

The 4th Global Leptospirosis Environmental Action Network (GLEAN) Technical Meeting 18-20 November 2014 Colombo, Sri Lanka

The 4th Global Leptospirosis Environmental Action Network (GLEAN) Technical Meeting was held from 18-20 November 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The meeting was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Health of Sri Lanka and World Health Organization. International experts were gathered for this meeting representing 12 countries including Member States of the South – East Asia Region (SEAR) of WHO and national experts representing Ministry of Health, Department of Animal Production & Health, Ministries of Agriculture and Wildlife, and Universities also participated.

The purpose of this meeting was to bring together national and international experts from various disciplines that have been working for surveillance, diagnosis, case management, prevention and control of leptospirosis. This had enabled share experience, knowledge and also to provide recommendations for leptospirosis prevention and control, including outbreak response.

The Global Leptospirosis Environmental Action Network (GLEAN) was started in 2010 gathering international and national experts with the purpose of providing direction and coordination to fill many gaps in Leptospirosis knowledge with the ultimate goal of translating the research findings into operational guidance for communities and countries affected by leptospirosis outbreaks. Since 2010 GLEAN Technical Meetings were held annually and 1st, 2nd, 3rd meetings were held in France, Italy and Brazil respectively.

The steering committee of GLEAN had chosen Sri Lanka as the host country due to its high burden of leptospirosis and strong base to facilitate research, development and innovative public health dimension.

On the first day of the meeting, presentations and discussions were made in country level with regard to leptospirosis prevention and control in South East Asia. The second day of the meeting was allocated to discuss objectives and strategic of GLEAN, country specific needs and strategies, role of WHO Collaborating Centre for Leptospirosis and latest updates on diagnostics and vaccine development. Final day of this meeting was reserved for prediction and modelling in Leptospirosis research and action, to address public health challenges for Leptospirosis and also for synthesis and ideas for further GLEAN action plan and recommendations.

The team of Epidemiology Unit would like to convey their sincere gratitude to all members and participants for their tremendous support provided, to make this meeting a success. Especial thanks goes to WHO SEARO & WHO country office Sri Lanka for providing financial and logistic support and their immense commitment. We are very sure that, this 4th GLEAN Technical Meeting had paved a new pathway and another step forward in the fight against Leptospirosis.

