

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Workshop on Population Dynamics and Infectious Disease in Asia

Organized by
Asian MetaCentre
for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis

Supported by
The Wellcome Trust
United Kingdom

Date and Venue
27-29 October 2004
Ballroom 1
Furama Hotel
Singapore

Context and Scope

This Asian Population Network Workshop focuses on infectious diseases in Asia, especially their interaction with population and development. Evolving links of regional populations and their economies, changing physical environments, and the ecosystem itself, drive the infections that occur and in turn affect population dynamics and development. Population change, directly and via socio-economic and environmental effects, acts as a primary driver of changing infectious diseases.

One primary driver of infectious disease trends is migration or travel within and from Asia, due to increasing globalization and growth of the cash economy, income disparity, demand for skilled and unskilled workers, and religious pilgrimage. As well, rapid urbanisation boosts old infectious diseases like diarrhoea, dengue, tuberculosis, and childhood pneumonia; and it may lead to family breakdown, drug abuse, sexually transmitted and HIV infections. High-rise urban housing creates new **infection** risks, poorly understood, as seen for SARS in Hong Kong. Involuntary migration due to conflict or massive construction projects, and resulting poverty, is another infection promoter. Large dams alone have displaced 60-80 million persons, with many more indirectly affected, mostly in Asia. Vulnerable groups, especially women and children, often become worse off after migration or displacement.

Another primary driver of infectious disease is environmental change due to growth **and** increasing demand for land, food, water and energy. Forest encroachment, soil erosion, falling water tables, desertification and global warming are some of the consequences, with infection impacts shaped by local geography and ecology. Such ecosystem changes

may facilitate microbe transmission to humans by animals, food or water, or create new or 'emerging' infections.

Population responses to infections influence the infections themselves. For example, Asian health systems now use antimicrobials extensively, resulting in drug resistance, especially for malaria, tuberculosis and other bacterial diseases. Antibiotic use by agribusiness contributes to the resistance problem. Companies have increased the search for new natural drugs, aware that shrinking biodiversity limits the potential of finding them. Disputes over patents on genetic information, biological material, and antimicrobial agents are causing conflict. Faced with the threat of infectious epidemics, states have induced border controls of goods and people, often irrationally, and increased community anxiety. Other infections have disabled communities, retarding development, or have led to stigma or inter-ethnic tension. Control strategies sometimes restricted individual rights for collective well being.

This Workshop invites submission of theoretical or empirical papers, from any relevant discipline, on the following themes relating to population dynamics and infectious diseases in Asia:

- Migration and travel – internal or international, including displacement and pilgrimage
- Environmental effects of human activity, including climate change
- Methods of food production and distribution, and zoonoses
- Microbial opportunism, emergence or catastrophes, and population responses
- Health technology and system influences – supply or demand
- Gender, social capital and civil effects
- Economic or political consequences of infectious diseases
- History or prospects of infection and control
- Comparative government policies and responses
- Policy implications for national and international action

Organising Committee

Professor Adrian Sleight, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, ANU, Australia.

Associate Professor Brenda Yeoh, Asian MetaCentre, Asia Research Institute and Dept of Geography, NUS, Singapore

Associate Professor Chee Heng Leng, Asia Research Institute, NUS, Singapore

Dr Rachel Safman, Dept of Sociology, NUS, Singapore

Professor Phua Kai Hong, Dept of Community, Occupational, and Family Medicine, NUS, Singapore

Ms Verene Koh (secretariat), Asian MetaCentre, Asia Research Institute, NUS, Singapore

Invitation to Submit Abstracts

The workshop will include both invited and submitted papers. The organizers invite submissions in the form of abstracts for their proposed contribution of about 500 words, or full-length papers. Interested participants should also submit their Curriculum Vitae (include research projects and publication record), together with their abstracts to:

Ms Verene Koh

Workshop on Population Dynamics and Infectious Disease in Asia

Asian MetaCentre

For Population and Sustainable Development Analysis

c/o Asia Research Institute

National University of Singapore

5 Arts Link

Shaw Foundation Building, AS7, Level 4

SINGAPORE 117570

Email: popnasia@nus.edu.sg

Applicants are encouraged to send in their submissions via email. The closing date for submissions is **30 June 2004**. Notification of acceptance of papers can be expected by July 2004.

Application for Funding Support

Participants are expected to find their own funding to attend the workshop, but limited funding to cover economy-class return airfare, and accommodation for the duration of the workshop is available for the best abstracts selected on a competitive basis to successful applicants. Registration fees will be waived for successful applicants.

If you are applying for funding support from the Asian MetaCentre, please indicate clearly in your cover letter whether you are applying for full support or a partial subsidy (in which case indicate the type of support needed (e.g. accommodation only)).

All participants supported in part or in full are required to give first right of refusal to the organizers to publish their papers, after revisions if necessary, in a book or journal special issue (planned at the discretion of the workshop organizers) for the workshop. All abstracts/papers submitted with corresponding partial or full funding must be unpublished and not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

In the case of self-supporting paper presenters, registration fee will be waived if your paper is accepted for presentation at the workshop.

Applications should reach us by **30 June 2004** and the results can be expected by July 2004.

Registration Fee

For those who will not be presenting papers but would like to attend the workshop, registration fee of S\$250 inclusive of 5% Goods and Services Tax is applicable. The registration fee covers the workshop papers and meals (lunches, tea-breaks and a welcome dinner only) for the 3-day event. Applicants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Interested applicants should send in their cheques or bank drafts of **\$250** in Singapore Dollars, made payable to the “**National University of Singapore**” together with a completed registration form (attached below) to our corresponding address. Please state your name and “**Infectious Disease Workshop**” on the reverse side of the cheques or bank drafts. Interested applicants are to respond by **31 August 2004**.

Enquiries

For enquiries, please contact Ms Verene Koh at tel: 65-68746797, fax: 65-67791428 or email: popnasia@nus.edu.sg. Correspondence address: Asian MetaCentre, c/o Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 5 Arts Link, Shaw Foundation Building, AS7, Level 4, Singapore 117570.

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
POPULATION DYNAMICS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN ASIA
Singapore, 27-29 October 2004**

Registration Form

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Title (Prof./Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms.): | Sex: |
| Surname: | First Name: |
| Institutional Affiliation: | |
| Mailing Address: | |
| Telephone: | Fax: |
| Email(s): | |
| Please tick as appropriate: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to attend the workshop. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I enclose registration fee of S\$250. (Draft / Cheque No: _____) (Please fill in draft/cheque number) | |

Registration Fee of S\$250 (inclusive of 5% Goods and Services Tax) by cheque or bank draft should be made payable to **National University of Singapore** in Singapore Dollars. On the reverse side of the cheque or bank draft, please indicate your name, and write "Infectious Disease Workshop".

Signature / Date

PLEASE SEND IN THIS FORM TOGETHER WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:
Ms Verene Koh, Asian MetaCentre, c/o Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 5 Arts Link, Shaw Foundation Building, AS7, SINGAPORE 117570.

Tel: 65-68746797 Fax: 65-67791428, Email: popnasia@nus.edu.sg.