



Proceedings of the ASEAN Inter-sectoral Workshop on Rabies Prevention and Control



**Da Nang City, Viet Nam
15 – 17 October 2013**

Contents

List of Abbreviations	3
Background of the workshop	4
Summary	5
1. Introduction	6
1.1 Workshop Programme	6
1.2 Workshop Participants	8
2. Workshop Session	8
3. Way Forward	9

List of Abbreviations

ACGL	ASEAN Communication Group on Livestock
AEGCD	ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases
ALDF	ASEAN Laboratory Directors Forum
ARES	ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AVEG	ASEAN Veterinary Epidemiology Group
ASWGL	ASEAN Working Group on Livestock
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GARC	Global Alliance for Rabies Control
HCM	Ho Chi Minh City
MTP-EID	Medium Term Plan on Emerging Diseases
OIE	World Organization on Animal Health
PEP	Post Exposure Prophylaxis
SEARS	Southeast Asia Rabies Control Strategy
SOM HD	Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development
WHO	World Health Organization
WHO SEARO	World Health Organization Southeast Asia Regional Office
WSPA	World Society for the Protection of Animals

Background to the workshop

Rabies is an invariably fatal viral disease. In the absence of any successful medical treatment for clinical rabies, it is almost 100% fatal when the disease symptoms appear. In spite of considerable advances in the development and availability of efficient tools to control this disease, rabies continues to be an infectious disease causing a substantial number of human mortalities: WHO estimates that globally rabies causes 55,000 human deaths per year and majority of which are in Asia (56%) and Africa (44%), and more than 15 million people receive post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) each year. Although all age groups are susceptible, rabies is most commonly reported in children under 15 years of age, with approximately 40% of the PEP given to children aged 5-14 years (*WHO Website for rabies health topic*).

Rabies is transmitted to humans through close contact with infected saliva via animal bites or scratches. Although cats, cattle, buffaloes, horses, pigs and other domestic and wild animals have also been reported in the region, dogs are considered to be the most important maintenance host and transmitter of rabies to humans. An estimated 96% of documented rabies cases are attributed to contact with rabid dogs, a disease considered to be endemic in the canine population in seven of the ten ASEAN Member States: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Three of the ASEAN Member States (Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore) are considered free of rabies.

With the majority of these human rabies fatalities resulting from dog bites, controlling the disease in dogs would thus be the most strategic and cost-effective means to prevent rabies in humans. As highly effective rabies vaccines for dogs and diagnostics are presently available, successful eradication of canine rabies, and consequentially elimination of human rabies, can be achieved with commitment, proper planning and coordination within and between the human and animal health sectors. With rabies coming under the responsibility of two or more ministries in most countries of the Region, intersectoral coordination among various agencies is of key importance. A nationally coordinated and supervised comprehensive programme will be necessary for achieving success as programmes translate to results with the support and commitment of high-level national intersectoral policy on the control of rabies.

AEGCD, led by Viet Nam has drafted ASEAN Work Plan on Rabies as one of the components of Medium –Term Plan on Emerging Infectious Diseases (MTP-EID). The work plan has been endorsed by the 7th AEGCD and later by the 8th SOMHD held in Singapore in August 2013. One of key activities stipulated in the Rabies Work Plan is “ Implementation of Rabies Strategies.

Considering the importance of consolidating achievements in rabies control in Member Countries, the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) has developed a Regional strategy for elimination of human rabies transmitted by dogs in 2012. WHO is committed to providing technical leadership, advocating with national health authorities in Member countries to develop major stakeholder consensus for a **comprehensive rabies elimination programme, and implementing national strategies for the elimination of human rabies.**

Similarly, to follow up Call for Action 2008, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Sub-Regional Representation for SEA has developed The South-East Asia Rabies Strategy (SEARS) to complement

the existing sub-regional frameworks developed to control and eliminate human rabies such as those developed by the ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD) in 2010 and by the WHO SEARO in 2012. The SEA draft Rabies Strategy is designed to provide a strategic framework for the **reduction and ultimate eradication of rabies in South-East Asia by eliminating dog-mediated rabies and protecting and maintaining rabies-free areas in South-East Asia**. This document focuses on canine rabies elimination, which is by far the largest source of human rabies infections. In the 2nd tripartite meeting held in January 2012, rabies was discussed as an example of zoonoses to be tackled under the One Health umbrella and recommend to explore the step wise approach to rabies elimination in dogs.

Integration of these two documents into a single, **comprehensive regional strategy for rabies elimination** will help coordinate and streamline activities, save resources, and expedite rabies elimination in the region.

Rabies was considered to be a specific focus of collaboration by the ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD) and ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) in its Joint Consultative Meeting of the Manila, Philippines from 5-6 November 2012.

With ASWGL working on the SEARS and AEGCD working on the same in humans, and with both tasks spearheaded by Vietnam as the leading country for ASEAN on rabies prevention and control, the technical partners FAO, OIE and WHO proposed that a joint workshop **under the ASEAN umbrella in cooperation with OIE/FAO/WHO/WSPA** be conducted to come up with an integrated rabies control and elimination strategy in dogs and humans.

Summary

The workshop on ASEAN Inter-sectoral Workshop on Rabies Prevention and Control was held from 15-17 October 2013 in Danang, Vietnam. A total of 81 participants attended the workshop. The participants comprised of representatives from the animal health and human health sectors of respective ASEAN member states and representatives from FAO, OIE, WHO, WSPA and GARC.

The broad workshop objective was to develop an integrated regional strategy for rabies prevention and control, where the human health and animal health interface will be operationalized and specific activities identified. Specifically the workshop aimed to :

1. Share and learn experiences, success, and lessons learned from rabies control and elimination initiatives at the global, regional and country levels.
2. Formulate an ASEAN Strategies on Rabies Elimination alignment of regional strategies with existing national strategies
3. Identify regional activities and its operationalization to proceed ASEAN Strategies on Rabies Elimination.
4. Identify key partners and areas for cooperation to strengthen commitment and Inter-sectoral collaboration in efforts towards Rabies Elimination at national and regional levels.

The workshop was structured around presenting outputs discussed by the group who arrived earlier in Danang and the group that was stranded in Ho Chi Minh City due to the flight cancellations brought about by the typhoon.

The workshop concluded that the inputs will be discussed by the ASEAN member states and that one document will be produced on rabies elimination both on animals and humans.

1. Introduction

While most of the participants were stranded at Ho Chi Minh due to flight cancellations brought about by the typhoon directly hitting to Danang, the HCM group made use of the time by conducting a workshop at HCM. The group discussed the critical elements to be considered for an integrated rabies control plan.

The group, who made it earlier to Danang, likewise had a workshop. Fortunately on the second day, 16 October 2013, the two groups came together and discussed the inputs of each group.

1.1 Workshop Programme

AGENDA (adopted)*

Day 1: 16th October 2013, Wednesday

08.30 – 09 .00	OPENING SESSION
Chair	Dr. Tran Dac Phu, GDPM Vietnam
Co-chair	Dr. Nguyen Thu Thuy, DAH Vietnam and ASEAN Secretariat
Rappoteur	Dr. Nguyen Thi Huong, GDPM Vietnam
MC	Ms. Pham Thi Minh Chau, ICD Vietnam
	Dr. Tran Dac Phu, GDPM Vietnam
	WHO Vietnam
	Dr. Carolyn Benigno, FAO – RAP
09.30 – 09:45	Break
09:45 – 11:00	Session 1: Rabies situation and collaboration
Chair:	Dr. Tran Dac Phu GDPM Vietnam
Co – chair:	WSPA
Rapporteur:	Dr. Do Huu Dzung, DAH Vietnam
60 minutes	Rabies: Situation in humans/animals in ASEAN countries [Joint Presentation] (15 minutes for each)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesia • Philippines • Singapore

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viet Nam
(15 mins)	Rabies: ASEAN collaboration: Where are we? [Ms. Jintana - ASEAN Secretariat] (Q&A)
11:00 – 12:00	Session 2: Development Partners' Presentations (Q&A) (10 minutes each)
Chair:	Dr. Raffy A. Deray, MD, MPH – Chair of AEGCD, Philippines
Co – chair:	Dr. Rosemarie Antegro, Chair of ASWGL, Philippines
Rapporteur:	Dr. Do Hong Hien, WHO Vietnam
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Carolyn Benigno, FAO – Field projects on rabies • Dr. Ronello Abila, OIE – OIE Standards and the South-East Asia Regional Strategy (SEARS) • Ms. Joanna Tuckwell, WSPA – Initiatives on rabies control and prevention • Dr. Lea Knopf, GARC – Initiatives on rabies control and prevention
12:00 – 12:30	Session 3: Integrated Regional Strategy for Rabies Elimination and
Chair:	Dr. Wong Hon Mun, ASWGL Singapore
Rapporteur:	Dr. Marry Joy Gordoncillo, OIE
	Draft Integrated Regional Strategic Strategy for Rabies Elimination Presenter: Viet Nam – Dr. Nguyen Thu Thuy DAH Vietnam
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00–15: 00	Session 4: Integrated Regional Strategy for Rabies Elimination
Chair:	Dr. Nguyen Thu Thuy, Department of Animal Health, MARD
Co – chair:	Dr. Darika Kingnate, AEGCD Thailand
Rapporteur:	GDPM Vietnam
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Group work in Da Nang (Presenter: Dr. Do Huu Dzung) • Presentation of Group work in HCMC (Presenter: Dr. Reildrin)
	Discussion to finalize the draft of Integrated Regional Strategic Strategy for Rabies Elimination
15:00 – 16:00	Session 5: Identification of Regional Activities
Chair:	Dr. Tran Dac Phu, GDPM Viet Nam
Co – chair:	Dr. Pebi Purwo Seuseno ASWGL Indonesia
Rapporteur:	WSPA
	Group Work: Identification of regional activities Orientation by ASEAN Secretariat
	Group 1: Human Health Group Chair/Facilitator: AEGCD Thailand Reporter: AEGCD Malaysia
	Group 2: Animal Health Group Chair/Facilitator: Dr. Wirongrong ASWGL Thailand Reporter: GARC
16:00 – 16:10	Break
16:10 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Group 1 (Presenter: AEGCD Malaysia) • Presentation of Group 2 (Presenter: GARC)
	Discussion and comments on the draft of Regional Activities (continue)
17:00 – 17:30	Next steps [Ms. Jintana Sriwongsa – ASEAN Secretariat]
17.30 – 18:00	Session 6: Closing Ceremony

	Closing remark: GDPM/DAH, Vietnam, ASEAN Secretariat
19:00	Farewell dinner

Day 2, 17th October 2013, Thursday

09.00 – 12.00	CLOSED SESSIONS (Only AMS)
Chair:	Asso. Prof. Tran Dac Phu GDPM Vietnam
Co – chair:	ASEAN Secretariat
Rapporteur:	Dr. Do Huu Dzung, DAH Vietnam ASEAN Secretariat
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Draft ASEAN Strategies On Rabies • Identify and Agree on the Next Steps • Closing

*Due to the arrival of the HCM Group on 16 October, the formal opening was moved to 16 October but the agenda topics remained the same.

1.2 Workshop Participants

A total of 81 participants attended the workshop. A total of 81 participants attended the workshop. The participants comprised of representatives from the animal health and human health sectors of respective ASEAN member states and representatives from FAO, OIE, WHO, WSPA and GARC. The full list of participants appears as Annex 1.

2. Workshop Session

Both the Danang Group and the HoChiMinh groups discussed the elements for the control and prevention of dog and human rabies.

The following is the output of the session:

Key elements for control of human and animal rabies

The key elements are presented with the consideration of existing mechanism, to build on capacities already developed. In this context, the ongoing initiatives will take rabies as one of their main activities at the regional and country level, which also allows for synergy and maximization of resources

a. Coordination and integration

Relevant ASEAN Mechanism is ASEAN Coordinating Centre on Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ)
Objective: to come up with a regional level strategy relevant to national control programs that will provide for a step-wise approach in the implementation process of the plan. This is in view of the different status of ASEAN Member States, in their capacity to address the challenges of rabies, this will include:

- Action/Implementation Plans
- Evaluation Process
- Border collaboration
- Pre-border control/border control/post border

with participation of regional, national, sub-national and other partners-including international organization, NGO, private and related stakeholders.(multi sectoral involvement)

b. Legislation and political support

Objective: to provide enabling environment for rabies prevention and control

- Legislation on rabies control/animal health
- Political support on budget provision
- Human resource mobilization
- Provision of mandate for a multi-sectoral collaboration between relevant agencies

c. Technical Support

Relevant ASEAN Mechanism is ASEAN Veterinary Epidemiology Group (AVEG) for epidemiology and ASEAN Laboratory Directors Forum (ALDF) for laboratory diagnosis

Objective: (the technical aspect of rabies control is broken down in three functional areas) to provide for clarity of purpose and focus on planned activities, and to give a tangible opening of existing initiatives in the region to come in

c.1 Epidemiology (AVEG)

- Info sharing
- Surveillance
- Capacity building (trainings)
- Vaccination (dogs at least 70%, human for bite cases and high risk group)
- Post vaccination monitoring

c.2 Diagnosis (ALDF)

- Laboratory diagnosis and surveillance
- Collaboration network (information sharing with stakeholders)
- Support to research

d. Response mechanism

- Integrated bite case management (including rapid response to suspect rabies cases)
- Rabies contingency plan

e. Public awareness (social support)

-Relevant ASEAN mechanism is ASEAN ad hoc Communication Group for Livestock (ACGL)

Objective: to engage community and promoting dog ownership responsibility, which includes;

- Education on dog vaccination
- Education on dog population and movement control
- Advocacy on microchipping/stray pup management

f. Research

Objective: to allow a more in-depth understanding of prevailing circumstances on rabies control at country level providing a fit for purpose activities that will ensure success of the program

- Dog ecology
- Vaccination method (effectivity and efficacy)-intra-dermal/oral vaccination
- Immune reception
- Socio cultural

3. Way Forward

The workshop agreed that ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES) for both human and animal health sectors will be developed containing the element mentioned and that the workshop report will be presented by Vietnam and endorsed to the ASEAN Working Group on Livestock(ASGL) Meeting and the ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD) meeting for appropriate action.

List of Participants
7th Meeting of ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases
November 7-9, 2012
Diamond Hotel, Philippines

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