



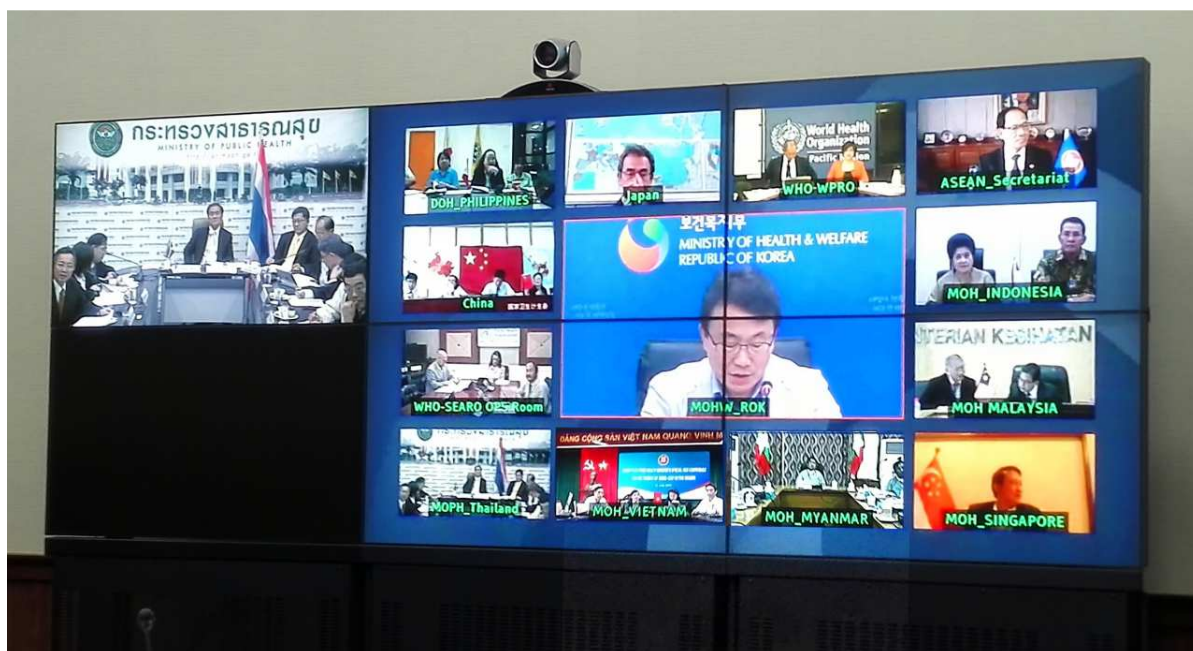
### ASEAN+3 FETN NEWS

**Activity:** ASEAN Plus Three Health Minister’s Special Video Conference on the Threat of MERS-CoV in the Region

**Date:** Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 13.30-15.30 hrs (Bangkok time)

Under ASEAN Plus Three Health umbrella, health authorities have been working together to tackle infectious disease posed threats in the region. ASEAN Plus Three Health Minister’s Meeting (APTHMM) and Senior Officials’ Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD), as the policy and strategy planning body, have a long developed tradition of close collaboration for evidenced decision/policy making. Given MERS situation in the region, the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand (as Chair of SOMHD) jointly with the Ministry of Health Viet Nam (as Chair of APTHMM) and the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Republic of Korea (as the Co-chair of the APTHMM) proposed the ASEAN+3 Special VDO Conference to facilitate experience’s sharing and discuss on regional collaboration in response to the spread of MERS.

The objectives are 1) to share country’s experiences and approaches in putting disease surveillance, preparation and responses in place, including effective public communication; and 2) to discuss the way forward to enhance preparedness and response to MERS in the region.





## ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network

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The Vice Minister of Health of Vietnam – Professor Nguyen Thanh Long gave the Opening Remarks and objectives of this Special Video Conference, as well as the other Remarks given by the Secretary General of ASEAN – H.E. Le Loung Minh.

The Minister of Ministry of Public Health – H.E Professor Rajata Rajatanavin, invited WHO WPRO and WHO SEARO to update the situation and risk assessment of MERS-CoV in the region. Furthermore, Republic of Korea, China, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand, shared their experiences in preparedness and response to MERS-CoV with reported cases.

After updating the situation and sharing experiences on MERS control and prevention, the 13 Health Ministers / Heads of delegations reviewed and later endorsed the Joint Statement drafted by SOMHD.

The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers agreed to enhance the preparedness and response to MERS-CoV. Five action points were concluded in this Joint Statement (*see more details in attachment*), where ASEAN+3 FETN has been also emphasized in the third action point: *“Where appropriate, coordinating cross border contact tracing and outbreak investigations through joint multi-country collaboration, including ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network (FETN) platforms”*

The Chair of the Meeting thanked to all participants and invited the Assistant Minister of Health Care of Republic of Korea, Dr. Kwon Deok Cheol to give the Closing Remarks.

The Meeting was ended at 15.30 hrs (Bangkok time).

