

**CONCEPT NOTE
ASEAN DENGUE DAY 2017**

Theme: United Fight Against Dengue

Date: 15 June 2017

Background

Dengue continues to affect communities and countries globally, with the Asia Pacific region bearing the highest burden. While prevention and control programmes for dengue have been strengthened with greater community-based participation; improved surveillance and reporting mechanisms; enhanced engagement of relevant stakeholders especially from the private sector; and progressive developments in vaccine development, there is still a need to sustain current collective efforts to pro-actively address this disease burden which is endemic in many countries in the ASEAN Region.

Since the official launching in 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia, ASEAN Member States have annually observed the ASEAN Dengue Day (ADD) on 15 June as a collective advocacy event to reiterate calls on all sectors of society to unite against dengue, as well as to highlight innovative and effective strategies in the prevention and control of dengue. Simultaneous activities at regional, national and sub-national levels are organised every year on this day to raise awareness on dengue, and to mobilise resources for prevention and control involving private and public sector stakeholders.

Aligned with the 50th Commemorative Celebration of ASEAN in 2017, and with the theme of the ASEAN Chairmanship of Philippines which is 'Partnering for Change, Engaging the World', the suggested over-all theme for the ASEAN Dengue Day is **United Fight Against Dengue**. Permutations of this theme can be done by each ASEAN Member State. This over-all theme is also based on the endorsed ASEAN – WHO core messages or key messages for prevention and control of dengue which was launched through a publication in 2011.

As lead country for the ASEAN Dengue Day this 2017, and to advocate its observation at the regional level, the following activities are to be conducted with the assistance of ASEAN Secretariat:

Regional activities

1. *Special issue on Dengue in the ASEAN E-Health Bulletin*

The issue will focus on recent developments in dengue prevention and control at national and regional levels. The issue will, among others, highlight the recent situation, national control programmes, including progress on laboratory-based surveillance initiatives through UniteDengue.

The Wrap-Up Meeting on Strengthening Laboratory Capacity through UniteDengue (14-15 December 2016, Singapore) documented progress in the strengthening of laboratory-based surveillance against dengue and other emerging infectious diseases. Using the country presentations as basis in the preparation of articles, the Meeting agreed that the next issue of the E-Health Bulletin could be a special issue focusing on dengue.

AMS have been requested submit articles by end of May 2017 to allow Chief Editor Philippines and ASEAN Secretariat to carry out technical and editorial review, and

publication. Funding for this special issue of the ASEAN E-Health Bulletin will be from ASEAN Secretariat.

This special issue will be launched on 14 June 2017 together with a press release.

2. *Compilation of national activities to observe ASEAN Dengue Day*

The ASEAN Secretariat will profile key activities of ASEAN Member States in observing ASEAN Dengue Day by compiling the photos, articles, press releases that shows how each ASEAN Member State has observed ADD. These will be uploaded in the ASEAN Website under the section of the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting.

- Before 15 June 2017, a compilation of proposed activities will be featured to drumbeat the event. AMS are requested to submit ADD observance plans as soon as these are finalised and available. The information can be submitted to ASEAN Secretariat by end of May 2017.
- After ADD, a compilation/report of actual activities will be uploaded by ASEAN Secretariat from 15 June 2017 onwards.

3. *ASEAN public messages*

The ASEAN Secretariat will facilitate the issuance of a press release to accompany the online launching of the special edition of the ASEAN E-Health Bulletin on ASEAN Dengue Day.