Public health centers rely on their diagnosis of TB patients to sputum and radiological examination.

More than 50% of pulmonary TB patients have been diagnosed as active TB by chest X-ray even when they were bacteriologically negative. Already we constructed web-PACS system for tele-reading of chest radiographs and referring the results, TB laboratory information system for requesting bacteriological examination and review the results through the web-based system.

Web-PACS system is a tele-reading of chest X-ray that was established between 2006 and 2008 in order to provide faster and more accurate tele-radiology reading service to the public healthcare facilities. Currently,

Tele-Radiology reading service is offered to 2 districts covering Central and Gangwon province. Under the Web-PACS system, local public healthcare facilities in each district send their chest X-rays to the radiologists and receive the results within 24 hours.

As the number of public healthcare facilities utilizing Tele-Radiology reading service has been increasing, the accumulated radiological examinations have also increased. A total of 205,969 radiological examinations were requested for reading from 211 public health centers between August 2014 and August 2015.

Korean Institute of Tuberculosis
The Korean National Tuberculosis Association

WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference, Research and Training on Tuberculosis (Since 1995)
1. To provide technical assistance to National Tuberculosis Programmes (NTP) in countries with a high burden of tuberculosis (TB) and to contribute to technical discussions in various WHO meetings
2. To serve as a member of Supranational TB Reference Laboratory (SRL) network through providing technical support to national TB laboratories in low- and middle-income countries
3. To provide training courses on TB control and laboratory management for TB high burden countries
4. To support epidemiological and operational research to broaden an evidence base for advancing TB control in the Region

Construction of PACS system

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- As the number of public healthcare facilities utilizing Tele-Radiology reading service has been increasing, the accumulated radiological examinations have also increased. A total of 205,969 radiological examinations were requested for reading from 211 public health centers between August 2014 and August 2015.

Technical assistance to national reference laboratory in Lao PDR

- Lao has been conducting the first TB prevalence survey. Because NTP labs never performed culture, KIT has been helping to implement culture exam in those labs for the survey. Also We support to resolve technical problems and provide backup.
- Support for national laboratory in Lao PDR as a Supranational TB reference laboratory KIT continues to provide NEL of Lao PDR with technical assistance. KIT delegates visited Lao NRL on August 31 - September 3, 2014 to assess the preparedness of laboratory for drug resistance survey and supervised general performance of NRL. During the visit, we gave a lecture on management of Xpert MTB/RIF and discussed use of Xpert MTB/RIF for c re- detection. Lastly, NRL, KIT, WHO and KIT discussed the upcoming drug resistance survey.
- Also, for confirmation of DST results of MDR-TB suspects, KIT tested a total of 31 strains from August 2014 through August 2015. All the results of NRL were consistent with those of KIT. Therefore, we concluded Lao NRL has sufficient proficiency in DST at least for first-line drugs. Although Lao NRL has been waiting for EQA panel strains to conduct the proficiency test for DST, no courier company could deliver the panel strains yet. We’re currently seeking for the way to ship the strains.
- Support for TB prevalence survey and drug-resistance survey in low- and middle income countries Lao NTP and WHO are going to conduct the first drug resistance survey in 2016. In preparation, KIT is responsible for assessing the laboratory network and developing the protocol as the SRL.

Training for Laboratory Staff of High-TB Burden Countries in collaboration with WHO

Training for Laboratory Staff of High-TB Burden Countries in collaboration with WHO. 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.

Field training for laboratory technicians in Timor-Leste

As a part of building national TB reference laboratory projects in Timor-Leste, KIT offered on-site training in Dili, Timor-Leste. 70 TB lab technicians were educated with lectures and laboratory experiments. This training program aiming for strengthening capabilities of personnel working for NTP was the biggest training of its kind in Timor-Leste. The training was funded by ECHO.

- Date: 25th - 27th Nov 2014
- Participants: 70 TB lab technicians from community health centers and hospitals
- Objective: To strengthen the capabilities of TB lab technicians by providing knowledge and experimental practice
- Detailed program: Course introduction and overview, Country presentation, Introduction to sputum smear (lecture and practice), Bacteriology, EQA, etc.

Workshop for TB Laboratories in the Western Pacific Region

Two-weeks training course on TB laboratory skills from countries in the Western Pacific Region held at KIT.

- Date: 26th - 29th Jan 2015
- Participants: 14 persons from seven high TB burden countries in the Western Pacific Region
- Objective: Sharing experiences of each country and discussion with experts to implement WHO endorsed new diagnostics
- Detailed program: LED FM, Xpert MTB/RIF and other diagnostics (Liquid culture, Line probe assay for 2nd line drugs, Upcoming new diagnostics)

Workshop for TB Laboratories in the Western Pacific Region

4 days of workshop on TB laboratories expert in the Western Pacific Region held at KIT.

- Date: 24th - 27th Nov 2015
- Participants: 13 persons from seven high TB burden countries in the Western Pacific Region
- Objective: Sharing experiences of each country and discussion with experts to implement WHO endorsed new diagnostics
- Detailed Program: Post-2106 TB Strategy and Targets, Xpert MTB/RIF (Video conference), Biosafety precaution and basic principles for TB laboratories, laboratory accreditation

KOR-24

+ 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