

National August 3, 2020

Smart Axiata's support for Pasteur Institute in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic

Taing Rinith / Khmer Times



A lab technician conducting a viral test at Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC). IPC

SINCE the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC), in collaboration with the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH), has been leading efforts to diagnose and identify cases of COVID-19 in Cambodia by analysing existing samples from patients with symptoms of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI).

An advertisement for ABA Mobile. On the left, the text reads 'ABA Mobile' in white on a red background, followed by 'Pay people. Pay bills. Send money. Right from your smartphone' in white. On the right, a woman in a blue dress is looking at her smartphone. Surrounding her are several circular icons representing financial services: a dollar sign, a credit card, a clock with a dollar sign, a green arrow, and a green double arrow.

“We have tested almost 30,000 people since the start of the epidemic and collected around 40,000 samples. Some have been tested several times. We have organised our virology team to perform daily tests on samples. The objective is to preserve the quality of our work and to communicate the results of the tests as soon as possible,” said Christophe Mousset, Director of Administration and Finance for Pasteur Institute.

“With the extended amount of work and testing, the Institute found itself in need of additional financial and human resources. We also have challenges with our suppliers and have to work hard to avoid shortage of materials. The prices of reagents and consumables have increased significantly and steadily since the start of the epidemic and with the reduction of air traffic, deliveries became erratic and cumbersome,” Mousset said.

To secure additional funding, IPC reached out to Smart Axiata. IPC was successfully selected as one of the fund recipients of Smart Axiata's \$1 million COVID-19 Relief Fund, which was announced in March to help the Kingdom and its people fight against the pandemic.

As part of its corporate social responsibility initiatives, the Kingdom's leading telecommunication service has provided assistance to IPC, including up to two months' supply of test kits and personal protective equipment for COVID-19 screening and diagnosis via molecular testing for thousands of patients.



Christophe Mousset, IPC's Director of Administration and Finance, says Smart Axiata \$1 million COVID-19 Relief Fund is a good example of how private companies can participate in fighting the pandemic. KT/Taing Rinith

“The Smart fund finances part of our surveillance activities and this activity is essential to contain COVID-19. The priority for the Ministry of Health today is to avoid imported cases,” said Mousset.

Thomas Hundt, CEO of Smart Axiata, told Khmer Times that IPC has been a strong partner of the Ministry of Health in the containment of the coronavirus, which so far has threatened and impacted virtually all aspects of life in Cambodia and around the world.

“As we confront this unprecedented pandemic challenge, it is important for us to remain alert and be vigilant in our diagnostic testing efforts so that we can continue to accurately trace and detect new cases,” he said, adding that at this critical juncture, the number of cases has been increasing due to the gradual reopening of borders.

“Even though the initial numbers of confirmed cases were quite small compared to other countries in the region, the Evaluation Committee of Smart Axiata's \$1 million COVID-19 Relief Fund saw the vital need to support IPC to ensure that they have enough supplies of

personal protective equipment and testing kits so they can continue operating at maximum efficiency”.

Faced with an historical epidemic that the world has never known before, Mousset said it is more important than ever to get the solidarity of everyone.

“And Smart, through its funding to fight COVID-19, shows that key companies in Cambodia can mobilise to provide support. IPC is very grateful for this support,” he said.

Related Posts



May 21, 2020

Smart gives \$1m from virus fund