

PASTEUR NETWORK AVIAN INFLUENZA SYMPOSIUM EVENT REPORT

INSTITUT PASTEUR DU CAMBODGE, 2024



HKU Med
UKS Faculty of Medicine
HKU Pasteur Research Point
香港大學醫學院醫學研究中心



Institut Pasteur Korea

**Institut Pasteur
du Cambodge**
PASTEUR NETWORK



**PASTEUR
NETWORK**



**INSTITUT
PASTEUR**
Nouvelle-Calédonie

**Institut Pasteur
d'Ho Chi Minh Ville**



**វិទ្យាស្ថាន ប៊ិចស៊ីណេ វិទ្យា
INSTITUT PASTEUR DALLIANG**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



The Institut Pasteur du Cambodge would like to thank all the participants for their active involvement and invaluable contributions. Thank you to the Pasteur Network and Dr. Andre Spiegel, Director of Institut Pasteur du Cambodge, for agreeing to host and fund the event. Special thanks to H.E. Dr. Koy Vanny, MOH Representative and his team as well as Dr. Tum Sothyra, GDAHP/MAFF.

We would like to acknowledge the the World Health Organization (WHO), World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), The Doherty Institute, BIOTIA Inc., Human Link, Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP), University of Georgia, and the Duke-NUS Medical School for their support and participation.

A special thanks to Dr. Erik A. Karlsson, Prof. Vijaykrishna Dhanasekaran, Ms. Khaoula Abidi, Ms. Marea Pheap, Mr. Alexander Blaise and Ms. Sofia Perez for their exceptional efforts in organizing and structuring the symposium and all operational aspects of the event.

Special thanks also go to the secretariat team for their dedication and hard work: Dr. Veasna Duong, Dr. Janin Nouhin, Dr. Anna Signe Fomsgaard, Dr. Jurre Siegers, Dr. Giorgio Gonnella, Ms. Frida Esther Sparaciari, Mr. Bastien Malinge, Ms. Kathrina Mae Bienes, Ms. Kimhoung Sour, Mr. Leangyi Heng, Ms. Malen Chan, Mr. Miylenni Lay, Ms. Sonita Kol, Ms. Sopheak Thet, Ms. Sophoannedh Rath, Ms. Sreymom Ken, Mr. Sunheng Kaing, Mr. Victor Omondi and Ms. Yisuong Phout.

Thank you all for your efforts in making this workshop a success.

Dr. Erik Karlsson (Institut Pasteur du Cambodge) and Prof. Vijaykrishna Dhanasekaran (HKU-Pasteur) provided an overview of the symposium's agenda and goals. Key plenary talks followed, with insights from Dr. Tum Sothyra, Prof. Ian Barr, and Dr. Frank Wong. Their presentations offered a comprehensive view of the AIV landscape in Cambodia and the Asia-Pacific region, highlighting surveillance data, ministry initiatives, and innovative research. The speakers underscored the importance of integrating human, animal, and environmental health strategies across the region.



FIGURE 2: H.E. DR. KOY VANNY (REPRESENTATIVE OF MOH) MEETS PROF. ANDRE SPIEGEL (IPC, DIRECTOR) PRIOR TO GIVING OPENING REMARKS

Later, senior scientists from each Pasteur Network institute presented case studies and updates on their labs' cutting-edge work on avian influenza, including environmental surveillance, high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) transmission, and influenza ecology. Early-career scientists closed the day by showcasing specific projects, such as studies on HPAI pathogenicity in Hong Kong, reassortment in Cambodia, and others offering fresh perspectives and data on influenza research.

DAY 2

Fostering Innovation and Setting Priorities

Day 2 began with a recap of Day 1 by Dr. Erik Karlsson and Prof. Vijaykrishna Dhanasekaran. The morning sessions highlighted two key research themes: vaccination/immunology, and novel technologies. Experts such as Dr. Sook-San Wong (HKU-Pasteur) and Prof. Amir Ghaemi (Institute Pasteur Iran) presented advancements in vaccine strategies and immune response studies. Meanwhile, Dr. Jurre Siegers (Institut Pasteur du Cambodge) and Dr. Heather Wells (Biotia) discussed transformative tools like metagenomics and integrated dashboards.

The afternoon focused on collaborative workshops. The "Speed Dating" activity facilitated cross-disciplinary networking, strengthening connections between researchers. Using the "What I Need From You" model, participants identified and discussed needs and gaps in influenza research, emphasizing the need for Network strengthening, training, and resource sharing. The day concluded with a prioritization exercise, "How? Now, Wow, Ciao!," which ranked needs and future initiatives to ensure a focused, shared vision for the Pasteur Asia-Pacific Network.

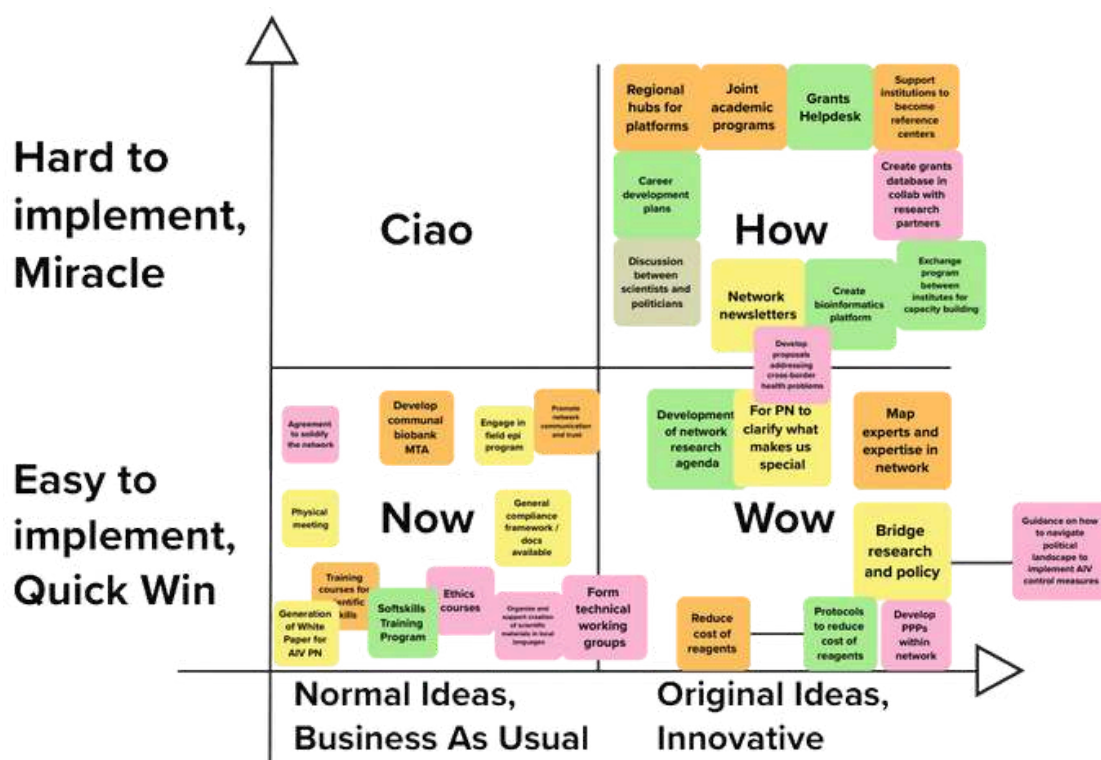


FIGURE 3: DIGITAL VISUALIZATION OF THE RESULTS FROM THE 'HOW, NOW, WOW, CIAO' WORKSHOP BASED ON PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSES

The final day set the stage for strategic planning and collaboration. Following a recap of Day 2, participants engaged in a workshop to draft a five-year roadmap with four main tracks: Coordination, Collaboration, Capacity Building, and Research. Facilitated by Dr. Erik Karlsson and early career researchers Institut Pasteur du Cambodge, these discussions focused on formalizing actions to highlight the Pasteur Network's unique strengths, addressing research gaps, and developing training programs to build capacity. Participants emphasized the importance of creating an overarching vision for the network that integrates cross-disciplinary expertise and ensures sustainable impact.

DAY 3

Charting the Future

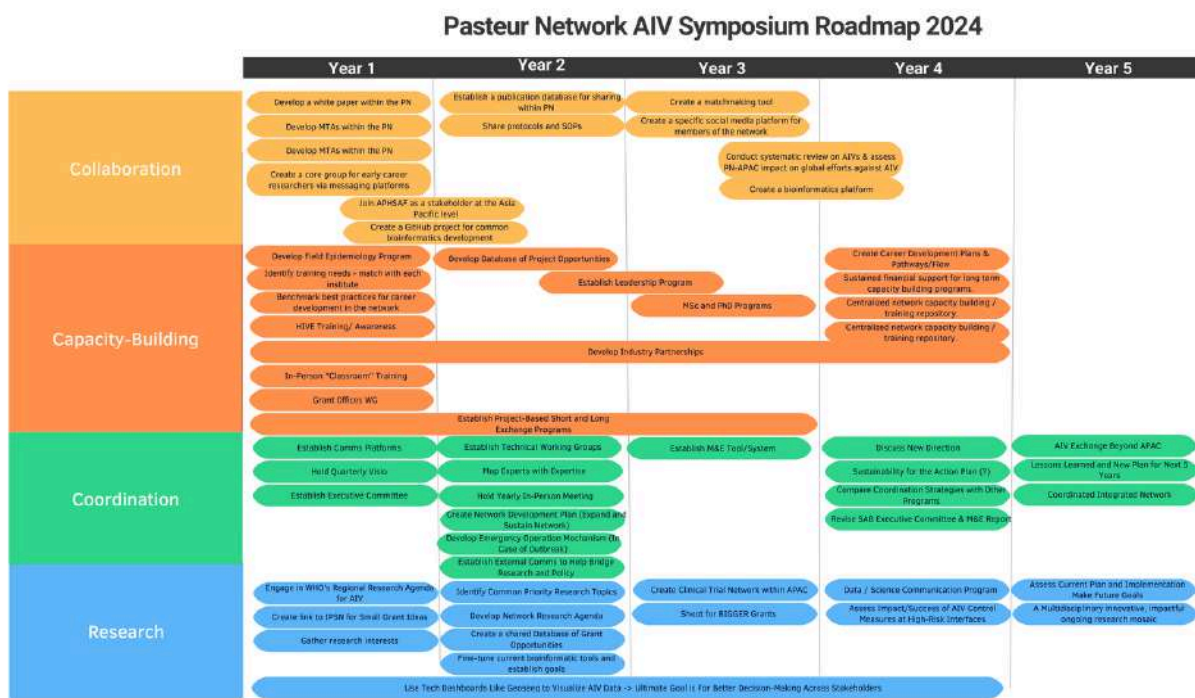


FIGURE 4: VISUALIZATION OF THE ROADMAP FROM THE FINAL WORKSHOP PRIORITIZATION SESSION BASED PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSES DURING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The symposium concluded with a closing session led by Dr. Erik Karlsson, reflecting on the event's achievements and outlining next steps. The roadmap, a major outcome of the workshop, provides a comprehensive strategy for advancing influenza research and enhancing preparedness across the Asia-Pacific Pasteur Network.

KEY THEMES

The brainstorming session for the Pasteur Network's 5-year roadmap sparked a dynamic conversation about the future of global collaboration and innovation. Some of the most consistent needs highlighted were the:



Development of a communications platform, a central hub where network members could easily connect, share insights, and collaborate.



Creation of a matchmaking tool to pair members based on expertise, shared interests, and goals emerged as a powerful idea to enhance cross-border partnerships.



Better tracking and evaluation of the impact of the network's efforts on global Avian Influenza (AIV) control through a robust monitoring and evaluation system, ensuring transparency and progress.



Development and fine-tuning of bioinformatics tools for seamless data sharing.



Use of existing resources like HIVE training programs to build capacity across the network.



Stronger institutional and industrial partnerships, creating pathways for program participation that could drive real-world impact.



Implementation of exchange programs for short- and long-term projects to foster hands-on collaboration between institutions.



Creation of a centralized database to highlight programs, opportunities, and grants, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, where resources are often fragmented.



Stronger external communications, ensuring better engagement with policymakers, agencies, and funding bodies to align network efforts with global health priorities.



Use of advanced technologies like Geoseeq to visualize and share data, making it easier to track trends and inform decision-making.

Throughout, there was a shared recognition that constant evaluation the current strategy and addressing gaps would be crucial in crafting a more impactful and sustainable plan for the next five years.

A LANDMARK IN REGIONAL COLLABORATION

This symposium marked a turning point for the Asia-Pacific Pasteur Network, celebrating its collective strength and reaffirming its commitment to addressing avian influenza through a unified regional approach. The unprecedented participation of all nine Asia-Pacific institutes, alongside government representatives and other partners, highlighted the power of collaboration in tackling shared public health challenges. As the network moves forward with its five-year roadmap, the event stands as a testament to the importance of coordinated, multidisciplinary action in ensuring a healthier future for the region.

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A few days after the event, a post-event survey was launched, which received 15 out of 60 (25%) responses. The survey resulted in the event being rated 4 or above, with the majority (67%) giving it a rating of 5 out of 5. The event received an overall rating of 94%, indicating that participants were generally very happy with the event .



FIGURE 5: VISUAL OF THE OVERALL SCORE FOR THE EVENT FROM THE PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK SURVEY

Participants found the networking activities and dinner particularly useful in establishing connections across the network and many commented that it would be good to give these activities more time in the future.

Communication around the event received an average score of 4.5. Many enjoyed the Speaker Sessions, and thought that they were well-organized. The majority of the respondents found the topics interesting and informative.

The majority found the workshop sessions creative, fun and interesting. Attendees were happy to see a fresh interactive approach adding that overall engagement would benefit from more prior communication around the activities in the future.

Many feedback from participants touched on the value of networking and collaboration during the symposium, particularly through informal settings like the dinner, which allowed participants to break down hierarchies and engage in open conversations. Participants appreciated the opportunity to connect with a diverse range of partners both within and outside the Pasteur Network, and the chance to discover others' work on Avian Influenza Virus (AIV) and related themes.

Event Rating by Category

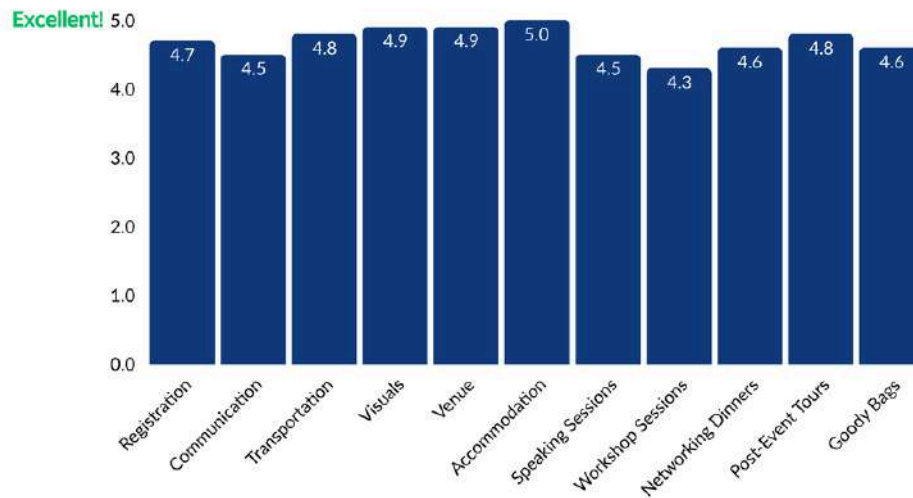


FIGURE 6: GRAPH OF THE RATINGS FROM THE PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK SURVEY ORGANIZED BY CATEGORY

The presentation of current and past activities on AIV research was also a highlight for many attendees, as well as the creation of the collaborative roadmap for charting the next years ahead. Participants valued the inclusivity of the event, which allowed for representation from all institutes and regions, fostering cross-cultural exchange on outbreak control and vaccine development. Learning about each institute's recent research and initiatives, especially breakthroughs in vaccine development, early detection, and outbreak management, were also major highlights of the symposium.



FIGURE 7: SCIENTIST PRESENTS HIS RESEARCH DURING THE SPEAKER SERIES



FIGURE 8: PARTICIPANTS DURING A SPEED-DATING SERIES DURING THE WORKSHOP PORTION OF THE EVENT

Future events will aim to incorporate more interactive formats like panel discussions and debates, and will focus on more specific topics to encourage deeper engagement. More time will be dedicated to networking opportunities such as longer speed dating sessions, with more structured and frequent rotations, which will help foster connections, especially among participants who are less inclined to speak.

Smaller, focused working groups and narrower topics could enhance the experience and ensure more meaningful interactions in future events. Furthermore, the agenda will be designed to allow for more frequent and longer networking opportunities also ensuring participants are able to recharge, stay focused and process their learnings throughout the course of the event.

Overall consensus underscored the importance of collaboration and communication between institutes to tackle AIV effectively. Participants recognize the importance of interdisciplinary partnerships, knowledge sharing, and regional leadership to strengthen efforts in research, surveillance, and vaccine development. Many believe that the symposium also reinforced the urgency of sustained coordinated actions to address the growing global health threat posed by AIV.