

Volume2

Number2

GHSCO Newsletter Library 

Subscribe 

# GHSCO Newsletter

Global Health Security Coordination Office

## GHSCO Updates

GHSCO Updates1



**NOTICE**



**VISIT OUR NEW  
GHSCO WEBSITE**

### **Discover What's New: GHSCO Website is Open**

Visit our new digital platform to stay updated on capacity building efforts and upcoming collaboration with global health allies.

[MORE >>](#)

GHSCO Updates2



**SHEPERD**

Strengthening Health Emergencies Preparedness  
& Enhancing Response to Disease Outbreaks in Lao PDR  
Supported by Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency

### **KDCA Boosts Lao PDR's Genomic Surveillance with Landmark Training**

KDCA collaborated with Ministry of Health Lao PDR to enhance genomic surveillance capacity through hands-on training on whole genome sequencing for food-borne illnesses.

GHSCO Updates3



### Mongolia’s Readiness for Emerging Infectious Disease Improved by Joint Simulation Exercise

KDCA supported Mongolia in conducting simulation exercise on avian influenza, involving over 70 officials across 20 agencies. The exercise revealed key response gaps and contributed...

MORE >>

## Global Updates

News1



### The 78<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly Charts Course for Stronger Pandemic Response and Sweeping WHO Reforms

At the 78<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly, there was global discussions on the Pandemic Agreement and sustainable WHO reform. Commissioner Dr. Jee also visited Tonga and signed MOU...

MORE >>

News2



### IANPHI General Assembly Highlights Four Key Public Health Achievements

At the International Association of National Public Health Institutes General Assembly, four outstanding public health initiatives were recognized, including Korea’s leadership...

MORE >>

Partner Stories1

## TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT

GHSCO Core Personnel  
Training Program



### Malaysian Entomologist Leverages Korean AI Technology to Combat Vector-Borne Diseases

A Malaysian entomologist applied skills gained from the GHSCO Core Personnel Training to enhance mosquito-borne disease surveillance in Johor.

[MORE >>](#)

Partner Stories2

## GHSCO Global Health Security Expert Interview #1

Prof. Gostin



### "KDCA Strengthens Global Health Security with Strong National Public Health Institutes," Says a Leading Expert

Professor Lawrence O. Gostin emphasized the pivotal role of strong National Public Health Institutes in global health security. He praised Korea's leadership and advocated for...

[MORE >>](#)



GHSCO | ghsco@korea.kr | KDCA www.kdca.go.kr | twitter.com/ghsco\_kdca

E-ISSN 3022-5760 | 2025.06.30

[Previous issue of GHSCO Newsletter](#)



[Newsletter Subscribe](#)



GHSCO Updates : [GHSCO Updates1](#) | [GHSCO Updates2](#) | [GHSCO Updates3](#)

Global Updates : [News1](#) | [News2](#) | [Partner Stories1](#) | [Partner Stories2](#)

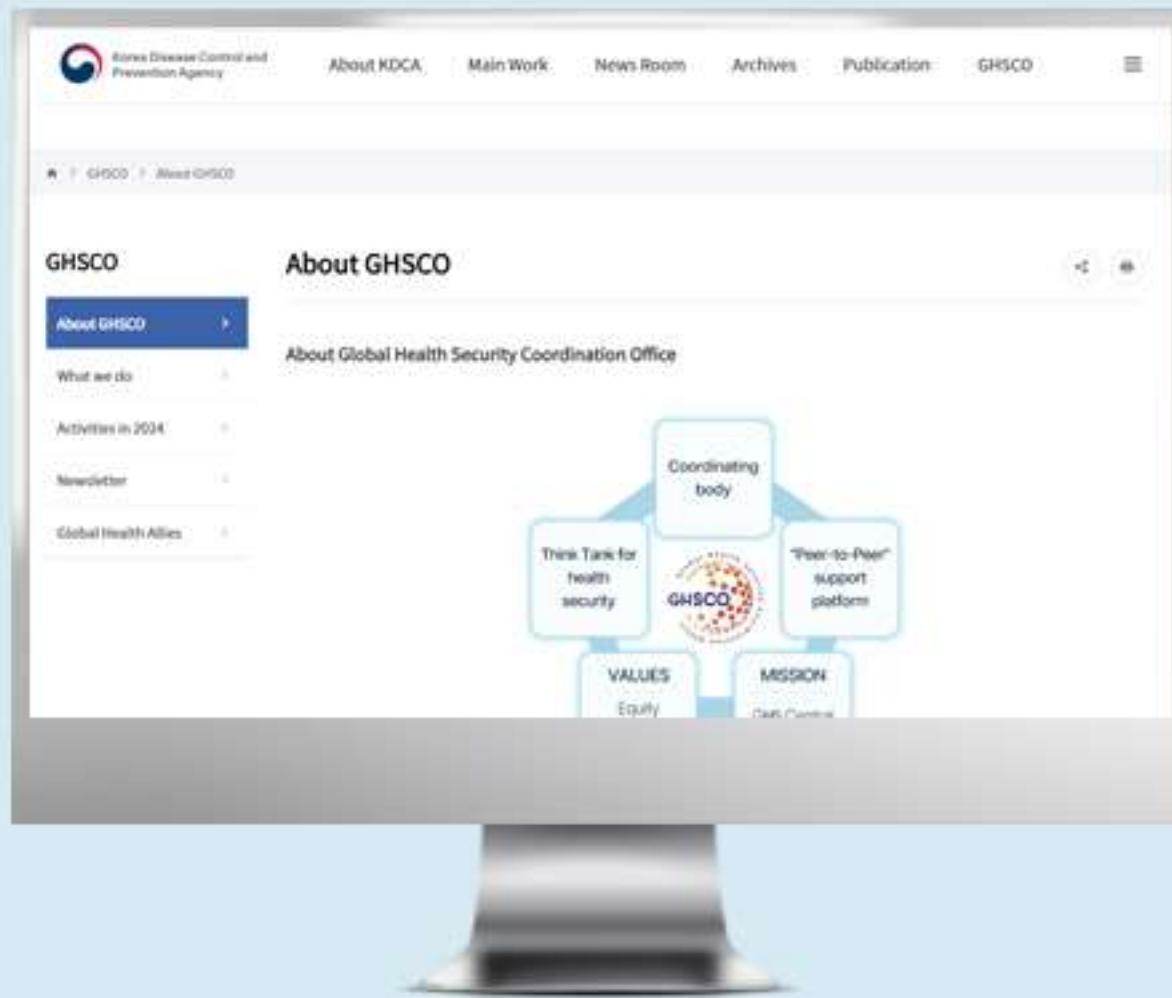
## GHSCO Updates1



### NOTICE

#### Visit Our New GHSCO Website

Explore How GHSCO Strengthens Global Health Security Together!



Have you visited GHSCO's new website?

Check it

[VISIT NOW](#)



Global Health security  
Coordination Office



KDCA

GHSCO | [ghsco@korea.kr](mailto:ghsco@korea.kr) | KDCA [www.kdca.go.kr](http://www.kdca.go.kr) | [twitter.com/ghsco\\_kdca](https://twitter.com/ghsco_kdca)

E-ISSN 3022-5760 | 2025.06.30

[Previous issue of GHSCO Newsletter](#)



GHSCO Updates : [GHSCO Updates1](#) | [GHSCO Updates2](#) | [GHSCO Updates3](#)

Global Updates : [News1](#) | [News2](#) | [Partner Stories1](#) | [Partner Stories2](#)

## GHSCO Updates2

### **KDCA Boosts Lao PDR's Genomic Surveillance with Landmark Training**

Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) has significantly advanced public health capabilities in Lao PDR through a collaborative initiative focused on strengthening genomic surveillance, particularly for food-borne illnesses. This effort falls under the **"Strengthening Health Emergencies Preparedness and Enhancing Response to Disease Outbreak (SHEPERD)"** project, launched in 2022, which aims to bolster long-term public health crisis response across the Mekong River region by fostering information sharing and establishing a regional hub.



From February 10 to 14, KDCA experts visited Lao PDR the National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE), Lao PDR's national reference laboratory, to provide crucial support. The core mission of this visit was to enhance NCLE's diagnostic and analytical capacities, with a specific emphasis on the detection and response to food-borne illnesses and outbreaks. A major milestone of this collaboration was the first Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) conducted in Lao PDR. Officials from the Ministry of Health Lao PDR received comprehensive training on the latest WGS diagnostic and analytical techniques.





Group photo of KDCA experts and LAO PDR Ministry of Health officials at NCLE building

Given that Salmonella is a primary bacterial pathogen responsible for food-borne illness and related outbreaks, the training included structured instruction on various aspects of Salmonella characterization. This ranged from library preparation for serotyping to result analysis, providing both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in genomic sequencing and data analysis. The training also addressed practical challenges, covering common types of errors and introducing effective solutions encountered during the WGS analysis process.

Furthermore, Lao PDR officials gained hands-on experience in critical analytical capacities essential for interpreting WGS data and ensuring quality control, thereby laying a robust foundation for advanced diagnostic analysis within the country.

These advancements are expected to significantly strengthen outbreak surveillance and response capabilities in Lao PDR.

“The ability to conduct whole genome sequencing for salmonella serotyping is a major advancement for our national laboratory system. With the support of KDCA, we can now better track and respond to food-borne disease outbreaks, protecting public health.”

Dr Bouaphane Khamphongphane, Director of NCLE

KDCA's support, through technology transfer and knowledge sharing, is posed to deepen the partnership between KDCA and the Ministry of Health of Lao PDR. This collaboration is anticipated to create meaningful synergy in building stronger public health emergency response systems. Moving forward, KDCA reiterates its commitment to collaborating with global health partners, supporting the development of more resilient and responsive public health systems worldwide.



GHSCO | [ghsco@korea.kr](mailto:ghsco@korea.kr) | KDCA [www.kdca.go.kr](http://www.kdca.go.kr) | [twitter.com/ghsco\\_kdca](https://twitter.com/ghsco_kdca)

E-ISSN 3022-5760 | 2025.06.30

Previous issue of GHSCO Newsletter



GHSCO Updates : [GHSCO Updates1](#) | [GHSCO Updates2](#) | [GHSCO Updates3](#)

Global Updates : [News1](#) | [News2](#) | [Partner Stories1](#) | [Partner Stories2](#)

## GHSCO Updates3

### Mongolia's Readiness for Emerging Infectious Disease Improved by Joint Simulation Exercise

#### Project Overview: Strengthening Mongolia's Infectious Disease Control System

Since 2023, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) has been supporting Mongolia through an Official Development Assistance (ODA) project aimed at enhancing the country's capacity to prepare and respond to infectious diseases. This project focuses on several key areas:

- Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance
- Field Epidemiology Training
- Simulation Exercises for Emerging Infectious Diseases
- Knowledge Exchange and Transfer of Surveillance and Diagnostic Technologies from the Republic of Korea (ROK).



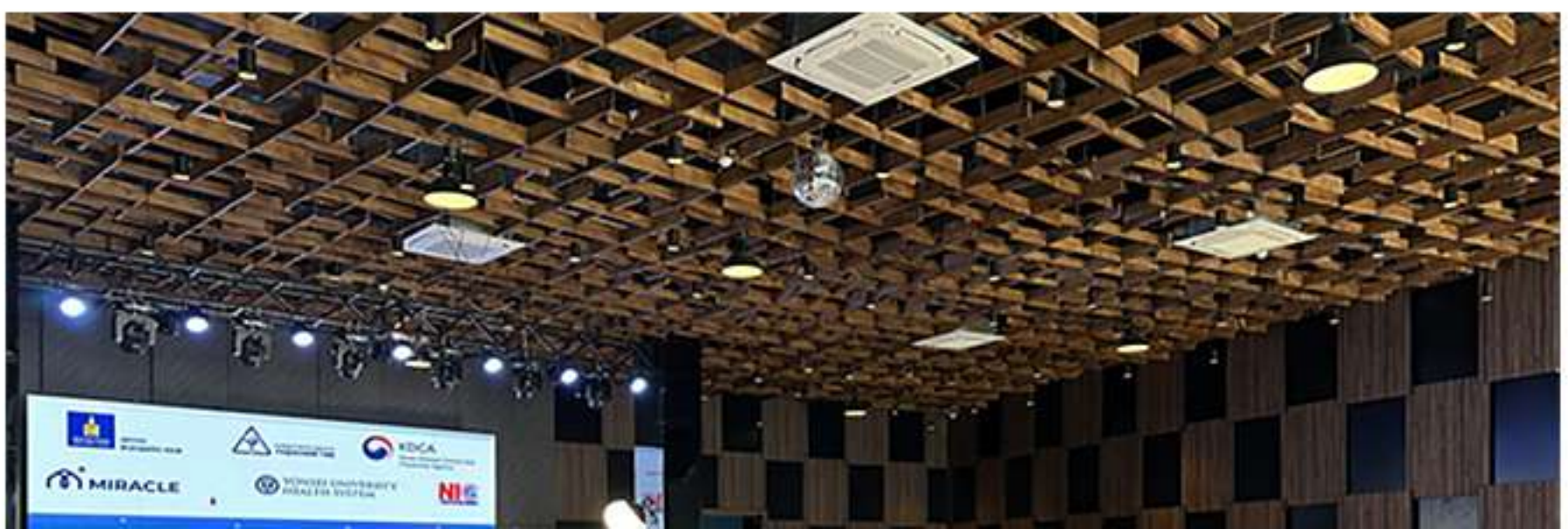


Group Photo of Simulation Exercise

## The Simulation Exercise

As a key part of the project, a scenario-based simulation exercise was conducted from April 21 to April 22, 2025. The exercise was based on a hypothetical human case of avian influenza. A "whole-of-government" approach to preparing for infectious disease outbreaks extends beyond just disease control authorities, encompassing a wide array of relevant ministries and agencies. The goal is to ensure a coordinated and integrated response, particularly in emergencies where multi-agency coordination might be unfamiliar territory for Mongolia. Therefore, it is essential to conduct simulation exercises that involve multiple sectors, allowing various government bodies to practice joint response efforts and ensure rapid action when a real crisis emerges. This collaborative training helps to streamline communication, clarify roles and responsibilities, and build a unified front against public health threats that require a comprehensive national effort. The simulation was hosted by Mongolia's National Center for Communicable Diseases (NCCD) with technical support from the KDCA. 74 working-level staff from around 20 Mongolian agencies participated, including representatives from the Ministry of Health, National Emergency Management Agency, and General Authority for Veterinary Services. This simulation offered participants the crucial opportunity to:

- Review Scenario-Based Response Procedures
- Clarify the Specific Responsibilities of Each Agency in the Event of Suspected Avian Influenza Cases
- Practice Swift Risk Assessment and Information Sharing
- Refine Strategies for Case Management and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Process
- Address Misinformation Management and Public Communication with the Media.





During the Simulation Exercise

## Key Findings and Insights

The simulation accurately reflected a real outbreak scenario and proved it to be highly valuable. It revealed critical gaps in the early response system while allowing for a comprehensive evaluation of the whole-of-government coordination mechanism. Although participants gained a deeper understanding of national guidelines and crisis management protocols, several key challenges were identified:

- Unclear Definition of Agency Roles during the Initial Response Phase
- Inadequate Mechanisms for Timely Information-Sharing among Involved Parties

## Future Directions and Ongoing Support from KDCA

Drawing on lessons learned, the NCCD and the Ministry of Health Mongolia plan to revise the national framework for responding to emerging infectious diseases. The revised framework will focus on:

- Clearly Defining the Responsibilities of Each Agency
- Enhancing Real-Time Information Sharing among Stakeholders

Regular scenario-based training plays a vital role in identifying systemic gaps and developing practical solutions for future outbreaks. Going forward, the KDCA will continue to share its knowledge and experience with the NCCD, thereby ensuring sustainable capacity building and fostering effective cooperation to strengthen Mongolia's infectious disease preparedness and response systems.



GHSCO | [ghsco@korea.kr](mailto:ghsco@korea.kr) | KDCA [www.kdca.go.kr](http://www.kdca.go.kr) | [twitter.com/ghsco\\_kdca](https://twitter.com/ghsco_kdca)  
E-ISSN 3022-5760 | 2025.06.30

Previous issue of GHSCO Newsletter



GHSCO Updates : [GHSCO Updates1](#) | [GHSCO Updates2](#) | [GHSCO Updates3](#)

Global Updates : [News1](#) | [News2](#) | [Partner Stories1](#) | [Partner Stories2](#)

## News1

### The 78<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly Charts Course for Stronger Pandemic Response and Sweeping WHO Reforms

19-27 May 2025, 78<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland

Dr. Yongmee Jee, Commissioner of the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), presided over the opening session of the 78<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA78). In her capacity as Vice President of WHA77, Dr. Jee announced the newly elected President of WHA78 and handed over the leadership of the Assembly.



Dr. Jee, Commissioner of the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency at the opening session of WHA78.

A key highlight of WHA78 was the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement, a significant milestone in

global health governance. During WHA77, the definition of "pandemic" was revisited in light of lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis. This year, Member States unanimously adopted the Pandemic Agreement, the second legally binding international health accord, aimed at ensuring equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics, and strengthening global cooperation in future health emergencies.

Another major topic of discussion was the potential impact of the United States' stated intention to withdraw from WHO. This raised concerns about WHO's future budget and workforce. In response, Member States approved a 20 percent increase in Assessed Contributions to ensure sustainable financing. While this may affect WHO's internal workforce structure, the organization reaffirmed its plan to pursue structural reforms to enhance operational efficiency.

Despite these challenges, meaningful progress was made toward strengthening pandemic preparedness and financial sustainability. Several key resolutions were adopted, including those on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), science-based health policies, climate change and health, and rare diseases. These decisions represent a broader global commitment to comprehensive approaches for achieving better health and well-being for all.

### **Commissioner Dr. Jee's Visit to Tonga: 2-12 February**



Earlier this year, Commissioner Dr. Jee visited Tonga as a member of the WHO Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee (IOAC) to assess the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and to support public health emergency preparedness in the Western Pacific Region.

This region faces wide disparities in population size, climate conditions, and health system capacity. Tonga, in particular, is geographically vulnerable to emerging infectious diseases and climate-related health threats due to its remote isolation and frequent natural disasters.

During her visit, Dr. Jee met with Dr. Saia Ma'u Piukala, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific (WPRO). They discussed various strategies for addressing NCDs, climate change and health systems, which are key challenges for Tonga. The meeting highlighted the need for tailored support, especially in building a skilled health workforce and mobilizing resources.

The bilateral discussions reaffirmed the importance of expanding the scope of cooperation to further enhance preparedness and response to both communicable and non-communicable diseases, as well as climate change-related health risks. These efforts will require more effective partnerships and increased global support. The KDCA remains committed to identifying urgent public health needs, and developing practical and sustainable solutions through international collaboration.

## **KDCA and WHO WPRO Sign MOU to Advance Technical Cooperation: 22 May 2025**

On the sidelines of WHA78, the KDCA and WHO WPRO held a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony to strengthen bilateral collaboration. Building on discussions held during Dr. Jee's visit to Tonga, the two sides discussed Korea's longstanding financial contributions to WPRO since 2006 and explored ways to enhance cooperation in key areas such as infectious disease prevention and control, tuberculosis management, and NCD surveillance. WPRO Regional Director Dr. Piukala expressed his expectation for increased support from Korea and looked forward to deeper collaboration under the renewed MOU framework.



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office

## Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation with ECDC: 16 May 2025

KDCA previously signed a MOU with European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to strengthen joint responses to cross-border infectious disease threats during the COVID-19 pandemic. The MOU outlines key areas of cooperation, including public health emergency preparedness and response, infectious disease surveillance, risk assessment, laboratory capacities, antimicrobial resistance, and immunization. This visit held particularly significance as it marked resumption of high-level policy dialogue and technical collaboration between two agencies, which had been delayed due to the prolonged impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, even after the signing of the MOU.



Commissioner Dr. Jee stated,

“Amid a rapidly changing international landscape, multilateral cooperation remains critical to improving the health of people around the world. I believe that this year’s 78<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly serves as an important opportunity to strengthen cooperation with countries and international organizations, and to further expand Korea’s leadership in the global health sector”.

GHSCO | ghsco@korea.kr | KDCA www.kdca.go.kr | twitter.com/ghsco\_kdca

E-ISSN 3022-5760 | 2025.06.30

Previous issue of GHSCO Newsletter



GHSCO Updates : [GHSCO Updates1](#) | [GHSCO Updates2](#) | [GHSCO Updates3](#)

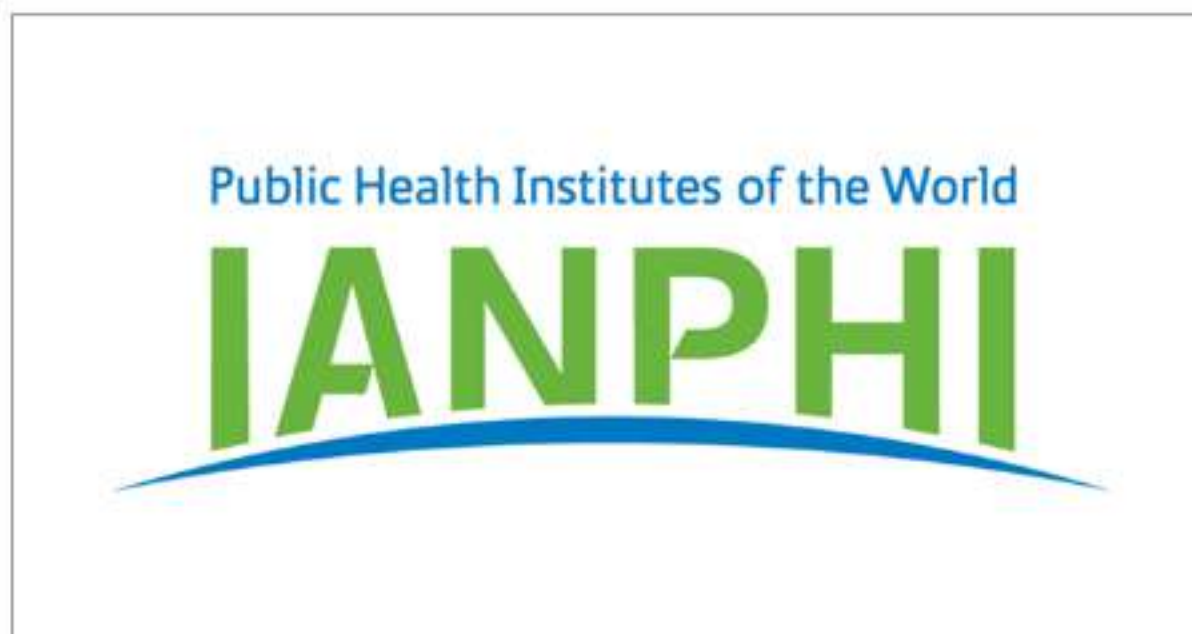
Global Updates : [News1](#) | [News2](#) | [Partner Stories1](#) | [Partner Stories2](#)

## News2

---

### **IANPHI General Assembly Highlights Four Key Public Health Achievements**

The **IANPHI (International Association of National Public Health Institutes)** General Assembly, held on April 10, 2025 in Maputo, Mozambique highlighted four outstanding achievements, showcasing impactful initiatives from around the globe in strengthening public health infrastructure and response capacity. These recognitions underscore the diverse and critical roles played by National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) in addressing complex health challenges.



#### **<IANPHI Regional Network>**

##### **Europe: Finland's Proactive Influenza Response**

Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) was honored for its exemplary work in managing an influenza epidemic on fur farms. The institute demonstrated robust collaboration with various authorities to contain the virus's spread from animals to

humans, emphasizing a crucial "One Health" and "planetary health" perspective in their approach. This recognition highlights the importance of inter-sectoral cooperation in preventing zoonotic spillover events.

### **Latin America and Caribbean: Mexico's Public Health Centric Restructuring**

The National Institute of Public Health of Mexico received recognition for its significant restructuring efforts. The institute successfully reoriented its core activities to place public health at the forefront, fostering stronger linkages between research and education. This strategic overhaul involved consolidating educational programs and establishing dedicated research and education groups, aiming to cultivate a more integrated and impactful public health ecosystem.

### **Africa: Mozambique's Community-Level Data Innovation**

Mozambique was acknowledged for its pioneering work in establishing a system to collect vital data at the community level. This innovative approach allows for a clearer understanding of birth and death profiles across the country, providing essential information for public health planning and interventions. Notably, this successful system is now being considered as a model for implementation in other African nations, showcasing its potential for broader regional impact.

### **Asia: The Republic of Korea's Global Health Security Leadership**

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) was celebrated for the establishment of its Global Health Security Coordination Office (GHSCO). As a significant step in bolstering global health security, GHSCO has already initiated a core personnel training program for ASEAN member states. This program aims to enhance infectious disease response capabilities across the region, demonstrating Korea's commitment to fostering international collaboration and strengthening global health security preparedness.

resilient health systems and addressing pressing public health challenges worldwide.

[For further details](#)



GHSCO | [ghsco@korea.kr](mailto:ghsco@korea.kr) | KDCA [www.kdca.go.kr](http://www.kdca.go.kr) | [twitter.com/ghsco\\_kdca](https://twitter.com/ghsco_kdca)

E-ISSN 3022-5760 | 2025.06.30

[Previous issue of GHSCO Newsletter](#)



GHSCO Updates : [GHSCO Updates1](#) | [GHSCO Updates2](#) | [GHSCO Updates3](#)

Global Updates : [News1](#) | [News2](#) | [Partner Stories1](#) | [Partner Stories2](#)

## Partner Stories1

---

### Malaysian Entomologist Leverages Korean AI Technology to Combat Vector-Borne Diseases

Noorazyan Binti Haris, an entomologist with 10 years of experience, participated in the GHSCO Core Personnel Training Program to enhance her technical skills and learn global best practices in public health. Her primary interest lies in innovative technologies such as Korea's AI-DMS mosquito monitoring system, which she believes can be effectively adapted for use in Malaysia.

Haris's initial Action Plan, "**Strengthening Entomological Surveillance: A Strategic Action Plan for Combating Vector-Borne Diseases (Zoonotic Malaria)**," aimed to improve the monitoring and control of mosquito-borne diseases, particularly zoonotic malaria caused by *Plasmodium knowlesi*. She has since revised her plan by narrowing the geographic scope from a broader regional focus to specifically concentrate on Segamat, Johor, where she is currently based. This adjustment was made to ensure the plan's feasibility and manageability given constraints in time, budget, and manpower. By focusing on a single district, she aims to implement the plan more effectively and create a localized model that can be scaled up later.

So far, Haris has completed foundational steps, including continuous local vector assessments, mapping vector distributions in Segamat, and beginning the digitalization of data. While the overall structure of her plan remains, she has adjusted timelines and expectations to ensure practicality and impact, learning that "starting small is often key to building a stronger, more sustainable model".

### Field Story from Malaysia





After the in-person training, entomological surveillance activities were implemented in Segamat, Johor, with a focus on identifying mosquito breeding sites in forested and plantation areas. Between January and April 2025, she applied enhanced vector surveillance techniques through systematic larval sampling and habitat mapping, directly contributing to the goal of strengthening data-driven entomological surveillance.

The training significantly impacted Haris's approach to work and decision-making, particularly her understanding of the interconnectedness of data and field practices. She found Korea's AI-based Digital Mosquito Surveillance (AI-DMS) especially insightful, providing a fresh perspective on how innovation can transform long-term vector monitoring and support data-driven decisions. Haris is eager to apply these insights to her work and contribute to innovative solutions in entomological research and surveillance.

Haris continues to stay in contact with several program participants, finding it valuable for exchanging ideas and learning different approaches to vector surveillance and disease control. These connections have led to sharing insights, discussing solutions to common challenges, and opening opportunities for future research collaborations. Reflecting on her experience, she highly recommends the program to colleagues, particularly early-career officers in public health or vector surveillance, emphasizing its solid foundation in theoretical knowledge and practical application, and the invaluable opportunity to engage with international experts and peers.



GHSCO Updates : [GHSCO Updates1](#) | [GHSCO Updates2](#) | [GHSCO Updates3](#)

Global Updates : [News1](#) | [News2](#) | [Partner Stories1](#) | [Partner Stories2](#)

## Partner Stories2

### **"KDCA Strengthens Global Health Security with Strong National Public Health Institutes," Says a Leading Expert**



Global Health Security  
Coordination Office

*GHSCO EXPERT INTERVIEW*

*Interview with  
Professor Lawrence Gostin*

**PLAY NOW**

*Interviewer: Professor Jinsu Song*



**Hear from the Expert**

WATCH THE VIDEO

*As the world continues to grapple with the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and prepares for future health crises, the critical role of robust National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) is more evident than ever. This was a key focus in a recent interview with Professor Lawrence O. Gostin of Georgetown University, a globally renowned expert in public health law, conducted by Professor Jin Su Song of Seoul National University College of Medicine for the GHSCO Newsletter on May 29, 2025.*

Professor Gostin underscored that strong, sustainable national health authorities are "critically

important" for both domestic public health and global health security, particularly in infectious disease control. He highlighted that the International Health Regulations (IHR) mandate core health system capacities including laboratory capabilities, surveillance systems, well-trained public health workforces and the abilities to rapidly detect and respond to novel outbreaks. "There's no way to do that without a strong National Public Health Authority," Gostin stated, drawing on decades of experience working with NPHIs worldwide, especially the U.S. CDC. He stressed the importance for NPHIs of being agile, well-resourced, and deeply integrated within the broader healthcare system.

## **Bridging Divides: NPHIs Across the Income Spectrum**

Recognizing differences in capacity between High-Income Countries (HICs) and Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), Professor Gostin noted that while their functions may differ, NPHIs in all settings can play a significant role. In LMICs, NPHIs often focus on essential services such as vaccination, maternal and child health, and basic surveillance. In contrast, HICs emphasize advanced research, sophisticated surveillance, and global leadership. Gostin advocated for a collaborative model where HICs learn from the "grassroots, ground-level delivery" in LMICs, while LMICs benefit from HICs' resources and advanced methodologies. The ultimate goal, he said, is to build a "firewall against health threats" from the local to the global level.

## **Strengthening Global Governance and Solidarity**

The conversation also addressed the urgent need of reforming global health governance, especially within the WHO, to align with the evolving landscape of NPHIs. Gostin argued that NPHIs are vital for the effective implementation of WHO reforms and for ensuring compliance with IHR regulations. While the WHO provides normative guidance, real-world implementation depends heavily on capable national institutions. He proposed a "network of networks" approach, in which NPHIs collaborate regionally and globally to share best practices, resources, and personnel particularly to support LMICs. This distributed model could strengthen global preparedness and response, potentially filling gaps caused by funding shortfalls in international organizations.

## **Technological Advancements and Korea's Leading Role**

The integration of advanced technologies such as AI and big data into public health was another key point. Gostin championed the use of these tools by NPHIs to enhance surveillance, early warning systems, and data-driven policy-making, enabling for "a smart and precise responses."

Professor Gostin particularly commended South Korea for its exemplary health system and potential lead global health security. He highlighted Korea's rapid learning from past challenges like the MERS outbreak and its remarkably effective response in the early stages of COVID-19. "In my mind, the Republic of Korea (ROK) is at the pinnacle of its region, and arguably the world," Gostin asserted, citing ROK's expertise, funding, and commitment. He emphasized Korea's unique position to lead "naturally, humbly, and quietly, yet effectively," through its actions, words, and dedication—not only to scientific exchange and innovation, but also to equity and inclusion in global health.

The interview concluded with a resounding call for continued investment in robust NPHIs and the fostering of global solidarity, recognizing that no single nation can confront future pandemics alone.



GHSCO | [ghsco@korea.kr](mailto:ghsco@korea.kr) | KDCA [www.kdca.go.kr](http://www.kdca.go.kr) | [twitter.com/ghsco\\_kdca](https://twitter.com/ghsco_kdca)

E-ISSN 3022-5760 | 2025.06.30

Previous issue of GHSCO Newsletter

