



The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

**INDO-U.S. WORKSHOP ON BUILDING REGIONAL CAPACITY TO
TACKLE CHALLENGES OF EMERGING INFECTIONS AND GLOBAL HEALTH SAFETY**

Savoy Resort & Spa, Seychelles

May 09-11, 2016

DRAFT Workshop Vision Statement

At the November 2014 *Indo-U.S. Workshop on Challenges of Emerging Infections and Global Health Safety*, participants identified the need for India and the United States to work together to address the needs of the broader South and South East Asian region for more robust laboratory capacity to address diagnostics, response, and research regarding public health challenges. Many participants agreed that given India's existing and planned laboratory capacity, capabilities in global health research, and expanding international partnerships, the country is well situated to become a regional leader in global health safety.

Following the workshop, INSA and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences agreed to partner together to convene a regional workshop focused on enhancing the ability of laboratories and affiliated researchers to address South and South East Asia's most difficult public health challenges safely and securely. The *Indo-U.S. Workshop on Building Regional Capacity to Tackle Challenges of Emerging Infections and Global Health Safety* is scheduled for February 2016, and will provide an opportunity to convene biological safety and disease surveillance experts from India, the United States, and several other countries in South and South East Asia. These experts will be drawn from the nations' academic, industry, and governmental research communities.

The workshop will be designed to encourage scientists to examine global issues related to emerging infections and health safety, to share experiences and approaches, and to identify opportunities for regional cooperation to improve practices and research in these areas. Participants will address both human and animal health because zoonotic infections, such as avian flu and anthrax, have demonstrated that the borderlines between animal and human health are merging. Plant health relevant to human and animal health will also be addressed.

The workshop will begin with speakers outlining the burden of infectious diseases and the importance of pathogen identification, infectious disease control (including the global challenges of influenza and Ebola) and will provide an overview of laboratory diagnostics for virulent and drug resistant pathogens. Sessions will address issues associated with the global life sciences revolution and today's challenges with respect to emerging infections and epidemics, and to achieving the right balance between safety and advancing life science research on pathogens. More specific workshop topics may include:

- the development of laboratory and research guidelines;
- laboratory training, certification, and leadership development;

- mechanisms for reporting laboratory-associated infections;
- “right-sizing” the regulatory environment and collaboration in regulatory sciences;
- regional transport of samples and specimens;
- matching precautions to risks; and,
- responsible research practices in pursuit of the benefits of life science research.

The ultimate goal of the workshop is to share challenges, identify regional needs, explore options for meeting those needs, and share lessons learned regarding biological safety, laboratory management, as well as the efficient and sustainable operation of laboratories for public health, animal, and plant health research, and clinical applications. In sharing and exchanging information and best practices, global health safety in the South and South East Asian Region and in the United States will be improved. An additional goal is to encourage collaborative partnerships between scientists in areas identified during the workshop, keeping in mind the existing bilateral and multilateral agreements between and among the countries in the region and the world more broadly.