Title: Workforce Development

On-screen graphic: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Health and Human Services logo

On-screen text: CDC provides assistance on workforce development for COVID-19 response

Dr. James speaks:

The Thai Ministry of Public Health, and the CDC collaboration or “TUC”, has been working together collaboratively for about 40 years since 1980. So this collaboration, I think, has been key to the response, and Thailand has done an amazing job.

On-screen text: Dr. James Heffelfinger, Thailand Country Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. James speaks:

The FETP program in particular has been involved in investigations and responses to COVID outbreaks throughout the last two years. They are trained to collect, analyze, interpret data and also respond to public health emergencies. So the Thai FETP program has been a leader in training the current generation of public health leaders both in Thailand and the region.

Dr. Pantila speaks:

Another notable activity is the establishment of the FETP and EID course. Physicians are trained to have specific abilities in dealing with emerging diseases, and we have been collaborating with TUC to help us by sending preceptors for local physicians.

On-screen text: Dr. Pantila Taweewigyakarn, FETP Thailand, Department of Disease Control and Prevention

On-screen text: Dr. Emily Bloss, Epidemiology Branch Chief, Division of Global Health Protection,

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Emily speaks:

Our support contributed to the establishment of Thailand's national emergency operations center or EOC. The EOC has served as a command center for monitoring, coordinating, and effectively managing the Ministry of Public Health's response to public health threats including for the COVID-19 response.

Dr. Beth speaks:

So, during the COVID-19 response the DGHP laboratory was actually well-placed to provide support to the ministry. Our co-location with the ministry and our daily interactions with the ministry really facilitate that kind of relationship that makes it easy for our lab to be a supplement testing laboratory for the ministry, so that's the first thing.

On-screen text: Dr. Beth Skaggs, Laboratory Branch Chief, Division of Global Health Protection,

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Beth speaks:

The second thing was ramping up the availability of diagnostics to confirm COVID-19, so there were number of labs in the very beginning of the pandemic that developed in-house RT-PCR assays to confirm the presence of SARS-CoV-2 genomic material in a clinical sample, and CDC headquarters was one of those labs that produced the first diagnostic test. So, that gave us the opportunity in this lab, as a satellite of CDC headquarters, to begin to implement through training and provision of reagents of this CDC assay, which we did both in Thailand and in the region.

On-screen text: Dr. Nuttagarn Chuenchom, Infectious Disease Doctor, Mae Sot General Hospital, Thailand

Dr. Nuttagarn speaks:

When we first started the PCR testing, CDC sent a lab specialist to help our staff to perform the PCR and interpret the results. This allows us to start doing PCR effectively. Now we have lots of effective tools and can do up to 1,000 PCR samples per day.

On-screen text: To learn more about CDC’s global health work visit www.cdc.gov/globalhealth. Follow @CDCGlobal on social media.