Training on Molecular Techniques for Malaria Diagnosis and Vector Incrimination, Bhutan

Mr Rinzin Namgay is currently the Head of the Vector Borne Disease Control Program (VDCP) in Bhutan and has worked as an entomologist with the Program since 1995. Mr Namgay’s Fellowship focused on developing PCR techniques to assist him in strengthening active case detection practices, prompt and adequate treatment of cases, case investigation, foci investigation and follow up, gene banking of malaria parasites, intensified vector surveillance and intervention activities within Bhutan’s six border screening centres.

Dr Namgay completed his APMEN Fellowship Program at The Armed Forces Research Institute for Medical Science (AFRIMS) in Bangkok, Thailand, under the supervision of Dr Dorji Wangchuck.

Some of the learning activities of Dr Namgay’s fellowship included:

1. PCR techniques for both malaria diagnosis, mosquito identification & vector incrimination as in proposal.

2. Methods for mosquito colony development in an insectary. The host organization AFRIMS has the most mosquito productive colonies in the world with 10 species.

3. PCR Laboratory conditions and reagents required to developed a PCR Lab in Bhutan.

4. Networking discussions with the Heads of Entomology Department of AFRIMS, Thailand, for future entomological project coordination with the Ministry of Health, Bhutan.

“The skills I acquired from my Fellowship will be of immense importance to the VDCP, Bhutan. As the country moves forward to malaria elimination with the vision ‘Bhutan with no indigenous malaria’, the knowledge gained will be crucial in strengthening the surveillance system (parasitological and entomology).”