

**PRESS STATEMENT AND MEDIA AVAILABILITY**

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**ASTMH Applauds Outcome of Myanmar Malaria Elimination Conference**

*Historic Meeting Between Disparate Myanmar Government Officials, Ethnic Groups, and Leading Opposition Groups Results in Consensus to Join Forces to Rid Myanmar of Malaria*

August 4, 2015

An exceptionally diverse array of Myanmar government officials and ethnic minority groups held an unprecedented meeting this week in Washington, DC to discuss shared efforts to eliminate malaria. Among those at the conference were representatives from the office of the President, the Ministry of Health, military medical experts, members of Parliament, the main opposition party the National League for Democracy; and the Shan, Karenni, and Kayin ethnic minorities. This unique dialogue was convened by the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Global Health Policy Center, and the Institute for Global Health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

ASTMH applauds the outcome of the conference and the unity of effort.

The group today agreed to increased cooperation and communication across political and cultural lines and work collectively to eliminate malaria for all ethnic minority, migratory, military and border populations in Myanmar. Read the key points of consensus in the full conference statement at:  
[http://csis.org/files/attachments/150804\\_Myanmar\\_Conference\\_Statement.pdf](http://csis.org/files/attachments/150804_Myanmar_Conference_Statement.pdf).

“This is science diplomacy at its best,” said Christopher V. Plowe, MD, President of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH), and Director, Institute for Global Health, University of Maryland School of Medicine. “For Myanmar and for the world, this coming together is a model for how to use science and medicine not only to solve important health problems, but also as a way to foster broader social and political change. The discussions in Washington are even more promising given the history of adversity among those making the commitment to reach across deep political and ethnic boundaries to unify against a common foe: malaria.

We now have consensus for scientific and public health collaboration among civilian, military, public and private partners, to join the fight malaria and the increasing threat of drug resistance in the region and around the globe. This is a remarkable achievement for global health.”

**The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene**, founded in 1903, is the largest international scientific organization of experts dedicated to reducing the worldwide burden of tropical infectious diseases and improving global health.