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