



SUMMARY AND PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

Regional Workshop on Mapping Exercise on Pandemic Preparedness and Response (26-27 July, 2007 in Vientiane, Laos)



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**SUBMITTED BY**  
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August 2007

July 26-27, 2007, the ASEAN-US Facility public health team convened representatives from the ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD), the ASEAN Secretariat and partner organizations for a workshop to present the initial findings of the ASEAN Mapping Exercise based on the assessment of national pandemic preparedness plans. The workshop aimed to identify needs and gaps in pandemic preparedness planning and response, identify and prioritize areas for enhancing regional cooperation for pandemic preparedness and response, and to discuss next steps to strengthen both national and regional preparedness and response planning.

The 38 workshop participants discussed the state of play of national and regional pandemic preparedness. The WHO Pacific Regional Office started the first session with a presentation on the country assessments on pandemic preparedness concluding that countries are not prepared at every level; essential activities are particularly lacking in rapid containment and pandemic response. Some essential activities must still be completed for averting avian influenza in humans.

A UNOCHA Regional Office representative focused on the importance of preparedness on the non health sectors such as power supply, finance and banking, military considering the lack of preparedness in non health sectors will impact on the health sector and vis a versa. Lack of preparedness on the non health sector would also be more disastrous and need more time to recover. The ASEAN-Asia Development Bank Project for controlling Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) provided a presentation on how to prevent the pandemic at source by reducing the risk of a pandemic.

Dr. Nalinee Sangrujee and the Avian Influenza and Pandemic Preparedness consultant, Dr. Gracyana Rompas, presented the initial findings of the ASEAN mapping exercise. All national plans have a strong commitment from the highest level of government, existing surveillance systems (various levels in capacity and resources), a health system response plan, communications strategy plan and public health measures in risk prevention campaigns. However, there are gaps that have been identified such as coordination and collaboration with multi sectors (e.g. disaster management unit and other essential services), plans not being defined according to WHO phases, no linkages with other existing plans, weak capacity within the sub national level, weak vaccine and anti viral strategy, non existing plans for maintaining essential services (or if existing-no linkages) and weak mechanisms for measuring implementation, revision and testing of the plan.

Indonesia presented a country paper on the national pandemic preparedness highlighting the surveillance activities. Thailand highlighted the cross border activities and Viet Nam on coordination and collaboration with other sectors and stakeholders. The AEGCD was then grouped into small sessions and discussed the identified gaps and recommended actions for addressing the gaps. The following day, the small groups presented the results of the discussion which led to the plenary discussion, which were synthesized by the chair to identify gaps and recommendations. 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.

Participants rated the workshop favorably with an average rating of 5 out of a possible 6 for most sessions. Most participants requested a follow up workshop to discuss the recommendations and formulate an action plan. Other follow-up actions that were found useful are to convene a workshop to develop a strategy to coordinate with the disaster management unit within ASEAN and engage the non health sectors. Specific gaps identified in the plenary discussion were the lack of cross border strategies in responding to an outbreak and pandemic including scenario planning, contingency planning and other implementable activities; weak risk communication

plans for pandemic preparedness and response; non-health sectors are not fully engaged in pandemic preparedness planning; lack of awareness in the private sector and civil society; and lack of political will at the highest level which has resource implications. Several capacity building activities were also identified (a) Advocacy training and awareness raising among partners and non health sectors; (b) Provide training to non health sectors on precautions taken in response to a pandemic; (c) Strengthen outbreak investigation skills among veterinary health personnel; (d) Provide training to non health sectors in developing pandemic preparedness planning; and (e) Training on risk communication and develop risk communication modules.

The workshop agreed in principle on the following recommendations:

1. Draft plans to outline strategies according to pandemic response strategies. Provide a better definition of response stages and when to transition/escalate the response (i.e., Color coding for national response in pandemic preparedness)
2. Create pre-pandemic and pandemic strategies at the national and regional level
3. A need to develop scenarios and contingency plans that can be tested including testing essential services and facilities that are already existing in the region such as the Panstop stockpile and East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR)
4. Develop guidelines on border health policy in times of crisis
5. Conduct regular exercises and document experiences in order to maintain institutional capacity
6. Engage other sectors in pandemic response planning
7. Develop a common mechanism for conducting joint animal and human health surveillance and response
8. Engage private health care system in surveillance
9. Develop vaccination strategy, identifying priority groups for vaccination in times of response
10. Clarify ASEAN protocols and mechanisms to access anti-viral stockpiles
11. Promote household preparedness similar to programs developed by Singapore
12. Review existing capacity and needs of essential services during a pandemic
13. Creation of special pandemic response teams that are prepared to maintain essential services

The workshop also identified the way forward. The Final Report on the Mapping Exercise will be distributed and the results of the workshop will be incorporated in the report together with feedback from national focal points. The report will be shared with member countries for further input prior to sharing with other partners. The Facility plans to convene a follow up workshop to further discuss the plan of action to address the recommendations and develop a strategy to coordinate with the non health sector (tentatively to be held in Ha Long Bay, Viet Nam in October). Internally, ASEAN Secretariat will coordinate with the different units within ASEAN to develop a coordinated strategy for pandemic preparedness. Pending available funding, the Facility also plans to conduct a capacity building workshop in November.

Attached is the Agenda and summary of participant evaluations.

**Thursday, 26 July 2007**

08.30 - 09.00	Registration and Business Arrangements
09.00 - 09.15	<b>OPENING SESSION</b> Welcome Remarks by Hosting Country Dr. Bounlay Phommasack (Deputy Director General-Department of Hygiene & Prevention-Ministry of Health, Lao PDR)  Opening Remarks by ASEAN Secretariat Dr. Bounpheng Philavong (Assistant Director-Head of Health and Population Unit Bureau of Resources Development-ASEAN Secretariat)  Opening Remarks by USAID Regional Development Mission on Asia Dr. John MacArthur (Infectious Diseases Advisor-U.S. Agency for International Development-Regional Development Mission, Asia)
09.15 - 09.30	Introduction of Participants and Overview of Workshop Agenda Dr. Bounpheng Philavong
09.30 - 09.45	Overview of ASEAN Cooperation in Combating Avian Influenza Dr. Bounpheng Philavong
09.45 - 10.15	Group Photo and Coffee Break
<b>SESSION I: PRESENTATION OF PAPERS</b> Chair: Dr. Bounpheng Philavong	
10.15 - 10.30	WHO Country Assessments and Results from 2 <sup>nd</sup> TAG Meeting Dr. Meredith Gaye Bradbury (Public Health Specialist, WHO Pacific Regional Office)
10.30 - 10.45	Non Health Sector Preparedness Dr. Ingo Neu (Senior Planning Officer, UNOCHA Regional Office)
10.45 - 11.00	Preventing Pandemic Influenza at the Source ( <i>in relation to HPAI H5N1</i> ) Dr. Noel Miranda (Consultant for the ASEAN-ADB Project on Strengthening ASEC's Capacity for Regional Coordination in the Control and Eradication of HPAI)
<b>SESSION II: MAPPING EXERCISE FINDINGS</b> Chair: Dr. Bounlay Phommasack	
11.00 - 11.45	Initial Findings of the Mapping Exercise Dr. Gracyana Rompas (AI and Pandemic Preparedness Consultant) Dr. Naline Sangrujee (Sr. Economist) ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility
11.45 - 12.00	Discussion
12.00 - 13.30	Lunch
13.30 - 13.45	National Preparedness Plan and Surveillance Strategies Representative, Indonesia
13.45 - 14.00	National Preparedness and Cross Border Issues Representative, Thailand
14.00 - 14.15	National Preparedness and Coordination and Partnership Representative, Viet Nam
14.15 - 14.45	Discussion
14.45 - 15.00	Coffee Break

15.00 – 15.10	Session Mechanics Dr. Gracyana Rompas
15.10 – 17.00	<b>SESSION IV: SMALL GROUP SESSIONS</b> Small Group Sessions: Identifying (and Prioritizing) Gaps in Pandemic Preparedness and National and Regional Level Recommendations to Address the Gaps

**Friday, 27 July 2007**

09.00 – 09.15	Synthesis of Day 1
<b>SESSION III: DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS</b>	
Chair: Dr. Bounlay Phomasack	
09.15 – 10.30	Group Presentations
10.30 – 10.45	Coffee Break
10.45 – 11.15	Discussion
11.15 – 11.45	Wrap Up and Next Steps Dr. Bounpheng Philavong
11.45 – 12.00	Closing
12.00 – 01.00	Lunch

# Evaluation

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance & Training Facility

## Regional Workshop on ASEAN Mapping Exercise for Pandemic Preparedness and Response

July 26-27, 2006, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Your answers to this questionnaire will help us to improve our training programs. Thank you for taking the time to fill it out.

### Personal data

Years of experience in Public Health

5 years in average

Country of representation

**Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Thailand, ASEC**

Please select the appropriate box

4	Male	5	Female
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### Presentations

On a 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 Score
<b>Session</b>	<b>Presentation and Presenter</b>	
1	Overview of Agenda and Program <i>Dr. Bounpheng Philavong</i>	4
2	Overview of ASEAN Cooperation in Combating Avian Influenza <i>Dr. Bounpheng Philavong</i>	4
3	WHO country assessments and results from 2 <sup>nd</sup> TAG meeting <i>Dr. Meredith Gaye Bradbury</i>	5
4	Non Health Sector Preparedness <i>Dr. Ingo Neu</i>	5
5	Preventing Pandemic Influenza at source <i>Dr. Noel Miranda</i>	5
6	Mapping findings of country national plan review <i>Dr. Nalinee Sangrujee/ Dr. Gracyana Rompas</i>	5
7	Country Paper Indonesia <i>Dr. Yusharmen</i>	5

8	Country Paper Thailand <i>Dr. Saravudh Suvannadabba</i>	5
9	Country Paper Viet Nam <i>Dr. Tran Thanh Duong</i>	5

## Subject Matter

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

Session	Topic	More	Same	Less
1	Overview of workshop	0	7	2
2	Overview of ASEAN work	0	9	0
3	Technical agency's assessments	6	3	0
4	Preventing pandemic influenza at source	5	4	0
5	ASEAN Mapping Exercise	8	1	0
6	Country Papers	6	3	0
7	Small workshop	6	3	0
8	Next steps and Conclusion	6	3	0

## General

- What part of this workshop did you like the most?
  - Small group workshop to obtain lessons learned
  - Mapping findings session
  - The opportunity to discuss certain issues with my counterparts
  - The presentation of the non-health sector preparedness
  - Technical agencies presentations
  - Non health sector approach and the integrated approach
- What part of this workshop did you like the least?
  - None
  - Overview of the workshop
- What other topics would you like to see included?
  - More recommendations in plenary discussion
  - Review on the disaster management role
  - Technique in the mapping
- Did this workshop use a good mix of information and interactive discussion?
  - Yes

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

- Follow up workshop
- Capacity building activities to address the identified gaps
- Follow up recommendations
- Joint activities among member countries in pandemic preparedness and response
- Integrated sectors simulation
- Strategy to coordinate with the disaster management unit within ASEAN
- Strategy to engage the non health sectors