

## **Regional Seminar on Counterfeit Drugs**

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

**November 18-24, 2009**

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### ***Trip Report***

**Mr. Chris Raymond, Project Coordinator**

**Ms. Siv Lang, PQM Consultant**

### **Promoting the Quality of Medicines Program**

Implemented by U.S. Pharmacopeia

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## **About PQM**

The Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM) program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is the successor of the Drug Quality and Information (DQI) program implemented by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP). PQM is USAID's response to the growing challenge posed by the proliferation of counterfeit and substandard medicines. By providing technical leadership to developing countries, PQM helps build local capacity in medicine quality assurance systems, increase the supply of quality medicines to priority USAID health programs, and ensure the quality and safety of medicines globally. This document does not necessarily represent the views or opinions of USAID or the United States Government. It may be reproduced if credit is given to PQM and USP.

## **Abstract**

Program consultants of The Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM) program, Mr. Christopher Raymond and Ms. Siv Lang, attended a “Regional Seminar on Counterfeit Drugs” that was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia November 18-20, 2009. The meeting was organized by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Eliminating Counterfeit Drugs and Illegal Health Care Services and the French Police Attaches of the Embassy of France in Cambodia. The objective of the meeting was to launch a two-year program by the French government to build capacity of police and customs agents in Cambodia to combat counterfeit medicines. Ministry of Health (MOH) officials, INTERPOL agents, country and regional police agencies, customs officers, World Health Organization (WHO) officers, and staff from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) attended. Christopher Raymond gave a presentation during the seminar, the consultants met with the French police attaches to facilitate the purchase of Minilabs<sup>®</sup> for the MoH, and they also met with USAID/Cambodia staff to discuss the PQM work plan.

## **Recommended Citation**

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## **Key Words**

Cambodia, World Health Organization, INTERPOL, medicine quality, counterfeit medicines, medicine quality monitoring, Department of Drugs and Food, National Health Product Quality Control Center, Ministry of Health, French Embassy

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- IRASEC (French Observatory on Illicit Trafficking) Coordinator Anne Lise Sauterey for encouraging regional collaboration between PQM and the French government project to combat counterfeit medicines in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)
- Ms. Kate Crawford and Dr. Chantha Chak of USAID/Cambodia
- Ms. Laura Krech, PQM Program Manager for Cambodia
- Mr. Anthony Boni and Ms. Veerle Coignez at USAID/Washington for their valuable support and advice
- Administrative and editorial staff of the PQM program for assistance with logistical arrangements and for editing this trip report

## **ACRONYMS**

CNM	National Center for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control
DDF	Department of Drug and Food
DQI	Drug Quality and Information program
EUROPOL	European Criminal Police Organization
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-region of Southeast Asia
IMC	Inter-Ministerial Committee for Eliminating Counterfeit Drugs and Illegal Health Care Services
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IRASEC	French Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia
MOH	Ministry of Health
MQM	Medicine Quality Monitoring
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NHQC	Cambodian National Health Products Quality Control Center
OPH	USAID Office of Public Health
PAC	Pharmacists Association of Cambodia
PQM	Promoting the Quality of Medicines Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USP	United States Pharmacopeia
WHO	World Health Organization

## **Background**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) have been providing technical assistance to Cambodia since 2003, first through the USP Drug Quality and Information (DQI) program and, currently, through the Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM) program.<sup>1</sup> Their goal has been to support the Cambodian Ministry of Health's Department of Drugs and Food (DDF), National Health Product Quality Control Center, and national priority disease programs for malaria and tuberculosis in efforts to improve the quality of medicines in Cambodia.

PQM assisted the Cambodian government to establish 12 sentinel sites that collect data on medicine quality. Currently, USAID and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) jointly fund a medicine quality monitoring (MQM) program, which the DDF implements. The DDF, Pharmacists Association of Cambodia (PAC), and Inter-Ministerial Committee for Eliminating Counterfeit Drugs and Illegal Health Care Services (IMC) use the findings from the MQM program to alert health professionals and the public about substandard and counterfeit drugs found in the country as well as in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS).

Beginning in 2009, the French Ministry of the Interior initiated a regional program to address the problem of counterfeit medicines in Southeast Asia via enforcement agencies in the region. Through a combination of research and operational activities aimed at law enforcement and customs agents, this program will increase local capacity of agents to coordinate and to more effectively target producers and distributors of counterfeit medicines in the GMS. This will include providing training and developing networks focused primarily on the counterfeit medicines trade and develop investigation and enforcement tools for customs and police.

## **Purpose of Trip**

The PQM consultants were in Phnom Penh to represent PQM at the Regional Seminar on Counterfeit Drugs sponsored by the French Embassy. In addition, they would also meet briefly with the French Police Attaches of the French Embassy, and with USAID Cambodia.

## **Source of Funding**

This trip was supported with funds from USAID/Cambodia. Some additional support was provided by the French Embassy in Cambodia for hotel accommodations.

## **Overview of Activities**

### Regional Seminar on Counterfeit Drugs, November 18-20, 2009

Attendees: French Police attaches; INTERPOL; EUROPOL; law enforcement and customs agents from China, Vietnam, Laos, and Singapore; product protection specialists from private pharmaceutical companies; NGOs; WHO-Cambodia; IRASEC; Cambodian NHQC; Population Services International, Asia Pacific; Asia Global Risk; Cambodian Interministerial Committee members; drug inspectors; agents from Ministries of Interior, Health, and Justice; Mr. Chris Raymond and Ms. Siv Lang, PQM; and others

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<sup>1</sup> The Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM) program is the successor of the Drug Quality and Information (DQI) program. To avoid confusion, the program will be referred to as PQM throughout this report.

- Opening remarks were made by Secretary of State for Health HE Chou Yin Sim; Director General for Health HE Tep Lun; and Ambassador of France the Honorable Jean-François Desmazières (see *Annex 2*). The French Police Attaché Gregoire Chassaing included remarks about the launch of a two year initiative by the French government to support the countries in the Mekong to combat counterfeit medicines. The seminar was intended to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between various ministries and interested partner organizations as both an introduction and update. Following the opening ceremony, presentations were given by IRASEC's coordinator Anne Lise Sauterey and by WHO-Cambodia's William Mfuko giving regional and global overviews of the current situation regarding counterfeiting of medicines.
- The next two days of the seminar included presentations by various Ministry and organizational partners outlining their programs and legislative regulations pertinent to counterfeit medicines on a country-by-country basis (see *Annex 1* for the schedule of speakers). PQM's Chris Raymond gave an introductory presentation on PQM's regional activities. An article covering the event and quoting PQM, WHO, and Cambodian MoH officials can be found in *Annex 4*.
- The seminar was concluded by the Ambassador of France presenting HE Chou Yin Sim with a Minilab<sup>®</sup> (provided by PQM and the NHQC of Cambodia). Note: a full, detailed report of the proceedings of the meeting and all presentations will be forthcoming from the French Embassy in Cambodia and will be sent to PQM and USAID staff when it becomes available.

Meeting with USAID/Cambodia Office of Public Health (OPH) on November 19, 2009

Attendees: Dr. Chantha Chak, Infectious Diseases Team Leader, OPH; Mr. Chris Raymond and Ms. Siv Lang, PQM

A brief meeting was conducted between USAID and PQM staff to discuss the FY10 work plan and other relevant issues, including:

- A new USAID policy which states that all PQM meetings with Ministry of Health officials at the level of Secretary of State and higher should be attended by USAID officials. [note: this policy was later communicated to PQM to include all communications, including email and meetings]
- Per diems cannot be provided to local ministry officials during IMC meetings as part of PQM support; per diems can only be provided for travel outside home province for officials
- USAID will continue to support PQM work plan activities in the areas of medicine quality monitoring, the NHQC laboratory, and awareness raising
- PQM needs to provide more detailed budget line item breakdown explanations in the work plan.
- USAID will send MAARD to Washington following work plan approval

Meeting with French Police Attaches on November 20, 2009

Attendees: Gregoire Chassaing and Silvain Coue, French Police Attaches at the French Embassy in Cambodia; Mr. Chris Raymond and Ms. Siv Lang, PQM

**Key areas of discussion:**

PQM was requested by the French government to facilitate the purchase of two Minilabs<sup>®</sup> to be provided to the Cambodian MoH. The French government will sponsor this purchase and provide funding for training at the NHQC in April 2010, with PQM coordinating these activities. The Minilabs<sup>®</sup> will be placed in areas of need, possibly including the National Center for Parasitology, Entomology, and Malaria Control (CNM) headquarters in Phnom Penh. This meeting was held to finalize the invoices (see *Annex 3*) from PQM to the French Police Attaché for the purchase.

**Next Steps**

- PQM to help facilitate the purchase of two Minilabs<sup>®</sup> and schedule training with the NHQC, sponsored by the French Embassy in Cambodia.
- Chris Raymond will send the full report of the proceedings of the Regional Seminar to PQM and USAID staff when it becomes available.

**REGIONAL SEMINAR "FIGHTING COUNTERFEIT DRUGS"**  
18-20 November 2009  
Phnom Penh

*(Cambodia, China, Lao, Singapor, Thailand, Vietnam)*

**PROGRAMME**

**On 18<sup>th</sup> november, 2009**

- 0830 – 0900 hrs **Official Opening Ceremony**
- 0900 – 0930 hrs *Coffee break*
  
- **Module "Current Situation"**, facilitator : Grégoire Chassaing (police attache, Embassy of France)
- 0930 – 1015 hrs **Regional Situation**  
(Speaker : Ms Anne-Lise Sauterey - Observatory on illicit trafficking within the Mekong sub region)
- 1015 – 1100 hrs **Developments of global efforts to combat counterfeit medicines**  
(Speaker : William Mfuko – Essential Medicines Adviser – WHO Representative office in Cambodia)
- 1100 – 1230 hrs **Countries presentation on current situation on counterfeit drugs**  
(30 mns / délégation) results, legislative developments, difficulties.  
**CAMBODIA, CHINA, LAO.**
  
- 1230 – 1330 hrs *Lunch*
  
- 1330 – 1500 hrs **Countries presentation on current situation on counterfeit drugs**  
(30 mns / délégation) results, legislative developments, difficulties.  
**SINGAPORE, THAILAND, VIETNAM.**
  
- **Module "Various National Experiences"**, facilitator : Professor Tea Kim Chhay, Director of Department of drugs and food, ministry of Health, Cambodia
- 1500 – 1545 hrs **Thai Customs policy**
- 1545 – 1615 hrs *Coffee break*
- 1615 – 1700 hrs **Chinese Law Enforcement**

On 19<sup>th</sup> november, 2009

- Module "Cooperation with the private sector",** facilitator: Professor Alain Mouzard
- 0830 – 0915 hrs Sanofi (speaker: Richard Peasley, Regional Manager Asia Pacific – Product Protection)
  - 0915 – 1000 hrs Eli Lilly (speaker: Raymond Velez, Regional Manager – Asia Pacific – Global Product Protection)
  - 1000 – 1030 hrs Coffee Break
  - 1030 – 1115 hrs Asia Global Risk (speaker: Philippe Gaudin, Zone Headquarters Operation Chief)
  - 1115 – 1200 hrs Pharmaceutical Security Institute (speaker: Alex Ma, director – Asia Pacific)
  - 1200 – 1300 hrs lunch
  
  - **Module "Joint Ministerial Cooperation",** facilitator: Grégoire Chassaing (police attache)
  - 1300 – 1400 hrs Cooperation between Police and Customs Departement (speakers: Valentin Payraud, French Customs Officer from SNDJ + Jean-Christophe Marten-Perolin, French Police Officer from OCLAESF)
  - 1400 – 1430 hrs Coffee break
  - 1430 – 1530 hrs Safety chain for drugs (speaker: Alexandre Stoehr, AFSSAPS, french ministry of Health)
  - 1530 – 1615 hrs Cambodian Joint Ministerial approach

On 20<sup>th</sup> november, 2009

- **Module « International Cooperation »,** facilitator: Brigadier-general Hak Kemrong, deputy director of NCB - INTERPOL of Cambodia.
- 0800 – 0900 hrs Regional Cooperation: the European experience (speaker: Jean-Christophe Marten-Perolin, French police officer, OCLAESF)
- 0900 – 0930 hrs Coffee break
- 0930 – 1030 hrs Contribution of EUROPOL and the Counterfeit file "COPY" (speaker: Benoit Godart, Intellectual Property Crime Project Manager, EUROPOL)
- 1030 – 1130 hrs INTERPOL-IMPACT Project (speaker: Ray Chan, Regional Specialized Officer, ICPO INTERPOL Bangkok for the Asia and South Pacific Region)
- 1130 – 1200 hrs Recommendations
- 1200 – 1230 hrs Closing ceremony
  
- 1230 – 1400 hrs Closing lunch

**Annex 2**

**ELEMENTS DE DISCOURS AMBASSADEUR DE FRANCE**

**CEREMONIE D'OUVERTURE DU SEMINAIRE REGIONAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LA CONTREFAÇON DE MEDICAMENTS**

**Sunway Hotel, 18 November 2009**

- Six pays représentés : Cambodge, Chine, Laos, Singapour, Thaïlande, Vietnam. Chaque délégation est composée de représentants du ministère de l'intérieur, de la santé, des finances et de la justice, à un niveau de technicien. Ce séminaire ne se place pas sous un angle politique mais résolument technique pour un partage d'expérience et de bonnes pratiques nationales, régionales et internationales.

- Deux autres séminaires sont organisés du 16 au 18 novembre par l'ambassade de France à Hanoi sur "la lutte contre l'exploitation sexuelle des mineurs" et du 23 au 26 novembre par l'ambassade de France à Singapour sur la "lutte contre la cybercriminalité et le financement du terrorisme". La France s'engage, auprès des pays de la zone, pour participer à la lutte contre certaines formes de criminalités qui se développe à travers le monde mais malheureusement avec une acuité particulière dans la sous-région du Mékong.

- La contre façon de médicament c'est : des profits colossaux pour les réseaux criminels (commerce des faux médicaments représente chaque année environ 70 milliards de dollars), 7 % du commerce mondial, selon l'OMS 50 % des médicaments contre la malaria proposés à la vente dans les pays du sud est asiatique sont contrefaits.

- Le gouvernement français dispose d'une expertise qu'il souhaite faire partager, en partenariat avec le comité interministériel cambodgien de lutte contre les faux médicaments pour l'organisation de ce séminaire.

Pas la prétention de révolutionner les modes de fonctionnement et d'éradiquer la contrefaçon de médicaments mais de participer à la réflexion et d'aider à rapprocher les acteurs en tenant compte de l'histoire propre à chaque pays représenté, de leur organisation administrative et de leur système judiciaire.

- notre démarche s'inscrit, bien évidemment, dans une dynamique régionale et internationale qui sera développée au cours de ce séminaire par des représentants de l'OMS et d'Interpol.

Ce séminaire doit être l'occasion de partager les bonnes pratiques qu'elles soient nationales, régionales ou internationales.

Au-delà de ce partage, notre réflexion doit nous porter vers les clés d'une meilleure coopération interministérielle, ainsi qu'avec le secteur privé et les organisations internationales.

Ce séminaire doit permettre un échange libre entre professionnels et doit servir de cadre à une réflexion générale sur comment mieux coopérer ensemble dans un combat qui, plus qu'un autre, requiert l'engagement de plusieurs ministères dont les compétences doivent s'agréger pour être efficace. Des services de police et de douanes aux magistrats qui prononceront les condamnations, en passant par les experts du ministère de la santé, chaque maillon doit jouer pleinement son rôle à un niveau national, lui-même intégré dans un niveau régional.




*A global initiative for quality medicines and their appropriate use.*

**CONSIGNEE:** FRENCH EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA      **Date:** November 20, 2009

**Attention of:** MR. GREGOIRE CHASSAING,  
POLICE ATTACHE      **Phone:** +85512812147

**Address:** FRENCH EMBASSY  
MONIVONG BLVD  
PHNOM PENH BP 78  
CAMBODIA      **Mobile** +85512812147

**PROFORMA INVOICE No.CAM-NOV18092 page 1 of 1**

UNITS	COUNTRY OF MFG	DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	UNIT VALUE \$	SUBTOTAL \$ USD
2	GERMANY	MINILAB +EXTRA REAGENTS AND SUPPLIES FOR TRAINING	\$7,000	\$14,000
1	N/A	TRAINING COSTS INCLUDING STAFF TIME AND TRAINING MATERIALS FOR 10 PARTICIPANTS	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>				\$19,000 USD

This 'proforma invoice' is a non-legally binding document between USP DQI and the French Embassy of Cambodia

Submitted by Christopher Raymond, Project Coordinator for Southeast Asia  
on behalf of Program Manager Laura Krech



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www.usp.org • 800-227-8772 • uspdqi@usp.org



*A global initiative for quality medicines and their appropriate use.*

**CONSIGNEE:** FRENCH EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA      **Date:** November 20, 2009

**Attention of:** MR. GREGOIRE CHASSAING,  
POLICE ATTACHE      **Phone:** +85512812147

**Address:** FRENCH EMBASSY  
MONIVONG BLVD  
PHNOM PENH BP 78  
CAMBODIA      **Mobile:** +85512812147

**PROFORMA INVOICE No.CAM-NOV18091 page 1 of 1**

UNITS	COUNTRY OF MFG	DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	UNIT VALUE \$	SUBTOTAL \$ USD
1	GERMANY	MINILAB +EXTRA REAGENTS AND SUPPLIES FOR TRAINING	\$7,000	\$7,000
1	N/A	TRAINING COSTS INCLUDING STAFF TIME AND TRAINING MATERIALS FOR 10 PARTICIPANTS	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>				\$12,000 USD

This 'proforma invoice' is a non-legally binding document between USP DQI and the French Embassy of Cambodia

Submitted by Christopher Raymond, Project Coordinator for Southeast Asia  
on behalf of Program Manager Laura Krech



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NATIONAL

# Global Crackdown Puts a Dent in Local Pirated-Drugs Trade

By PAUL VRIEZE  
AND PHORN BOPHA  
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

In recent years, there has been a significant reduction in the amount of counterfeit medication sold in Cambodia due to global efforts to crack down on the illicit trade in fake medications, health and drug experts said yesterday.

They warned, however, that the sale of substandard drugs is still a major problem and successfully regulating drug sales remains a major challenge.

"It is being reduced, although not yet under control," said William Mfuko, World Health Organization technical officer for essential medicines, speaking on the sidelines of a regional seminar on combating counterfeit medicines in Phnom Penh.

Mr Mfuko said surveys in 2003 and 2005 found that around 13 percent of all medicine sold in Cambodia was counterfeit, but that figure had dropped to around 2.5 percent in more recent surveys.

International operations coordinated by Interpol have closed down counterfeit drugs producers, in particular in China, and disrupted supply lines to countries including Cambodia, he said, adding, "This

has caused a kind of scare to potential counterfeiters... I don't expect it to go up, unless we all relax again."

"It's a big step forward," Mr Mfuko said. However, he added: "The problem is now with substandard [medicine]. It's about 5 percent" of medicine sold.

Chris Raymond, regional project coordinator for the US Pharmacopeia Drug Quality and Information program, which has been working with the Cambodian government since 2002 to interdict counterfeit medication, said: "In terms of what we're interested in, [drugs for] infectious diseases, essential medicine, in a lot of those classes, tests show counterfeit medicine has come down."

Mr Raymond said efforts to stop illicit medicine sales include educating the public and pharmacists, medicine surveillance and testing, and international operations to stop the transnational trade in unregulated drugs.

Heng Bunkhiet, deputy director of the department for drugs and food at the Health Ministry, said there are now public information campaigns and strict laws to regulate drug sales.

Tep Lun, director-general of the Health Ministry, said most of the

unregulated medicines are sold in provinces along the country's borders and mostly includes anti-malarial and antibiotic drugs.

He said public awareness of illicit medicine is increasing, but the gov-

ernment lacks funds to sufficiently monitor and test medicines.

"It is hard to find out where the medicine comes from. We need officials and the public to work together," Mr Lun said.

## Kampot Plant-Collection Project Deemed a Success

The environmental conservation group TRAFFIC said it has successfully completed a pilot project for the sustainable collection of wild medicinal plants in Prek Thnot commune, Kampot province, which could become a model for community-based collections of wild medicinal plants throughout the country. "We want to try to make this the standard in Cambodia," said Khou Eang Hourt, coordinator for the project Saving Plants That Saves Lives and Livelihoods, which will end next month. Mr Eang Hourt said the WWF-supported project in a village in Bokor National Park had worked with about 10 villagers who had learned to collect, manage and sell two medicinal plant species growing in the forest: Amoum ovoideum and Cinnamomum cambodianum. The 15-month project had also helped villagers establish links to traders in Phnom Penh. Mr Eang Hourt said medicinal plants are widespread in mountainous parts of Cambodia and can create income for communities as the plants are often a valuable export product. Amoum ovoideum, for example, is in high demand in Vietnam and China, where it is used in traditional medicine for postnatal and gastrointestinal health care, he said. "One province in China demands 2,000 tons per year... Now this mainly comes from Laos," he said, adding that the dried fruit of the Amoum ovoideum plant fetches between \$2 and \$5 per kilogram. Mr Eang Hourt added that TRAFFIC was still seeking further funding to continue the program after December. Dr Pen Sunna of the technical bureau at the National Center of Traditional Medicine in Phnom Penh welcomed the project, saying it "can help poor people in remote areas earn money by creating traditional medicine." Dr Sunna added that the NCTM would start checking the project's products once it includes traditional medicine production, as the sale of medicinal plants currently falls under the authority of the Agriculture Ministry. (Paul Vrieze)



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<b>Contract Type</b>	Fixed Term Appointment (ICS-9)
<b>Deadline</b>	25 November 2009

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**SUMMARY OF KEY FUNCTIONS**

- Ensure results-based management of Country Office programmes and projects
- Ensure the provision of effective and efficient programme support services
- Build the capacity of staff on corporate policies & guidelines
- Maintain effective partnerships and support resource mobilization
- Support to the management of UN Joint Programming

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

- Master's Degree or equivalent in Public Administration, Economics, Social Sciences, International Relations, Political Sciences, Development Studies or related field
- 3 years of relevant experience at the national or international level;
- Excellent knowledge of and experience on project and programme management, design, monitoring and evaluation;
- Experience in handling of web-based management systems and advanced programmes for data analysis.

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