

## 新興病毒的偵測與因應

### Newly emerging viruses in Asia: The detection and response

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Asia has been the epicenter of many emerging viral infections in the past two decades. Many risk factors have been identified to contribute to this situation, including being economically disadvantaged and lacking in many health amenities. Poor farming practices have been another major risk factor and despite international guidelines and assistance, the situation is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future. The high and crowded population and vast movement of peoples, including migrant workers, continue to make this region vulnerable to the emergence of previously un-recognized or uncommon, yet dangerous, microbes. The fight against emerging viral infections will remain an uphill battle in Asia and because of inadequate infrastructure and trained manpower, the situation could even worsen. Individual developing countries will not be able to efficiently handle outbreaks of emerging viruses unless lessons from previous SARS/MERS outbreaks were seriously discussed and learned and a strong regional effort can be formulated. A high biosafety laboratory is needed urgently in the region to allow scientists to work with these highly pathogenic organisms in an appropriate environment. Maintaining international communication and data collection network of travel and tropical medicine clinics in all countries by tracking geographic and temporal trends in infectious diseases among travelers and migrants in Asian countries is important. International cooperation to prepare for and defeat emerging infectious diseases should never be overemphasized.