

**THE REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF
THE ASEAN AD-HOC VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY GROUP
12-14 November 2013, Bali, Indonesia**

The Second Meeting of ASEAN Ad-hoc Veterinary Epidemiology Group (AVEG)

Executive Summary

The Second Meeting of ASEAN Ad-hoc Veterinary Epidemiology Group (AVEG) was held in Bali, Indonesia on November 12-14, 2013. The objectives of the meeting were;

- a. to finalise the AVEG Composition and the draft Term of Reference (TOR),
- b. to discuss the necessary process in integrating AVEG with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ),
- c. to discuss key elements of implementation plan of the Epi Framework, and
- d. to develop AVEG roadmap and associated plan of actions,

The EU HPED Programme, FAO Component has been supporting the strengthening of epidemiology capacities for ASEAN countries, and one of the main activities is to support the development of a Regional Strategy for Capacity Development on Veterinary Epidemiology, also known as Epi Framework, and establishment of veterinary epidemiology network in ASEAN. The Meeting discussed key items by which the framework is founded, and how the strategic goal and corresponding objectives of the Epi Framework are seen to address the gaps in the region.

The Meeting was able to finalised the AVEG composition with the nomination of the AVEG Focal Points and Alternates, and the draft TOR for endorsement to the 22nd Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) in May 2014, and eventually, to the Special SOM- 35th AMAF for approval. The participants likewise identified key elements of the implementation plan for Epi Framework, such as inventory of existing epidemiology capacity among Member States, which will be used to draft the detail plan with technical support from the ASEAN RSU. The participants discussed the next steps, including a plan to seek guidance and endorsement from appropriate ASEAN bodies.

The meeting was also informed on the progress of the establishment of ASEAN Coordination Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ), its purpose and relevance to AVEG. The meeting was further informed on the integration strategy of a mechanism similar to AVEG, the ASEAN Ad-hoc Communication Group for Livestock (ACGL), to transition to ACCAHZ, where the Meeting considered and agreed that AVEG also need to undergo similar integration process into ACCAHZ mechanism to ensure sustainability of its mandate. Along this line, the Meeting agreed to use the ACGL transition plan as the basis in developing the transitional plan for AVEG. The meeting further noted that the transition plan would be further discussed at the next ACCAHZ Preparatory Transition meeting, where the Meeting agreed to have the Lead Country, Thailand, representing AVEG. A Work Plan for 2013-2014 was also developed during the Meeting to provide guidance to members on AVEG plan of actions.

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12-14 November 2013, Bali, Indonesia**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Meeting of the ASEAN Ad-Hoc Veterinary Epidemiology Group (AVEG) was held on 12-14 November 2013 in Bali, Indonesia. The Meeting was supported and funded by the FAO EU-HPED Project through ASEAN Secretariat.

2. Delegates from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam attended the Meeting with the apology of the representatives from Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. The representative from the ASEAN Secretariat was also present. The Meeting welcomed the participation of representatives from the Sub-regional Representation of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE-SRR) and ASEAN Regional Support Unit (ASEAN RSU). The list of participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.

OPENING SESSION

3. Dr. Reildrin Morales, ASEAN RSU Animal Health Officer, representing the Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP), thanked the Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health Services (DGLAHS), Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia through its Director for Animal Health, Dr. Pudjiatmoko, for hosting the 2nd Meeting of AVEG. He also congratulated and welcomed Ms. Sri D. Kusumawardhani, as the new Senior Officer, Agriculture Industries and Natural Resources Division (AINRD) of the ASEAN Secretariat, to the meeting.

4. Dr. Morales further mentioned the importance of the development of veterinary epidemiology capacity in the region, as it is one area where significant gap is lacking in the effort to address emerging and re-emerging infectious animal diseases. He highlighted that the key items to be discussed in the meeting are important not only in the short-term, but also in overall, will impact to institutional development of veterinary epidemiology in the ASEAN region. Dr. Morales also welcomed all the participants and wished them a productive three (3) days meeting ahead.

5. Dr. Pudjiatmoko, Director of Animal Health, Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia welcomed all participants to the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Ad-Hoc Veterinary Epidemiology Group held in Bali, Indonesia. Dr. Pudjiatmoko underscored the importance of veterinary epidemiology capacity as a pre-requisite for effective and efficient and timely response to animal diseases including zoonoses. He also stressed the importance of the Epi Framework in ensuring the appropriate regional coordination on veterinary epidemiology capacity development implemented. Noting that ASEAN also has established the ASEAN Laboratory Directors' Forum, which later will be coordinated under ACCAHZ, he underlined the importance of the linkage between epidemiology and laboratory group and hoped that the group would consider this issue. Dr. Pudjiatmoko also emphasised the need to develop necessary strategies and activities

for implementing the Epi Framework. He thanked FAO, EU and ASEAN Secretariat for the support and contribution given in conducting the Meeting. He also encouraged the participants to enjoy Bali and wished the meeting would be fruitful. The full text of his Opening Speech appears as **ANNEX 2**.

AGENDA 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

6. The Meeting elected Dr. Syafrison Idris, Veterinary Officer, Sub-directorate Animal Disease Surveillance, Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health Services, Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia and Dr. Emelinda L. Lopez, Officer-in-Charge, Animal Health Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, the Philippines as the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the Meeting, respectively.

AGENDA 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Meeting agenda was discussed and adopted as described in **ANNEX 3**.

AGENDA 3. BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS

8. The Meeting was arranged in plenary.

AGENDA 4. INTRODUCTION

9. The Meeting noted the presentation made by Ms. Sri D. Kusumawardhani, Senior Officer, AINRD, ASEAN Secretariat, titled "Overview Development of AVEG" (**ANNEX 4**). She recalled the history and key significant milestones and achievements in the establishment of the ASEAN Ad-Hoc Veterinary Epidemiology Group as well as the way forward of the AVEG into ACCAHZ mechanism including its future actions need to be undertaken. The Meeting also noted the expected outcomes of this Meeting.

AGENDA 5. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ASEAN VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY GROUP

10. As a follow up from the 1st AVEG Meeting held in Phuket Thailand on 27-28 August 2013, the Meeting noted with appreciation the draft TOR prepared by the Core Group comprising of Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand. The Meeting further noted that the draft TOR was circulated to the AVEG Focal Points for comments and inputs.

11. In the view to speed up the finalisation of the draft TOR, the Meeting discussed and clarified some instruments of the draft TOR, including, among others, Goals, Objectives, Scope of Work as well as Roles and Responsibilities. Under the Frequency of Meetings and Reports, the Meeting further clarified the role of the Chair to convene the Meeting while the selection of a hosting country is open to all AMS.

12. After thorough discussion, the Meeting was able to finalise the draft TOR (**ANNEX 5**) and reconfirmed the decision of the 1st AVEG Meeting that Thailand would submit the draft TOR of the AVEG to the 22nd Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral

Working Group on Livestock for consideration, and subsequently to the Special SOM- 35th AMAF for approval.

Action Line: Thailand and ASEAN Secretariat

AGENDA 6. TRANSITION PLAN OF ASEAN AD-HOC VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY GROUP TO THE ASEAN COORDINATION CENTRE FOR ANIMAL HEALTH AND ZOOSES

13. The Meeting noted the presentation of ASEAN Secretariat on the progress of the establishment of the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ), which is relevant to AVEG. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 6**.

14. The Meeting noted that the 6th ACCAHZ Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) would be held back-to-back with the Preparatory Transition Meeting for the ACCAHZ between 25 and 29 November 2013 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. The Meeting also noted that the aim of the meeting is to discuss approaches and necessary processes to support and to facilitate the transitions of existing ASEAN mechanisms and platforms on animal health and zoonoses to ACCAHZ coordination; and to draft the transition plan for submission to ACCAHZ PrepCom and ASWGL for guidance and support.

15. Along this line, the Meeting agreed that the AVEG would be represented by Thailand as the lead country for epidemiology initiative in ASEAN. The Meeting requested Thailand to update the outcomes of the Preparatory Transition Meeting to the AVEG for information.

Action Line: Thailand and ASEAN Secretariat

16. The Meeting noted the presentation made by Dr. Reildrin Morales, ASEAN RSU Animal Health Officer, titled Integration Strategy of ASEAN Ad-Hoc Communication Group on Livestock (ACGL), informing the progress and mechanism of ACGL transition plan to ACCAHZ once its fully established. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 7**.

17. The Meeting further noted, while the ACCAHZ is in the progress of its establishment, there is a need to synchronise its functional mechanisms. The Meeting considered and agreed that a transition plan which describing the integration process of the AVEG into ACCAHZ mechanism is needed. Along this line, the Meeting agreed to use the ACGL transition plan as the basis in developing the transitional plan for AVEG. The meeting further noted that the transition plan would be further discussed at the next ACCAHZ Preparatory Transition meeting.

18. The Meeting agreed that in order to ensure consistency and harmonisation of the transition plan, a unified transition plan should be developed prior to submission to the ACCAHZ PrepCom and ASWGL for further guidance and consideration. In this regards the Meeting requested ASEAN RSU to develop the unified transition plan for consideration by ACCAHZ PrepCom and ASWGL.

Action Line: ASEAN RSU and ASEAN Secretariat

AGENDA 7. OTHER MATERS

7.1. Implementation plan for the Regional Strategic Framework for Veterinary Epidemiology Capacity Development and Networking in ASEAN

19. Dr. Sothyra Tum, ASEAN RSU Epidemiology Expert presented results from a study conducted by FAO on the status of veterinary epidemiology capacity in the region and corresponding nature of capacity building initiatives being conducted in ASEAN Member States. The presentation provided some insights on the challenges faced by the countries in terms of epidemiology capacity development and how to sustain the benefits. Dr. Tum's presentation appears as **ANNEX 8**.

20. The Meeting noted the presentation of Dr. Kachen Wongsathapornchai explaining the Regional Framework for Veterinary Epidemiology Capacity Development (Epi Framework) in ASEAN. He discussed the key items by which the framework is founded. He presented in details the strategic goal and corresponding objectives of the Epi Framework, and how these are seen to address the gaps in the region. The Epi Framework was further discussed in the course of the session where the Member States identified mechanisms and activities that correspond to the objectives in the framework. Noting on how implementation of the existing regional and national activities and mechanisms progresses, the Meeting also elaborated on how the Epi Framework can be framed in these initiatives with the support of the AVEG.

21. In this regards, the Meeting further requested ASEAN RSU to develop the details of the Implementation Plan, including its monitoring framework and tools, for the Epi Framework to be discussed at the next Meeting.

Action Line: ASEAN RSU

7.2. Finalisation of the ASEAN Ad-hoc Veterinary Epidemiology Group Composition

22. The Meeting acknowledged the submission of the AVEG Focal Points including its alternates, by AMS, which appears as **ANNEX 9**. The Meeting requested the countries that have not submitted the Focal Points to the ASEAN Secretariat, to do so by **26 November 2013**.

Action Line: ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat

7.3 ASEAN Ad-hoc Veterinary Epidemiology Group Work Plan 2013-2014

23. The Meeting noted the presentation of ASEAN Secretariat on the AVEG Plan of Actions 2013-2014 describing activities that will be undertaken by the group. The Meeting discussed and endorsed the AVEG Work Plan for 2013-2014 to be implemented by the AVEG. The revised AVEG Work Plan appears as **ANNEX 10**.

24. The Meeting agreed that the Work Plan of the AVEG will be submitted to ASWGL for guidance and endorsement.

Action Line: Thailand and ASEAN Secretariat

AGENDA 8. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

25. The Meeting noted the kind offer of Cambodia to host the 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Ad-Hoc Veterinary Epidemiology Group tentatively in June 2014. Cambodia will confirm to ASEAN Secretariat on the date and venue of the next meeting.

Action Line: Cambodia

AGENDA 9. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

26. The Meeting agreed that the Report of the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Ad-Hoc Veterinary Epidemiology Group, which was held on 12-14 November 2013 in Bali, Indonesia, would be circulated for ad-referendum approval.

CLOSING

27. Dr. Syafrison Idris, in the capacity as the Chairman of the Meeting, officially closed the Meeting by thanking all participants for their active participation and valuable inputs in attaining the set objectives. Moreover, he also expressed his sincere thanks to the ASEAN-RSU and FAO for their kind support for the Meeting. Special appreciation was also conveyed by Malaysia, on behalf of AMS, to the host country, Indonesia, for the efficient logistical support for the Meeting and warm hospitality extended to all participants.



Concept Note

**THE 2nd MEETING OF
THE ASEAN AD-HOC VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY GROUP**

13 – 15 November 2013, Bali, Indonesia

Background

The 21st Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) held in Manila, the Philippines on 22 – 24 May 2013 supported the establishment of an ASEAN veterinary epidemiology group for livestock to support the implementation and ensure proper monitoring of the ASEAN Strategic Framework for Veterinary Epidemiology Capacity Development and Networking (the Epi Framework). The first meeting of the ASEAN Ad-hoc Veterinary Epidemiology Group (AVEG) was organized on 27-29 August 2013 in Phuket, Thailand, aiming to determine necessary elements of terms of reference (TOR) and its roadmap. Noting the need to finalise the draft TOR and the transition plan of AVEG to ACCAHZ for further guidance and support by ASWGL, the Meeting agreed to have the 2nd Meeting of the AVEG to be held in November 2013.

Objectives

1. To finalise the AVEG Composition and the draft Term of Reference (TOR) ;
2. To discuss the transitional process of integrating AVEG with the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ);
3. To develop AVEG roadmap and associated plan of actions, to support the establishment of a sustainable veterinary epidemiology group within ASEAN mechanisms.

Expected Outputs

1. The draft Term of Reference (TOR) of the AVEG;
2. The transitional plan for integrating AVEG with the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ);
3. The AVEG roadmap and plan of actions.

Date and Venue

The meeting will be held in [Bali, Indonesia], on 13 – 15 November 2013

Annotated Provisional Agenda Topics

THE 2nd MEETING OF THE ASEAN AD-HOC VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY GROUP

- 1. Introduction and background of the establishment of the ASEAN ah-hoc veterinary epidemiology group (AVEG)**
- 2. Progress from the first meeting**
 - 2.1. Report of the first meeting
 - 2.2. List of National and Alternate Focal Points and Alternates
 - 2.3. Drafted TOR of AVEG
 - 2.4. Core Group (Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand) to finalise the drafted TOR of AVEG
 - 2.5. Roadmap and plan of actions
- 3. Transitional plan for integrating the AVEG with the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ)**
 - 3.1. Drafted transitional plan
 - 3.2. Core Group (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam) to finalise the drafted transitional plan
- 4. Progress against the 2013-2014 Plan of Action**
- 5. Other matters**
- 6. Date and venue of next meeting**

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