

# **Webinar: End Neglected Tropical Diseases through WHO Collaborating Centres Networking**

## **Concept**

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) cause devastating health, social and economic consequences to more than one billion people. NTDs are caused by a variety of pathogens including viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi and toxins, are prevalent in rural areas of developing countries, in conflict zones and hard-to reach-regions, and are the focus of global health governance. The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed two runs of road maps to take the leadership to combat NTDs, together with all its Member States. Technically, WHO has set up over 50 collaborating centres (CCs) related to NTDs to develop more advanced technologies and cost-effective strategies, in order to effectively control NTDs worldwide. In addition, on 31 May 2021, the World Health Assembly recognized 30 January as World NTD Day through decision WHA74(18), to create better awareness on the devastating impact of NTDs on the poorest populations around the world.

We, WHO CCs related to NTDs, are going to get together on 30 January 2023 to promote a movement to end NTDs by two activities, co-proposed by seven WHO CCs, including the WHO CC for Tropical Diseases at National Institute of Parasitic Diseases (NIPD) of China CDC in China; WHO CC for Schistosomiasis Control at Theodor Bilharz Research Institute in Egypt; WHO CC for Epidemiology and Control of Helminth Infections at Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Switzerland; WHO CC for Research and Control of Opisthorchiasis (Southeast Asian liver fluke disease) at Khon Kaen University in Thailand;

WHO CC for Ecology, Taxonomy and Control of Vectors of Malaria, Filariasis and Dengue at Institute for Medical Research in Malaysia; WHO CC for the Epidemiology, Detection and Control of Cystic and Alveolar Echinococcosis (in Humans and Animals) at Istituto Superiore di Sanità in Italy; and WHO CC for Vector Surveillance and Management at National Institute for Communicable Disease Control and Prevention of China CDC in China.

The proposed two activities are as follows. First, lighting our WHO CC's city tower to promote the awareness of combating NTDs and ensure a brighter future for all. Second, holding a Workshop to End Neglected Tropical Diseases through enhanced networking among WHO CCs, as important partners of WHO, in support of the new road map to combat NTDs 2021–2030.

Since 2000, WHO has specifically encouraged WHO CCs to strengthen work exchange and synergy through the establishment of collaborative networks. The establishment of such networks has helped to enhance the exchange of information and update technological progress with domestic and foreign counterparts on the one hand, and to establish partnerships and strengthen technical cooperation on the other. At present, more than 10 WHO CC networks have been established, including the Bioethics Network, the Infectious Disease Network, the Health Technology Evaluation Network, and the Biostandardization Network. However, there is a lack of a WHO CC network on neglected tropical diseases. Therefore, on World NTD Day 2023, a network will be launched so that all WHO CC working on neglected tropical diseases will be able to work together to end NTD by networking mechanism.

**Webinar:**

**End Neglected Tropical Diseases**

**through WHO Collaborating Centres Networking**

Agenda

January 30, 2023 (World NTD day)

Public Link: <https://wx.vzan.com/live/tvchat-1227027798?v=1672920417616>

Beijing Time (GMT+8)	Activities	Speaker	Moderator
16:30-16:40 (09:30-09:40 CET)	Opening Remarks	Distinguished Guests from: WHO (Dr Socé Fall, Director, NTD), China CDC (Prof. Hong-Bing Shen, Director-General) Swiss TPH (Juerg Utzinger, Director)	Director of NIPD (Prof. Xiao-Nong Zhou)
16:40-16:50 (09:40-09:50 CET)	Current Situation and Global Action on the Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases	Director of NTD Department, WHO (Dr Socé Fall)	Chief of Global Health Center, NIPD (Dr Shan Lv)
16:50-17:00 (09:50-10:00 CET)	The Role and Challenges of WHO CCs on Neglected Tropical Diseases	WHO-HQ & WPRO Office for Management of WHO CCs (Ms Hermjona Gjyla & Dr Yue Liu)	
17:00-17:10 (10:00-10:10 CET)	Reviewing all 54 WHO CCs related to NTDs globally	Director of NIPD (Prof. Xiao-Nong Zhou)	
17:10-17:50 (10:10-10:50 CET)	Panel Discussion: (i) How to Strengthen the Role of WHO CCs on Neglected Tropical Diseases in the future (ii) How to Promote the Collaboration among WHO CCs on Neglected Tropical Diseases (iii) Open discussion among all Directors of WHO CCs on NTDs  Participated by Representatives from co-hosting WHO CCs in China, Switzerland, Egypt, Thailand, Malaysia, Italy and others		Director of NTD Department, WHO (Dr Socé Fall)
17:50-18:00 (10:50-11:00 CET)	Closing session: (i) Launch of the WHO Collaborating Centres' network on NTDs (ii) Closing remarks from NIPD, Swiss TPH, WHO		Director of NIPD (Prof. Xiao-Nong Zhou)