



## **REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF ASEAN TASKFORCE ON HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)**

**9-10 April 2013, Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Thirteenth Meeting of the ASEAN HPAI Taskforce was held on 9-10 April 2013 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Kamarudin Md. Isa from Malaysia and attended by delegates from ASEAN Member States of, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, except Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, and Singapore. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Regional Support Unit (RSU) of the EU-Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases (HPED) Programme – FAO Component, FAO-ECTAD Indonesia, and OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (OIE-SRR) were also in attendance. The list of delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.

### **AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING STATEMENT**

3. Pudjiatmoko, Ph.D, Director of Animal Health, Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia, welcomed the participants to the Meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He informed on the current situation of HPAI in Indonesia with the introduction of the new clade of H5N1 2.3.2.1. He further informed on the successful action undertaken by Indonesia in diagnosing the new clade. Further, he also informed on the various control strategies that have been undertaken by Indonesia in preventing the spread of the diseases. He also recalled the new emergence of avian influenza sub-type H7N9 in China, which caused deaths in humans. Along this line, he encouraged the ASEAN Member States to improve their collective efforts in anticipating the disease. He also called the ASEAN Member States to exert their utmost efforts in implementing the ASEAN HPAI Roadmap and the need to review and evaluate the Roadmap based on the current trends of the situation. He emphasized that this Meeting would review the current status, trends, issues and challenges in the HPAI control and eradication programme in order to discuss how best we could move forward to achieve the goal of an HPAI-Free ASEAN Community by the year 2020. He underlined that this work would not be successful without the close collaborative efforts and collective wisdom by the ASEAN Member States and development partners. He also expressed his sincere appreciation to ASEAN Regional Support Unit (RSU) of the EU-Highly Pathogenic



Emerging Diseases (HPED) Programme – FAO Component for the continued support in HPAI prevention, control and eradication in the region including the support for this important Meeting. His full remarks appear as **ANNEX 2**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

4. The Meeting adopted the Agenda, which appears as **ANNEX 3**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT**

5. The Meeting was held in plenary

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ASWGL MEETING, SPECIAL SOM-33<sup>RD</sup> AMAF, SPECIAL SOM-11<sup>TH</sup> AMAF PLUS THREE, 34<sup>TH</sup> AMAF MEETING, 12<sup>TH</sup> AMAF PLUS THREE, AEGCD-ASWGL JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING, AND ASEAN DIALOGUE PARTNERS RELATIONS**

6. The Meeting noted the ASEAN Secretariat's presentation on the "ASEAN Cooperation on Avian Influenza" (**ANNEX 4**) and information paper on the "Matters Arising from the 20<sup>th</sup> ASWGL Meeting, Special SOM-33<sup>rd</sup> AMAF, Special SOM-11<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three, 34<sup>th</sup> AMAF Meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> AMAF Plus Three, AEGCD-ASWGL Joint Consultative Meeting, and ASEAN Dialogue Partners Relations". The summary of the reports relevant to the control and eradication of HPAI appears as **ANNEX 5**.

7. The Meeting noted the policy recommendation made by AMAF during its 34<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Vientiane on in the paper entitled "Executive Report on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the ASEAN Region" in particular the recognition of ASEAN Taskforce on HPAI being the established mechanism to coordinate initiatives, implement actions and monitor the progress of Roadmap's implementation.

8. In the view to implement the guidance given by the AMAF on the establishment of ASEAN Coordinating Center for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ), the Meeting considered and agreed to discuss the possibility of integrating the HPAI Task Force into ACCAHZ mechanism once the ACCAHZ is established.

9. The Meeting also noted the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) affirmation of support of cooperation on Avian Influenza. These include the recognition of the disease as a remaining threat despite a general decline in outbreaks; the support of the Roadmap for an HPAI-Free ASEAN Community by 2020 implementation and the HPAI Taskforce, as the main framework and mechanism of regional cooperation, respectively; and the



development of a project proposal for countries with sporadic status to improve early detection and response.

10. The Meeting further noted the endorsement of a number of standards and guidelines, including the Additional Role and Functions of ASWGL and SOM-AMAF in the Utilisation and Management of the ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund (AAHTF), the Executive Report on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI); Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee of the ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (ARASFF); and the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN SPS Contact Points (ASCP) by AMAF.

11. Reiterating on the recognition of the opportunities and emerging challenges, as well as the all-encompassing issues in the control and eradication of HPAI, the Meeting agreed to extend an invitation to the Plus Three Countries to participate in its future meetings.

12. The Meeting further noted the recommendation of the AEGCD-ASWGL Joint Consultative Meeting held on 5-6 November 2012 in Manila. The Meeting expressed its full support to the initiative and willingness to provide advice, if and when necessary, to improve and strengthen animal and human health collaboration.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5: UPDATE ON HPAI STATUS IN THE REGION**

### **5.1. Status of HPAI in the Region**

13. The Meeting noted with appreciation the presentation made by the Dr. Kachen Wongsathapornchai, Project Coordinator of the ASEAN Regional Support Unit (RSU) of the EU-Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases (HPED) Programme – FAO Component, on the current status of HPAI in the region, which appears as **ANNEX 6**. The Meeting noted the diversity in molecular characteristic of the HPAI H5N1 virus currently circulating in the region. The different virus sub-lineage and the divergent eco-system of poultry production in different geographical locations gave ways to further classification of the HPAI situation into four (4) distinct epidemiology zones (epi-zone), namely 1) Southeast China, Hong Kong, Northern Viet Nam, and Lao PDR, 2) Southern Viet Nam and Cambodia, 3) South China and Myanmar, and 4) Indonesia.

14. Recognizing the need to be regularly updated with the global and regional trends of HPAI, the Meeting requested ASEAN-RSU to continue providing HPAI status and updates in future Meetings.

**Action Line: ASEAN-RSU and ASEAN Secretariat**

### **5.2. Status of new Clade of HPAI in Ducks**



15. The Meeting noted the presentation made by Indonesia on the status of new clade of HPAI, which appears as **ANNEX 7**.

16. The Meeting was informed that the virus is considered as a new H5N1 virus found in Indonesia, which is genotypically similar to the clade 2.3.2.1 virus Group C. The Meeting also noted the strategic frameworks developed by Indonesia to prevent, control and eradicate the 2.1.3 and 2.3.2 in poultry and the risk factors of transmission of the HPAI in duck in Indonesia. The Meeting also further noted on the initiatives implemented by Indonesia to identify the potential sources of introduction of the new clade in Indonesia, which still need to be further investigated.

17. The Meeting congratulated Indonesia for the success in responding to the outbreaks. However, the Meeting also agreed that the region, in particular Indonesia, need to continue to closely monitor the progress and development of the new clade.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: PROGRESS AND UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION THE ROADMAP TOWARDS AN HPAI-FREE ASEAN COMMUNITY BY 2020**

18. The Meeting noted the information presented by ASEAN Secretariat on the overview of the “Roadmap for HPAI-Free ASEAN 2020”, which appears as **ANNEX 8**, The Meeting then proceeded in highlighting the key achievements and major initiatives, as well as actions and issues for follow-up and policy support, using the Roadmap’s Strategic Goals as the framework. The updates of the various initiatives being undertaken at the national and regional levels were summarised in the CAP-HPAI.

##### **6.1. Strengthening Veterinary Services for Capacity Development to Prevent, Control and Eradicate Animal Diseases of Economic and Public Health Importance (Strengthening Veterinary Services)**

19. The Meeting noted the various initiatives by AMS and development partners at the national and regional levels in strengthening veterinary services. The Meeting recalled the importance of strengthening veterinary legislation as an essential component in strengthening veterinary services and governance, therefore, the Meeting encouraged the AMS, who have not yet have the veterinary legislation, to develop the their veterinary legislation.

##### **6.2. Achievement of a Disease-Free Status in Progressive Manner at Compartment, Zone, Region and Country Levels (Progressive Zoning and Cross-Border Management)**

20. The Meeting noted the (South) Viet Nam–Cambodia cross-border management activities using epidemiological zoning approach presented by Viet Nam in the effort to eradicate and control of the HPAI in Viet Nam and its neighbouring countries. Recognising the positive result of the collaborative efforts



made, the Meeting encouraged other AMS to apply similar arrangement, in particular countries that are in the same zone, to support the eradication of HPAI in the region.

21. Considering that progressive zoning and maintenance of the integrity of the zones require long-term commitment and substantial resources, the Meeting supported and noted the concept of Epi-zone approach as presented by the ASEAN RSU, in concurrence with the Roadmap for an HPAI-Free ASEAN by 2020. The Meeting also further emphasized the importance of cross-border as well as regional coordination and cooperation in prevention, control and eradication of HPAI in ASEAN as guided by the Roadmap.

22. Also taking into account of the possibility of bilateral cooperation and arrangements with China on cross-border management for managing and maintaining identified zones and cross-border areas, the ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting on the project proposal titled “South China-ASEAN Animal Diseases Control and Prevention and Veterinary Biotechnology Cooperation Forum”. The Meeting supported in principle the project and agreed to review and provide comments and inputs to the proposal and submit the comments by 30 April 2013 at the latest made to ASEAN Secretariat through the ASWGL. The Meeting further agreed to provide suggestions on the criteria of the AMS representatives envisaged in the proposal, for ASWGL consideration, in order to ensure the successful achievement of the project objective.

**Action Line: ASEAN Secretariat, AMS, HPAI Task Force, and ASWGL**

23. The Meeting also noted and appreciated the effort made by the AMS in the implementation of progressive zoning approach at country level to prevent, control and eradicate the HPAI.

**6.3. Effective Reduction of Circulating HPAI Virus in the Environment Leading to its Progressive Control and Eradication (Vaccines and Vaccination Strategy)**

24. The Meeting noted the presentation made by Viet Nam entitled “Molecular Characterization of H5N1 Viruses and Potency of Existing Vaccine in Viet Nam”, which appears as **ANNEX 9**.

25. The Meeting noted the results of vaccine studies conducted by Viet Nam for different clades of H5N1 viruses in the country. The Meeting further noted that based on Viet Nam experience, there is a need to specify the type of vaccines used for different clades and the efficacy testing of the vaccine should be conducted regularly.

**6.3.1. Utilisation of the OIE vaccine bank for HPAI**



26. The Meeting also noted the presentation made by Dr. Agnes Poirier, representative from the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia, on the HPAI Vaccine Bank that is a part of initiative under the EU-Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases (HPED) Programme – OIE Component, which appears as **ANNEX 10**.

27. Recognising the absence of demand from Member Countries for H5N2 vaccines, no HPED funds have been disbursed to fill the Regional Vaccine Bank for Avian Influenza; consequentially, no Avian Influenza vaccines have been delivered to Asia since the commencement of the EU-HPED programme. Given that there has been no significant change to the animal health epidemiological situation and in agreement with the Donor, the OIE has made use of the funds available through this budget line to enhance the OIE Regional Antigen/Vaccine Bank for Foot and Mouth Disease in Asia, funded by the EU under the HPED programme.

28. The Meeting was also informed that if in the case that there is a change to the epidemiological situation, and upon official request from the country Delegates to the OIE, in close cooperation with the ASEAN, the OIE will consider a possible replenishment of the existing OIE Vaccine bank for Avian Influenza using the OIE criteria and mechanism for requesting the vaccine support.

**Action Line: OIE, ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat**

#### **6.4. Effective and Rapid Containment of Infections and Outbreaks in Affected Flocks or Zones (Stamping-Out/Culling)**

29. The Meeting noted the availability of the stamping out policy applied by the Member States. However, noting the different status and level of the ASEAN Member States, the Meeting considered the implementation of stamping-out policy to the respective ASEAN Member States following the capacity and the capability of the country.

**Action Line: ASEAN Secretariat, HPAI Taskforce**

#### **6.5. Effective Surveillance Capacity to Detect and Respond Appropriately to the Presence of H5N1 Virus Infection and other disease threats (Surveillance and Monitoring)**

##### ***6.5.1. Update on ARAHIS and its Utilization***

30. The Meeting noted Singapore as the lead country on this initiative. Considering the need for efficient and transparent disease information sharing and maximising the utilisation of ARAHIS, the Meeting requested Singapore to update on the progress on the linkages between ARAHIS and Animal Health Production Information System in ASEAN (AHPISA), and also on these





information paper on the hosting and linkage of the ASEAN Regional Animal Health Information System (ARAHIS) with the planned training/workshop for the ARAHIS Focal Points in the upcoming 21<sup>st</sup> ASWGL Meeting.

**Action Line: Singapore**

#### **6.5.2. The Fourth Laboratory Directors' Forum and the Regional Animal Health and Human Health Laboratory Network Meeting**

31. The Meeting noted the update provided by Dr. Kachen Wongsathapornchai, Project Coordinator of the ASEAN Regional Support Unit (RSU) of the EU-Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases (HPED) Programme – FAO Component on the Fourth Laboratory Director's Forum Meeting which discussed the development of a coordinated work plan among key partners outlining activities which are aligned with the goals of the Regional Strategic Framework for Laboratory Capacity Building and Networking in Southeast Asia. The Meeting also noted other relevant activities that have been conducted by the ASEAN RSU in the support of preventing, controlling and eradicating the HPAI in the region. The information paper appears as **ANNEX 11**.

#### **6.5.3. Veterinary Epidemiology Consortium Meeting**

34. The Meeting noted the presentation made by ASEAN RSU on the relevant activities related to epidemiology activities in the region. The information paper appears **ANNEX 12**.

#### **6.6. Sustainable Market Chain Policies and Intervention in Reducing Risks of Spreading and Contamination to Poultry and Human Populations (Market Chain Management)**

35. The Meeting noted the various interventions undertaken to manage risks along the market chain. These include implementation of active surveillance in selected poultry markets, public awareness campaigns, pilot projects on bio-security, and, relocation and planning of slaughterpoints.

36. Recognising the critical role of market chain in the spread and persistence of the virus, the Meeting agreed to put more collaborative effort in scaling-up the pilot projects and institutionalising the platforms/mechanisms of engagement of various stakeholders.

**Action Line: ASEAN Member States**

#### **6.7. Enhancement and Promotion of Bio-Security as a Long-Term, Cost-Effective Preventive Measure to Keep the HPAI Virus Out of the Farms/Flocks (Enhanced Bio-Security)**



37. The Meeting noted the various initiatives undertaken to improve the bio-security status in the AMS, particularly in high-risk areas. Recognising the need to further collaborate in this area, the Meeting encouraged the ASEAN Member States to put more efforts in improving the bio-security status at the country level.

38. Considering its close linkage with the bio-security issue, the Meeting informed on the progress of the development of ASEAN Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP). The inception meeting of ASEAN GAHP Project will be held in 13-14 May 2013. Indonesia as the lead country will inform ASEAN Secretariat on the venue and the arrangements.

**Action Line: Indonesia, ASEAN Secretariat**

## **6.8. Cross Cutting Issues**

### **6.8.1. Update on ASEAN Livestock Communication Activity**

39. The Meeting recalled the decision made by the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) on the creation and formalization of the ASEAN Ad hoc Communication Group for Livestock (ACGL) in July 2012. Along this line, the Meeting noted that 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ACGL was conducted in the Johor Bahru, Malaysia from 25-27 February 2013 resulted the TOR and coordination mechanism of ACGL were finalized including the harmonization of the focal points for ACGL and the communication group initiated by OIE, developing Regional Communication Framework for Livestock. The detailed report of the Meeting appears as **ANNEX 13**.

**Action Line: HPAI Taskforce**

### **6.8.2. Update on One Health Initiatives**

40. The Meeting noted the presentation made by Dr. Kachen Wongsathapornchai, Project Coordinator of the ASEAN Regional Support Unit (RSU) of the EU-Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases (HPED) Programme – FAO Component on the activities related to the One Health entitled the Third Regional Workshop on Multi-Sectoral Collaboration on Zoonoses Prevention and Control as well as other relevant initiatives. The information paper related to the initiatives appears as **ANNEX 14**.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: CONVERGENCE ACTION PLAN FOR HPAI (CAP-HPAI)**

41. The Meeting noted and recognised the importance of the CAP-HPAI, which appears as **ANNEX 15**, as a tool for mapping the various activities implemented in the region, for monitoring the progress of implementation of the Roadmap, and for identifying key gaps and needs that require more collaborative efforts.





42. The Meeting also noted the presentation (**ANNEX 16**) made by ASEAN RSU on the assessment of submitted CAP-HPAI and agreed on the following arrangements:

- a. To review the existing “Roadmap for an HPAI Free ASEAN Community by 2020” to be able to address the current trends of the diseases in the region;
- b. To enhance the CAP-HPAI format as an essential tool to monitor and evaluate the progress of implementation of each elements of the Roadmap by having key indicators;
- c. To request the ASEAN Secretariat with the support from ASEAN RSU to facilitate the process of reviewing the Roadmap and development of necessary monitoring and evaluating tools.

43. The Meeting also agreed that the CAP-HPAI at its current form can serve as the background information in developing the monitoring and evaluation tool as well as reviewing the Roadmap. Along this line, the Meeting requested the ASEAN Member States and other relevant agencies to provide the updated CAP-HPAI to ASEAN Secretariat by 30 April 2013.

**Action Line: ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat and Development Partners**

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER MATTERS**

### **8.1. Progress of the Development of the Project Proposal on HPAI**

44. The Meeting noted ASEAN Secretariat update on the progress of developing the project proposal, in particular the on the budget of the proposal. Recognising the need to keep collaborative efforts and prevent redundancy and synergistic of relevant initiatives for the control and eradication of HPAI, the Meeting agreed and requested the ASEAN Member States to review the project proposal and will submit their comments and inputs by 30 April 2013. In the event of no response by the given deadline, the Meeting requested ASEAN Secretariat with the support of ASEAN-RSU to finalise the proposal and submit for consideration and guidance at the next ASWGL Meeting.

**Action Line: ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN-RSU**

### **8.2. Commemorating 10 years of Controlling and Eradication of HPAI in the Region**

45. Recalling the mandate given by AMAF to coordinate initiatives, implement actions and monitor the progress of HPAI in the region and considering the rapid



changing of the diseases in the region including introduction of new diseases, the Meeting considered and agreed to report the summary of 10 years of HPAI to the AMAF and agreed to review the TOR of the HPAI Task Force to be relevant with the current issues and challenges. Along this line, the Meeting requested the ASEAN Member States to provide comments and inputs of the TOR which appears as **ANNEX 17** by 30 June 2013 to ASEAN Secretariat.

#### **Action Line: ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat**

### **8.3. Update on the EU-HPED Project**

46. The Meeting noted the information provided by Dr. Kachen Wongsathapornchai, Project Coordinator of the ASEAN Regional Support Unit (RSU) of the EU-Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases (HPED) Programme – FAO Component that the project will end in December 2013. The Meeting noted, and expressed the support to the FAO's request for a project extension until December 2014 at no additional cost to the EU.

47. The Meeting also acknowledged with appreciation the technical and financial support given by the EU-Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases (HPED) Programme – FAO Component for the ASEAN HPAI Task Force.

### **8.4. ASEAN Responds on the New Emerging H7N9**

48. The Meeting noted the update given by Dr. Kachen Wongsathapornchai, ASEAN Regional Support Unit Coordinator, on the situation of the emergence of avian influenza H7N9 in human which caused 8 fatalities from the 28 human cases that had been confirmed. Current information suggested that the newly reassortant virus is considered a low pathogenic strain in avian species, which is difficult to be identified through routine surveillance for HPAI. There was no indication of the virus to transmit from human to human, and this virus is still sensitive to Oseltamivir [Tamiflu]

49. The Meeting noted information provided by Indonesia on the laboratory diagnostic protocols recommended by WHO for the avian influenza H7N9. The protocols appears as **ANNEX 18**.

50. The Meeting urged the Member States to remain vigilant of the new virus, and tighten up their prevention measures. The Meeting was also reminded that the avian influenza H7N9 was not included in the current TORs of HPAI Taskforce, which prompted for the need for the review of the TOR as the situation evolved.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: DATE AND VENUE OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING**

51. The Meeting noted and agreed on the offer made by Viet Nam to host the 14<sup>th</sup> HPAI Taskforce Meeting, which is tentatively set prior to the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASWGL



Meeting. Viet Nam will inform ASEAN Secretariat on the date and venue for the Meeting. The Meeting also requested ASEAN Secretariat to seek possibility from the development partners and donor to support the conduct of the meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

52. The Meeting adopted the report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the ASEAN HPAI Taskforce, held on 9-10 April 2013 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia by circulation and ad referendum.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

53. The delegates from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam and the ASEAN Secretariat, expressed their sincere thanks to the Department of Livestock and Animal Health Services of Indonesia and EU-HPED Programme-FAO Component for hosting and supporting the Meeting. The delegates also thanked the ASEAN Secretariat for the assistance rendered.

54. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality.

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