Meeting Summary:
Malaria 2012: Saving Lives in the Asia-Pacific and the 7th East Asia Summit

From October 31 to November 2, 2012, the Australian government hosted Malaria 2012: Saving Lives in the Asia-Pacific in Sydney, Australia, showcasing recent success in defeating malaria in the Asia-Pacific region. The conference highlighted much of the progress made in APMEN countries, where malaria cases were more than halved (58%) from 2000 to 2010.

The Malaria 2012 conference brought together Ministers of Health and Foreign Affairs, as well as regional and international partners, from around the region. Substantial emphasis was placed on APMEN as a model initiative for successful regional collaboration through robust political commitment, research capacity building, and resource sharing between researchers, funders and program representatives. Additionally, the annual APMEN Country Partner Consultation and Advisory Board meetings took place in Sydney prior to Malaria 2012, at which time Nepal was voted in as the Network’s 14th Country Partner.
Leaders at *Malaria 2012* called for the elimination of malaria in half the endemic countries in the region by 2025, in addition to reducing cases and deaths by 75% by 2015. There was also general consensus that artesinlin resistance must be contained immediately – particularly in light of continued population movement within the region. **Five key priority actions** were determined at the meeting:

1. Promote high-level regional political leadership and collaboration;
2. Close the financing gap;
3. Expand access to quality medicines and technologies;
4. Achieve universal coverage of key malaria interventions in priority areas; and
5. Accelerate highest priority research.

APMEN Co-Chair Sir Richard Feachem thinks these are ambitious but achievable goals:

"our vision is a malaria-free Asia Pacific region, and with the right blend of scientific rigor, program consistency and sustained commitment, we should be able to eliminate malaria in 11 countries within the next 13 years. Several Asia Pacific countries are closing in on the elimination finish line – we, the global health community and world at large, need to ensure the political and financial resources to complete that final mile."

One key outcome of the meeting was a firm commitment by regional leaders to develop an Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance, similar to that of the [African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA)](https://www.alma-africa.org). The Prime Minister of Australia, Julia Gillard, has committed $1 million to develop this collaboration, which will promote regional cooperation in the fight against malaria. The Australian Government also pledged over $100 million to help eliminate malaria in the region, by devoting funds to support malaria control activities in endemic countries.

Shortly after the *Malaria 2012* conference, regional leaders met at the 7th annual East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on November 20, 2012. In response to the commitments made at *Malaria 2012*, Heads of State of the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
(ASEAN) called for renewed commitment to fighting malaria in the Asia-Pacific region in a Declaration on Regional Responses to Malaria Control and Addressing Resistance. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to containing artemisinin resistance and agreed to develop more robust regional collaborations to eliminate malaria.

Meeting representatives at the APMEN Country Partner Consultation meeting (from left) Dr Mario Baquilod and Marvi Trudeau (Philippines), Albino Bobogare (Solomon Islands) and Dr Asik Surya (Indonesia).