

**Infectious diseases spreading across international borders in Southeast Asia:  
elucidation of area-specific features based on multifactorial analysis**

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**【Outline of survey】**

Important infectious diseases that spread across international borders and infect many people have long been known in Southeast Asia. This indicates the measures to prevent the infections are not functioning in this area, and thus it is necessary to grasp the actual situation as precisely as possible and to elucidate the reasons. Not only a microbiological factor (distribution of the pathogens in this area) but also many area-specific factors are related to occurrence and spread of the infectious diseases. Therefore, it is very important to clarify these factors and their interaction to help establish the measures against the infectious diseases.

We will carry out the study to clarify the rout of emerging enteric infections that spread across international borders and its chronology in the areas of Southeast Asia where the infection is prevalent or the pathogens are distributed, or in related areas. In addition, we will study the transmission of malaria between Thailand and Myanmar and between Indonesia and Malaysia that is mediated by the migration of the labor and other people. Furthermore, we will try to elucidate important factors that affect emergence and spread of the above infectious diseases including natural environments, life environments, cultural factors, social factors, economic factors, and political factors; and influence of emergence and spread of the infectious diseases on people's life and society. We will then summarize unique features of Southeast Asia.

**【Expected results】**

The factors influencing the occurrence and spread of infectious diseases have been studied from the medical standpoint and preventive measures have been studied mainly from the hygienic standpoint. This study emphasizes other area-specific factors. We are sure that the findings of our study will be the basis for establishing practical and effective preventive measures against the infectious diseases that fit each area. We picked up international transmission of infectious diseases as the subject of this study. We hope our approach will be an example showing how we can cope with serious issues on regional coexistence and postnationality in risk management.

**【References by the principal investigator】**

- Benjamin P. G., eleven others, and M. Nishibuchi. 2005. Factors associated with emergence and spread of cholera epidemics and its control in Sarawak, Malaysia between 1994 and 2003. *Southeast Asian Studies*. 43 (2): 109-140.

**【Term of project】** FY2007—2011

**【Budget allocation】** 20,000,000 yen  
(2007 direct cost)

**【Homepage address】**

None