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CARE SUPPLEMENT

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CARING FOR THE KINGDOM



Institut Pasteur at fore of rabies fight

FRENCH microbiologist Louis Pasteur created the world's first rabies vaccine in 1885, and it is fitting that, 135 years later, the institute that bears his name is leading the Kingdom's efforts in fighting the disease.

The Rabies Prevention Center (RPC) at the Institut Pasteur du Cambodge in Phnom Penh was officially opened in 1995. For 25 years, the RPC has provided rabies prevention services to more than 500,000 people wounded by animals from all over the Kingdom.

The importance of the services the centre provides cannot be understated – from an average of 20,000 new patients per year since 2000, the number jumped to nearly 80,000 patients last year.

“In rabies prevention, we at RPC provide services both for post-exposure prophylaxis – after being wounded by animal – which is our priority service, and also pre-exposure prophylaxis – before being wounded.

“One of the main research goals is to promote better access to rabies post-exposure prophylaxis [PEP]. Major research involving the Institut Pasteur du Cambodge has led



The Institut Pasteur has opened Rabies Prevention Centers in Battambang and Kampong Cham. HENG CHIVOAN

to a recommendation from the World Health Organization for a shorter intradermal rabies vaccination protocol.

“This recommendation has been very beneficial – the vaccination is complete within only one week, there is one fewer session and less vaccine volume per patient is used, promoting higher compliance. Other research studies are

also being conducted,” said Dr Peng Yiksing, the head of the RPC.

The centre says rabies circulation in Cambodia is mainly related to dogs. The big dog population in the country – a ratio of one for every three or four humans – contributes to maintaining virus circulation and transmission. Another contributing factor is the ab-

sence of a rabies vaccination programme for dogs.

To further combat rabies, the RPC has implemented a range of developments, including opening two more rabies centres – in Battambang in July 2018 and Kampong Cham in July last year – to increase access to treatment across Cambodia. National Social Security Fund

membership is accepted at the Kingdom's three rabies prevention centres.

“In 2019, 15,070 people received rabies PEP at the Battambang Rabies Prevention Center, and another 11,123 people were vaccinated at the Kampong Cham centre.

“Data shows that the service is more easily reachable – with more people having access to it – and the Rabies Prevention Centers are proving incredibly useful for the regional population,” said Yiksing.

The RPC says the following action must be taken in the event of being bitten by a dog – the wound should be immediately cleaned properly for 10 to 15 minutes with running water, soap and disinfectant. Traditional remedies should be avoided.

Rabies PEP should be sought as soon as possible – immunoglobulin against rabies may be required in addition to the rabies vaccine. If possible, the head of the suspected rabies-infected animal should be sent to the laboratory for analysis.

To reduce human deaths from rabies, Yiksing says the Institut Pasteur has put in

place a five-year action plan for 2018-23 in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Education.

Two main objectives have been set, with the first being to raise awareness of rabies and its prevention. The second is to increase accessibility to rabies PEP.

Budget support from donors is needed for implementation of this plan, he added.

The World Health Organization, World Organization of Animal Health (OIE), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and Global Alliance for Rabies Control have the goal of eliminating deaths from rabies by 2030, and the Institut Pasteur remains at the fore of the Kingdom's efforts.

“Cambodia presented its commitment as part of the Asean community and as part of a global approach in the fight against rabies towards the target of elimination of dog-mediated human deaths from the disease by 2030.

“The Institut Pasteur du Cambodge will continue being involved in support of the government's efforts towards this goal,” Yiksing said. ■



SGMC's Singapore-class medical care

THE Singapore Medical Centre (SGMC) Cambodia has combined its advanced facilities and skilled doctors to offer Singapore-standard medical treatment for patients in the Kingdom.

The medical centre, which started operations last year, provides primary and secondary care, and focuses on a holistic and wellness approach.

It is part of Cambodia's first private healthcare-hospitality complex that partnered with FeM Surgery at Singapore's Mount Elizabeth Hospital, one of the leading surgical groups in Singapore.

SGMC offers a comprehensive medical and healthcare services that includes family medicine and general practice, health screenings and diagnostic imaging, women's health and general procedure, as well as IV hydration therapy.

"Ultimately, our aim is to deliver outstanding medical care in line with the expertise and compassion of our Singaporean and Cambodian specialists – and to bring the full Singapore medical journey to the people of Cambodia," said SGMC general manager Pae Yi Lin.

Supported by world-class equipment procured with the guidance of medical specialists in both the radiology and minor surgery departments, SGMC ensures that Singaporean medical standards are delivered at all times.

The radiology department, with five modalities – CT scanning, X-rays, bone densitometry, ultrasound



SGMC offers a stress-free environment for its patients. SUPPLIED

and mammograms – helps support the doctors in the diagnosis of conditions.

All images are then interpreted by

Singaporean radiologists to ensure accurate medical input is given to the referring medical doctors who will help treat the patient, Yi Lin said.



SGMC is equipped with modern medical equipment. SUPPLIED

The centre is targeting those who travel to Singapore or Thailand for medical treatment and Cambodians seeking health screenings.

"People who travel to Singapore or Thailand for healthcare services are our focus. Receiving equivalent medical standards in their home country will provide much convenience in terms of time and cost, especially for people who like to maximise their time.

"It is akin to bringing Singaporean standards of medical excellence right to their doorstep," she said.

In addition, health screenings are another focus of SGMC, as more health-conscious Cambodians are going for regular medical checks.

"Health screenings have become

very well sought among Cambodians as they see it is important for prevention.

"Due to the travel restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 situation, many Cambodia residents who used to visit Singapore or Thailand for health screenings and medical treatment are looking for a reliable health care provider in Cambodia to assist them with their health," Yi Lin said.

As well as providing reliable medical services, SGMC also strives to ensure that all staff are properly trained by its medical specialists and managers, particularly in improving skills and knowledge.

This in turn will allow the staff to bring their skill sets and knowledge to their next workplace, with the quality of healthcare increasing over time.

Equipped with a broad range of medical programmes developed by international experts, SGMC also promotes corporate wellness.

"Hiring staff is a long and costly process, therefore hiring a suitable employee is important. It entices sought-after employees, provides a form of non-monetary motivation for talent attraction and retention, and – most importantly – a healthy employee is a productive one.

"Particularly in Cambodia, an emerging economy, it is important to attract and retain the right talent so that the Kingdom can progress as a nation, because people are the most important resource of any country," she said. ■



DR. FELICIA TAN
SGMC BREAST SURGEON FROM FEM SURGERY, SINGAPORE



SGMC TEAM

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

In Cambodia, breast cancer in women rose up to 19% which is the most commonly occurring cancer in women. While you can't usually prevent cancer, it is important to be proactive about your health.

Get yourself screened today at Singapore Medical Center (Cambodia)

- Ultrasound Breast | USD 100 (with Doctor's Consultation)
- Ultrasound Breast and Mammogram | USD 120 (with Doctor's Consultation)



SINGAPORE
MEDICAL CENTER



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Pasteur Medical Lab leading the way

Among the many facilities at the Institut Pasteur du Cambodge contributing to diagnosis, research and the prevention of infectious diseases, the Laboratoire de Biologie Médicale (LBM) – Medical Laboratory – has been at the forefront of medical biology in Cambodia since its creation in 1995.

“The laboratory’s overarching mission is to contribute to the care and the clinical management of the patients and to improve public health in Cambodia, including the fight against infectious diseases, with the main objective of meeting the expectations and satisfaction of all clients,” said head of unit Gauthier Delvallez, a medical biologist.

The first lab in Cambodia to carry out free HIV testing and counselling, it continues

to provide peace of mind by providing free consultation, free HIV testing and advice.

In 2018 it was awarded ISO 15189 accreditation, becoming the first lab in Cambodia to meet the internationally specified quality management system requirements particular to medical laboratories as developed by the International Organization for Standardization.

This commitment to improving healthcare in the Kingdom can be seen in the lab’s lead position in the fight against infectious diseases, notably tuberculosis (TB).

TB is the specialist area of the lab’s deputy head, Chan Sokleaph, who has been working in the field for 10 years.

“Tuberculosis is still endemic in Cambodia. There are approximately 30,000 cases every year. However, having met

the Millennium Development Goals MDG of 2015, with cases down 50 per cent from the 1990 figures, Cambodia has made significant progress in TB control and is working to meet the End TB Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals targets by 2030, aiming to reduce TB incidence of 80 per cent and death rate of 90 per cent,” said Sokleaph.

Always at the forefront of excellence, the lab has set up a Quality Management System in order to ensure the required quality standards at the pre-analytical (sample collection and transportation), analytical (testing) and post-analytical (result delivery and interpretation) levels, as well as making continual improvements to ensure consistent quality results.

The Medical Laboratory carries out more than 150 different types of analyses, working with the Ministry of Health and a number of public hospitals and private clinics, as well as non-governmental organisations across Phnom Penh and several provinces who send samples from their patients.

The continuous implementation of new biomarkers is provided to assist all health professionals. The laboratory service also provides all walk-in patients with free consultation where people can come in without prescription for checkups and advice.

With a dedicated and highly



The Institut Pasteur is at the forefront of medical biology in Cambodia.

PHOTOS SUPPLIED

trained team of 35 – including secretaries, nurses, technicians, engineers, quality manager, medical doctors and biologists – the lab is divided into four different areas of speciality.

The Blood Biology Laboratory covers the areas of haematology, coagulation testing, biochemistry, endocrinology and immuno-serology, as well as blood parasitology, myelograms, Fibro Test-Acti Test for liver diseases, tumour markers dosage and semen analysis.

The Microbiology Laboratory is in charge of analysis in bacteriology, mycology and parasitology.

The Mycobacteriology Laboratory provides conventional and molecular diagnostic of TB and atypical mycobacteria disease with adapted biosafety

facilities (BSL2+ and BSL3).

The Platform of Molecular Biology ensures the molecular diagnostic of infectious diseases and rapid detection of resistance.

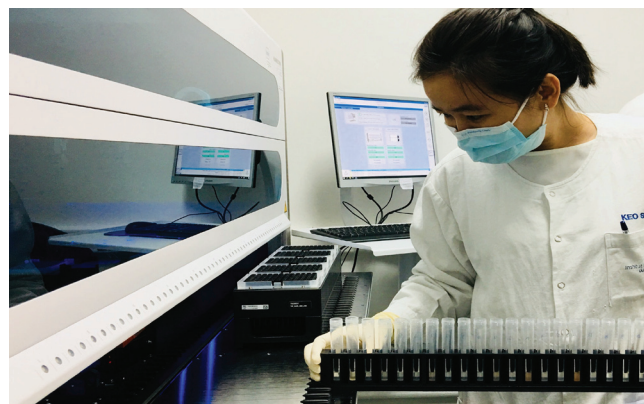
Among others, the Medical Laboratory works with France’s Cerba Laboratory, the European leader in specialised clinical pathology, for very specialised biology tests. It is also subject to external quality control from leading French and European medical companies to ensure the highest standards of testing.

“I have always loved Cambodia since I came here for holiday almost 10 years ago. So I am very proud to have the opportunity to help the Kingdom. The first thing I did when I arrived was to modernise the Microbiology Lab with the implementation of recent technology, with a

mass spectrometer for the identification of micro-organisms such as bacteria and fungi.

“One of most recent things we have done is the development of the Platform of Molecular Biology with the implementation of diagnosis of sexually transmitted diseases by PCR, such as Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae. We have also recently proposed the diagnosis of High-risk Human Papillomavirus by real-time PCR.

“With its long history of providing excellence and insistence on being at the forefront of developments, I am very happy to be at Institut Pasteur du Cambodge and helping in the improvement of public health in Cambodia,” said Delvallez proudly. ■



The Medical Laboratory was awarded ISO 15189 accreditation in 2018.



Services and Public Health Care Activities

MEDICAL BIOLOGY LABORATORY

Our Medical Biology Laboratory offers a platform for comprehensive medical and biological analyses to the public.

A panel of over 150 tests and continuous development of new biomarkers are provided to all health professionals working with our laboratory (including public and private hospitals, clinics, and nongovernmental organizations) and walk-in patients. We are committed to:

Reliability and accuracy
Confidentiality
Traceability
Client Satisfaction
Free Counselling

Our Medical Laboratory has become the first Cambodian laboratory to obtain accreditation in accordance with the recognized international standard ISO 15189 by COFRAC in 2018.



Accreditation N°8-4170
Scope available
on www.cofrac.fr

VACCINE CENTER

The Vaccine Center at IPC provides vaccines corresponding to the National Immunization Program and other optional vaccines service to the public at international standard six days per week. The vaccines are all of international quality, handled in a cold chain and subject to quality control according to international standards.

RABIES PREVENTION CENTERS

Rabies virus is circulating intensively in Cambodia. Since its creation in 1995, the Rabies Prevention Centers at IPC have provided rabies prevention after a potentially infectious bite to over 500,000 people in Cambodia.

Pre- and Post-exposure rabies prophylaxis (included immunoglobulins) are available at IPC six days per week.

In compliance with our commitment to Public Health we are providing post exposure treatment to all NSSF cardholder. In cooperation with Provincial Health Department Rabies Prevention Centers has been opened in both Battambang and Kampong Cham Provincial Referral Hospitals.

Phnom Penh: 012 812 03
Battambang: 017 222 972
Kampong Cham: 017 444 014



The Pasteur lab protecting people

Named in honour of 19th century French scientist Louis Pasteur – the “father of microbiology” – the Institut Pasteur is a French non-profit private foundation dedicated to the study of biology, micro-organisms, diseases and vaccines.

Opened in 1953, the Institut Pasteur du Cambodge is the oldest and most respected research and public health institute in the Kingdom.

One of the key areas the institute works in is improving food safety and environment security in Cambodia, with the Laboratory of Environment and Food Safety.

With a “mission to assist all food operators to detect, control and prevent food-borne diseases from farm to table and to provide quality and healthy foods”, the head of the lab says it is on the frontline of ensuring the food we eat is not contaminated with potentially harmful bacteria, parasites, viruses, toxins and chemicals.

“The lab was created in 1995 in order to improve public health regarding food safety. It’s really important especially for Cambodian people because hygiene levels in Cambodia are still limited, and it’s one of the big issues regarding the country’s economic growth.

“The lab has improved this



The laboratory has a ‘mission to assist all food operators to detect, control and prevent food-borne diseases’. SUPPLIED

situation by providing training on personal hygiene and food safety to caterers, hotels and food suppliers.

“In addition, the results of food testing from our lab is information for food producers alerting them to take action on time in order to prevent food-borne diseases from affecting their custom-

ers,” said Sreng Navin, head of the Environment and Food Safety Laboratory.

One in 10 people in the world fall ill every year from eating or drinking contaminated food or water, with 420,000 people dying each year as a result, the lab says, and Navin said it carries out a number of analyses to protect

against this.

The lab undertakes such tests as microbiological tests for food and food products; microbiological and physico-chemical tests for different types of water; and the working environment with air and surface controls.

As well as testing, it also carries out services such audit-

ing, training and consulting on food hygiene in the production chain.

“We provide hygiene auditing for food producers to find problems in their processes and to take corrective action according to our comments in order to improve the safety of their food.

“For training, we provide mostly the training on personal hygiene and food safety. However, we adapt with the requirements of the customer if they are from catering, hotels or agriculture,” Navin said.

And it is not just in food safety where the lab is protecting the people of Cambodia, with a strong focus on environment security.

“Regarding environment security, our lab participates actively on water analysis in order to alert the user on the safety of water and contamination, especially with heavy metals. Concerning food producers, our lab assists in controlling their working environment by providing services such as surface and air controls.

Navin said the lab is committed to ensuring the highest standards and staying at the forefront of developments.

“In order to ensure the accuracy of our results, our lab follows the international standard method for food and

water analysis, and we are in the process of receiving ISO 17025 lab accreditation – the international norm specified for the competency of laboratory analysis,” said the Doctor of Pharmacy, who holds a PhD in Biology from France.

The lab checks hygiene levels and its qualified experts audit caterers, supermarkets and food industries, while implementing and documenting HACCP concepts and implementing quality assurance systems.

It can also carry out training for management and staff on Good Hygienic Practices, while knowledge of the food laws and labelling requirements in Europe and the US, as well as the specific regulations of all countries, ensures international standards.

With such an important role to play – and high standards to maintain – Navin said she is delighted to be helping protect people in the Kingdom.

“I’m proud to work at the Institut Pasteur du Cambodge Laboratory of Environment and Food Safety because I work in a laboratory that has the highest standards – one that is in the process of getting ISO 17025 accreditation.

“I am also proud to participate directly in improving the public health of my people, especially regarding food safety,” Navin said. ■



Institut Pasteur
du Cambodge

Laboratory of Environment and Food Safety

We are committed to assist all food and water operators to detect, control and prevent food/water-borne pathogens from “farm to table” to provide quality and healthy food/water.

Precursor in its field, since 1995, our laboratory (LEFS) is pioneering to improve food/water safety and environment security in Cambodia.

Our Quality Management System is an integral part of our commitment to provide reliable services you can trust for all aspects of laboratory operations

Agribusiness Food, Water & Catering Industries Individual Clients

We also offer Auditing, Training and Consulting Services

In compliance with the highest international quality standards:

- Check of hygiene conditions, control of products batches
- Implementation of the Quality Assurance Systems
- Elaboration, implementation and documentation of HACCP concepts
- Audits of catering, supermarkets and food/water industries by qualified experts
- Training of your managers and your staff on Good Hygienic Practices (GHP)

We are available for questions or quotations ✉ lma@pasteur-kh.org - ☎ 011 777 195 / www.pasteur-kh.org



Central Hospital: The lifeline for quality affordable medical care in the Kingdom

THE days of Cambodians having to make costly trips abroad to seek specialised medical treatment may soon be coming to an end.

Opening its doors to the Cambodian public in November 2011, Central Hospital represents a new generation of healthcare institutions committed to offering the highest standards of medical care for those with modest treatment budgets.

The Central Hospital is one of the leading locally owned medical institutions in the nation providing comprehensive medical care in areas such as cardiology, neurology, nephrology, urology, gastroenterology, dermatology, endocrinology and otolaryngology.

It also provides treatment in ophthalmology, oncology, haematology, obstetrics and gynaecology, traumatology, general paediatrics, general medicine and general surgery, as well as emergency, out-patient and in-patient care, and critical and intensive care.

Deputy director and chief of cardiovascular surgery at Central Hospital, Prof Mam Bun Socheat told *The Post* that the hospital has over the years earned the reputation of being Cambodia's first modern private hospital staffed with the Kingdom's most respected



Emmarie A Geli (left), Prof Mam Bun Socheat (centre) and Prof Francois-Xavier Roux.

highly qualified doctors, medical specialists and healthcare practitioners.

"In the past, there were at times very few or even no heart specialists or neurologists in Cambodia. How-

ever, today there are many cardiovascular surgeons and neurosurgeons in the country, made up of Cambodians as well as foreigners.

"This enables local medical institutions like Central

Hospital to provide specialist medical consultancy, treatment and surgical services," Prof Bun Socheat said, upon reflecting on the changes in the country's medical sector over the past 10 years.

Equipped with modern, state-of-the-art medical and diagnostic facilities, the hospital is paving the way, creating new standards of affordable medical care for Cambodians.

This has resulted in the hospital becoming the preferred medical and healthcare partner of leading international and local insurance companies due its competitive rates for a comprehensive range of medical treatments and services.

Hospital Administrator Em-

marie A Geli said that as well as having long-term partnerships with several leading health insurance companies, Central Hospital is working with international and local life insurance companies to enable policy holders to have compulsory health checks and medical screenings.

These are popular services also offered by the hospital.

With Central Hospital at the forefront of providing accessible quality healthcare services – including its involvement in many social medical outreaches where free community check-ups are given, supported by frequent health awareness programme activities – trust in the capabilities

of local medical institutions and medical practitioners has been restored.

Prof Francois-Xavier Roux, the head of the neurology department, has been with Central Hospital since 2013.

He previously established the neuroscience centre at Phnom Penh's Calmette Hospital.

"Although surgical operations are complicated, the invaluable expertise and experience of our seven member specialist neurology team – combined with cutting edge medical facilities at our disposal – have enabled us to achieve international success rates in major surgical procedures performed at the hospital," Prof Roux said. ■



The hospital's operating room features state-of-the-art medical and surgical equipment.

PHOTOS HEAN RANGSEY



The Central Hospital in downtown Phnom Penh.

IU medical graduates keep Cambodia in pink of health

INTERNATIONAL University stands as a premier medical education institution in the Kingdom – producing highly trained professionals for the crucial sector.

It helps the Kingdom to be self-reliant in the healthcare field by producing sufficient numbers of graduates and post-graduates to meet the rising demand for quality medical care from a growing population.

On average, around 300 students

graduate annually in various medical disciplines from the leading private university.

"We can say that IU is one of the leading private higher education institutions in the health sector.

"IU has trained medical students in various fields at different levels, such as Associate and Bachelor's degrees, as well as specialist doctor and doctoral degrees," IU president and CEO Prof Sabo Ojano told *The Post*.

Since its establishment in 2002, nearly 5,000 students have graduated in multiple medical disciplines from the university, which is located in Boeung Kak II district.

At IU, students have the opportunity to major in a variety of specialities to become general doctors, dentists, pharmacists, pediatricians, nurses, midwives or radiologists.

Over the years, the



International University, established in 2002, has trained nearly 5,000 doctors. SUPPLIED

institution has invested significantly in medical technologies and human resources to remain on par with the ever-changing medical sciences – thus giving an edge to offer quality medical education.

"The International University pays the utmost attention to the curriculum in accordance with the Ministry of Health's standards. It is supported by well-known and experienced professors and the university is equipped with modern facilities for students to do their internship.

"Human resources is very important to help improve public health, reduce mortality and improve virus prevention services, which requires the participation from relevant

professionals, especially specialists doctors.

"Our country still needs more resources in the medical sector, especially in specialised fields. We still have a lot of shortages and we do not have doctors in all specialities yet," said Ojano.

According to Ojano, the Kingdom still needs more surgeons, gynaecologists, paediatricians, cardiologists, ophthalmologists, psychiatrists and dermatologists.

"Therefore, in Cambodia, we need to train more specialised skills, so that the specialists will have the opportunity to help our people at grassroots level, at districts and provinces where still lack

a lot of specialised doctors," he said.

The university has established high requirements for its medical students – from strict examinations to a zero tolerance for absenteeism from regular classes.

In addition, IU's collaborations with reputable regional medical institutions – such as the Asean Medical School Network – allows students to take part in exchange programmes and internships to gain in-depth knowledge.

The IU's medical teaching staff comprises 22 professors, 10 associate professors and more than 70 assistant professors, who work around the clock to teach young aspiring Cambodian medical students. ■



CEO Prof Sabo Ojano (right). SUPPLIED