

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance & Training Facility



SUMMARY AND PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

ASEAN Regional Workshop on Mutli-sectoral Coordination in Pandemic Preparedness and Response (29-30 November, 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand)



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The ASEAN Regional Workshop on Multi-sectoral Coordination in Pandemic Preparedness and Response (Bangkok Workshop) was conducted in November 29-30, 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand and brought together members of the ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD), ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and representatives of the National Coordinating Committee on Pandemic Preparedness. This workshop followed from recommendations that came out of the Regional Workshop on ASEAN Mapping Exercise for Pandemic Preparedness and Response in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 26-27 July 2007. The primary objective of the Bangkok workshop was for participants to arrive at a common understanding of the multi-sectoral approach to pandemic preparedness and response at the national and regional level. Additionally, the 46 participants were to discuss and identify the roles and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders, discuss and identify the key activities in addressing the gaps in pandemic preparedness and response based on the recommendations made at the first workshop and to provide a venue for sharing best practices and lessons learned.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Bounpheng Philavong noted that this is the first time that multiple sectors gathered in an ASEAN forum to discuss pandemic preparedness face to face. Dr. John MacArthur of the USAID Regional Mission for Asia gave his welcoming remarks, noting that ASEAN has done well in bringing people together across countries. However, he stated, there is need for more coordinated action from all sectors of society. This point also resonated from the Vientiane workshop where member countries were urged to develop plans that include national and sub-national entities, civil society and private organizations.

In the first session, Facility Avian Influenza and Pandemic Preparedness Consultant, Dr. Gracyana Rompas, presented the overview and results of the Vientiane Workshop. The seven areas under review for national plans were narrowed down to three areas for implementation: Planning and Coordination, Health Intervention and Non Health Intervention. These areas will be the basis for group discussions in identifying and prioritizing activities to be implemented in the second phase of the ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility work plan. Dr. MacArthur provided a presentation on health sector pandemic preparedness primarily to inform those participants from the non-health sectors about influenza, pandemic influenza, the history and the response. Following, Dr. Ingo Neu from the UNOCHA Regional Office discussed those non-health sectors considered to be essential in times of a pandemic and what such sectors should do in terms of preparedness. He emphasized the need for all sectors to develop specific pandemic preparedness plans and described a suggested contingency planning process. Dr. Nalinee Sangrujee of Constella Futures International concluded the session with a brainstorming exercise to reinforce these messages.

The second session informed participants of three pre-existing regional initiatives (Stand by Agreement of ACDM, Panstop Stockpile of Tamiflu and PPE and the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve) and explored how these initiatives could be utilized in times of a pandemic.

In the afternoon, the third session offered a venue for sharing best practices and lessons learned through two country presentations on national multi-sectoral pandemic preparedness. Mr. Ross Sovann of Cambodia discussed his country's second stage of pandemic preparedness, which is focused on strengthening preparedness at the sub-national level. From Singapore, Mr. Freddy Hong presented the process in developing his country's national pandemic preparedness plan.

The following day, participants were divided into three small group discussions to identify and prioritize activities to be implemented in the Phase II Facility. The workshop concluded with a “Next Steps” session, where partner organizations were invited to provide comments and feedback on their work and potential collaboration with ASEAN.

In general the participants rated the workshop highly, with sessions averaging 4 or 5 out of a possible 6. Criticism was generally limited to requests for more time for small group discussions and the need for a larger, more functional meeting space.

Several highlighted recommendations that came out of the workshop are to:

- Identify an ASEAN coordinating structure with specific mandate to drive multi-sectoral planning and preparedness among the Member Countries (i.e. the ACDM supported by the AEGCD);
- Promote the sharing of plans that will lead to improved integration;
- Organize regular regional meetings on pandemic preparedness (i.e. back-to-back with ACDM);
- Capacity building activities to strengthen contingency planning in various sectors and exercise the plans (e.g. on the job training, attachment training, training of trainers);
- Identify the regional experts and expertise in pandemic preparedness and planning already available in the ASEAN region;
- Develop manuals/templates to guide contingency planning for pandemic preparedness and response;
- Identify an ASEAN coordinating structure with specific TOR to drive multisectoral planning and preparedness among the Member Countries (i.e. the ACDM supported by the AEGCD);
- Promote the sharing of plans that will lead to improved integration ;
- Organize regular regional meetings on pandemic preparedness (i.e. back-to-back with ACDM);
- Capacity building activities to strengthen contingency planning in various sectors and exercise the plans (e.g. on the job training, attachment training, training of trainers);
- Identify the regional experts and expertise in pandemic preparedness and planning already available in the ASEAN region; and
- Develop manuals/templates to guide contingency planning for pandemic preparedness and response.

The Phase II Facility will design activities to follow up on some of these requests. Attached is the agenda and summary of participant evaluations.

Agenda

DAY 1 Thursday, 29 November 2007

08.30 – 09.00 Registration and Business Arrangements

OPENING SESSION

09.00 – 09.15 Opening Remarks by ASEAN Secretariat (Dr. Bounpheng Philavong)

Opening Remarks by USAID RDMA (Dr. John MacArthur)

09.15 – 09.30 Introduction of Participants and Overview of Workshop Agenda

09.30 – 09.50 Group Photo and Coffee Break

SESSION I Pandemic Preparedness

09.50 – 10.10 Overview of the Regional Workshop on ASEAN Mapping Exercise for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, Vientiane, Lao PDR, 26-27 July 2007 (Dr. Gracyana Rompas)

10.10 – 10.30 Preparing for a pandemic-from the health perspective (Dr. John MacArthur)

10.30 – 10.50 Pandemic preparedness-from the non health perspective (Dr. Ingo Neu)

10.50 – 11.10 Identified roles and responsibilities for relevant stakeholders in pandemic preparedness at the national and regional level (Dr. Nalinee Sangrujee)

11.10 – 12.00 Plenary Discussion

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch

SESSION II Regional Initiatives

13.30 – 13.50 Disaster Management and AADMER (Ms. Adelina Kamal)

13.50 – 14.10 ASEAN-Japan Project on Stockpiling of Tamiflu and PPE (Dr. Bounpheng Philavong)

14.10 – 14.30 East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (Dr. Mulyo Sidik)

14.30 – 15.00 Plenary Discussion

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee Break

SESSION III Country Initiatives

15.15 – 15.35 Country Presentation 1 – Cambodia (Mr. Ross Sovann)

15.35 – 15.55 Country Presentation 2 – Singapore (Mr. Freddy Hong Beng Hong)

15.55 – 16.45 Questions and Answers

16.45 – 17.00 Session Mechanics

19.00 – 21.00 Welcome Dinner

DAY 2 Friday, 30 November 2007

09.00 – 09.15 Synthesis of Day 1

09.15 – 10.00 Small Group Sessions: Identifying (and prioritizing) key activities on addressing the gaps in pandemic preparedness and response

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch

SESSION IV Group Presentations and Discussions

13.30 – 14.30 Group Presentations

14.30 – 15.15 Plenary Discussion

15.15 – 15.30 Coffee Break

15.30 – 16.00 Wrap Up and Next Steps

16.00 – 16.15 Closing

Evaluation

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance & Training Facility

ASEAN Regional Workshop on Multi-sectoral Coordination in Pandemic Preparedness and Response

29-30 November 2007, Bangkok, Thailand

Personal Data

Years of experience in Public Health	Ranging from 3 to 25 years	
Country of representation	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, UN	
Gender	Male	21
	Female	6

Presentations

On scale of 1 to 6, please rate how informative each session was for you. A rating of 6 indicates that you found the session highly informative, a rating of 1 that you did not find it informative.

		Average
Session I	Presentation and Presenter	
a	Overview of the Regional Workshop on ASEAN Mapping Exercise for Pandemic Preparedness and Response Vientiane, 26-27 July 2007 <i>Dr. Gracyana Rompas</i>	5
b	Preparing for a Pandemic (from Health Perspective) <i>Dr. John MacArthur - USAID RDMA</i>	6
c	Pandemic Preparedness (from Non Health Perspective) <i>Dr. Ingo Neu - Senior Planning Officer, UNOCHA</i>	5
Session II		
e	Disaster Management and AADMER <i>Adelina Kamal, Coordinator, Environment and Disaster Management, ASEAN Secretariat</i>	5
f	ASEAN - Japan Project on Stockpiling of Tamiflu and Personal Protective Equipment <i>Dr. Boupheing Philavong, Assistant Director, Head of Health and Population Unit, ASEAN Secretariat</i>	5
g	East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) <i>Mr. Mulyo Sidik Ph.D, General Manager EAERR</i>	5
Session III		
h	Country Presentation, Cambodia	5

Subject Matter

Would you like to see more, the same or less time devoted to the following negotiation topics:

Topic	More	Same	Less
Overview of workshop	4	22	1
Pandemic Preparedness Session	20	7	0
Regional Initiatives Session	22	5	0
Country Initiatives Session	15	11	1
Plenary discussion	16	11	0
Small group discussion	14	13	0
Group Presentation	9	18	0
Next Steps and Conclusion	15	12	0

General

1. What part of this workshop did you like most?

- Country presentations regarding their experiences in preparing preparedness plans (3 participants)
- Country initiative of Singapore
- Small group presentations (2 participants)
- Pandemic preparedness session (2 participants)
- Active participation by member countries
- Next steps and conclusion (3 participants)
- All
- Next steps and conclusion was the most relevant
- Regional and country initiatives (2 participants)
- Excellent reception
- Plenary discussions (4 participants)
- Plenary discussions best, as it gives an insight on AI preparedness on a more regional level and what measures can be done to focus on the problem
- Focused planning sessions
- The fact that there are mixed participants
- The confidence, enthusiasm and frankness of participants and active participation from member countries
- The opportunity for networking among member countries
- Sharing of information, experiences through the small group work
- Plenary discussions and side line meetings

2. What part of this workshop did you like least?

- None (10 participants)
- Non health sector pandemic preparedness
- Session II
- Overview of the workshop
- Time was limited compared to the broad agenda
- Every part is useful, difficult to say like least

- Can't say, the speakers were all informative
- Organizing of the seats

3. What other topics would you like to see included?

- Prioritization of the suggested activities and agreement from Member Countries
- Strategies/experiences to engage other sectors and private business/organizations
- Crisis management including leadership in the routine and unusual events
- Business continuity planning
- Pandemic planning and contingency planning (3 participants)
- Experiences dealing with Tsunami, SARS or other disasters
- Impact of the last pandemic
- Link strategies between Pandemic and Disaster
- Lessons learned from previous experiences (2 participants)
- Standard/parameters of pandemic preparedness and response
- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Presentation from private sectors
- Resources/budget preparedness and resources development/management (2 participants)
- Other regional initiatives (such as in Europe, America, etc)
- Sharing experiences in multisectoral collaboration
- Additional brainstorming sessions
- Disaster management in all countries
- Focus on regional coordination, regional intervention and effective intervention

4. Did this workshop use a good mix of information and interactive discussion?

- Yes (20 participants)
- Yes, excellent
- There should be more time for group discussion
- Moderator good
- Yes, I hope to find use of the information when I get back to my home country

5. What sorts of follow up activities for this course would you find useful?

- Prioritization and activation at country-level
- Suggested points need to be clarified and prioritized
- Developing guidelines and standard/indicators for assessing the preparedness and response including measurement of economic impact due to an epidemic or pandemic (4 participants)
- It seems that the health sector for obvious reasons is far ahead in this matter, now it's time for the other non-health sectors to catch up and be streamlined
- Action items at country level
- Contingency planning formulation workshop for pandemic including critical sectors (7 participants)
- Emergency Incident Command (2 participants)
- ASEC to follow up with concept papers further developing/describing the activities
- Technical assistance for all the proposed activities
- Small group discussions

- Questionnaire to participants and collect it in regular
- Implementation of recommendations (4 participants)
- Regional united and ready for intervention
- The progress of endorsed activities
- Report to AEG CD
- Pandemic preparedness as part of ACDM agenda

Thank you for filling out this questionnaire. Additional comments on any aspect of this course are welcome.