

TO: Representatives of Governments and Administrations and Directors of Health in: American Samoa, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau **No.:** 08/26

FILE: PRO 2/20/4/5 **DATE:** 17 December 2008

SUBJECT: **WHO GLOBAL SALMONELLA SURVEILLANCE (GSS) SUB-REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE FOR THE NORTHERN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES (Guam, 23 TO 27 FEBRUARY 2009)**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Within the framework of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) together with the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) will be organising the third regional training workshop for Global Salmonella Surveillance in the Pacific Island region from 23 to 27 February 2009 in Guam. This third regional training is specifically addressing the Northern Pacific and other countries and territories, who have not participated in previous GSS training courses. It aims to strengthen the diagnostic microbiology capacity for Salmonella organisms in the region in line with regional efforts to address foodborne diseases and food chain surveillance. In addition the training workshop has specific components to develop and enhance surveillance and outbreak response capacities in PICTs. This training is further in line with the phase two goals of the Pacific Regional Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Project (PRIPPP) and the overall long-term goals of the PPHSN. The workshop is organised with financial assistance from the SPC PRIPP project (AusAid) funds and other resource assistance from WHO, PIHOA, CDC & FDA (US), OzFoodNet (AUS), and Environmental Science and Research (ESR, NZ).
2. The GSS training course will be held in conjunction with a PIHOA Regional Laboratory Network Meeting (2 to 5 March 2009) in Guam. Lab technicians from the USAPIs will be invited to this second meeting as well (by separate invitation letter).

VENUE AND DATE

3. This training course will be held from the 23 to 27 February 2009. The venue is the University of Guam.

TENTATIVE OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING COURSE

4. The tentative objectives are:
 - a) to improve *Salmonella* Typhi isolation capacity (detection) to address the issue of typhoid fever outbreaks;
 - b) to develop and strengthen the *Salmonella* typing capacity, thus improved laboratory surveillance for non-Typhi *Salmonella*;
 - c) to develop and enhance the outbreak rapid investigation and response capacity of EpiNet teams (outbreak response teams or communicable disease control taskforces) in general, and against *Salmonella* in particular, including strengthening teamwork and address system issues;

- d) to update participants on the progress in LabNet development, current situation on lab testing and especially lab-based surveillance, and LabNet issues for some PPHSN priority diseases; especially in the Northern Pacific island countries and territories.

FORMAT OF THE TRAINING COURSE

5. Format of the workshop incorporates two distinct components. There is a significant microbiology laboratory-based training component and bench work and also a field epidemiology training component. Similarly there will be people from two distinct backgrounds as well, i.e. microbiology and epidemiology / public health. The workshop proper will include series of different presentations and practical competency-based exercises:
 - plenary presentations / lectures or tutorials.
 - hands-on training / bench work, presentations with exercises and demonstrations.
 - group work with shared discussions and outputs, recommendations and conclusions.
6. There will be formal evaluation of this training including pre and post testing. All materials will be provided for easy assisted learning in the usual SPC format.
7. The workshop delivers the equivalent of approximately 2 weeks of training (1 week for lab technicians and 1 for public health practitioners) in one week, as some modules are common for both types of professionals and others are run in parallel.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

8. A tentative agenda, based on the one of the previous trainings held in Fiji and PNG, is provided as an example for your information in Annex. An updated agenda will be provided to the participants when they are nominated.

LANGUAGE

9. The language of the training course is English.

PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE

10. This is the third workshop in this area, targeting especially the Northern Pacific island countries and territories. Previous workshops were held in Fiji in 2006 and in PNG in 2007.
11. Governments and Administrations of the following Pacific Island countries and territories who did not participate in the previous trainings are invited to nominate participants to this training course: American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia (for each of the 4 states, plus one public health person from the federal level), Guam, Marshall Islands (for each of the 2 entities, Majuro and Ebeye), Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau.
12. Nominations should be as follows:
 - one microbiology laboratory technician and
 - one epidemiology or public health practitioner

who are involved with outbreak investigations in his/her professional practice from each of the respective entities indicated above. The nominated lab technicians from USAPIs should be the same as those attending the subsequent PIHOA meeting. A total of 23 nominations are invited. Guam being the host country is welcome to send more than 2 participants, which may include individuals from the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority and the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services.

13. Additional nominations in both professional areas are possible and will be accepted on the basis of discussions with each PICT and according to funds availability. All nominated health professionals should ideally be part of the existing national response team (i.e. EpiNet team or communicable disease control taskforce). Please note the specific technical nature of the training course; thus it is hoped that appropriate health professionals would be considered. The training itself has a heavy laboratory component and a field epidemiology component with relevant added skills set, so it is mostly relevant to the mentioned health care workers.
14. In order that the necessary administrative arrangements may be completed in good time, it would be appreciated if Governments and Administrations could advise the meeting contacts **at the latest by 20 January 2009**, whether they will be represented and if so, the names of their representatives.
15. Please remember to submit your nominations through the Foreign Affairs department. Please also note that **late applications** after the due date may not be considered.
16. Nominees should complete the application form attached to this document and then return it by e-mail or fax to:

Mrs Elise Benyon
SPC Public Health Programme
Public Health Surveillance & Communicable Disease Control Section
Noumea, New Caledonia
Fax: +687 - 26 38 18
Phone: +687 - 26 01 64 (direct line) or +687 - 26 20 00
E-mail: eliseb@spc.int

17. In order to facilitate communication, permission is requested from Governments and Administrations for SPC to correspond directly with the nominees. Unless advised otherwise, it will be assumed this arrangement is acceptable.

TRAVEL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

18. SPC will be responsible for:
 - o Return economy class air fares (at excursion rates if possible) to Guam by the most direct route
 - o Daily subsistence allowances for the duration of the stay in Guam, as well as for any necessary stopovers to catch connection flights (transport, meals, airport tax), at SPC rates for the participants from Pacific Island Countries and Territories other than Guam, who are **not** attending the PIHOA meeting thereafter.
 - o Daily subsistence allowances for the duration of the GSS course (i.e. until Sat, Feb 28th), at SPC rates, for the participants from Pacific Island Countries and Territories other than Guam, who **are** attending the PIHOA meeting thereafter.
19. PIHOA will be responsible for:
 - o Return economy class air fares (at excursion rates if possible) to Guam by the most direct route
 - o Daily subsistence allowances for the duration of the PIHOA meeting (i.e. from Sat, Feb 28th), as well as for any necessary stopovers to catch connection flights (transport, meals, airport tax), at PIHOA rates for the participants from Pacific Island Countries and Territories other than Guam, who **are** attending the PIHOA meeting thereafter.
20. SPC and PIHOA, respectively, will provide a return economy class airfare to respective Governments and Administrations on receipt of name of nominees, by the most direct route to Guam. If a nominee chooses to travel by a route other than the one proposed, all additional costs will be at his/her own expenses. Travel orders cannot be issued until the official nomination has been received.
21. The airport departure tax in Guam is normally included in the ticket.

22. Nominees are responsible for obtaining the necessary visa(s) to enable them to travel to the training course, plus fees for departure taxes where this applies.

ACCOMMODATION IN GUAM

23. SPC and PIHOA will arrange hotel bookings in Guam and transport to the course venue. Accommodation will be prepaid by the organizers and the corresponding amount deducted from perdiems. Accommodation in shared rooms (2 by room) will be possible, if requested at least 2 weeks in advance.

VISA

24. Participants requiring a US (or other) visa will need to acquire their visa well before the date of departure. US visas can be obtained from a US embassy nearest to your home country. When applying for the visa, attach a copy of this invitation letter to support your application and expedite visa processing.
25. Nationals of US Visa Waiver Program countries should take note of new procedures outlined in the attached pdf file.

INSURANCE

26. It should be noted that the Secretariat of the Pacific Community does not insure participants either during their stay or during travel to or from the meeting, and decline any financial responsibility in the event of disease, injury, disability or death.

FURTHER INFORMATION

27. Enquiries for further information on arrangements should be addressed to one or more of the following persons:

For PIHOA:

Ms Vasiti Uluiviti M(ASCP), MMedSc.
Regional Laboratory Coordinator
Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA)
c/o Guam Public Health Laboratory
P.O. Box 5314, UOG Station, Mangilao
GUAM 96923
Phone/Fax: (671) 734 3338 (w) 488 8234 (cell)
Email: vasitiu@pihoa.org

For WHO:

Dr Boris Pavlin
Epidemiologist
Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response
World Health Organization
Western Pacific Regional Office
P.O. Box PS70
Department of Health and Social Affairs
Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941
Tel: (691) 320 2619
Fax: (691) 1 866 8683948
E-mail: pavlinb@wpro.who.int

For SPC:

Dr Justus Benzler
Communicable Disease Surveillance Specialist
E-mail: justusb@spc.int
Telephone: +687 - 26 20 00; Fax: +687 - 26 38 18

Course secretariat:

Ms Elise Benyon
Data processing Officer
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
B.P. D5 - 98848 Noumea CEDEX, New Caledonia
Telephone: +687 - 26 01 64 (Direct line); Fax: +687 - 26 38 18

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jimmie Rodgers', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Jimmie Rodgers
Director-General

Attach.

NOMINATION FORM
GLOBAL SALMONELLA-SURVEILLANCE (GSS) REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE
Guam, 23 - 27 February 2009

Part 1 of this form is for Governments, Administrations or organisations to nominate a delegate for the Global Salmonella-Surveillance (GSS) Regional Training Course.

Part 2 is for the nominee to provide the Secretariat passport details/accommodation & meal requirements.

PART 1: TO BE COMPLETED BY OR ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENTS, ADMINISTRATIONS OR ORGANISATIONS

Full name of delegate (Dr/Mr/Ms)

Title of position held:

The above delegate is an official nominee of:
(Name and address of the nominating Organisation, Department/Ministry, Country or Territory)
.....

Ministry/Dept. Mailing Address:.....

Phone No. Fax No.....

Email address:

Director/Supervisor's Name/Title:

Signature:..... Date:

PART 2: TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL NOMINEES

Your names as it appears in your passport:.....
.....
(This is a requirement from the travel agents for travel purposes – please note that incorrect names may forfeit your chances of attending this meeting)

Special dietary requirements
(if any):.....

Postal address (if different from the above)

Telephone numbers Facsimile number

E-mail address:

PLEASE FAX OR EMAIL YOUR COMPLETED FORM ASAP TO THE SPC SECRETARIAT, NOUMEA:
Fax No: +687 263818, E-mail: eliseb@spc.int
For further information:
Mrs Vasiti Uliviti: vasitiu@pihoa.org
Dr Boris Pavlin: pavlinb@wpro.who.int
Dr Justus Benzler: justusb@spc.int

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