



**CONCEPT NOTE**  
**THE 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN REGIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH**  
**LABORATORY TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (Lab-TAG) MEETING**

*18-20 November 2019*

*Da Nang, Viet Nam*

## Background

Strengthening national laboratory capacities, collaboration as well as information sharing among the laboratories within the region through the “Regional Laboratory Network (RLN)” is essential for the effective surveillance and control program against transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) in Southeast Asia (SEA). The Regional Animal Health Laboratory Technical Advisory Group (Lab-TAG) was established in 2009 to provide technical advice to the member countries on strategic planning and laboratory capacity building activities related to emerging, re-emerging and priority animal diseases of the region. The Lab-TAG members include experts from key technical partners in particular the leading laboratories for the Asia-Pacific region, international reference centres, key donor agencies supporting laboratory activities in the region, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). The role and responsibilities of the Lab-TAG include:

1. Provision of advice on strengthening laboratory capacity, improving quality of laboratory diagnostic services, and laboratory biosafety and biosecurity;
2. Advocacy for the relevant policy level and development partners to gain sustainable support for the implementation of the “Regional Strategic Framework for Laboratory Capacity Building and Networking in Southeast Asia”; and
3. Facilitation and coordination among relevant partners in implementing the activities related to laboratory capacity building to minimize the duplication and maximize the outputs.

The 11th Lab-TAG meeting will be held on 18-20 November 2019 in Da Nang, Viet Nam back-to-back with the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Laboratory Directors’ Forum meeting held on 20-22 November 2019. The meeting will be hosted by FAO in collaboration with Department of Animal Health (DAH), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam. This Lab-TAG will focus on the technical advisory role of the group and will discuss the current status and problems observed with the diagnosis of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Avian Influenza (AI), swine diseases especially African Swine Fever (ASF), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and other EIDs. The meeting will also discuss the results, conclusions and recommendations from Regional Expert Group Meetings for FMD held in May and October 2019. Further, the meeting aims to coordinate the various laboratory support programs and projects (2019-2020) by the different international organizations, reference laboratories, and donors.

## Objectives

1. Provide updates on the ongoing regional programs for laboratory capacity building (Proficiency Testing, Quality Assurance, Biosafety, Bioinformatics and Regional Expert Group on FMD) and progress made by regional leading laboratories.
2. Review the current diagnostic methods and algorithms used in ASEAN member states for priority diseases and novel emerging infections - such as AI, FMD, and ASF - and provide recommendations on changes to the diagnostic methods when needed.
3. Develop a harmonized laboratory capacity strengthening work plan for 2019-2020 among the relevant partners.

## Expected Outputs

1. Recommendations to the ASEAN Laboratory Director Forum (ALDF):
  - a. To review and adapt the current diagnostic tests and algorithms for AI, ASF, FMD, and other emerging diseases;
  - b. To review the outcomes of Regional Expert Group activities on FMD
  - c. To review establishment of Regional Expert Group on AI and swine diseases
2. A harmonized work plan to implement laboratory capacity building activities in the region for 2019-2020 among the relevant partners;

- 3 A meeting report outlining the updated information and recommendations on policy, lab management, activities (including Proficiency Testing Program, Quality Assurance, Biosafety, Bioinformatics and Regional Expert Group activities) and progress related to the regional laboratory network for Southeast Asia.

## **Time and Venue**

18-20 November 2019, Da Nang, Viet Nam,

## **Expected Participants (30~35)**

### **1. Laboratory Directors from the Regional Leading Laboratories (RLLs) in Southeast Asia (3)**

*National Center for Veterinary Diagnostics (NCVD), Hanoi, Viet Nam*

*National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), Thailand*

*Veterinary Research Institute (VRI), Malaysia*

### **2. Experts from the International Reference Laboratories/Centers (17)**

*Regional Animal Health Office Number 6 (RAHO6), Viet Nam (Swine diseases)*

*Regional Reference Laboratory on Foot and Mouth Disease, Pakchong, Thailand (FMD)*

*Veterinary Research Institute (VRI), Malaysia (AI)*

*Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), Australia (Proficiency Testing program, ASF)*

*Changchun Veterinary Research Institute, China (Rabies)*

*Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, China (FMD)*

*Harbin Veterinary Research Institute, China (AI)*

*China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC) (ASF)*

*Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency, Republic of Korea (FMD and AI)*

*National Institute of Animal Health, Japan (AI)*

*St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, USA (AI)*

*Hong Kong University (WHO Collaborating Center) (AI, Bioinformatics)*

*DUKES-NUS, Singapore (Bioinformatics)*

*Institute Pasteur Cambodia (IPC) (AI)*

### **3. Experts from the Regional and International Organizations and Development Partners (7)**

*World Organization for Animal Health (OIE RR, OIE SRR)*

*World Health Organization (WHO-SEARO, WPRO)*

*International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)*

*USAID-Regional Development Mission/Asia (RDMA), Bangkok, Thailand*

*PREDICT-2 partners*



**Tentative Agenda**  
**THE 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN REGIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH**  
**LABORATORY TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (Lab-TAG) MEETING**

18-20 November 2019

Danang, Vietnam

<b>18 October 2019 DAY 1. TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS</b>	
Time	Activity
8.30-9.00	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
9.00-10.30	<b>SESSION 1. OPENING</b> <i>Opening remarks</i> <i>Group photo</i> <i>Introductions</i> <i>Objectives of the meeting</i> <i>Review of the 2018 Lab-TAG recommendations</i>
10.30-11.00	<i>coffee break</i>
11.00-12.30	<b>SESSION 2.1. AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF)</b> <i>Market place on main topics of importance for region</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Diagnostic algorithms (D. Williams)</i></li> <li>- <i>Use of Portable PCR</i></li> <li>- <i>Current challenges in the region</i></li> </ul> <i>Group discussion</i>
12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch</i>
13.30-15.00	<b>SESSION 2.2. FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)</b> <i>Feedback on the outcomes of the Regional Expert Group</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Molecular Diagnosis</i></li> <li>- <i>Serology</i></li> </ul> <i>Way forward on implementation of molecular diagnosis and sequencing</i> <i>Way forward on PT panel for FMD</i>
15.00-15.30	<i>coffee break</i>
15.30-17.00	<b>SESSION 2.3. AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI)</b> <i>Market place on AI on main topics of importance for region</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Current qPCR diagnostics</i></li> <li>- <i>Sequencing</i></li> <li>- <i>Novel diagnostics and commercial kits(private sector)</i></li> </ul> <i>Revisiting the establishment of a Regional Expert Group of AI</i> <i>Group discussion</i>

<b>19 October 2019 DAY 2. TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS (Continued)</b>	
Time	Activity
9.00-10.30	<b>SESSION 2.4. PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS (PPR)</b> <i>Review of current actions on PPR in the region and alignment with Global PPR Eradication Campaign</i> <i>Establishing PPR PT panel in region</i> <i>Q and A</i>
10.30-11.00	<i>coffee break</i>
11.00-12.30	<b>SESSION 2.5. Other priority diseases</b> <i>Rabies</i> <i>Brucellosis</i>
12.30-13.30	<i>lunch</i>
13.30-15.00	<b>SESSION 3. REGIONAL LEADING LABORATORIES and REFERENCE LABORATORIES</b> <i>Updates by Regional Leading Laboratories and Reference Laboratories</i> <i>Way forward</i>
15.00-15.30	<i>coffee break</i>
15.30-17.00	<b>SESSION 4. QUALITY ASSURANCE, BIOSAFETY and BIOINFORMATICS</b> <i>Quality Assurance</i> <i>PT updates</i> <i>Biosafety</i> <i>Bioinformatics</i>
<b>20 October 2019 DAY 3. PLANNING AND COORDINATION</b>	
Time	Activity
9.00-10.30	<b>SESSION 5. PARTNER PROGRAMS</b> <i>Poster walk to see partner programs</i> <i>Identify main activities and synchronization options</i> <i>Group discussions</i>
10.30-11.00	<i>coffee break</i>
11.00-12.30	<b>SESSION 6. DEVELOP WORKPLAN</b> <i>Partners work plan 2019-2020</i> <i>Regional work plan</i> <i>Develop recommendations</i> <i>Conclusions</i> <i>Closing</i>
12.30-13.30	<i>lunch</i>