### **Meeting Report**

# NINTH MEETING OF VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES LABORATORY NETWORKS IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

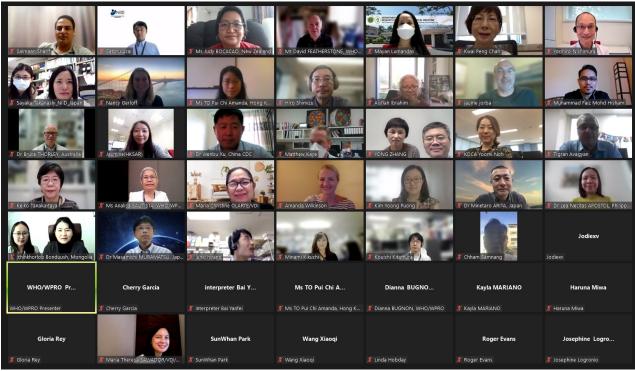


27 September–1 October 2021 Virtual meeting

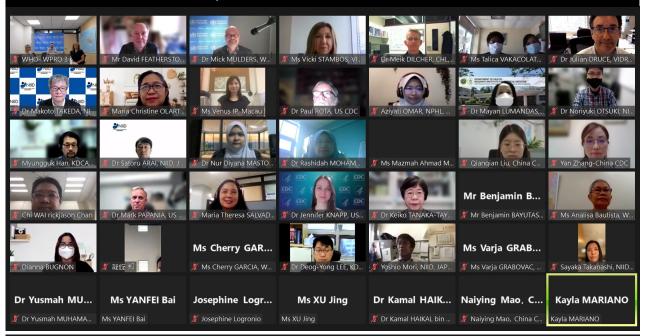


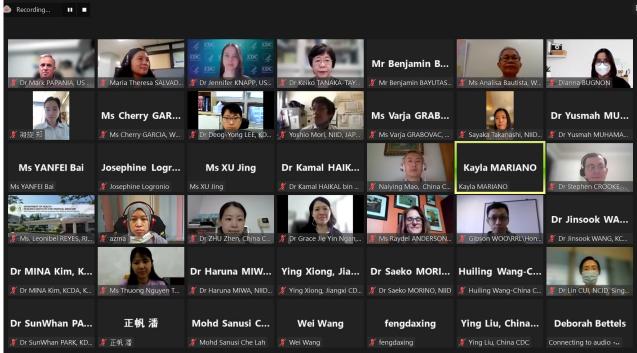
## Ninth Meeting of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Laboratory Networks in the Western Pacific Region (Poliomyelitis Session) 27-28 September 2021 - Virtual





## Ninth Meeting of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Laboratory Networks in the Western Pacific Region (Measles and Rubella Session) 29 September - 01 October 2021 - Virtual





#### WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

#### REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

RS/2021/GE/16(virtual)

English only

#### MEETING REPORT

#### NINTH MEETING OF VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES LABORATORY NETWORKS IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

#### Convened by:

#### WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

Virtual meeting 27 September–1 October 2021

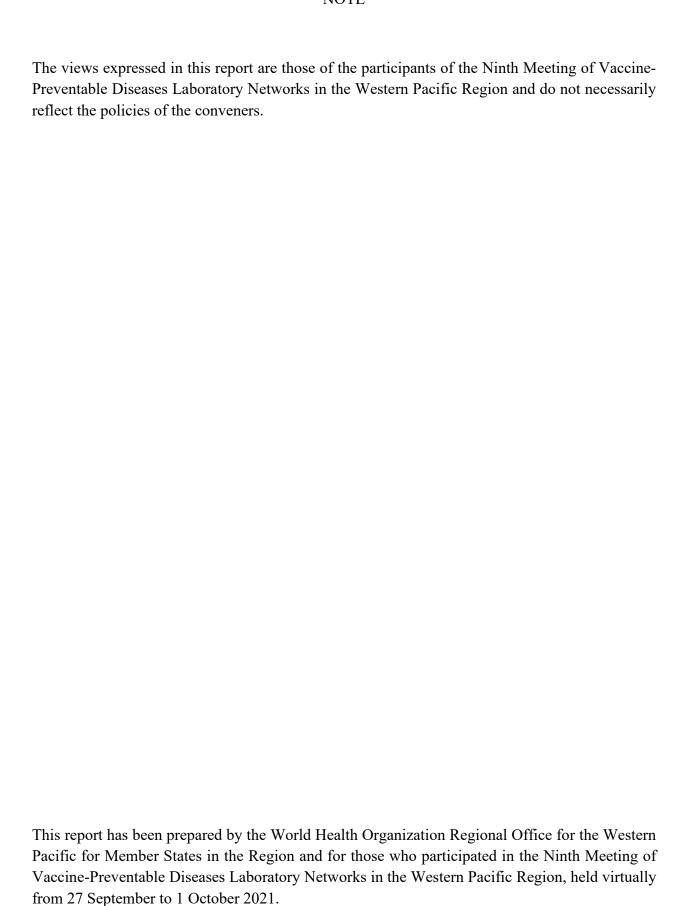
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#### NOTE



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#### Keywords:

Laboratories / Measles / Poliomyelitis / Rubella / Vaccines

#### ABBREVIATIONS

AFP acute flaccid paralysis

cVDPV circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus

EQA external quality assessment ES environmental surveillance

GAPIII Global Action Plan to minimize poliovirus facility-associated risk after

type-specific eradication of wild polioviruses and sequential cessation

of oral polio vaccine use, version III

GMRLN Global Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network

GPLN Global Polio Laboratory Network
GSL Global Specialized Laboratory

IgG immunoglobulin G IgM immunoglobulin M

IPV inactivated poliovirus vaccine IRR International Reagent Resource

ITD intratypic differentiation

L20B a mouse cell line (L-cells), genetically engineered to express the human

poliovirus receptor

MeaNS Measles Nucleotide Surveillance database
NIID National Institute of Infectious Diseases
NMRL national measles and rubella laboratory

nOPV2 novel oral polio vaccine type 2

NPEV non-polio enterovirus NPL national polio laboratory OPV oral polio vaccine

PCR polymerase chain reaction
PEF poliovirus-essential facility
PIM potentially infectious material

PT proficiency test
PV poliovirus

RD human rhabdomyosarcoma RDT rapid diagnostic test RNA ribonucleic acid

RT-PCR reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction
RITM Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (Philippines)

RRL Regional Reference Laboratory

RubeNS Rubella Nucleotide Surveillance database

SL Sabin-like

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

US CDC United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

VDPV vaccine-derived poliovirus

VIDRL Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory

VPD vaccine-preventable disease WHO World Health Organization

WPV wild poliovirus

#### **SUMMARY**

The Ninth Meeting of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Laboratory Networks in the Western Pacific Region was held virtually from 27 September to 1 October 2021 to review the performance and identify the challenges of the poliovirus and measles and rubella network laboratories in the Region.

Meeting participants reviewed ways to further strengthen the performance of network laboratories and also monitor the implementation of recommendations from the previous meeting in March 2019. The meeting provided an opportunity to address the challenges of maintaining surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and to discuss strengthening the quality and sensitivity of poliovirus detection, and enhancing poliovirus surveillance through increasing the sequencing capacity of national laboratories, introduction of direct virus detection and environmental surveillance in key countries and the application of the WHO Global Action Plan to minimize poliovirus facility-associated risk after type-specific eradication of wild polioviruses and sequential cessation of oral polio vaccine use (known as GAPIII) for the containment of poliovirus in the laboratory network. Participants also discussed: ways to improve the quality and timeliness of laboratory-based surveillance through establishing subnational laboratories, the introduction of rapid diagnostic tests for measles and rubella in countries and areas with challenging infrastructure, and the importance of molecular surveillance for support of verification of elimination of measles and rubella.

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