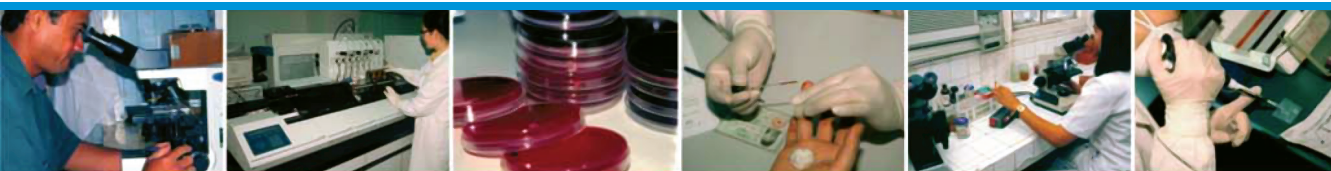


Development of National Health Laboratory Policy and Plan



**World Health
Organization**

South-East Asia Region

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Preface

Laboratory services are an essential and fundamental part of all health systems. Their purpose is to improve the health status of the population by providing the evidence base for detection, management and prevention of diseases. The Asia Pacific Strategy for Strengthening Health Laboratory Services (2010–2015) was developed to guide and encourage all Member States in the South-East Asia and Western Pacific Regions of the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop appropriate, scientifically sound, evidence-based, practical and sustainable national strategies for strengthening health laboratory services within their national health systems. Since it is acknowledged that “one size does not fit all”, each country’s strategy for developing and strengthening laboratory services should be planned according to that country’s unique health system, ensuring integration with other health system components and existing national health policies, strategies and resources.

Recognizing that strong health systems are the foundation for health programmes to improve performance, and that laboratory services are a critical component of health systems, the Sixtieth

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