

## **Collaboration on Malaria control studies between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea**

**Mekong Malaria Forum (Information exchange on malaria control in southeast asia)**

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Myanmar and the Republic of Korea are situated in different WHO Regions and are geographically distant countries. However, during the WHO Bi-Regional Malaria Control Meeting, in Kunming, Yunnan, China from 3 to 5 November 1999, scientists from the two countries had a chance to meet each other. Senior Researcher from the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Seoul, Korea, Dr. Tong Soo Kim, and Dr. Khin Lin, Malariologist at the Myanmar Department of Health discussed sending Korean malaria researchers to Myanmar.

The proposal was approved by the Ministry of Health of Myanmar. NIH Researchers Dr. Woo Hyeong Lee and Dr. Hyeong Shin Cho visited Myanmar from 27 December 1999 to 7 January 2000. They collected malaria positive samples for study on prevalence of circum sporozoite protein (CSP) 247 among *Plasmodium vivax* in Myanmar. Together with a host malaria control team led by Dr. Khin Lin, the Korean scientists conducted field surveys in various malaria endemic areas of Myanmar. Malaria control experiences in both countries were exchanged, making for a very fruitful visit. The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) data on *P.vivax* samples still being analysed, and it is expected that the results will be very interesting for carrying out further more extensive studies.