

كمنترين كصيحتن
KEMENTERIAN KESIHATAN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

RPHL
Regional Public Health Laboratory Network

ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP FORUM 2026

Shaping the future of RPHL Network 2.0
(2027-2030)

RPHL NETWORK

22–24 September 2026
Brunei Darussalam

INSPIRATIONAL REMARKS



Dr Hajah Zainun binti Zaini
Acting Director
Department of Laboratory Services, Brunei Darussalam

Partnerships and connections to be translated into practical action, stronger collective preparedness, and more resilient laboratory systems.



Dr Phichet Banyati
on behalf of the Director-General and Permanent Chair of the RPHL Network

Strong national laboratory systems, sustained commitment, and timely information sharing are essential to strengthening regional preparedness.



Jintana Sriwongsa
Regional Programme Director
RPHL Network Secretariat

The Network will continue to evolve as a platform for connecting, co-creating, and collaborating.

A NEW CHAPTER: RPHL Network 2.0

Co-hosted by the Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam, and the RPHL Network Secretariat under the theme 'From Partnership to Preparedness', the Forum marked an important transition for the Network through the first meetings of its Governing Board and Technical Committee.



The RPHL Network is entering a new phase of 'RPHL Network 2.0', strengthening governance and technical foundations to support a more resilient and self-sustaining laboratory system across the Asia-Pacific.

Convene	Co-create	Innovate	Demonstrate	Scale	Self-sustain
The Network brings member states together as a convenor	Countries design activities around their own priorities, not a fixed curriculum.	Co-creation produces innovative operational models built for real regional needs.	Each pilot will be tested against real results before scaling	Proven models will be scaled across every member state.	Growing financial independence carries the Network toward lasting sustainability.

FROM DISCUSSION TO PRACTICAL ACTION

The Forum moved beyond discussion to practical learning and future joint actions. The Disease X Tabletop Exercise and Metagenomics for Disease X tested capability, coordination and decision-making in a simulated public health emergency. The Street Marketplace provided a platform for sharing practical approaches in Biorisk Management Twinning, National Laboratory Strategic Plans, Quality Management Systems and External Quality Assessment. **Thirty-eight posters showcased laboratory innovations and success stories from across the region.**



Brunei Darussalam National Laboratory Strategic Plan [BDNLSP] , 2026–2030

NATIONAL MILESTONE: BDNLSP 2026–2030

Other key milestone to note is the official launch of the "Brunei Darussalam National Laboratory Strategic Plan (BDNLSP), 2026–2030", jointly presided over by the excellencies Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Coordinating Minister for Economic Policy and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health, Brunei Darussalam. It demonstrates how national laboratory priorities can be advanced through 'One Health' lens of the two significant ministries.



Future Laboratory Leaders

Deliberations highlighted two key priorities for the Network's next phase: developing future laboratory leaders and building resilient laboratory supply chains as essential foundations for regional laboratory preparedness and resilience.



The Street Marketplace



Disease X Tabletop Exercise



Advancing Partnership

The Forum reaffirmed the RPHL Network's commitment to connecting, co-creating and collaborating across regions. As the Network moves forward, the focus is increasingly shifting from partnership-building to translating regional relationships into "practical preparedness, stronger national laboratory systems and shared regional resilience".

KEYNOTE SPOTLIGHT

BUILDING FUTURE-READY LABORATORY SYSTEMS

In his APF 2026 keynote, Professor Wang Linfa challenged participants to consider what it means for a laboratory system to be ready for Disease X. He identified early detection as an area where public health laboratories can make a difference together. He also called for closer integration of diagnosis, surveillance, response and research so that unusual findings can be recognised, investigated and acted on quickly.

Professor Wang emphasised that regional partnerships must be built and tested before an outbreak. Laboratories can draw on each other's expertise and capabilities when working relationships, information-sharing arrangements and joint exercises are already in place. He called for sustained investment, strong leadership and legal frameworks that enable cross-border collaboration and help turn laboratory advances into practical tools for public health response.



Prof. Linfa Wang,

Professor, Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme, Duke-NUS Medical School
Inaugural Executive Director, PREPARE

Being future-ready means being Disease X-ready.

FORUM AT A GLANCE

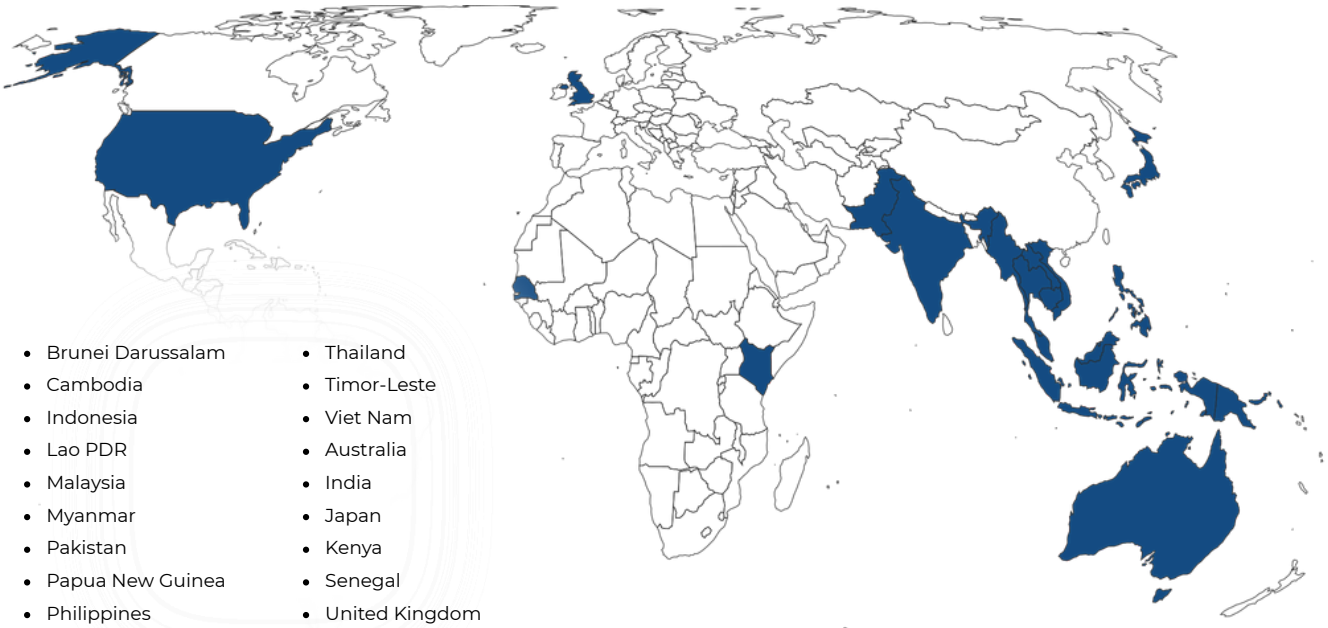
Regional Reach, Global Partnerships

210
Participants

13*
Member Countries

33
Regional and International Partners

*13 of the RPHL Network's 14 member countries were represented at APF 2026. Nepal was not represented.



- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Viet Nam
- Australia
- India
- Japan
- Kenya
- Senegal
- United Kingdom
- United States

LOOKING AHEAD

The APF 2026 therefore represents more than an annual gathering. It marks a significant step in the RPHL Network's evolution towards a more coordinated, **country-owned and self-sustaining regional laboratory system, strengthening the collective capacity of countries to prepare for and respond to future health threats.**

Gratitude to valuable contributions from RPHL Network Contact Person, Subject Matter Experts, key development partners, and interested countries & networks.

APF Newsletter

FOR MORE INFORMATION
APF 2026