

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

### **ASEAN DENGUE DAY 2018, 15 JUNE**

#### **Theme: ONE ASEAN COMMUNITY AGAINST DENGUE**

#### **Regional Observation consisting of:**

- 1. National activities: 15 June 2018**
- 2. Regional activities:**
  - a. 7 – 8 June 2018, Singapore**
  - b. 5 – 7 July 2018, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

#### **A. Background**

Dengue has emerged as a major public health burden globally, and has been the most rapidly-spreading mosquito-borne viral disease throughout the Asia Pacific region. Epidemics of dengue have resulted in human suffering, strained health services and massive economic losses. The complexity of the disease demands a multiple and prolonged response that engages government ministries well beyond the health sector. It warrants commitments and obligation and well-coordinated action among multisectoral partners especially from the private sector, non-governmental bodies, and more importantly community-based participation that augment prevention programmes besides an integrated approach to vector management, surveillance and sustained effort against dengue. Thus, there is still a need of continuous collective initiatives aimed to address this disease burden among countries in the ASEAN region.

Given the importance of the dengue epidemic, the annual observance of ASEAN Dengue Day was endorsed at the 10th ASEAN Health Minister's Meeting in 2010. ASEAN Dengue Day was launched and first observed in 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia and since then, ASEAN Member States have observed the ASEAN Dengue Day on 15 June as a key regional advocacy initiative to raise awareness, control and prevention measures against dengue. The conduct of the event can be seen as a positive sign, indicating willingness of policymakers to take action, to achieve dengue case reduction goals, as well as willingness of individuals, families, communities, the private sectors, non-profitable organizations, and the government to work together to fight against the disease. The event also posts as a platform for representatives from every ASEAN Member States to come together to exchange ideas and to work towards innovations to combat the disease. Malaysia is honoured to host the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Dengue Day Observance on 15 June 2018 for the ASEAN Community.

The suggested theme for the ASEAN Dengue Day 2018 is **One ASEAN Community Against Dengue**. The theme is also based on the advocacy to acknowledge that Dengue prevention and control needs a multi-pronged approach.

The following activities are to be conducted for the ASEAN Dengue Day 2018, with the assistance of ASEAN Secretariat, and Malaysia as the lead country intention to advocate its observation at the regional level.

## **B. Regional activities**

### **1. Workshop on Recent Developments and Impact Assessment of Sterile and Incompatible Insect Techniques for Mosquito Control, 7 – 8 June 2018, Singapore**

The National Environment Agency (NEA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Singapore – under the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) – with the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and Singapore Ministry of Health (MOH) will host the ASEAN Dengue Day Workshop on Recent Developments and Impact Assessment of Sterile and Incompatible Insect Techniques for Mosquito Control, from 7 to 8 June 2018 (Thu to Fri), at the Holiday Inn Atrium Hotel, in Singapore. The workshop is Singapore's initiative in support of ASEAN Dengue Day 2018, and is one of the official regional activities of the ASEAN Health Sector.

In the face of the challenges of dengue and other vector-borne diseases such as Zika, ASEAN countries have shown much interest in exploring new tools to augment or complement existing vector control methods, such as the use of Wolbachia technology and X-ray treatment to render released mosquitoes sterile, and hence effect population suppression. Several places such as Guangzhou, California, French Polynesia (Tahiti), Singapore and Thailand, have collected valuable data from laboratory and field studies.

It is thus timely that we come together to share knowledge and experiences, together with ASEAN countries. We have also invited IAEA as a partner. WHO VCAG has recommended that the combined Wolbachia/ X-ray approach be explored, and IAEA has been supporting many Member States on this approach.

The objectives of the workshop are:

1. to share knowledge and experience on recent developments and evidence-based impact assessment, among groups piloting the sterile and incompatible insect techniques (SIT and IIT) for *Aedes* mosquito control; and
2. to accelerate development of these technologies.

## **2. 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Dengue Summit Kuala Lumpur 2018**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Dengue Summit to be held on 5-6 July 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Summit will provide a unique opportunity for everyone in the dengue community (clinicians, researchers, government public health leaders and policymakers) to come together to exchange ideas, updates and achievements on dengue management strategies for the region.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Dengue Summit is co-convened by the Asian Dengue Vaccination Advocacy (ADVA), Global Dengue and *Aedes*-transmitted Diseases Consortium (GDAC), Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Tropical Medicine and Public Health Network (SEAMEO TROPMED), and Fondation Merieux (FMx), and partially coordinated by the Ministry of Health - Malaysia. The Summit is supported locally by the Malaysian Society of Infectious Diseases and Chemotherapy and the Malaysian Paediatric Association. Along with dengue experts from academies and research institutions, representatives from the Ministries of Health, the regional and global World Health Organization (WHO), ADVA, SEAMEO TROPMED, GDAC, FMx, the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) and others will participate to provide a broad overview of the current status of dengue and its management across Asia.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Dengue Summit, dengue experts from across the region (and worldwide) will discuss and exchange views on the current issues that surround dengue disease management and propose strategies that can enhance dengue control. Such a wide representation of key stakeholders will help throw light on the burden of dengue, its management, new vector control strategies and successful vaccine introduction across the region. ASEAN Member States are invited to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Dengue Summit. For more details, interested parties may visit: [www.asiadenguesummit.org/home](http://www.asiadenguesummit.org/home).

### **3. Dengue Awareness Campaign and Event;**

The launching of ASEAN Dengue Day 2018 will be held on 7 July 2018 in Selangor, Malaysia, and it will be officiated by the Minister of Health - Malaysia. In observance of this event, representatives of all ASEAN Member States will be invited for the launching. Among the activities planned will be media promotion, press release, exhibition on Dengue, and Communication for Behavioural Impact (COMBI) innovation projects, visit by representatives of ASEAN Member States to observe COMBI activities, and also COMBI convention (Comment from ASEAN Secretariat: it will be of interest to know the details of this convention; will it focus on dengue?).

### **4. Compilation of national activities to observe ASEAN Dengue Day 2018**

The ASEAN Secretariat will showcase key events of ASEAN Member States in observing ASEAN Dengue Day on 15 June 2018 by gathering the articles, photos, official press releases that display how each ASEAN Member State has observed ADD. These is to be uploaded in the ASEAN Website: [www.asean.org](http://www.asean.org).

### **5. ASEAN public messages**

The ASEAN Secretariat as well as each member state will issue a press release on ASEAN Dengue Day on 15 June 2018. Malaysia will lead by releasing press statement of ASEAN Dengue Day with posting of health education materials on Dengue in the website and social media platforms of Ministries of Health, and the ASEAN Secretariat.

### **C. Special message from the Host Country**

Malaysia warmly welcomes the participation of all ASEAN Member States to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Dengue Summit Kuala Lumpur and the ASEAN Dengue Day, and we look forward to seeing all of you there. The details of the exact venue will be notified to all in the near future.

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