

IS – 30

Future development and cross border projects

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Antidote is an essential element for treating certain kinds of poisoning. Some of them may not be common but sudden, unexpected or unpredictable. They may be also serious or life threatening and specific antidotes are needed. Therefore, health facilities should make available to them and ready to use. Because the need of antidotes is uncertain and may be not in the economic scale to produce or marketing. Many of them turn to be “orphan drugs”. Therefore, it is difficult and costly to procure and stock in the hospital. This problem is not at an individual level, and it is national or regional level. Thailand had suffered by this problem and found the way to abate it. Centralized procurement and management are implemented. A new designed distribution of the drugs and supervision by poison centers are also applied. It has shown its efficacy and favorable outcome.

As this drug shortage is not limited only in Thailand, many countries in this region may share the same suffering. Thailand is working with WHO South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) to propose an initiative for coordinated antidotes procurement in the South East Asia Region (iCAPS). The aim is to improve access to essential antidotes. There will be 2 pathways; planned joint annual procurement and emergency response. This initiative will work on collaboration among members of SEARO and in voluntary basis. The principles for iCAPS are starting on what exist and with small and concrete steps. We will share our experience and learn to work together. The final goal is to improve the quality of poison management and make this region ready to cope with any toxicological threats.