Korean Institute of Tuberculosis
The Korean National Tuberculosis Association

WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference, Research and Training on Tuberculosis (Since 1995)

1. To serve as a reference laboratory for identification and classification of mycobacteria and drug susceptibility testing
2. To conduct training on bacteriology and quality assurance of bacteriological examination for mycobacteria
3. To coordinate collaborative studies on quality assurance and standardization of laboratory techniques, and to serve as a reference laboratory in the drug resistance surveillance system
4. To provide training in epidemiology and tuberculosis prevention and control to tuberculosis staff, physicians and nurses

+ Training for Laboratory Staffs and TB Managers of High-TB burden countries

The Korean Institute of Tuberculosis (KIT) had been conducted WHO trainings since 1979 before the designation as WHO Collaborating Centre in 1995.

Objectives:
- To understand gains and limitations of WHO-endorsed new diagnostics
- To find solutions for challenges in implementing new diagnostics
- To develop phased-in implementation plan for new diagnostics
- To understand principles of WHO TB laboratory biosafety manual
- To develop risk assessment plan

The training on strengthening TB laboratories aims at reviewing the progress in laboratory capacity expansion, identifying issues and challenges, and formulating plans of action focusing on areas that need further strengthening or prioritization. The course will not lead to degrees or diplomas or carry WHO emblem on certificates.

There are 678 participants trained in 74 different courses conducted by KIT since 1990s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1990s</th>
<th>2000s</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>678</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ Construction of National TB reference laboratory building in Timor-Leste

KIT has been implemented the Official Development Assistance (ODA) project in Timor-Leste (East Timor). The Project for capacity building on Tuberculosis diagnosis and management in Timor-Leste consists of constructing National TB reference laboratory building, providing culture and susceptibility testing equipment, conducting on-site training for culture and susceptibility testing, and offering technical assistance for quality assurance.

Method
- Strengthening laboratory network of tuberculosis through construction of National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory (NTRL) building and capacity building on the functions of NTRL.
- Developing human resources in the national tuberculosis control program (NTP).

This project is in cooperate with National Health Laboratory and Ministry of Health in Timor-Leste and supported by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

+ Technical assistance to national reference laboratory in Lao PDR

As the Supranational TB reference laboratory (SRL), KIT provides technical assistance (TA) to Lao PDR national reference laboratory (NRL) since 2010. KIT and Lao NTP officially signed the agreement for TA in 2011.

- EQA for drug susceptibility testing (DST) and smear microscopy
- Regular supervision and training

Lao PDR conducted the first TB prevalence survey, recently. KIT supported the prevalence survey and helped to establish regional culture laboratories and implement DST at the national reference laboratory.

Since 2011, KIT organized the laboratory training for culture and media preparation and invited four lab staffs from Lao PDR. After the TB prevalence survey, capacity of NRL has been weakened and DST is not available at the moment. So, NTP of Lao PDR requests KIT to perform DST for isolates from MDR-TB suspects. In 2013, KIT received and tested 23 isolates from Lao PDR. Now, KIT and NRL are preparing the drug resistance survey.

+ MISSION
- Providing scientific data for TB prevention and diagnostic as a leading TB research institute in Korea
- Supporting various research and training courses based upon National TB control program

+ VISION
- Leading institute in the world to stop TB