

Tackling Avian Influenza: the ASEAN Response

Prepared for WB Virtual Seminar
on Communication Planning for
Avian and Human Influenza (AHI)
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Key Actions by ASEAN

- Strengthening institutional linkages
- Developing partnerships
- Sharing information
- AI Preparedness
- Leading regional initiatives in preventing and controlling the spread of AI

Strengthening Institutional Linkages

■ ASEAN coordinating mechanisms:

Agriculture

- ASEAN Ministers and Senior Officials on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF and SOM-AMAF)
 - ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL)
 - Task Force on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) est. Oct. 2004 under the ASWGL
 - Action Plan with eight strategic areas, including disease surveillance, containment, stamping out and vaccination policy, diagnostic capabilities, establishment of disease-free zones, information-sharing, emergency preparedness plan, public awareness.
 - ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund for animal disease control activities

Strengthening Institutional Linkages

■ ASEAN coordinating mechanisms:

Health

■ ASEAN Health Ministers and Senior Officials on Health Development (AHMM and SOMHD)

- ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD)

- ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Programme – established July 2004

- Four key components include institutional strengthening, information networking, laboratory diagnostics and capacity, and epidemiological surveillance.

- EID Programme Phase I completed Oct. 2005, Phase II to start late 2006, continuing key priorities

Developing Partnerships

- Partnerships necessary to strengthen capacities across sectors for effective regional response
 - Public and private sectors, and civil society
 - To maintain public confidence and to deal with impact on community
 - ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and relevant UN/international agencies
 - Japan (Tamiflu regional stockpile)
 - Australia (ASEAN Plus Three EID Programme)
 - WHO (human health)
 - FAO and OIE (animal health)
 - ADB (cross-sectoral capacity strengthening)

Sharing Information

- Transparency and timely information for better prevention and enhanced public confidence
- Sharing information/knowledge with:
 - Technical agencies
 - Researchers
 - Media

AI Preparedness

■ Policy-makers:

- Access to antivirals, vaccines and personal protection equipment
- Cross-sector and cross-border collaboration

■ Poultry farmers:

- Change old habits that contribute to infection and spread (e.g. overcrowded coops, mixing chickens and other farm animals, unnecessary human contact, contact with wild birds)

■ Public:

- AI awareness, prevention and response

Regional Initiatives

- Situation monitored by Ministers and Senior Officials
- Ongoing technical meetings to devise cooperative measures
- Close consultation with relevant partners to:
 - Strengthen regional coordination
 - Improve monitoring
 - Mobilise resources

THANK YOU