***Nurturing and hosting regional projects***

**1st International Aviesan Call for Proposal 2014**

**Regional Research Platform-Asia**

***implemented in the campus of Institut Pasteur in Cambodia***

The new Regional Research Platform-Asia (PRR-Asia) located in the Institut Pasteur’s research environment, aims to become a center of excellence for infectious and emerging diseases in Southeast Asia through international research programs.

The PRR-Asia is pleased to launch its first call to host and nurture regional projects to be implemented in Southeast Asia. Through this call the PRR-Asia will offer its infrastructure and valuable scientific environment to a selection of projects. Priority will be given to projects with a specific focus on infectious diseases though projects on non-transmissible diseases will be eligible too. Moreover projects that include teaching and training components will have an advantage.

**Regional Research Platform in Asia (PRR- Asia)**

The (PRR-Asia has been established in March 2014 in the campus of Institut Pasteur in Cambodia (IPC) by the Aviesan Sud consortium\*. It aims to foster regional collaboration and develop research projects with a primary focus on transmissible diseases to humans.

In addition, the PRR-Asia aims to support research through the development of new and innovative technologies, the integration of disciplines, the hosting of monitoring networks and the promotion of training and education activities on infectious diseases.

PRR-Asia aims to provide a platform integrated in the framework of IPC’s and partners laboratories to strengthen high-level research in the field of communicable infectious diseases, caused especially by vector-borne and zoonotic pathogens.

The research projects hosted in this new platform will be offered access to the attractive environment of IPC as well as to a regional network of laboratories, research institutions and scientists partners of Aviesan and IPC.

*\* The French National Alliance for Life and Health Sciences (Aviesan) groups together the main stakeholders of life and health sciences in France. PRR-Asia founding members are: Institut Pasteur, Inserm/IMMI, ANRS, Fondation Mérieux, IRD, CIRAD,*

**An attractive environment and open door to regional partnerships**

Member of the Institut Pasteur International Network, IPC plays a very active and important role in the microbiological and epidemiological monitoring in partnership with different countries, ministries of health, regional and international institutions.

At the forefront of research in microbiology (virology, malaria, immunology, epidemiology), its laboratories are among the most efficient in Cambodia and Southeast Asia ([www.pasteur-kh.org](http://www.pasteur-kh.org)).

Working at IPC will offer access to a professional network of 190 staff working in the campus, originating from different institutions (IPC, IP Paris, CIRAD...). About 90 scientists already work in four research units (Virology, HIV/Hepatitis, Molecular epidemiology of malaria, Epidemiology and public health) and a platform of Immunology.

Laboratory infrastructures and some equipments of priority are available in the platform (see [www.pasteur-kh.org/PRR-Asia](http://www.pasteur-kh.org/PRR-Asia)). However, the IPC will provide access to a unique technical platform consisting of a BSL-3 and of a module ASL-3, an animal facility for breeding rodents, an insectary, and several large equipments. However, projects should deal with their own specific research facilities if not available in the PRR-Asia and of frequent use.

Living in Cambodia is attractive. Phnom Penh is a vibrant city steeped in history and full of excitement. Life in Phnom Penh is pretty safe and accommodation is easy to find at reasonable price. The infrastructure in Phnom Penh is quite good and the cost of living is low. The IPC management office could provide administrative support for installation.

**Selection criteria for the projects** **proposed:**

- research projects should deal with **regional public health priorities**

- projects should bring novelty and innovative techniques to the region

- projects should foster **capacity building** in line with regional needs, therefore projects should as much as possible reinforce regional research capacity through training and teachings activities

- research projects should foster **cooperation** with Aviesan partners (IP Paris, IPC, IRD, INSERM, ANRS, CIRAD, Fondation Mérieux), with national, regional (South East Asia) and international research and teaching institutions including universities

- projects should last at least **one year**

- projects should benefit from **external funds** (as no direct funding is offered through this call) and allow overheads to afford for variable costs shared by PRR-Asia platform users (electricity, maintenance..).

**Application and Deadline**

Projects should be submitted **before September 1st, 2014** using the attached formula by e-mail to PPR-Asia@pasteur.fr

The application should comprise the following: 1. A brief description of the project and its integration in the regional context taking into account the criteria above. 2. A Curriculum Vitae of the principal investigator and list of scientists involved (with an assessment of their working calendar). 3. The proposed research project (up to 10 pages with 1.5 spacing)

*In order to support applicants, supplemental information can be provided at this address:*

*Contact: vdeubel@pasteur-kh.org (+855-12 802 979)*