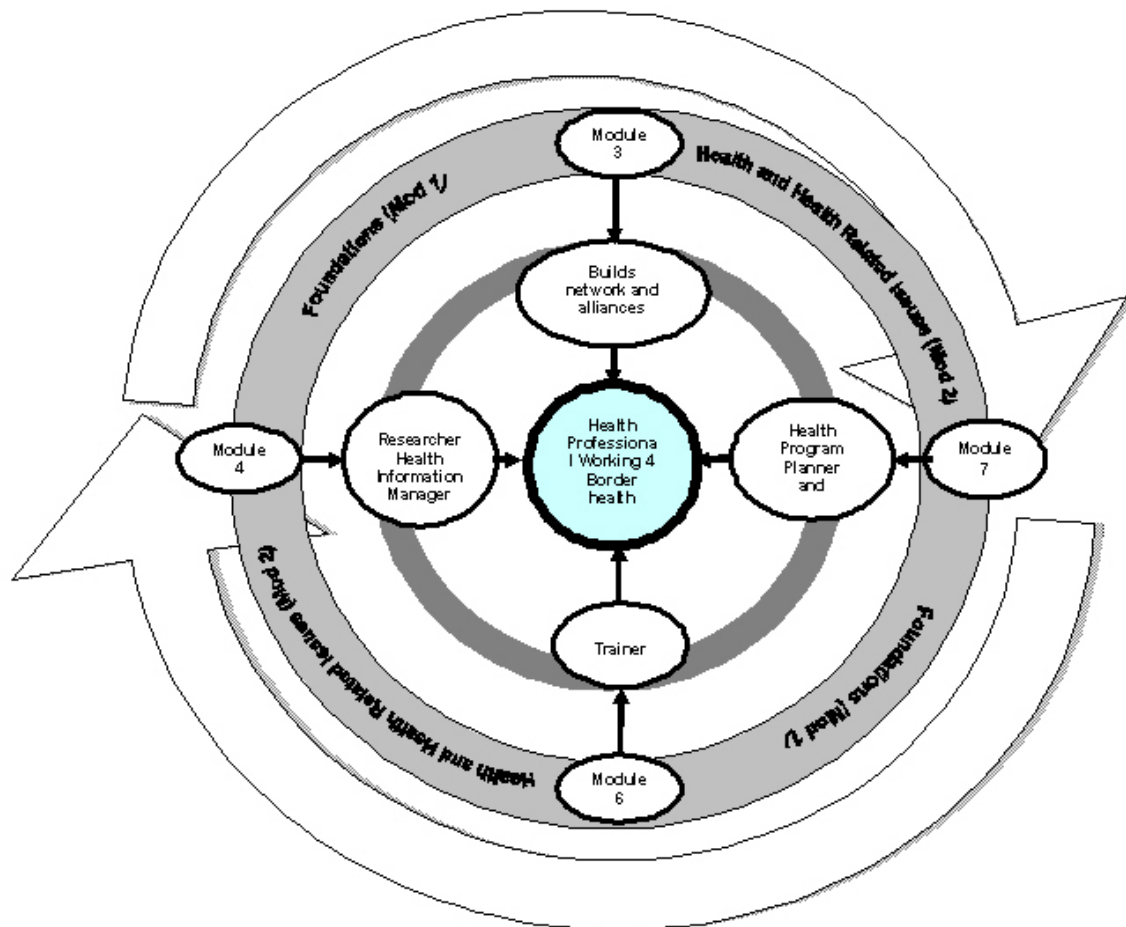
This course hopes to develop health professionals working on border health issues with deep understanding of the concepts and principles and equipped with skills important in developing and sustaining a healthy border. Graduates are also expected to be able to work together as a network, identifying common health problems and issues, sharing information generated through existing HIS or innovative systems and facilitating the development of programs that would help achieve the goal of establishing a healthy border.

Course Objectives

In the context of achieving a healthy border, a graduate of the training course is expected to be able to:

1. Utilize existing health information system for border health issues and concerns.
2. Develop action plans for programmes related to border health at provincial/district levels
3. Manage implementation of action plans
4. Facilitate the creation and or sustainability of networks in response to existing and emerging problems along the border areas.
5. Advocate for border issues and concerns
6. Conduct training for problem solving of border health issues and concerns.
7. Apply research methods in identifying and solving problems related to border health.
8. Undertake a border health related project in ones' own setting.

Course Framework



Explanation

1. The first outer circle - reflects cycle of training methods to be used in the workshop
2. The second circle - covers the modular content which are all anchored by the foundations of border health and health and health related issues
3. the third circle - would be the 4 core competencies as a result
4. the center circle - the complete health professional working for border health and the overall goal of the training

Course Modules

- Module 1:** Foundation of Border Health
- Module 2:** Health and Health Related Issues
- Module 3:** Networking and Advocacy
- Module 4:** HIS and Research
- Module 5:** Field Exposure
- Module 6:** Conducting Training for Border Health
- Module 7:** Planning and Management

Participants

The participants should be from the health and health related sectors who are involved in border health issues and concerns.

Educational Philosophy

The delivery of this training package will be guided by the adult learning philosophy and principles thus participants will be actively engaged in the learning process. Teaching/learning activities will make use of actual data and scenarios along the border that impact on health and development. Active lectures will be served as inputs for participative discussion and analysis of cases and issues along the borders. At the same time, the T/L activities will be culturally sensitive to facilitate development of necessary skills of participants to implement their functions related to border health.

Evaluation

Evaluation will be undertaken on two aspects i.e. evaluation of the training outcome (participants) and the process of the training.

Assessment Learning Outcome

This training will utilize performance and product based assessment of training outcomes to include individual and group outputs during the course. In addition, a final product - a group project to be implemented in one's own setting, will be presented on a later date several months after the end of the course.

At the same time, on the last day of the training, participants will be asked to accomplish a self-assessment questionnaire.

Assessment of the Training Process

End of day, end of session, and end of module evaluations will be conducted and will cover the following training/workshop issues:

- Participation
- Conduct, process, and methods
- resources and materials
- administration and management

Program Schedule

Module Number	Module Title	No. of Days
1	Foundation of Border Health - Concept of A Desirable Border Health - Determinants of Border Health - Stakeholders in Border Health - Border Health and Development	3*
2	Health and Health related Issues - Ecological Concept of health and Illness - H1N1 - SARS - Malaria and Dengue - HIV & AIDS	3
3	Networking and Advocacy - Concepts - Appropriate strategies for networking and advocacy - Border health networks	2
4	Health information System and Research - Use of HIS for border health issues - HIS structures and mechanisms - Tools for HIS - Use of research methodology in border health - Research proposal development	5
5	Field exposure	4 **
6	Training for Border Health - Planning a Training - Teaching/Learning Methods - Assessment of Training Outcome - Evaluating Training	2***
7	Planning and Management - Concepts - Development of Action Plans - Monitoring and Empowerment Evaluation	3

* To start immediately after the Opening Ceremony

** To include travel time

*** To include Closing