



**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
THIRD JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE
ASEAN VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY GROUP (AVEG) AND ASEAN PLUS THREE
FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING NETWORK (ASEAN+3 FETN)
2 – 3 JULY 2019 | KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Third Joint Consultative Meeting between ASEAN Veterinary Epidemiology Group (AVEG) and ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network (ASEAN+3 FETN) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 2 – 3 July 2019. The Meeting was co-chaired by AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN Chairs, and attended by ASEAN+3 FETN and AVEG contact points and representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam; the Plus Three Countries, namely China, Japan, and Republic of Korea; and the ASEAN Secretariat. Development Partners, namely the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), as well as Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN) and US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) were also in attendance. The complete list of participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.

OPENING CEREMONY

a. Welcome Remarks

2. Mr. Laphinh Phithacthep, Deputy head of Veterinary Service division, Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry – Lao PDR extended his warm welcome to all the ASEAN Member States and Plus Three Countries to the third joint consultative meeting and encouraged participants to maximise the opportunity for productive discussions.

3. Dr. Savuth Thai, Chief of Prevention and Control Bureau, Communicable Disease Control Department, Ministry of Health – Cambodia expressed his sincere appreciation to the Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health and Department of Veterinary Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry- Malaysia for hosting the meeting, and gratitude to ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN+3 FETN Coordinating Office for organising the Meeting, as well as the partners for supports rendered.

b. Opening Address

4. Dr Norhayati binti Rusli, Director of Disease Control, Ministry of Health Malaysia warmly welcomed all delegates. She emphasized the importance of the animal-human health collaboration under support of ASEAN high bodies, and the significance of the AVEG-FETN Joint Consultative Meeting as the crucial forum to further strengthen the collaboration and to advance the regional and global health security through multi-disciplinary approach. She further pointed out that, at national level, the MOH Malaysia has been working closely with DVS in 2 national committees, Inter-ministerial Zoonotic Disease Control Committee and the Technical Zoonotic Disease Control Committee, to ensure the efficient outbreak investigation and control of zoonotic diseases. Hand-in-hand MOH and DVS conquered several health threats over the past few years, and Malaysia will share the experience gained through the multi-disciplinary collaboration with AVEG and FETN members in this Meeting and successive regional workshops or technical forums. She looked forward to the productive discussions and outcomes of the Meeting.

c. Introduction of the Meeting: Objectives and Expected Outputs

5. Malaysia as the Host Country for this Meeting presented the objectives and expected outputs from the 3rd Joint Consultative Meeting between the ASEAN Veterinary Epidemiology Group (AVEG) and ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network (ASEAN+3 FETN). The Meeting noted the following specific objectives of this Meeting:

- a. Facilitate further dialogue and mechanism for collaboration between the AVEG and the ASEAN+3 FETN;
- b. Review and report the progress of collaboration after the 2nd AVEG – FETN Joint Meeting;
- c. Identify expertise, technical resources, and mechanism for implementation of proposed activities under the agreed collaboration areas; and
- d. Share good practices in epidemiology capacity building.

The full presentation appears as **ANNEX 2.**

SESSION 1: GLOBAL AND REGIONAL UPDATES REGARDING A-H HEALTH

a. WHO and OIE

6. WHO briefed the meeting on existing regional action framework to advance the implementation of International Health Regulation among others is the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED III) as a bi-regional framework for action for two WHO regions in ASEAN and also as a common framework to prepare for and respond to all outbreaks and public health emergencies. The Meeting further noted that on focus area 4 in the APSED III the Zoonoses currently implementing the strategic actions through surveillance information sharing with all relevant stakeholders for detections, risk assessment, and response; ensuring

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coordinated response to zoonotic diseases and events; developing risk reduction strategies and evaluate effectiveness; and establish guideline and policy documents based on research.

Complete WHO presentation appears as **ANNEX 3**.

7. OIE presented the Meeting on the Global and Regional updates from Animal Health. The OIE is redesigning and upgrading World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) to a technologically advanced yet user-friendly form with many previously unavailable features, called WAHIS Plus. The core of the system will be completed by the end of 2019, and will continue to evolve, allowing users to take advantage of a modern and dynamic platform to report their animal health situation. The OIE also informed the Meeting that they will organize a training on WAHIS plus for the WAHIS focal points in the Asia and Pacific region in early 2020.

b. ASEAN Cooperation on Animal and Human Health: Existing Frameworks, mandates, and outputs from relevant Meetings in ASEAN

8. ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the progress transpired from the relevant ASEAN Meetings both in human and animal health. The Meeting noted on the information provided from the human health side, among others the current project of ASEAN+3 FETN and AVEG supported by Canada's GPP and the achievements made by the ASEAN+3 FETN. The Meeting also noted the outcomes of the 27th ASWGL held on 27 - 29 April 2019 in Bali, Indonesia under Veterinary Epidemiology Capacity Development and Collaboration between Animal Health and Human Health sector particularly on Cooperation on Rabies and ASEAN Reference Laboratories for Rabies.

The full presentation appears as **ANNEX 4 and 5** respectively.

c. Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Workforce Development Meeting

9. The Meeting noted updates presented by Dr. Khanchit Limpakarnjanarat, representing the Thailand Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Regional Coordination Office on relevant meetings on GHSA in 2018 and 2019. Among others, the Meeting noted the key areas for collaboration to enhance the Detect-5: Workforce Development:

- a. Ensure the function of national and regional strategies;
- b. Training and expansion of workforce;
- c. Joint investigation and response; and
- d. Sharing resources, data and best practices, leveraging the existing platform of Joint Meeting.

The complete presentation appears as **ANNEX 6**.

SESSION 2: PROGRESS OF AVEG-FETN COLLABORATION

10. The meeting noted the presentation made by the Coordinating Office of ASEAN+3 FETN on the progress made and follow-up actions since the 2nd AVEG – ASEAN+3 FETN Joint Consultative Meeting. The Meeting further noted the current approved ASEAN – Canada’s GPP Mitigation of Biological Threats (MBT Phase II) including the project to strengthen the public health and animal health epidemiology capacity for emerging infectious diseases (EID) response. The Meeting also noted that the activities under the GPP project will support the implementation of joint activities between AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN.

The complete presentation appears as **ANNEX 7**.

SESSION 3: COUNTRY EXPERIENCE SHARING

a. Avian Influenza Control Experience from Malaysia

11. The Meeting noted the presentation from Malaysia on Malaysia Experience in managing of 2017 HPAI Outbreak including the history of HPAI H5N1 in Malaysia and several cases of outbreak on Avian Influenza in Malaysia in 2017. Malaysia also informed the Meeting on the lessons learned such as cost effectiveness of early detection and one health approach. The Meeting also noted the importance of public awareness and risk communication in order to allay fear and to alert public.

The complete presentation appears as **ANNEX 8 and 9**.

b. Rabies Control experience from Thailand

12. The Meeting noted the presentation from Thailand on Rabies Experience. Thailand informed the Meeting on Rabies prevention and control in human and animal in Thailand including its strategy called “8 Strategies of Rabies Elimination and 6 Collaborations”. Thailand also informed the Meeting on Rabies situation from 2007 – 2019, during which shortage of Rabies vaccines was faced in 2015 – 2017. Thailand also informed the Meeting on the lessons learnt and challenges in Rabies control, among others, the vital importance of high level policy support (with multi-sectoral approach) was highlighted.

The complete presentation appears as **ANNEX 10**.

The Meeting encouraged AMS to share the experience through the next AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN Meetings including Video Conferences.

SESSION 4: PLENARY DISCUSSION FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF SPACE FOR IMPROVEMENT, POINTS FOR FURTHER COLLABORATION, AND PARTICULAR ACTIVITIES

13. The Meeting discussed on the agreed joint activities namely the AVEG and FETN Meeting, Joint Training, Joint Video Conference, cross border simulation exercise, common webpage and the briefing of JMOIR to AVEG. The Meeting discussed the outcome of the 4th AVEG Meeting on 27 – 29 November 2018 in Manila, Philippines in which AVEG has agreed to develop guideline on regional outbreak investigation and response, using the example of the JMOIR documents, for animal health specific emergencies. The Meeting agreed to refer the decision in joint guidelines on JMOIR in the next agenda.

SESSION 5: GROUP DISCUSSION

14. The Meeting was divided and discussed four (4) main themes of possible AVEG – ASEAN+3 FETN collaborative activities through a World Café method, and the following are the recommendations which was further discussed and agreed by the respective sectors:

AVEG

- a. AVEG discussed the project of ASEAN – Canada Global Partnership Programme and agreed in principle and would like to explore the areas of collaboration between human health and animal health under this project. AVEG also would like to explore opportunity to add more trainings other than the list approved.
- b. AVEG discussed on the Joint Multi-sectoral Outbreak Investigation and Response (JMOIR). In this regards, AVEG is flexible to the JMOIR adopted by Health Cluster 2 and would like to explore the ways to harmonize the JMOIR from Human Health. AVEG would like to propose to join the simulation exercise, with JMOIR Human Health to identify the gap(s) of the document. AVEG would also like to seek for funding from CGPP Project to support the simulation exercise.
- c. On the Joint Simulation Exercise, AVEG would like to seek for clarification whether this joint simulation exercise is for JMOIR or general outbreak response.
- d. As for Exchange of Trainers/Trainees, AVEG agreed that exchange information of events will be helpful to attract AMS participation.

ASEAN+3 FETN

- a. **For Joint Training Workshop on Policy Communication**, the Meeting exchanged views and adopted the recommendations transpired from the World Café as follows:
 - 1) Noted the following importance for this training:

- a) The policy communication is an important skill for Field Epidemiologists, as with their data they can influence the decision maker. Thus, they need to know how to convince decision makers, what kind of the data should be collected and presented. They also need to simplify the technical data/evidence to be more understandable and attractive to policy makers.
 - b) There are different perspectives between policy makers and technical officers, therefore this training will help the Field Epidemiologists to understand other perspectives, that will influence the decision makers.
 - c) This training will also support the Field Epidemiologists to mitigate/minimize the challenge from communication/unintended policy makers' decision.
 - d) With more understanding on policy development, it will also affect the way the Field Epidemiologists work as well as effective use of resources.
- 2) Agreed on the following essential components/skills to be included in the training:
- a) Principles of communication, psychology of communication
 - b) Audience/stakeholders mapping – some complex issues may have more than 1 decision makers
 - c) Channel for policy communication
 - d) Transparency in policy communication
 - e) Development of policy brief (concise and easy to understand)
 - f) Understanding the international coordinating mechanism
 - g) Methods/ways in convincing the policy makers (e.g. advice, advocate, lobby, activist, etc.)
 - h) Negotiation skill
 - i) Public respond to the policy
- 3) Identified potential case study
- a) SARS (Cambodia, Singapore)
 - b) Avian Influenza (Cambodia, China, Myanmar, ROK, Lao PDR)
 - c) Dengue, utilising the existing platform of ASEAN Dengue Day
 - d) Measles vaccine (Viet Nam)
 - e) Rabies (Myanmar)
- 4) Identified possible key agency/experts from ASEAN+3 Countries:
- a) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - b) Politician/High Rank Government officials
 - c) WHO
 - d) US-CDC
 - e) Chatham House (UK) (David Heymann)
 - f) China (Guang Zeng – Advisor, CDC China)
 - g) Cambodia (Dr. Chhea Chhorvarn, Director of National Institute of Public Health, and Dr Ly Sovann, Director – CCDC)

- h) Thailand (Chiang Mai university in collaboration with University of Minnesota, Dr Kumnuan Ungchusak, Dr Suvit Wiboonpholprasert)
- i) Singapore (Prof. Peng Lim Ooi, Deputy Director, Surveillance, Epidemiology and Response)

b. Development of Joint Outbreak Response Technical Guidelines

c. Joint Simulation Exercise

The Meeting deliberated on the two above-mentioned points that are inter-related and agreed with the following:

- 1) The ASEAN+3 FETN is in the view that there is a need to conduct a gap analysis before we pursue for the proposed joint (between human and animal health) guidelines, to be specific the JMOIR.
- 2) As such, the ASEAN+3 FETN recommended to conduct the joint simulation exercise to test and review the JMOIR document which also served as the gap analysis exercise. The Meeting further agreed that the simulation exercise should satisfy the following conditions:
 - a) Participated by human and animal health field epidemiologists;
 - b) To design the simulation exercise in a multiple periodic simulation exercise/capacity building that will focus first with an inter-country scenario to understand and familiarize the participants on how the process/procedures among ASEAN Member States;
 - c) To be more focused on epidemiology investigation exercise, and to seek further technical support and expertise from relevant partners e.g. WHO, FAO, and OIE in the development of scenario;
 - d) Noting the language barrier, the host country and the organizing committee shall identify mitigation plan to minimize this barrier.
- 3) After conducting the joint simulation exercise and there are gaps identified in the JMOIR to accommodate both human and animal health needs, then the ASEAN+3 FETN and AVEG may wish to discuss/consider to develop a **supplementary document to support the operationalization of the JMOIR, not revising it.**

d. For the Exchange of Trainers/Trainees theme, the ASEAN +3 FETN agreed and supported all Member States to participate in the relevant list of training available among the ASEAN+3 Countries. The Meeting also agreed to add more column for contact details for each of the training and to request the ASEAN+3 FETN Coordinating Office to update this information regularly and/or to be uploaded in the ASEAN+3 FETN website.

SESSION 6: PRESENTATIONS FROM GROUP DISCUSSION

15. AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN presented the results from the parallel sectoral discussion as shown in **ANNEX 11** and **ANNEX 12** respectively.
16. The Meeting exchanged views and noted the following information:
 - a. The agreed and identified joint activities between AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN as stipulated in the Meeting Report of the 2nd Joint Consultative Meeting between AVEG and ASEAN+3 will be the basis in carrying out joint activities of AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN;
 - b. For all joint activities between AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN, a concept note shall be developed by Lead Country/Lead Sector/ASEAN+3 FETN Coordinating Office to describe the objectives, implementation mechanism and M&E plan. The concept note will also be circulated to AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN for inputs, comments and concurrence before the project implementation; and
 - c. Additional project activities e.g. training/workshop may be proposed by Lead Country/Lead Sector following the procedure of point b. above.
17. For the results from the World Café the Meeting reached a consensus as follows:
 - a. **For Joint Training Workshop on Policy Communication**, the AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN agreed that the Workshop should proceed as planned and noted the outcomes of the World Café with the essential skills/components to be included in the training, identified potential case study, and identified key experts/agency.
 - b. **For Joint Simulation Exercise and Development of Joint Outbreak Response Technical Guidelines**, the AVEG agreed with the proposal from ASEAN+3 FETN to conduct the joint simulation exercise in order to identify the gaps, if any, for the existing guideline documents e.g. JMOIR and the AVEG also took note on the four (4) conditions, refer to the **ANNEX 12** to be included in conducting the training exercise. The Meeting further agreed if there are gaps identified, then the AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN may consider to develop a supplementary document to support the existing guidelines.
 - c. **For the Exchange of Trainers/Trainees**, the AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN agreed that the list of available trainings among ASEAN+3 Countries will be useful for ASEAN+3 Member States. The Meeting further agreed to include contact points for each specific training and to update the list in regular basis utilising the mailing list/web page of ASEAN+3 FETN.

SESSION 7: REMARKS FROM RELEVANT DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOCUSING ON STRENGTHENING ANIMAL-HUMAN HEALTH COLLABORATION

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a. FAO

18. FAO confirmed its support for the collaboration of animal and human health. FAO also confirmed their support for animal health and could provide support for human health. The Meeting also noted that FAO confirmed its effort to support both at regional and national level.

b. OIE

19. OIE informed the Meeting on its confirmation to support the group and is always welcome to assist ASEAN and Plus Three Countries. OIE also informed the Meeting that their support will be both technical and financial, to which will depend on the donor. OIE also confirmed its contribution especially on the newly upgraded WAHIS Plus and will welcome input from Member States, which can be accessed widely.

c. WHO

20. WHO informed the Meeting on its areas of support namely the joint simulation exercise guide, manual and tools. WHO also confirmed its support for cross border scenario and with international health regulation. For joint workshop for policy communication, WHO also confirmed its support especially on translation of messages on data to policy in health emergency programme.

d. GOARN

21. GOARN informed the Meeting on its support particularly on tripartite relationship and transformation of one health approach, focus on revising on protocol and SOP at national and international level, to share information. Training Academy for one health, GOARN will work with partners to tap resources available.

e. US CDC

22. US CDC confirmed its technical support for the Group, and also informed the Meeting on its plan in developing One Health Track in 2020-2021 through the Thailand program. US CDC also confirmed its support in the area of One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization, and will welcome AMS request and/or queries with regards to this area.

f. ASEAN+ FETN Foundation

23. ASEAN+ FETN Foundation informed the Meeting on its support to connect Member States with Partners in the area of animal health and human collaboration. ASEAN+3 FETN Foundation also reiterated the importance of capacity building and strengthening collaboration in this collaboration. ASEAN+3 FETN Foundation also confirmed the agreed activities between AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN will be meaningful to move the collaboration forward.

g. SEAOHUN

24. SEAOHUN informed the Meeting on its structure that is a consortium of universities, with support from USAID. SEAOHUN informed the Meeting on its country networks namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam and its soon-to-establish Myanmar and the Philippines networks. SEAOHUN gave an example of the university-government partnership in Malaysia with examples of disease outbreak simulation exercise, development of Malaysia Action Plan in AMR, and One Health Disasters Module. SEAOHUN also informed the Meeting on its activities to train faculty members, national trainers, in-service and pre-service health professionals in strengthening their capacity particularly in One Health approach to effectively prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats.

h. GHSA Thailand Coordinating Office

25. GHSA Thailand Coordinating Office informed the Meeting on the good examples of collaboration, among which AVEG -FETN collaboration is recognized as a good example of animal health and human health collaboration. GHSA also welcomed any cooperation with the group and its partners. GHSA also confirmed the meeting on its support for training programme and also the replenishment of the trainees.

SESSION 8: ADOPTION OF MEETING SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

26. The Meeting reviewed and adopted the report of the Third Joint Consultative Meeting between AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN.

CLOSING REMARKS

27. Dr. Thilaka Chinnayah, Director of Epidemic Intelligence Program, Ministry of Health - Malaysia, closed the Meeting by thanking all participants for their active engagement and valuable inputs during the Meeting. She expressed sincere gratitude to the joint secretariat team of MOH and DVS for the arrangements made for the Meeting. She also thanked the ASEAN+3 Coordinating Office, ASEAN Secretariat and FAO for support provided

The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN cooperation and cordiality.
