

ASEAN HEALTH COOPERATION CONCEPT NOTE ¹

I. PROJECT TITLE:

(Provide a concise project title that captures the essence of the proposed activity, i.e. ASEAN – Canada's GPP Project on Mitigating Biological Threats – Laboratory Capacity Development for Diagnostic EDP.

ASEAN – Canada's GPP Project on Mitigating Biological Threats –Strengthening Public Health & Animal Health Epidemiological Capacity for EIDs Response

II. BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION-300 WORDS MAX:

(Provide a brief description of the proposed activity its objective and key activities or outputs)

This project proposal is intended to enhance the epidemiological capacity of ASEAN countries to detect and respond to Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs), and strengthen the collaboration between Public Health and Animal Health Sectors.

Together with ASEAN Veterinarian Epidemiology Group (AVEG), a series of Joint Training between Public Health & Animal Health sectors on mutually interested topics, regular communication through Video conferencing and joint meeting, exchange of trainer/trainees as well as development of joint outbreak response technical guidelines will be carried out.

Key activities include:

1. Joint Training
 - a) Joint Table Top Simulation Exercise / Field Outbreak Response training utilizing existing guidelines including Guideline: Administrative & Logistic Arrangement in Supporting The Joint Multi-Sectoral Outbreak Investigation & Response in ASEAN (JMOIR)
 - b) Joint Training Workshop on Policy Communication
 - c) Joint Training of Trainers including Veterinarian Epidemiologists (2Pax each year)
2. Joint Workshop to develop joint outbreak response technical guidelines to include One Health component
3. Exchange of trainer trainees to join host country/program's training activities 4Pax 14 days/year
4. Regular (Annual) Joint AVEG- FETN Meeting for collaboration planning and review (2019 and 2020)

¹ This concept note is based on the ASEAN Cooperation Project Proposal as of 2017 approved by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to ASEAN

5. Joint Video Conferences for information and experience sharing

This project will enhance the regional epidemiological capacity through multi-sectoral collaboration in capacity building and accelerate the process of producing critical mass of technical knowledge/guidelines and competent epidemiology workforce to protect ASEAN region and its peoples.

III. PROJECT CLASIFICATION: ASCC BLUEPRINT:

(Provide information to explain how the project activity will contribute to ASEAN's goal and relevant SDGs and targets. For this section you may refer to the first and two pages of ASEAN Health Cluster Work Prorgamme 2016-2017)

ASCC Blueprint

(a) Characteristic: : Responding to All Hazards and Emerging Threats

(b) Action line/strategic measures: :A.1.i & ii / A.2.i, iii, iv & vi / B.1.ii & v /B.2 iv & xii/ B.3 i/ C.1 iv & vii/ C.2. ii, iii & iv /D.1 i & iii/ D.2 I, ii, & iii / D.3 i/ D.5 iii / E.1.iv & viii / E.2.i,iii,vii & ix/ E.3.iii

SDGs

(c) Goal

SDG Goal #3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG Goal # 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

SDG Goal # 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (indirectly)

(d) Target: 3.3, 3.d, 17.9, 17.16, 17.18

ASEAN Health Cluster Work Prorgamme 2016-2017

HEALTH PRIORITY 8: PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Activity 1.7 Continue ASEAN+3 FETN as coordinating platform for multi-country training collaboration.

IV. PROPOSED COMMENCEMENT & COMPLETION DATE:

2 years (24 months) after approval of the project

V. PROPONENT'S (MINISTRY OF HEALTH) NAME AND ADDRESS & IMPLEMENTING AGENCY'S (RELEVANT DIVISION WITHIN MOH THAT WILL ORGANISE THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES) NAME AND ADDRESS :

(Kindly fill in the implementing agency if it is different from the proponent)

Ministry of Public Health Thailand, Tiwanon Road, Talat Khwan, Muang Nonthaburi, Nonthaburi 11000 Thailand

ASEAN Plus FETN Foundation, Tiwanon Road, Talat Khwan, Muang Nonthaburi, Nonthaburi 11000 Thailand

ASEAN Plus Three FETN Coordinating Office, Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand.

VI. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION, REGIONALITY AND BENEFICIARIES – 600 WORDS MAX

(a) Current Problem

(Describe briefly the issues or problems in the region or sector that the project seeks to address. Explain what is causing these issues or problems. Your write-up has to be clearly linked to the project objective)

ASEAN is a hot spot for Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) among which many are of animal origin. With increased economic and social connectivity among AMS, the bio-security risks posed by cross-border spread of EIDs also rise.

Epidemiological capacity, which is fundamental to detect, identify, and respond to bio-security threats, varies among AMS and different sectors.

Collaboration between animal health and public health has been initiated with High Level ASEAN bodies' endorsements, however, materialization of the collaboration in epidemiological capacity building is still in early stage, more collaboration and synergized efforts are needed to foster coordinated efficient actions to protect peoples of the region.

(b) Regionality

(Show that the problem or issue affects more than one ASEAN Member States and requires regional action. This needed for the project to be considered an ASEAN Health Cooperation Project)

Infectious diseases spread across borders with human traveling as well as animal movement. The experience and lessons learnt from SARS, Avian Influenza and MERS revealed the importance of rapid detection, effective response and infection source containment. These tasks require multi-country and multi-sectorial collaboration among trained professionals.

As a more and more integrated society, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) will be exposed to higher risks of cross-border transmission of EIDs, and the negative impact of EIDs on Health and Economy may affect ASEAN as a whole. Thus, capacity building in the regional context is necessary to mitigate Biological Threats posted by EIDs, and the regional activities (experience sharing, joint training and workshop) conducted over past years have been proven to be beneficial to national capacity building programs, and the outputs/recommendations regarding multi-sectoral collaboration from regional activities, especially those with high level ASEAN bodies' adoption, could serve as the reference for national level policy development.

(c) Project History

(If available, list related projects/activities previously or currently implemented relevant to the ASEAN Health Sector at the regional or global levels. Describe how these activities/projects complements them)

This project is expected to be a continuation effort of *Mitigating Biosecurity Threats from Infectious Diseases of Pandemic Potential in Southeast Asia (2014-2016)*, as well as an extension to cover critical One Health components.

Mitigating Biosecurity Threats from Infectious Diseases of Pandemic Potential in Southeast Asia (2014-2016) is a common project participated by Asia Partnership on Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (APEIR), The Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance (MBDS) and ASEAN+3 FETN. The overall objective is to strengthen regional capacity for the understanding and prevention of, preparing for, and responding to disease agents that have bioterrorism and/or pandemic potential in Southeast Asia. This project was supported by International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada and the Canada's Global Partnership Program (Canada GPP). ASEAN+3 FETN successfully accomplished the project and submitted final report in 2016.

This project was also a materialization of agreements between ASEAN animal health and public health higher bodies.

Recognizing the importance of epidemiology, ASEAN bodies of both public health and animal health established their working groups to facilitate and coordinate epidemiology capacity building. In particular, The ASEAN plus 3 Field Epidemiology Training Network (ASEAN + 3 FETN) was established in 2011 with endorsement of ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD), and the ASEAN Veterinary Epidemiology Group (AVEG) was established with endorsement of the Special Senior Official Meeting of the 34th The ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)AMAF in Lao PDR.

the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) and ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Disease (AEGCD) convened the 1st joint meeting in 2012 and agreed to support the collaboration between animal health and human health sectors within ASEAN, in order to strengthen ASEAN capacity to prevent, respond to, and mitigate public health threats that negatively affect human and animal health, as well as livelihoods and economy of ASEAN and its peoples. The agreement was endorsed by high levels of both sectors. The 10th AEGCD Meeting and the 24th ASWGL Meeting adopted the recommendations which further specified the mechanism of collaboration on epidemiology and laboratory, and tasked existing networks of human and animal health professionals, namely ASEAN+3 FETN and AVEG, on operationalizing the relevant agreements.

Accordingly, the 1st AVEG – ASEAN+3 FETN joint consultative meeting was held in Viet Nam in August 2016 and the 2nd joint AVEG – ASEAN+3 FETN meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand in February 2018. During these two meetings, focus areas of collaboration as well as joint activities of mutual interest were identified and agreed upon. And the agreements were adopted by/being submitted to higher bodies of both sectors. See ANNEX 1 and ANNEX 2 for summary reports of the said meetings.

Based on the areas/activities agreed in the 2nd Joint AVEG-FETN and readiness of know-how in member countries, the activities in this project were proposed to feed the needs of member states and maximize the benefits for our region.

(d) The Beneficiaries

(Please state who will directly benefit from the stakeholders that will be engaged in this project activity. The proponent could also identify who could benefit indirectly)

This project will benefit all AMS as well as China, Japan, Republic of Korea as ASEAN Dialogue partners and ASEAN+3 FETN Members (Financial support will not be provided to Japan and Republic of Korea).

VII. PROJECT RESULT

Objectives	Results/ Outputs	Indicator s	Means of Verification	Main Activities	Indictors	Means of Verificatio n
Objective/outcome: (The intended physical activity, financial, institutional, social, environmental or other development results to which a project is expected to contribute)	(What results will the project lead to, for example any products and services or changes that are relevant to the achievement of objective(s))	(How will the project's activity achievement be measured? Please indicate feasible quantitative and qualitative measures)	(How will information be collected to support these indicators)	(List the actions or activities that your project will carry out to achieve the above results/outputs)		
ASEAN – Canada's GPP Project on Mitigating Biological Threats – Strengthening Public Health & Animal Health Epidemiological Capacity for EIDs Response to enhance the epidemiological capacity of ASEAN countries to detect and response to Emerging Infectious Diseases, and strengthen the collaboration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint Trainings on various topics 2. Joint outbreak response technical guidelines with One Health component 3. exchange Trainers and trainees to participate host countries' training activities 4. Regular (annual) joint meeting between FETN and AVEG 5. Joint video conference 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. # of training conducted 2. # trainer/trainee exchanged 3. technical guideline produced 4. # meeting conducted 5. # video conference conducted 	ASEAN Plus Three FETN And ASEAN Veterinary Epidemiology Group (AVEG) will collect those information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint Table Top Simulation Exercise / Field Outbreak Response training utilizing existing guidelines including JMOIR 2. Joint Training Workshop on Policy Communication 3. Joint Training of Trainers including Veterinarian Epidemiologists (2Pax each year) 4. Joint Workshop to develop joint outbreak response technical guidelines to include One 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. # of training and participants 2. # of training and participants 3. # of training and participants 4. Technical guideline and relevant documents 5. # trainer/trainee exchanged 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List of participants 2. Reports of training/workshop/meeting 3. Technical guidelines/ Documents produced 4. Progress reports and final report

between Public Health and Animal Health Sectors				Health component 5. Exchange of trainer trainees to join host country/program's training activities 4 Pax 14 days/year 6. Regular (Annual) Joint AVEG- FETN Meeting for collaboration planning and review (2019 and 2020) 7. Joint Video Conferences for information and experience sharing	and report produced 6. # of meeting conducted and report produced 7. # of meeting conducted and report produced	
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Description of major activities:

1. Joint training

a. Joint Table Top Simulation Exercise / Field Outbreak Response training utilizing existing guidelines including JMOIR.

ASEAN has been increasingly interconnected through international traveling and trading, possible cross border transmission of diseases through animal or human movement was evident in several outbreak investigations. And joint investigation guidelines including the Guideline: Administrative & Logistic Arrangement in Supporting the Joint Multi-Sectoral Outbreak Investigation & Response in ASEAN (JMOIR) were developed and endorsed. However to our knowledge there was no official employment of the guidelines documented. And the discussion during the AVEG-FETN joint meeting revealed the low awareness and lack of training could be an important cause of the underuse of the guidelines. Thus the 2nd AVEG-FETN meeting encouraged the two network to conduct joint training and simulation exercise utilizing the existing guidelines.

Target: The project plan to conduct 1 workshop during 2 years and invite 22 key technical staffs (1 from animal health, 1 from public health) and 4 facilitators from member countries. Two persons from FETN Coordinating Office/ ASEAN Plus FETN Foundation will participate to organize the training and provide technical/logistic supports.

b. Joint Training Workshop on Policy Communication.

The training workshop was developed by ASEAN Plus FETN Foundation to help field epidemiologists to understand typical policymakers' information needs, and get familiar with essential messages and channels for communicating with policymakers. The workshop is

composed of introduction of principles, 3-4 case studies, as well as discussion and conclusion. Experts (a senior lecturer and 1 facilitator, 3-4 case study presenters, and 2 discussants) from member countries and development partners will guide the participants through the learning processes. The short half-day trial has been rolled out as a pre-conference workshop of the 9th Global TEPHINET Conference and received very positive feedback. This full-version workshop is expected to be 3 days long, and involve both veterinarian and public health epidemiologists.

Target: The project plan to conduct 1 workshop during 2 years and invite 22 epidemiologists/ technical staffs (1 from animal health, 1 from public health) and 6 lecturers/facilitators/senior experts/policy makers from member countries. Two persons from FETN Coordinating Office/ ASEAN Plus FETN Foundation will participate to organize the training and provide technical/logistic supports.

c. Joint Training of Trainers including Veterinarian Epidemiologists.

The Training of Trainers (ToT) is a two-month program that designed to train FETP graduates to become professional trainers of FETP. The key component of ToT program includes short course on communication and coaching, as well as real practice of classroom teaching, and field coaching. The trainers are expected to build competency in teaching and coaching, leadership, effective communication and networking etc. The ToT program is organized by FETP Thailand and accepts 2-10 participants each year with a package fee of 14,000 USD per person (which covers tuition and travel/accommodation costs). AVEG and FETN group noted this program is an important way to increase the competent trainers in our region, and suggested AVEG and FETN group to prioritize the need for support for participation of member countries.

Target: The project plan to support 2 (potential) trainers from member countries each year.

2. Joint Workshop to develop joint outbreak response technical guidelines to include One Health component.

Supported by GPP program through the *Mitigating Biosecurity Threats from Infectious Diseases of Pandemic Potential in Southeast Asia (2014-2016)*, ASEAN+3 FETN group developed the Joint Outbreak Investigation and Contact Tracing Regional Guideline. However, the guideline focus on the public health aspects of the multi-country investigation management, leaving frequently faced scenarios of multi-sectoral joint investigation unspecified. The AVEG-FETN joint meeting suggested further development of the technical guideline upon the current guideline to cover the practical points of joint investigation involving animal health sectors. The project plans to organize experts' work meeting to further develop the guidelines.

Target: The project plan to invite current chair, past chair and incoming chair and 3 senior experts/key technical staffs from AVEG and FETN respectively (12 persons in total) to join a 2-day workshop of guideline development. Two persons from FETN Coordinating Office/ ASEAN Plus FETN Foundation will participate to organize the workshop and provide technical/logistic supports.

3. Exchange of trainer/ trainees to join host country/program's training activities.

There are 14 Field Epidemiology Training Programs (including 2 FETP for Veterinarians) established in ASEAN +3 countries, every year each program would conduct a number of the training activities. Given the diversity of development status and priorities, each program has their strengths and weaknesses. Inspired by “learning by doing” philosophy, exchange of trainer/trainee for a professional attachment of the host country's training program to obtain real field experience was proposed in the *Mitigating Biosecurity Threats from Infectious Diseases of Pandemic Potential in Southeast Asia (2014-2016)*. Credits were received through successful examples such as extension of Myanmar's program with suggestions got from Thailand, and Thailand's novel training activities learnt from Singapore. Therefore, exchange of trainer and trainee, to learn from each other and improve together, was also considered as the important component to direct the continued efforts.

Target: The project plans to send 4 persons each year for an average length of 14 days per visit for the professional attachments under the host countries' training program over the two-year project period.

4. Regular (annual) Joint AVEG- FETN Meeting for collaboration planning and review

The 1st and the 2nd Joint AVEG-FETN meeting concluded the necessity of having the regular meeting to maintain the collaboration the update the progress of development between these two professional networks. And it will also serve as the important channel to produce official reports to be submitted to higher ASEAN levels. The meeting is expected to be 2 days long and will invite both AVEG focal points and FETN focal points.

Target: The project plan to conduct 2 annual meetings within the two-year project period, and invite 22 participants (key technical staffs/policy makers, 1 from animal health, 1 from public health) for collaboration review and planning. Two persons from FETN Coordinating Office/ ASEAN Plus FETN Foundation will participate to organize the meeting and provide technical/logistic supports.

5. Joint Video Conferences for information and experience sharing

Information and experience sharing was among the prioritized needs when the *Mitigating Biosecurity Threats from Infectious Diseases of Pandemic Potential in Southeast Asia (2014-2016)* project was proposed. With support from GPP, FETN could explore, trail, and then conduct several video conferences during the project terms. And this method of sharing and communication was gradually improved both in aspect of technology and contents, and accepted as an efficient and economy way to share the important findings from the field in a timely fashion. Thus the joint AVEG-FETN meeting agreed to include also AVEG group in the video conference and meet regularly online.

Target: The project plan to conduct at least 4 video conferences over the two-year project period.

VIII. PROJECT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT (A and B should be completed if source of fund is from ASEAN Trust Fund)

(a) Management Arrangements

(Describe briefly the management structure of the clearly identify the responsible implementing agency to receive fund (if applicable), achievement of project results and submission of the completion report)

The project will be managed and implemented by ASEAN+3 Field Epidemiology Training Network (FETN) with financial and logistic service from The ASEAN Plus FETN Foundation.

ASEAN+3 FETN is a working group under ASEAN Health Cluster 2. This network is established, with endorsement of ASEAN+3 Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development, to promote and facilitate collaboration and cooperation among members for the advancement of the epidemiology capacity in our region. It is governed by a Steering Committee comprise focal points from health authorities of AMS and plus three countries. A Coordinating Office is located in Ministry of Public Health Thailand to support the Steering Committee with technical and secretary services.

The ASEAN Plus FETN Foundation, as a mechanism for resource mobilization, was proposed by the FETN Steering Committee and then endorsed by ASEAN Health high level meetings. The foundation was then established under the law of Thailand as a non-profit organization overseen by a member committee composed of senior government officials, university academics, as well as independent public health experts. The foundation provides financial and logistic service to facilitate FETN's activities, and reports to the Steering Committee annually during the FETN Steering Committee Meeting.

(b) Human Resource Inputs

(Specific type and number of personnel who are involved in the project activity)

The project will require service of a full time coordinator.

(c) Engagement with potential partner

(Identify potential partners that would be involve in the implementation of project activities)

The project will be implemented together with ASEAN Veterinarian Epidemiology Group. The project will synergize its efforts with Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) approach.

(d) Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

(Describe the plan for how the monitoring and reporting will be carried out)

The ASEAN +3 FETN will conduct regular self-monitoring/review and report to GPP program as well as ASEAN higher bodies through ASEAN Secretariat.

IX. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY-300 WORDS MAX

(State how the output(s) of the project activities can be aligned or how this complement output of other ASEAN Health Clusters and/or non-health sector)

This project will further strengthen the collaboration on epidemiological capacity building among Public Health authorities, and generate the critical technical knowledge/guidelines which would be beneficial to not only EIDs response but also to other emergency medical services in man-made/ natural hazards (under other Health Clusters). The project will also enhance the collaboration between Public Health and Animal Health under ASEAN (food, agriculture and forestry sector), and materialize the agreements between ASEAN high levels of both sectors. The project's output will be also in line with GHSA approach's Detect 5 package: workforce development, and accelerate the process of the whole region in producing critical mass of Competent Epidemiology Workforce.

X. GENDER AND OTHER CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

(If applicable, please identify gender and other cross cutting (i.e. economic, environment, labour, disaster, human right, etc) issues that the project can address)

All the project activities will be conducted under principles of gender equality, human rights and environment protection.

XI. POTENTIAL RISK

(State the significant potential risks or threats within the proponent's control that would affect the success of the project, such as lack of capable human resources, security and political, etc.)

Risk/threat	Mitigation Strategy
No significant potential risk	

ANNEX 1: Summary AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN Joint Meeting 2017

ANNEX 2: Summary 2nd AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN Joint Meeting 2018