

Job Title: Senior Virologist – COVID-19 epidemic response
Location: Institut Pasteur du Cambodge
Program: Ecomore 2 – COVID-19 response in South East Asia

Senior position located at Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC) – Virology Unit

2-years starting August 2020*– International contract

(*pending international travel availability and according to the sanitary situation, the start could be from the home country of the candidate)

Version June 18, 2020 – For diffusion

Ecomore 2 program:

Since March 2017, the Ecomore 2 (ECONomic Development, ECOsystem Modifications & Emerging Infectious Diseases Risk Evaluation) program aims to guide economic development initiatives in 5 countries in South East Asia (SEA, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines and Viet Nam) through a partnership dedicated to health issues.

The project is funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD, Paris, France

<https://www.afd.fr/en/our-role>) which is a public development finance institution that implements France's policy in the areas of development and international solidarity, under the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Ministry of Economy. The follow-up is ensured by the local agency of AFD in Cambodia based in Phnom-Penh.

The Institut Pasteur (IP, Paris) is responsible for the program implementation.

With the COVID-19 crisis, AFD has decided to support within those 5 countries the implications of 7 public health and scientific institutions as follows: Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC), Institut Pasteur du Laos (IPL), National Health Laboratory (NHL, Yangon, Myanmar), Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM, Manila, The Philippines), National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE, Hanoi), Institut Pasteur de Nha Trang (IPNT) and Institut Pasteur d'Ho Chi Minh (IPHCM) in Viet Nam.

Several European partners are also involved: Institut Pasteur (Paris) for their expertise in project management and in virology; Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) for their expertise in climate change and health geography. COVID-19 epidemic will negatively and immediately impact the economic growth of the less advanced countries (LAC) in SEA. The new COVID-19 component of Ecomore 2 will greatly benefit from the other on-going components for neglected tropical diseases and climate changes.

Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (Phnom-Penh, Cambodia):

Established in 1953, Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC) is a non-for-profit research institution of public utility engaged by convention with the Royal Government of Cambodia under the patronage of the Ministry of Health. The three main missions of IPC are: 1/ to conduct high quality, advanced research in health and biology; 2/ to fully support public health activities in Cambodia and Southeast Asia as a whole; and, 3/ to provide training and education in research and public health.

IPC is a member of the Institut Pasteur International Network (IPIN), a highly coordinated network with 32 member institutes spread across the globe facilitating collaboration and scientific exchange.

IPC researchers and visiting scientists frequently provide expertise to setup specific assays and collaborations globally. Facilities at IPC and within the IPIN enable access to state-of-the-art equipment needed for any proposed research or public health response.

The Virology Unit at IPC was established in 1996 and has been instrumental in public health responses in Cambodia, especially against respiratory viruses such as avian influenza. The Virology Unit serves as a reference laboratory for a number of pathogens, and programs and procedures are in place to identify, diagnose, and sequence numerous other emerging and zoonotic pathogens, such as SARS-CoV-2. In response to the need for a biosafe and biosecure facility to handle dangerous and/or unknown samples during outbreaks, IPC opened Cambodia's only BSL-3 laboratory in 2008.

Since January 2020, IPC stands in the front line of the public health response supporting the Cambodian Ministry of Health and conducts operational research that could strengthen the COVID-19 public health response. In addition, IPC hosts one of the WHO International Referral Laboratory for COVID-19.

The candidate will work closely with the virologists from the Virology Unit to support the COVID-19 public health response with an additional regional component to facilitate the scientific coordination of the Ecomore-2 project for its objectives related to COVID-19.

Job scope:

The profile of the COVID-19 senior virologist is preferably a medical virologist or a PhD with a background in applied virology. Experience in a university hospital or a research institution and coordinating experience with multisite and multicultural projects will be an asset.

The candidate should have at least ten years of professional experience and be able to work in English, written and spoken.

We are looking for an experienced, delivery-focused candidate with experience on COVID-19 or other emerging viruses who can demonstrate expertise working with other virologists and who thrive on challenge and change for the COVID-19 public health response in SEA.

Major accountabilities:

Based on his/her medical and scientific knowledge and his/her coordinating capability, the candidate will be an enabler to implement the COVID-19 program by:

- Contributing to the COVID-19 response team in the Virology Unit at IPC for public health response and research projects
- Supporting the lead of WHO International Referral Laboratory for COVID-19 to develop collaboration and give visibility at regional level
- Supporting the head of Virology Unit at IPC to strengthen the IPC to respond to emerging viruses threats
- Sharing knowledge and supporting IPC with EQC/IQA activities and accreditation (ISO 17025) for its referral laboratories
- Being the point of contact at IPC for the COVID-19-related activities of Ecomore 2 program to ensure a smooth collaboration with Institut Pasteur (Paris) and the other Ecomore 2 partner
- Preparing the reports for IPC, attending calls/workshops for the COVID-19-related activities of Ecomore 2 program
- Sharing his/her technical expertise in virology to facilitate for the COVID-19 related activities of Ecomore 2 program

- Facilitating technology transfer of new methods/devices for direct and indirect testing as they will become available for the COVID-19 related activities of Ecomore 2 program
- Contributing to the preparation of the next regional program supported by AFD

Position

The position is based within the Virology Unit of the Institut Pasteur du Cambodge

The candidate will report to the Head of Virology (Dr DUONG Veasna)

Once the sanitary situation allows, the position might require regular duty trips in the region (estimates up to 30 days / year).

Qualifications and skills

- Medical virologist or PhD with a background as virologist in a university hospital or a research institution
- At least ten years of professional experience
- English, written and spoken, French and/or Khmer would be a significant advantage
- Committed and delivery-focused
- Ability to work in less advanced countries environment
- Previous experience in South East Asia is an asset

Application: CV and letter of motivation before July 6th, 2020 to be sent to:

Dr Laurence BARIL, Director, Institut Pasteur du Cambodge – lbaril@pasteur-kh.org

Mr Christophe MOUSSET, Administrative and Financial Director (in charge of HR for international contracts) – cmousset@pasteur-kh.org

Dr DUONG Veasna, Head of Virology Unit (per interim until July 31, 2020 and full position August 1, 2020 onwards) - dveasna@pasteur-kh.org

Please feel free to contact us for further information if needed before submission of your application.