Reviewer’s report

Title: The Changing Epidemiology of Dengue in China, 1990-2014: a descriptive analysis of 25 years of Nationwide Surveillance Data

Version: 3 Date: 13 February 2015

Reviewer: Annelies Wilder-Smith

Reviewer’s report:

There is not much information about dengue in China, so this well-written report provides an important overview and is very timely given the 2014 outbreaks of dengue in Guangzhou.

Major compulsory revisions:

It is very unusual to ask a traveler to remember whether he/she remembers being bitten by mosquitoes in the past 2 weeks, and also not being bitten in its home country. The bite of Aedes mosquitoes is known to be imperceptible. So to include a ‘memory’ of being bitten as part of the criteria for an imported cases is not only not justified, but plain wrong. This is however not the mistake of the authors. But if the definition of an imported cases was travel to a dengue affected area AND indeed s history of mosquito bites, this would explain the very low proportion of 3.7% of imported cases versus 95.3%. The authors should highlight that imported cases are probably underestimated based on the definition used. In light of the other statements by the authors that the local outbreaks in those provinces are most likely due to imported cases rather than indigenous transmission, one would expect a higher proportion of imported cases.

Minor essential revisions:

Dengue IgM positive is only a probably diagnosis, not a confirmed diagnosis.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

no conflict of interest