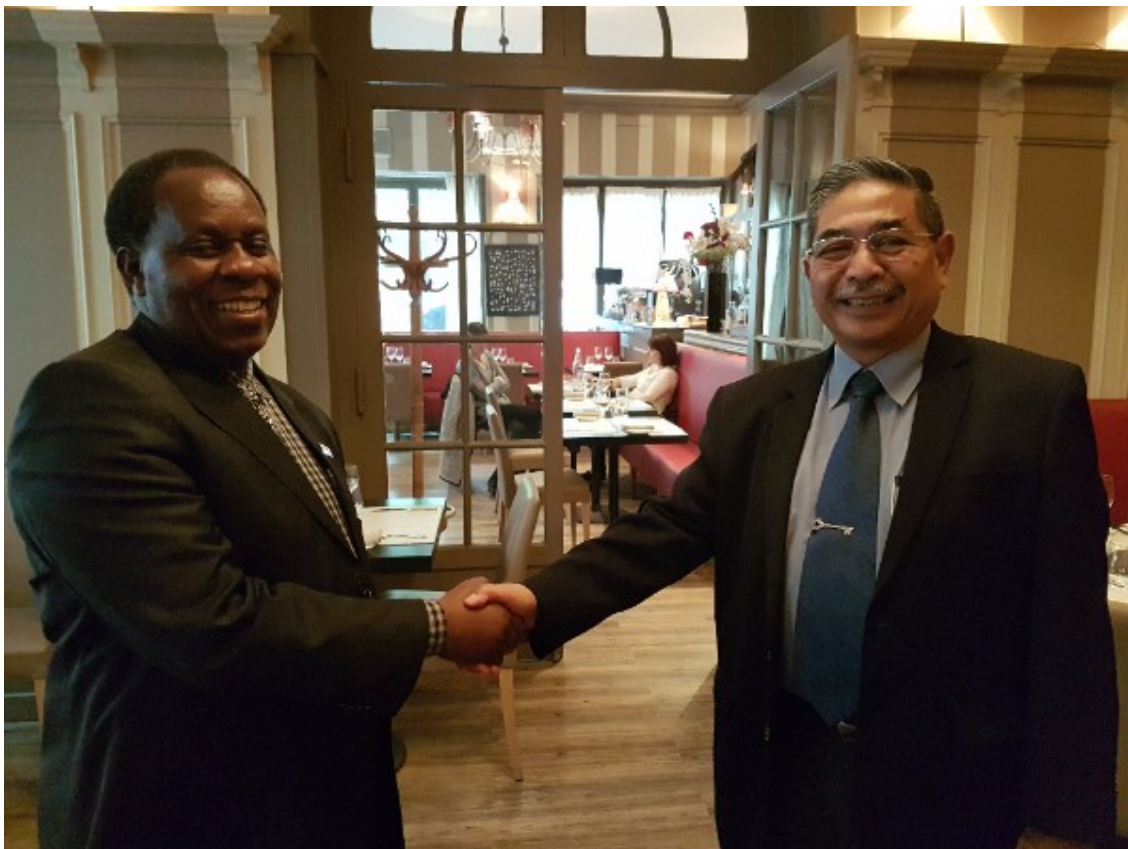


JULY 2017 | NEWS

Welcome...

to the CORDS July 2017 newsletter. CORDS is a Non-Governmental Organisation comprised of six international networks, working to reduce and prevent the spread of diseases by exchanging information and best practice. Our vision is a world united against infectious diseases.

Early detection of outbreaks helps keep disease transmission to its area of origin, which, in our increasingly mobile world, is vital to stopping life threatening diseases such as Zika, Ebola and Yellow Fever. The collective expertise of the CORDS networks and their close relationships with local communities facilitate timely detection and response to outbreaks.



Handover of Chair between Professor Julius Lutwama and Professor Amin Soebandrio (right), Lyon, March 2017

CORDS has a New Chair

Connecting Organisations for Regional Disease Surveillance or CORDS is delighted to announce its new Chair Professor Amin Soebandrio, who is also the Steering Committee Chairman of the Asia Partnership

on Emerging Infectious Disease Research, APEIR, www.apeir.net. Amin is a Professor at the Medical Faculty at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta, a post he has held since 2004 and is a Clinical Microbiology Consultant and has a PHD in Immunogenetics. Amin served as a Minister's Senior Adviser and Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Research and Technology for 13 years until 2013. His current position is Chairman of the Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology www.eijkman.go.id. Facing the complexity of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, as well as the neglected infectious diseases situation, **Amin Soebandrio said:** "I hope that CORDS and all of its worldwide member networks can collaborate with related organisations and that we can unite together against infectious diseases."



CORDS welcomes new staff members

CORDS has welcomed two new staff members to its team. Oceane Andriamanarivo who started in March 2017, is working as an intern with responsibilities including administration and organising meetings. Oceane who is from Madagascar has a degree in Economics and Social Science, enjoys community participation and is the Secretary of a young Malagasy association in Lyon.

Paul Asquith joined CORDS at the beginning of May as Resource Mobilisation Manager, bringing with him 20 years experience of managing community development and public health projects, fundraising, and conducting research in Africa, Europe, and the UK. Paul was previously at the African Foundation for Development, AFFORD UK, a leading London diaspora development organisation. Paul is also a Research Associate at the Centre of African Studies, SOAS, University of London, where his interests include: diasporas, migration and development, culture, health, and migrant communities as well as Islamic models of development in North Africa and the Horn of Africa. Paul holds a B.A. in Arabic and Amharic and a M.A. in Social Anthropology of Development from SOAS.



CORDS participates in the first Scientific Africa CDC Symposium

On the 24th and 25th March 2017 the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Africa CDC's, first Scientific Symposium was held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to launch its five year strategic plan with the title 'Enhancing Africa's Public Health Response through Innovation and Partnerships'. The Scientific Symposium aimed to bring together a broad range of stakeholders including policy makers, subject matter experts from across the globe, the private sector, civil society organisations and NGO's.

The symposium provided a platform for participants to discuss practical and innovative approaches to achieve the Strategic Plan objectives, determine key priority activities to be implemented in the short-term and to assess strategic public -private philanthropic partnership investment opportunities for public health in Africa. Christophe Longuet, Emma Orefuwa and Bakary Sylla attended the symposium and had the opportunity to present the mission and activities of CORDS to Dr. John Nkengasong, first Director of the Africa CDC.



The Director General of the West African Health Organisation visits CORDS

On May 8th 2017, Dr Xavier Crespin, Director General of The West African Health Organisation WAHO and Maître Ely Noël Diallo, WAHO Legal Advisor, had a productive meeting with Dr. Christophe Longuet and Dr. Bakary Sylla at the CORDS office in Lyon. There was a strong willingness to continue the collaboration on the development of the West African Network for Infectious Disease Surveillance (WANIDS). The renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between CORDS and WAHO was discussed, as well as the forthcoming consultancy activities to strengthen the National Coordinating Institutions in West Africa. Dr. Crespin invited Dr. Longuet and Dr. Sylla to attend the eighteenth General Assembly of ECOWAS Ministers of Health, in Abuja on June, 16, 2017 on the One Health approach to fighting infectious diseases in West Africa. An epidemiologist from WAHO was invited to participate in a course on Epidemiology in Complex Emergencies, co-organized by CORDS, Fondation Mérieux and EpiConcept, at Les Pensières Global Health Center, between June 19th and 23rd 2017.



The Minister of Public Health of Thailand meets CORDS Executive Director

On the occasion of the Seventieth World Health Assembly, a meeting with the Minister of Public Health of Thailand was organised by Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert at the Fondation Mérieux, Global Health Centre in Veyrier du Lac, France, on May 20th. His Excellence Professor Emeritus Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, Minister of Public Health, accompanied by the high level Thai health delegation, met with CORDS Executive Director, Christophe Longuet and Fondation Mérieux General Director, Benoit Miribel, to discuss their work. An important part of the conversation was the Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) in Bangkok on January 29th to February 3rd 2018 which has the theme “Making the World Safe from the Threats of Emerging Infectious Diseases”. Adjacent to PMAC proceedings, CORDS is holding a two day conference with participants from the 28 countries of the six regional networks, under the sub-theme: “Harnessing the Power of Public-Private-Community Partnerships for Preventing, Detecting, and Responding to Zoonotic Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance”. This important CORDS event will be organised in collaboration with the Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Consortium (MBDS).





SECID hosts 'Time to detect and Time to respond meeting'

On the 10th to 12th April 2017, the South Eastern European Centre for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases, SECID, held a meeting entitled 'Time to Detect and Time to Respond to Outbreaks and Surveillance Digitalisation Challenges in SEE Countries' in Tirana, Albania. The meeting was part of the Project 'Improving early detection and response of country and cross border diseases, events and risks by digitalisation of priority surveillance sources', in partnership and supported by Skoll Global Threats Fund. The aim was to analyse surveillance and response systems in South Eastern European countries and their level of digitalisation. As a result a SWOT analysis of surveillance systems and their digitalisation was performed. A common methodology to analyse the data related to timeliness was prepared and discussed to allow the comparison of the epidemiological information amongst the countries in the region and to evaluate how digitalisation will improve it. The digitalisation of surveillance systems in most of the countries is still poor or non-existent but some systems such as those in Croatia, Bulgaria and Montenegro can serve as models. Invited to this meeting by the Chair of SECID, Dr Silvia Bino and its Executive Director, Ledia Agolli, Christophe Longuet was impressed by the motivation of the ten countries in the region to work together to improve disease detection.

For more information please visit www.secids.com



MBDS attend Malaria Prevention Meeting

From the 23rd to 25th April 2017, a meeting to discuss a pilot project to eliminate malaria in Thailand between 2017 and 2026 was held in Ubon Ratchathani Province, Thailand. The meeting organised by Mukdahan Health was attended by the Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Network, MBDS, with the objective of producing a strategy to prevent and control malaria in Mukdahan Province. The meeting was also attended by local villagers and district representatives. The plan is to train the regional Surveillance and Rapid Response Team and the Situation Awareness Team to be able to respond to malaria and to analyse the regional malaria situation.

For more information please visit www.mbdnet.org



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