Reviewer’s report

Title: Space-time cluster analysis of indigenous and imported dengue fever cases in Guangdong province, China

Version: 2 Date: 26 September 2011

Reviewer: Mathuros Tipayamongkholgul

Reviewer’s report:

To examine the cluster of imported and indigenous case is very interesting particular in non-endemic area, however the paper will be much more significant to the international readers if the following points are clarified.

1. The authors should explain in detail how to distinguish the imported case from indigenous. What are the significant criteria?

2. Using the linear regression model to examine the expansion of dengue affected area may be incorrect, since the pattern of an expansion of dengue affected area is generally in Poisson distribution.

3. The paper would be much more interesting if the authors could examine whether the cluster of imported cases relate the cluster of indigenous cases in county or its vicinity.

4. Why did the imported case present seasonal pattern? Where were the imported cases from? Was the infected area of those imported case relevant to the seasonal in the original infected area?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests