



Media Release

For Immediate Release

HEALTHCARE EXPERTS UNITE TO COMBAT ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AT LANDMARK SYMPOSIUM

Kuala Lumpur, 23 November 2023 – Healthcare leaders and experts from public, private and global healthcare organisations came together yesterday for the landmark Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Center of Excellence (COE) Day Symposium, jointly organised by bioMérieux, IHH Healthcare Malaysia, and Premier Integrated Labs. The symposium facilitated knowledge exchange and interconnectivity between AMS teams from different specialities, to address the threats of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). AMR is a major global health concern that hampers our ability to treat common infectious diseases, resulting in prolonged illness, higher healthcare costs, and increased mortality.

They shared insights into the challenges posed by AMR and the role of AMS as a solution. The symposium also highlighted the importance of diagnostics in AMR control, the link between antimicrobial resistance and judicious use of antibiotics, and initiatives in the public and private healthcare sector for controlling AMR.

Dr Mark Miller, Chief Medical Officer at bioMérieux and an expert on AMR and AMS, addressed how latest diagnostic tests can help physicians in adopting AMS principles while providing appropriate treatment for infectious diseases. Meanwhile, the National Institute of Health (NIH) presented their insights on national antimicrobial resistance data, which is integral in directing national efforts against this public health threat.

The symposium marked the first anniversary of the establishment of the AMS Center of Excellence (COE) partnership between bioMérieux, IHH Healthcare Malaysia and Premier Integrated Labs. The latter two healthcare providers join healthcare institutions in China and India to be designated as AMS COE's in Asia Pacific. Since its establishment, the Malaysia COE has marked several milestones in the fight against AMR. Notably, they have established

an antibiotic resistance reporting framework, and organised nine AMS education programmes for front line healthcare professionals to advance their skills in AMS.

The presence of Deputy Minister of Health, YB Dato' Lukanisman bin Awang Sauni, underscored the national importance of the symposium. YB Dato' Lukanisman, in his speech said, "I am extremely pleased to see a partnership with the private sector committed to combating AMR. The effort to overcome this global threat requires collaboration from multiple different sectors. I would also like to congratulate bioMérieux, IHH Healthcare Malaysia and Premier Integrated Labs for being the first AMS COE in the region, and for organising a successful event today."

Mr Jean-François Naa, CEO of IHH Healthcare Malaysia, added, "At IHH Healthcare Malaysia, we are fully committed to combating AMR. It is integrated into our global sustainability goals, and we have set up an active AMS committee in Malaysia to strategically spearhead initiatives. In this battle against AMR, knowledge remains our strongest ally. The exchange of insights and experiences between global experts, local healthcare leaders and private healthcare providers is crucial, as we navigate these uncharted waters. Moving forward, it is crucial that we work together strategically to combat resistance, instead of in silos."

The symposium was a significant step towards addressing the global health concern of AMR. It not only facilitated knowledge exchange and collaboration but also highlighted the importance of strategic partnerships in combating AMR.

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About Antimicrobial Resistance

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global health crisis caused by the natural mutation of bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites, leading to their resistance to antimicrobials. This means that standard antibiotic treatments become ineffective, and infections persist, increasing the risk of severe consequences to the patient. AMR is directly responsible for 1.27 million deaths annually and is associated with 4.95 million deaths worldwide due to drug-resistant infections. Combating AMR is critical to safeguard the efficacy of antibiotics for future generations. The appropriate use of diagnostics can guide responsible antibiotic use, preserving their lifesaving potential.

About the Center of Excellence Partnership

bioMérieux adopts a proactive, partnership-driven approach to combat AMR. Through diagnostic and data-driven solutions, bioMérieux strives to enhance AMS efforts. The AMS Centers of Excellence (COE) designation is awarded to leading hospitals globally that commit to best AMS practices. Currently, bioMérieux is partnered with thirteen sites across multiple continents. IHH Healthcare Malaysia and Premier Integrated Labs have achieved the distinction of becoming the first healthcare providers in Asia Pacific to be awarded the COE. This partnership aims on promoting data-driven best practices as well as advancing medical education in the field of AMS. It also focuses on generating real-world medical and economic data, emphasising the value of combining diagnostics, medical education, lab consultancy services, and information technology solutions. This partnership symbolises a significant step toward a world free from the threat of AMR.

By inspiring other health institutions, the COE can contribute to increasing the quality of care and improve the level of healthcare systems in Malaysia.

For more information about the AMS Symposium and the remarkable strides taken in the fight against AMR, please contact Ms Pek Hui Choo from bioMérieux at huichoo.pek@ext.biomerieux.com or Ms Ilmira Murni Binti Mohd Hareeff from IHH Healthcare Malaysia at ilmira.hareeff@ihhhealthcare.com.

About bioMérieux

Pioneering Diagnostics. A world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics since 1963, bioMérieux is present in 45 countries and serves more than 160 countries with the support of a large network of distributors. In 2022, revenues reached €3.6 billion, with over 90% of sales outside of France. bioMérieux provides diagnostic solutions (systems, reagents, software, and services) which determine the source of disease and contamination to improve patient health and ensure consumer safety. Its products are mainly used for diagnosing infectious diseases. They are also used for detecting microorganisms in agri-food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products. www.biomerieux.com

About IHH Healthcare

A world-leading integrated healthcare provider, IHH Healthcare believes that making a difference starts with our aspiration to Care. For Good. Our team of 65,000 people commit to deliver greater good to our patients, people, the public and planet, as we live our purpose each day to touch lives and transform care. Through our portfolio of trusted brands – Acibadem, Mount Elizabeth, Prince Court, Gleneagles, Fortis, Pantai and Parkway – we offer our patients comprehensive and personalised care ranging from primary to quaternary, and even ancillary services such as laboratories diagnostics, imaging and rehabilitation. With our scale and reach in 10 countries, we continue to raise the bar in healthcare in our key markets of Malaysia, Singapore, Turkey, India, Greater China (including Hong Kong) and beyond. In partnership with our stakeholders, we will co-create a sustainable future for all as we work towards our vision to become the world's most trusted healthcare services network. More information can be found at www.ihhhealthcare.com

About Premier Integrated Labs

Premier Integrated Labs Sdn. Bhd. (PIL) is a leading provider of quality diagnostics and analytical laboratory testing services in Malaysia. As a subsidiary of IHH Healthcare, one of the world's largest healthcare providers, PIL operates 33 laboratories across the country, performing more than 24 million tests annually. PIL serves both general practitioners and specialist doctors in various healthcare facilities, from clinics and centres to tertiary hospitals. PIL has achieved multiple accreditations and quality standards, such as ISO 9001:2000, CAP, ISO 15189, MSQH, and JCI, to ensure total quality healthcare delivery to its clients. PIL is committed to continuously improving its services and expanding its range of pathological tests to meet current and future healthcare needs. For further information, please contact the Marketing Communications Unit at info@premierintegratedlabs.com.my