

GHSCO Newsletter

Global Health Security Coordination Office

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Enhancing Training Impact: GHSCO Conducted First Post- Training Follow-up Mission to Malaysia

In October 2025, GHSCO conducted its first post-training follow-up assessment in Malaysia for the 2024 Core Personnel Training Program.

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ROK-GHANA Global Health Security Webinar Series Launched

KDCA participated in the first FELTP webinar series, held on 29 October 2025, as part of KOICA "GHSA Ghana Health Security Capacity Strengthening Project".

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Ministry of Health Mongolia Visits KDCA to Strengthen ROK- Mongolia Cooperation in Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response

On 8 December 2025, KDCA welcomed Mongolia representatives from the Ministry of Health to strengthen cooperation and deepen understanding of public health policy.

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IANPHI Report Warns of 'Income Gap' in Pandemic Preparedness and Learning

IANPHI has released its 2024-2025 "Role of NPHIs in Health Emergencies" report, which evaluates global emergency response capacities of NPHI.

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Strengthening National Public Health Institutes for the Next Pandemic: Interview with IANPHI President Duncan Selbie

GHSCO conducted 2nd Global Health Security Expert Interview with Professor Duncan Selbie, President of the IANPHI on 25 November 2025.

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GHSKO Updates 1

Enhancing Training Impact: GHSKO Conducted First Post-Training Follow-up Mission to Malaysia

Since 2024, Global Health Security Coordination Office (GHSKO) has operated the Core Personnel Training Program for ASEAN countries, offering courses in surveillance and laboratory diagnosis. A total of 20 trainees completed two training cycles in 2024. The recent follow-up mission marked the program's first on-site assessment since its launch.

The mission was carried out in Malaysia from 29 to 30 October 2025, the home country of the program's outstanding fellow. Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) staff who participated in the program visited Malaysia to review the implementation status of the trainees' action plan and observe relevant facilities at the Ministry of Health Malaysia. The outstanding fellow, Ms. Noorazyan Binti Haris—an entomologist working at the Ministry of Health Malaysia—developed an action plan focusing on "Strengthening Entomological Surveillance for Combating Vector-Borne Diseases (Zoonotic Malaria)."

The field assessment confirmed that the action plan activities were progressing as scheduled and that the enhanced malaria surveillance system had produced tangible improvements. The trainee successfully applied the research result and surveillance skills learned through the program to her work. Notably, she conducted two internal training sessions for field officers at the Ministry of Health Malaysia, contributing to an average 65% increase in participants' knowledge levels. She also adopted a mosquito trapping technique—BG trap using dry ice as bait—learned during the training, into Malaysia's national mosquito surveillance program to improve the efficiency of mosquito collection.

Through on-site consultations, KDCA staff recommended the development of guidelines to strengthen infection prevention and safety management for field staff, particularly in situations where workers may face exposure risks due to inadequate use of personal protective equipment.

<Results of Action Plan>

Result	Indicator	Target
✓	Training sessions for health workers	Twice/year
✓	Development of digital surveillance system	Develop system and run pilot program
✓	Community awareness campaign	Twice/year
✓	Collaborative projects	Once or twice/year
✓	Data-sharing agreements	At least once

The trainees expressed a high level of satisfaction, noting that the program significantly enhanced their professional capacities and felt that Korea's structured training approach was particularly valuable. They also expressed interest in future training programs, including new courses on genomic sequencing.

During facility visits, KDCA staff noted that the Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) of the Ministry of Health of Malaysia operates a comprehensive disaster response system covering natural disasters and environmental public health incidents. The National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) maintains quality standards comparable to those of WHO Regional Reference Laboratories in the arbovirus sector. The Institute for Medical Research Malaysia, designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre, carries out infectious disease diagnostics; vaccine and genomic analysis; and vector-control initiative such as the introduction of Wolbachia into *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes to suppress dengue virus replication. This visit provided KDCA staff a valuable opportunity to observe advanced dengue prevention practices that are not yet widely adopted in Korea.

Through this in-person follow-up mission, KDCA confirmed the concrete impact of the training program. To further support the implementation of trainees' action plans, KDCA plans to continue on-site consultations in 2026. Additionally, the 4th Core Personnel Training Program is under review to expand its curriculum to new areas beyond laboratory diagnostics.



Meetings with staff at the Ministry of Health Malaysia

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GHSCO Updates2

ROK-GHANA Global Health Security Webinar Series Launched

Poster of Korea-Ghana KOICA GHSA Project Webinar Series 1

The first ROK-Ghana Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Project Webinar Series—focused on Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP)—was held on 29 October 2025. Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), in collaboration with Seoul National University, which serves as the project's management agency, agreed to hold a regular webinar series on infectious disease preparedness and response. The first webinar marked the important first step toward strengthening knowledge exchange and cooperation in global health security between the two countries. Going forward, the webinar series will be held on a regular biannual basis.

This webinar series is part of KOICA's ongoing "Ghana Global Health Security Agenda Strengthening Project," designed to support its performance monitoring and technical assistance. This project is the second phase following the first phase (2018 – 2023). The second phase (2024 -2028) aims to bolster Ghana's capacity to implement the International Health Regulations (IHR) within the GHSA framework and reinforce national-level infectious disease response capacities. Furthermore, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ghana Health Service, and University of Ghana are involved as key implementing partners, with Seoul National University serving as the project management consultant.

During the webinar, KDCA introduced the role of GHSCO and shared key achievements from its international development cooperation initiatives, highlighting Korea's experiences in global health collaboration. Furthermore, a session titled "Introduction to the FETP of Korea" provided an overview of Korea's epidemiological workforce development structure and outcomes. Seoul National University provided an overall progress update on the KOICA GHSA Ghana project, while the University of Ghana—one of the project's implementing partners—presented achievements of the Ghana FELTP, and ongoing efforts to strengthen Ghana's national health security system. Through this webinar, participating organizations shared project experiences, outcomes, and challenges while discussing effective strategies to enhance outbreak response capacity.

Over 100 Regional Health workers Trained in FETP-Intermediate

Presentation slide of Session 2

KDCA and Seoul National University plan to further expand collaboration by establishing additional exchange platforms, including a joint conference. Along with information sharing among stakeholders, it is expected to deepen Korea-Ghana cooperation and contribute to global health security capacity building.

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GHSKO Updates3

Ministry of Health Mongolia Visits KDCA to Strengthen ROK-Mongolia Cooperation in Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response

Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) invited representatives from the Ministry of Health Mongolia to share Korea's infectious disease response system on 8 December 2025. Tsetsegsaikhan Batmunkh, Director General in Public Health Policy and Implementation Department at the Ministry of Health, and directors of provincial-level health departments visited and engaged in a bilateral meeting with KDCA.

Official Development Assistance (ODA):

Mongolia Infectious Disease Response and Cooperation for Antimicrobial Resistance and Laboratory Empowerment (MIRACLE) Project



During the visit, KDCA shared key elements of Korea's infectious disease surveillance system, and national immunization program, along with progress in ongoing Official Development Assistance (ODA) project with Mongolia. The Mongolian representatives provided an overview of their national health system. In the Q&A session, both shared priority actions on infectious diseases prevention and control, as well as updates on the establishment of Mongolia CDC. Additionally, they had an opportunity to tour KDCA's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Biosafety Level 3 (BL3) Laboratory, receiving briefings on operational roles and functions. This visit helped strengthen bilateral collaboration by enhancing mutual understanding of each country's public health systems and reaffirming the commitment to advance infectious disease preparedness and response capacities effectively.



Site visit at Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory

Ongoing ODA Collaboration with Mongolia

Since 2023, the Mongolia ODA project—implemented with project partner Dr. Joon Sup Yeom, Director of the Center for Global Development at the Yonsei Institute for Global Health—has progressed in close collaboration with the National Center for Communicable Diseases (NCCD). Key activities include:

- Establishment of National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Surveillance Network
- Strengthening NCCD National Laboratory Capacities
- Simulation Exercises for Emerging Infectious Diseases
- Field Epidemiology Training Program (Mentor)

Mongolia is currently developing AMR surveillance system at national level including major hospitals in Ulaanbaatar, along with plans to publish national AMR surveillance report.

Plans for 2026

Several activities are planned for 2026, including:

- Epidemiological Capacity Building Training on Healthcare-Associated Infection Control (April)
- Simulation Exercises for Emerging Infectious Diseases (May)
- Developing National Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Guideline (June)

KDCA will continue its close collaboration with Mongolia through Yonsei Institute for Global Health to ensure effective ODA implementation. Through sustained partnership, there will be tangible and meaningful outcomes for both countries.



 Global Health security
Coordination Office

 KDCA

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IANPHI Report Warns of 'Income Gap' in Pandemic Preparedness and Learning

Global Study Finds High-Income Countries are Twice as Likely to Implement Lessons Learned After Crises.

The International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI), supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has released its 2024-2025 **"Role of NPHIs in Health Emergencies"** report, which evaluates global emergency response capacities of National Public Health Institutes (NPHI). The study highlights a stark international divide in the ability to translate lessons learned from crises into systemic improvements.

The report closely examines the Global Health Emergency Corps (GHEC) units—specialized NPHI teams responsible for surveillance, risk assessment, and rapid deployment.

One of the report's critical findings is a significant "income gap" in institutional learning. The report analyzed how consistently NPHIs implement recommendations derived from formal post-emergency reviews—a key measure of preparedness effectiveness.

According to the analysis, 57% of respondents from High-Income Countries (HICs) reported that they "always implement recommendations." In sharp contrast, only 36% of NPHIs in Low-Income Countries (LICs) reported consistently implementing these necessary structural changes. Upper Middle-Income Countries (UMICs) showed a rate of 55%, underscoring that financial and technical resources play a decisive role in successfully institutionalizing lessons learned.

Call for Legal Authority and Sustained Investment

The report emphasizes that NPHIs must shift from reactive crisis management toward prevention-focused strategies and integrated surveillance systems. It also calls for NPHIs to secure clear legal mandates that empower them to issue transparent, consistent, and evidence-based guidance to policymakers without interference.

IANPHI further expressed concern that many countries have begun scaling back public health investment in the post-COVID-19 period. The report also emphasized that sustained funding in public health should be viewed as an "insurance premium"—a critical investment that protects population health, national economic security, and long-term prosperity.

For details:

https://www.ianphi.org/_includes/documents/sections/tools-resources/ghec-highlights/ianphi_ghec-report.pdf



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Strengthening National Public Health Institutes for the Next Pandemic: Interview with IANPHI President Duncan Selbie



GHSCO Expert Interview #2
GHS 조청사무소 글로벌보건안보 전문가 인터뷰 #2

**Interview with
President
Duncan Selbie**

IANPHI 국제공중보건기관연합
회장 단칸 셀비와의 대담

Interviewer: Professor Jin Gwack

[Click here](#) to watch the full interview.

From Reactive to Proactive Preparedness in Response to Future Pandemics

Professor Duncan Selbie, President of the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI), opened the discussion by underscoring the global lesson from COVID-19. President Selbie emphasized that the world needs to shift from reactive crisis management to proactive prevention. While emergency response capacity remains vital, he highlighted the need for “a better balance between response and prevention,” calling for more consistent public health capabilities across countries. He also highlighted the enhancement of the International Health Regulations (IHR) as the most significant structural priority for global health security.

“Take the International Health Regulations to heart.”

This principle, he said, should guide both future national strategies and international collaboration efforts.

Integrated Surveillance: The Most Urgent Priority for Next Pandemic

One of the major challenges revealed during COVID-19 was the inability of many countries to integrate diverse data sources—genomics, environmental monitoring, social behaviors, and clinical reports. President Selbie noted that even well-resourced countries faced challenges, as technical integration alone does not guarantee readiness. Drawing on IANPHI’s experience, he stressed the need for adaptable, collaborative models that allow countries—especially low- and middle-income countries—to combine essential data sources without requiring fully integrated systems.

Legal Authority and Mandates: Protecting the Scientific Voice

Another key lesson is the importance of clear legal mandates for NPHIs. President Selbie emphasized the need for institutional frameworks that guarantee NPHIs the authority to deliver evidence-based scientific findings without political interference.

“Freedom and protection of legal authority are a vital part of NPHIs.”

He emphasized that policymakers must balance public health with economic and social considerations, but also stressed that NPHIs should be empowered to deliver timely, transparent, and consistent evidence-based guidance.

Public Health Investment as an Insurance Premium

Referencing WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros’s description of the global “panic-neglect” cycle (often described as “panic-promise-respond-forget”), President Selbie warned that several countries are already scaling back public health investments only a few years after the peak of COVID-19.

“Pay your insurance premiums, because investing in public health is an investment in the protection of people, economic security, and national prosperity.”

He emphasized that consistent investment in NPHIs not only protects population health but also strengthens national economic security and long-term prosperity.

This interview highlights the indispensable role of NPHIs in shaping global readiness for the next health emergency. From implementing the IHR and developing integrated surveillance systems to securing legal mandates, the path forward requires strategic investment and unwavering political commitment.