

Leveraging IHH Healthcare Malaysia as the Antimicrobial Stewardship Knowledge Exchange Center in ASEAN

Kam Teck Kuen
Premier Integrated Labs
teckkuen.kam@premierintegratedlabs.com.my

BACKGROUND

Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) is still a new concept for most hospitals in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). IHH Healthcare Malaysia was identified to become the education hub for AMS knowledge exchange in ASEAN. bioMérieux collaborated with IHH Healthcare Malaysia to customize AMS Continuing Medical Education (CMEs) and workshops to address the AMS GAPS identified in the region.

OBJECTIVES

IHH Healthcare Malaysia's mission is to contribute to the fight against AMR by sharing their expertise with the rest of ASEAN, serving as an education hub for knowledge sharing.

An Introductory Workshop for IHH AMS Team

Connecting Antimicrobials, Resistance and Stewardship:
An introductory workshop for IHH Malaysia Antimicrobial Stewardship team



This is the first AMS workshop involving different multi sectoral from the AMS team in IHH Healthcare Malaysia. The workshop was attended by over 70 participants from 16 IHH hospitals across Malaysia. The program was centred around team-based learning to promote discussion and exchange of knowledge among the AMS team.



ASPAC AMS Master Class



The primary goal of this program is to equip participants with the proper knowledge and tools for building a case for an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program's (AMSP's) economic impact and AMS surveillance. The program was designed to provide a forum for over 25 Asia Pacific and ASEAN healthcare professionals to share views and practices from their respective settings. Main speakers for the program included Professor Jeroen Schouten, from Radboud University Medical Centre, Intensivist, ESGAP chair, who spoke about knowledge and tools for building a case for AMSP's Economic ESCMID.



Center Of Excellence (COE) Day



The event was graced by the presence of YB Dato' Lukanisman bin Awang Sauni, Deputy Minister of Health Malaysia and His Excellency Axel Cruau, Ambassador of France in Malaysia.



Healthcare experts across ASEAN unite to discuss and provide insights into the challenges posed by AMR and the role of AMS as a solution. The symposium also highlighted the importance of diagnostics in AMR control, the link between antimicrobial resistance and judicious use of antibiotics, and initiatives in the public and private healthcare sector for controlling AMR.



CONCLUSION

Antimicrobial stewardship is a strategy to combat antimicrobial resistance in hospitals. Given the burden and impact of antimicrobial resistance in ASEAN, it is important for hospitals to acknowledge and identify the gaps so that immediate actions and steps can be taken to improve the situation.

bioMérieux and IHH Healthcare Malaysia share the same mission which is to join in the fight against AMR. Hence the collaboration between the two entities is the first step taken to elevate the AMS standards in ASEAN. This is done through customized workshops and programs which is aimed to enhance the knowledge of key stakeholders in the region so that these knowledge can be cascaded down to their local hospitals and proper strategies and action plans can be proposed to their local government authorities.

Multiple-country collaborations and bidirectional learning across the region are essential for building and strengthening capacity for AMS interventions. Every stakeholder needs to play their part to ensure optimal antimicrobial stewardship implementation.

DISCLOSURES

The author declare that he has no conflict of interest related to the COE collaboration.