e-Health Bulletin Issue No. 15 | December 2023

## Strengthening Health Architecture in the Region: "2023 Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship Spotlight"



s the ASEAN Chair for 2023, Indonesia has emerged as a key player in fortifying the health architecture of the region, addressing not only existing health challenges but also anticipating and preparing for future threats. The spotlight on health resilience has been a cornerstone of Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship, focusing on issues ranging from emerging diseases to demographic and climate changes.

Throughout the year, Indonesia has tirelessly championed the cause of regional health, fostering improved synergy and collaboration between the health and finance sectors. The country's commitment to the interoperability of regional and global health efforts has set a new precedent for collective action.

One of the landmark achievements during Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship is the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders Declaration (ALD) on One Health Initiative. Unveiled at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Summit in Labuan Bajo on May 10-11, 2023, this declaration underscores the commitment of ASEAN leaders to a unified, comprehensive approach to health that considers human, animal, and environmental factors.

In tandem with the ALD, Indonesia spearheaded the development of the One Health Joint Action Plan and Network. This strategic framework provides a roadmap for collaborative actions, ensuring a cohesive response to health challenges that transcend borders.

A significant highlight was the Joint ASEAN Finance and Health Ministers Meeting, held in a hybrid format from Jakarta on August 24, 2023. This convergence of key decisionmakers from both sectors emphasized the importance of financial considerations in healthcare planning and response strategies, laying the groundwork for a more resilient health infrastructure. Indonesia's commitment to sustainability and resilience took center stage at the High-Level Meeting on Building a Sustainable and Resilient Future in the ASEAN Region, held in a hybrid format from Jakarta on August 25, 2023. This forum allowed leaders to discuss comprehensive strategies for addressing health challenges in the face of demographic shifts and climate changes.

The youth-centric approach was evident in the ASEAN Youth Tobacco Control Digital Campaign Activity, held from August 25-27, 2023, in Jakarta. This initiative reflects Indonesia's dedication to shaping the health behaviors of the next generation and creating a tobacco-free ASEAN community.

Promoting healthier lifestyles extended to the ASEAN Car Free Day, a public event held on August 27, 2023, in Jakarta. By encouraging physical activity and reducing pollution, Indonesia showcased its commitment to creating environments conducive to good health.

The crowning achievement came with the launch of the ASEAN Institute for Disaster Health Management (AIDHM) on October 17, 2023, in Yogyakarta. This institution will play a pivotal role in equipping the region with the tools and knowledge needed to respond effectively to health crises arising from natural disasters.

Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023 has undeniably left an indelible mark on regional health architecture. Through these initiatives, the country has not only responded to current challenges but has also laid the foundation for a more resilient and collaborative future in health for the ASEAN community. The achievements of the past year set the stage for continued progress and strengthened cooperation in the years to come.

Documentation of the above mentioned initiatives of Indonesia are published in this bulletin special's issue.

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## ASEAN'S BOLD MOVE: UNVEILING THE ONE HEALTH INITIATIVE AT THE 42<sup>ND</sup> SUMMIT IN LABUAN BAJO

n a groundbreaking development, the ASEAN Leaders at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Summit held in Labuan Bajo on 10-11 May 2023, made a historic declaration towards a united front against potential health crises. The ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative, a pivotal move championed by Indonesia, underscores the region's commitment to a holistic approach in addressing health challenges.

## 2023 Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship Unveiled: A Pillar of ASEAN's Socio-Cultural Priority on One Health Initiative in the ASEAN Health Cooperation.

At the heart of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Pillar, Indonesia's One Health Initiative stands as a testament to the nation's dedication to strengthening regional health architecture. Under the overarching theme of Indonesia's Chairmanship, "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth," the initiative aims to identify zoonotic pathogens that could threaten human, animal, plant, and environmental health.

The Declaration outlines two primary objectives. Firstly, it seeks to pinpoint zoonotic pathogens, acting as a reference for research, development, and investment in prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR). Secondly, it emphasizes the need to build the ASEAN One Health network, fostering multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration.

## Sharing Experiences and Learning: The Pillars of Success

Crucially, the Declaration highlights the significance of sharing experiences, learning, and progress among ASEAN Member States. Community engagement is seen as a linchpin in the successful implementation of the One Health Initiative, requiring not only governmental but also non-governmental and international support.

The sustainability of the One Health approach hinges on robust resources and support from governments, nongovernmental entities, and international development partners. The Declaration underscores the need to explore bilateral and multilateral initiatives, engaging closely with international organizations to ensure financial support and successful implementation at regional and national levels.

## ASEAN Ministers' Mandate: Coordinated Implementation and Future Preparedness

The Declaration provides a mandate for ASEAN Ministers of Health to collaborate with counterparts responsible for animal health, agriculture, forestry, environment, and food. This coordinated effort aims to ensure effective implementation, especially in light of lessons learned from the recent COVID-19 pandemic and the potential impacts of emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and climate change.

As the cornerstone for Indonesia's leadership, the Declaration integrates human, animal, plant, and environmental health. This comprehensive approach positions ASEAN to detect, prevent, and respond to future pandemics, ensuring a resilient health architecture for the entire region. Through the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative, the stage is set for a collaborative and proactive response to the health challenges of tomorrow.

## **ASEAN LEADERS' DECLARATION ON ONE HEALTH INITIATIVE**

**WE**, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia, on 10 – 11 May 2023;

**NOTING** the devastating and multidimensional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as other emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases including zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), growing impact and other challenges related to climate change on human lives and livelihoods, and the need to strengthen health systems to be resilient and responsive, as envisioned in ASEAN Blueprint;

**NOTING** the work of the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) and One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026) to enhance our ability to optimise the health of humans, animals, plants, and ecosystem as well as the capacity to prevent, predict, detect, and respond to health threats;

**RECOGNISING** the increased risk and vulnerabilities of each Member State towards the threats to human, animal, plants, and environment with epidemic and pandemic potential including zoonoses, food hazards, antimicrobial resistance, exacerbated by climate change has shown the importance of a multi-sectoral and collaborative One Health approach;

**RECOGNISING** existing initiatives and mechanisms of One Health collaboration in ASEAN between countries and between governmental and non-governmental entities in the region;

**EMPHASISING** the importance of building upon successful experiences, best practices, and the progress made thus far in One Health initiatives and projects in ASEAN, including involvement of stakeholders and community awareness;

**RECOGNISING** that a sustained One Health approach requires sufficient resources and support from governmental, non-governmental entities, and international and development partners.

Do hereby promote One Health Initiative in the region by declaring our commitments to:

- 1. ESTABLISH ASEAN One Health Network supported by ASEAN secretariat, to develop and strengthen multisectoral collaboration and coordination of One Health Initiative among ASEAN Member States, including establishing linkage to existing and/or potential national mechanism of ASEAN Member States;
- **2. DEFINE** priority health threats to human, animals, plant and environment including zoonotic pathogens that caused outbreaks and those with pandemic potential, to guide investment, research, and development for prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) activities;
- **3. PURSUE** comprehensive analysis of One Health implementation in ASEAN Member States and globally to assess national and regional capacity for strengthening the implementation of One Health;
- 4. DEVELOP ASEAN One Health Joint Plan of Action to improve regional and national capacity and capabilities with targets that are tangible, measurable, and time-bound, that calls for a stronger cross-sectoral collaboration between the relevant sectors involved in human, animal, plant, and environmental health, as well as food safety among the ASEAN Member States, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation;
- **5. FURTHER EXPLORE** bilateral and multilateral initiatives, as well as cooperate and engage with international and development partners which will contribute to the national and regional implementation of One Health approach, including the efforts to ensure sustainable or innovative financing options;
- 6. ENCOURAGE ASEAN Member States to consolidate all One Health initiatives and mainstream the approach and implementation into relevant sectoral bodies, including but not limited to public health, animal, wildlife, plant, environment and food with advancement of national and regional capacities to prevent, detect and respond to future threats and to sustainably balance and optimise the health of human-animal-plant-environment interface;
- 7. TASK the ASEAN Health Ministers to cooperate with ASEAN Ministers responsible for animal, agriculture, forestry, environment, and food, with support from the Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development, in collaboration with subsidiary bodies, and other relevant stakeholders, to commence consultation, coordinate, and monitor the efforts to accomplish the deliverables of this Declaration.

Adopted on this Tenth Day of May in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three in a single original copy in the English language.

## HARMONIZING HEALTH: ASEAN ONE HEALTH NETWORK TAKES CENTER STAGE WITH JOINT ACTION PLAN

n a significant stride towards regional health synergy, the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the ASEAN One Health Network and the ASEAN One Health Joint Plan of Action were unveiled during a consultative meeting conducted in a hybrid format from Bali on 25-28 July 2023. These pivotal documents, born out of collaborative efforts, were subsequently noted by leaders at the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit on 5 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The TOR of the ASEAN One Health Network emerged as a cornerstone in the operationalization of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative. This strategic document outlines the framework and principles for the network, emphasizing collaborative endeavors across human, animal, plant, and environmental health. The consultative meeting in Bali marked a crucial step in shaping a unified approach to health governance within the ASEAN region.

The consultative meeting also saw the unveiling of the ASEAN One Health Joint Plan of Action, designed to align all ASEAN Member States with a common target and programmatic approach. This joint effort ensures a cohesive vision for One Health, bringing together nations in pursuit of shared goals. The Joint Action Plan is not merely a roadmap; it's a commitment to collective action, reinforcing the ASEAN vision in One Health and safeguarding the region against future health challenges.

The culmination of efforts was marked at the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit in Jakarta on 5 September 2023, where leaders formally acknoweldged the TOR of the ASEAN One

Health Network and the ASEAN One Health Joint Plan of Action. This recognition underscores the importance of a unified, regional approach to health governance and the commitment of ASEAN nations to operationalize the One Health Initiative adopted at the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo in May 2023.

At its core, the Joint Action Plan serves as the linchpin for ensuring that all ASEAN Member States share a common target and programmatic trajectory. Aligned with the overarching ASEAN vision in One Health, this comprehensive plan is poised to guide nations collectively toward a healthier, more resilient future. It's a strategic roadmap that echoes the commitment of ASEAN to harmonize health initiatives and fortify the region against emerging threats.

The establishment of the ASEAN One Health Network takes center stage as a pivotal mechanism for operationalizing the Joint Action Plan and other One Health initiatives. This network is designed to facilitate seamless collaboration, information sharing, and coordinated efforts across borders, ensuring a swift and effective response to health challenges.

As the ASEAN One Health Network and Joint Action Plan take their place on the regional stage, they signify a new era of collaboration, unity, and resilience in the face of health uncertainties. The consultative meeting and subsequent leaders' recognition underscore the commitment of ASEAN nations to forge a collective path towards a healthier and more secure ASEAN community.

## **ASEAN ONE HEALTH JOINT PLAN OF ACTION (2023-2030)**

## Background

The ASEAN One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) is established pursuant to the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative issued at the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit, May 2023 in Indonesia and developed by taking into account the OH JPA of the Quadripartite – the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) - (henceforth referred to as the Quadripartite OH JPA) and the Theory of Change<sup>1</sup>. The Quadripartite OH JPA is organised into 6 Action Tracks, namely:

- 1. Enhancing One Health (OH) capacities to strengthen health systems;
- 2. Reducing the risks from emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics;
- 3. Controlling and eliminating endemic zoonotic, neglected tropical and vector-borne diseases;
- 4. Strengthening the assessment, management, and communication of food safety risks;
- 5. Curbing the silent pandemic of AMR; and
- 6. Integrating the Environment into OH.

The development of the ASEAN OH JPA takes into account the 5 stages articulated in the Implementation Guide to operationalise the Quadripartite OH JPA which outlines 5 stages, which currently being developed, namely:

- 1. Situation analysis
- 2. Multisectoral coordination mechanism
- 3. Implementation planning
- 4. Implementation
- 5. Review, sharing and incorporation of lessons learned

<sup>1</sup> Quadripartite OH JPA

As part of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative, a comprehensive analysis of OH implementation is being conducted, for finalisation by September 2023 (stage 1) and a coordination mechanism is being developed, through the formation of an ASEAN One Health Network (AOHN) (stage 2):

"PURSUE comprehensive analysis of One Health implementation in ASEAN Member States and globally to assess national and regional capacity for strengthening the implementation of One Health"

"ESTABLISH ASEAN One Health Network supported by ASEAN secretariat, to develop and strengthen multisectoral collaboration and coordination of One Health Initiative among ASEAN Member States, including establishing linkage to existing and/or potential national mechanism of ASEAN Member States"

This ASEAN OH JPA outlines stage 3 – implementation planning – and will require updating upon the completion and operationalisation of stages 1 and 2. This document is intended to be a starting point for iterative development of the ASEAN OH JPA with the governance, monitoring and evaluation of the plan intended to be conducted through the AOHN.

The establishment of the AOHN is a commitment stated in the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative. As such, establishing and operationalising the AOHN will be the first priority in implementing the ASEAN OH JPA. The Terms of Reference for the AOHN and the ASEAN OH JPA will be notated at the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Leaders' Summit in September 2023.

Equity is also central to successfully implementing a OH approach. The ASEAN Charter Article 1.13 states the goal of promoting equity in all sectors of society.

Equity in OH requires moving towards a sustainable socioecological equilibrium where the trade-offs, risks and cobenefits between human, animal (domestic and wildlife), plant and environmental health as well as food safety and antimicrobial resistance are continually assessed and considered in decision making.

Each of the strategic objectives and activities has been considered in light of the following AOHN principles:

- Respect for the sovereignty and national context of all ASEAN Member States in relation to the implementation of National OH JPA or other related mechanisms while appreciating the interdependence on regional OH strengthening;
- 2. Thinking with a OH mindset to build an inclusive multisectoral approach across regional sectoral priority areas;
- Strengthening linkages and enabling the establishment of trusted relationships between and among ASEAN sectoral bodies and working groups, ASEAN centres and entities associated with ASEAN, partners and other relevant stakeholders for the purposes of creating regional synergies and harmonisation while ensuring integration and interoperability with global mechanisms;
- 4. Leveraging existing ASEAN mechanisms and organisations and recognising their regional strategic role in OH; and
- 5. Commitment to maintaining flexibility within the AOHN to adapt to changing priorities.

## Pathways of Change

The ASEAN OH JPA has taken into consideration all the action tracks in the Quadripartite OH JPA while accounting for the existing ASEAN initiatives (agreements, frameworks, strategies, policies, plans, and others) as well as the ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, centres, working groups, and entities associated with ASEAN. The pathways of change outlined in the Quadripartite OH JPA provide a structure to ensure an OH approach is adopted at the national level. Some aspects of the pathways (such as legislation) may not be directly applicable to the regional or ASEAN context. As a result, the pathways have been adapted (as per below) to ensure applicability to the ASEAN context.

F	Pathway 1	Pat	hway 2	Pathway 3		
Quadripartite OH JPA	ASEAN OH JPA	Quadripartite OH JPA	ASEAN OH JPA	Quadripartite OH JPA	ASEAN OH JPA	
Governance	Networking of ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, centres, working groups and entities associated with ASEAN	Organisational development	ASEAN Workforce Development	Data and evidence	Data and evidence	
Policy and legislation	ASEAN agreements, frameworks, strategies, policies and initiatives	Implementation	ASEAN Regional Implementation	Knowledge exchange	Knowledge exchange	
Financing	Financing	Sectoral integration	ASEAN Sectoral Integration			
Advocacy	ASEAN Advocacy and communication					

## Vision

The optimised and sustainably balanced health of humans, animals (domestic and wildlife), plants and environment for ASEAN Member States (AMS)<sup>2</sup>.

#### Mission

To improve regional and national capacity and capabilities with targets that are tangible, measurable, and timebound, that calls for a stronger cross-sectoral collaboration between the relevant sectors involved in human, animal (domestic and wildlife), plant, and environmental health, as well as food safety and antimicrobial resistance among the ASEAN Member States, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

#### Objectives

- Guide the AOHN in facilitating and streamlining the implementation and resource mobilisation for identified OH priorities;
- Serve as reference for the AMS in developing and operationalising their respective national OH JPAs or equivalent in line with the ASEAN OH JPA; and
- Strengthen the health of humans, animals (domestic and wildlife), plants, and environment, as well as food safety, and antimicrobial resistance, through cross-sectoral collaboration between the relevant sectors, including bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

## Approach

The ASEAN OH JPA will take into account the following in its implementation:

- 1. The Pathway of Change that encompasses all aspects and sectors of OH and the 6 Action Tracks;
- 2. Consultative approach with both existing governance structures of the ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, centres, working groups, and entities associated with ASEAN and those being developed, and in cooperation with development and dialogue partners;
- 3. Consideration on the ongoing discussions of OH, with an agile approach to remain responsive to the evolving priorities and opportunities in OH.

ASEAN OH JPA will be implemented in three (3) phases with the targeted timelines as follows:

1). Short term – 2023 until 2024

- 2). Medium term 2025 2026
- 3). Long term 2027 2030

The ASEAN OH JPA is a living document and will be iteratively updated reflecting the priorities of ASEAN Member States through the AOHN.

Short Term
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Responsible Bodies/lead countries	Immediate Past, Current, and Upcoming ASEAN Chairmanship	AMS and Current ASEAN Chairmanship	AOHN	AOHN	AOHN		AOHN	AOHN		AMS and AOHN
Long Term										
Mid Term								>	~	
Short Term	>	>	>	>	>		>	>	>	>
Deliverables	<ol> <li>ToR of ASEAN One Health Network</li> <li>Operationalisation of ASEAN One Health Network</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Report on Country-level One Health Stakeholder Mappings and Analysis</li> <li>Stock taking analysis of ASEAN Regional-level One Health Initiatives</li> </ol>	Monitoring and evaluation plan for OH JPA	Final mid-term OH JPA	Participate and advocate for One Health implementation in two relevant ASEAN pillars		ToR of ASEAN OH Network Secretariat	Communication needs and gap analysis	ASEAN One Health Advocacy and Communication plan	Operational Tools are identified and disseminated
Activity	Establish and operationalise the ASEAN One Health Network, ensuring multi- sectoral representation across ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, centres, working groups and entities associated with ASEAN, partner organisations, and ASEAN networks	Comprehensive analysis of One Health implementation in ASEAN Member States and the region	Develop a monitoring and evaluation plan for the OH JPA	Review the proposal of mid-term workplan	Advocate for a One Health approach in future iterations of existing ASEAN documents (agreements, frameworks, strategies, policies, plans and initiatives)		Develop and operationalize a TOR for the ASEAN One Health Network Secretariat	Identify needs and gaps in One Health advocacy and communication	Development of ASEAN One Health Advocacy and Communication plan	Identify, disseminate and share knowledge on available Operational Tools to support surveillance implementation and other relevant activities
Strategic Objective	To promote a network for One Health coordination, communication and collaboration (and sharing of information) between ASEAN Member States and relevant ASEAN Member States and relevant ASEAN at regional level associated with ASEAN at regional level				To incorporate a One Health approach in subsequent iterations of existing strategies and frameworks		To appropriately fund the One Health commitments made by ASEAN through the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative	To enhance the effectiveness of advocacy and communication in relation	to One Health in ASEAN	To review surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation of programmes, ensuring data and evidence sharing encompassing human, animal, environmental health and food safety, including residues of antimicrobials in food, feed and the environment and resistant strains of pathogens
	Networking of ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, centres, working groups and entities associated with ASEAN	ASEAN Regional Implementation			ASEAN agreements, framework, strategies, policies and initiatives	ASEAN Sectoral Integration	Financing	ASEAN Advocacy and	Communication	Data and Evidence

Indonesia	AOHN			
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Regional Consultative meeting is conducted	Educational events conducted			
Undertake a regional consultative meeting to start defining priority health threats including zoonotic pathogens with outbreak or pandemic potential	Conduct cross-sectoral educational events to facilitate knowledge exchange on One Health	irm <sup>3</sup>	8	
To "DEFINE priority health threats to human, animals, plant and environment including zoonotic pathogens that caused outbreaks and those with pandemic potential, to guide investment, research, and development for prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) activities."	To promote knowledge exchange / support across sectors and across ASEAN Member States	Annexure 2. Implementation Plan – Medium Term <sup>3</sup>	Annexure 3. Implementation Plan – Long Term <sup>3</sup> Abbreviations and Acronyms	Antimicrobial Resistance ASEAN Member States ASEAN One Health Network Association of South-East Asian Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation Joint Plan of Action Joint Plan of Action One Health One Health Prevention, preparedness and response United Nations Environment Program World Health Organisation World Organisation for Animal Health
Pathway 3	Knowledge Exchange	nexure 2. Impl	Annexure 3. Implementation I Abbreviations and Acronyms	AMR Antimicrobi AMS ASEAN Me AOHN ASEAN On ASEAN On ASEAN On ASSociation FAO Association FAO Joint Plan o OH One Health PPR United Nati WHO World Healt WOAH World Orga

<sup>3</sup> The medium term (i.e. 2025-2026) and long term (i.e. 2027-2030) implementation plans will be inserted in these particular sections once the follow-up consultative meetings have been conducted/concluded and will be arranged in accordance with the 6 Action Tracks of the Quadripartite OH JPA.



#### BACKGROUND

On 10 May 2023, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) during the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit in Indonesia adopted the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative. The Declaration was announced against the backdrop of the region's recovery responses to the COVID-19 pandemic which spurred and further advanced regional cooperation and coordination in preparing and dealing with health emergencies, especially those with pandemic potential. There had been a recent increase in cases of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, including zoonotic diseases, the growing impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), challenges related to environmental degradation, climate change and food safety threats requiring countries to strengthen multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary efforts. ASEAN recognised the One Health approach provides a framework to address these challenges in a unified and integrated manner by breaking the silos between sectors and emphasising interdisciplinary collaboration.

The ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative committed ASEAN to the establishment of a One Health Network supported by the ASEAN Secretariat, to develop and strengthen multisectoral collaboration and coordination of One Health initiatives among ASEAN Member States, including establishing linkages to existing and/or potential national mechanisms of ASEAN Member States.

The Quadripartite Organisations<sup>1</sup> has developed the One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026) (OH-JPA) which outlines the commitment of the four organisations to support the implementation of One Health.

As an independent advisory group to the Quadripartite, OHHLEP<sup>2</sup> has issued a comprehensive definition of One Health<sup>3</sup>, which the Quadripartite embraces in its OH JPA<sup>4</sup>. Currently, ASEAN has several One Health leaning crosssectoral coordination mechanisms and centres, including but not limited to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ), the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC), and the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) which houses the ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination System (APHECS). However, a holistic regional mechanism to coordinate One Health across ASEAN has not been developed. Among the commitments explained in the ASEAN Declaration on One Health Initiative is the establishment of the ASEAN One Health Network (AOHN) which is envisaged as a multisectoral collaboration under the framework of One Health.

The AOHN is an expression of a commitment to a Whole-of-Society approach to inclusive and responsive One Health governance. This document outlines the terms of reference to establish the AOHN.

## OBJECTIVE

The objective of the AOHN is to develop and strengthen multisectoral collaboration and coordination of One Health initiatives among ASEAN Member States, including establishing linkages to existing and/or potential national mechanisms of ASEAN Member States.

Recognising that a One Health (OH) approach requires the mobilisation and coordination of multiple sectors, disciplines and communities, the AOHN will develop and strengthen collaboration, communication, capacity building

<sup>1</sup> The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organisation (WHO), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) – are driving the actions required to mitigate the impact of current and future health challenges at the human–animal– plant–environment interface at global, regional, and country levels.

<sup>2</sup> The One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) was established in May 2021 to advance the global One Health agenda. OHHLEP advises the Quadripartite by providing technical guidance, assessing health risks arising from the human–animal–plant–environmental interface, and identifying scientific evidence and action gaps to guide collective actions and effective collaboration to prevent future pandemics. OHHLEP advises the Quadripartite by providing technical guidance, assessing health risks arising from the human–animal–plant–environmental interface, and identifying scientific evidence and action gaps to guide collective actions and effective collaboration to prevent future pandemics.

<sup>3</sup> One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems. It recognises the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent. The approach mobilises multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle

threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development.

<sup>4</sup> Under the One Health framework, Quadripartite Regional One Health coordination mechanisms have been established consolidating cooperation between the Quadripartite Regional offices of FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOAH to address the wide range of activities within the human–animal– plant–environmental interface. The Quadripartite Regional mechanism has coverage over the UN's geographic regions – in the case of the Quadripartite this is the Asia-Pacific - wherein Southeast Asia is categorised as a sub-region, and the ASEAN region a political-institutional boundary within the sub-region.

and coordination of OH initiatives among ASEAN sectoral bodies and working groups, ASEAN centres and entities associated with ASEAN, partners and other relevant stakeholders, through the following:

- i) Provide a dynamic approach to collaboration between sectors and at all levels to create synergy, focus collective outcomes and achieve equitable integration.
- ii) Foster advocacy and effective communication to improve transparency, trust-building, information sharing and risk management.
- iii) Support growth and capacity building of new and existing technical skills for improving evidence-informed decision-making to expand the One Health workforce.
- iv) Encourage shared responsibility and enable coordination mechanisms that foster partnerships, and strengthen regional consultation, cooperation, and inclusivity.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The AOHN will be guided by the following principles:

- Respect for the sovereignty and national context of all ASEAN Member States in relation to the implementation of National OH-JPA or other related mechanisms while appreciating the interdependence on regional OH strengthening;
- 2. Thinking with a OH mindset to build an inclusive multisectoral approach across regional sectoral priority areas;
- Strengthening linkages and enabling the establishment of trusted relationships between and among ASEAN sectoral bodies and working groups, ASEAN centres and entities associated with ASEAN, partners and other relevant stakeholders for the purposes of creating regional synergies and harmonisation while ensuring integration and interoperability with global mechanisms;
- 4. Leveraging existing ASEAN mechanisms and organisations and recognising their regional strategic role in OH; and
- 5. Commitment to maintaining flexibility within the AOHN to adapt to changing priorities.

## **ROLES AND FUNCTIONS**

- 1. Identify, adapt and respond to emerging opportunities and priorities to advance the regional One Health development through formulation, ownership, constant review and updating of the ASEAN One Health Joint Plan of Action
- 2. Facilitate and provide a platform for wider OH community in ASEAN to share and exchange OH knowledge and information, best practices, innovation, through OH dialogue sessions, ASEAN coordination or working groups, AOHN website and Partner Platform engagement opportunities in order to raise regional issues and to discuss solutions to the AOHN.
- 3. Promote and advocate for the strengthening of existing ASEAN coordination structures that can advance and support the regional OH technical development and commitment in ASEAN.
- 4. Advocate for the inclusion of OH perspectives in all relevant mechanisms and policies within ASEAN.
- 5. Promote joint research and innovation to support OH implementation at regional and national levels;
- 6. Monitor, collate and review the regional, cross-border and multi-country OH contributions across ASEAN to respond to the ASEAN OH JPA.
- 7. Provide guidance and direction on the mobilisation of resources to support the implementation of identified OH priorities.

## GOVERNANCE

An indicative membership list and diagrammatic representation of the AOHN composition are provided in Annexure 1 and Annexure 2.

- 1. Coordinating Committee
  - i) The Coordinating Committee will coordinate all AOHN activities, priorities and set agenda as discussed with and agreed upon by AMS (as outlined in the ASEAN OH JPA)
  - ii) The Coordinating Committee is comprised of AMS that are immediate past, current and upcoming ASEAN Chairmanship ("henceforth will be referred to as Coordinating Country").
  - iii) Each Coordinating Country will appoint Senior Official Meeting (SOM) level from each of the three indicated One Health sectors -- human, agriculture (including animal and plant health), and environment to be members of the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Country will ensure that food safety, antimicrobial resistance and wildlife concerns and priorities will be addressed by relevant above-mentioned designated sectors.
  - iv) Each Coordinating Country will nominate one Co-Chair from the appointed Coordinating Committee.-The three Co-Chairs will be responsible for setting the agenda for dialogue and meeting proceedings.
  - v) The lead Co-Chair will be the country which holds the current ASEAN Chairmanship with the task of convening and leading dialogue and meeting proceedings in coordination with the AOHN Secretariat and relevant divisions of the ASEAN Secretariat.

vi) Of the three Co-Chairs, representation from each of the designated sectors is encouraged. Designation of a Co-Chair remains the decision of the Coordinating Country.

#### 2. AMS and Partner Platform

AMS and Partner Platform will work together with the coordinating committee, to provide input and implement AOHN activities.

#### i) ASEAN Member States

- (1) The remaining AMS will be represented in the AMS and Partner Platform.
- (2) The remaining AMS are expected to contribute through the participation of a Senior Official Meeting (SOM) level, or their designate(s), from each of the three indicated One Health sectors (human, agriculture, environment).

#### ii) ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Centres

ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and working groups, ASEAN Centres and relevant entities associated with ASEAN are expected to provide input to the work of the AOHN.

#### iii)Partners

- (1) The AOHN partners will include multiple partners from various sectors including UN agencies, international organisations, academia, private sector representatives and civil society.
- (2) AOHN partners will be determined by AOHN Coordinating Committee.

#### 3. AOHN Secretariat

- i) The AOHN Secretariat will be established and located within the Socio-Cultural Community Department of the ASEAN Secretariat, reporting to relevant Deputy Secretary Generals and onward to the Secretary General, in coordination with relevant Divisions within the ASEAN Secretariat. This will ensure engagement across all relevant ASEAN Secretariat sectoral divisions.
- ii) The AOHN Secretariat will facilitate and provide day to day operations and coordination across the AOHN Coordinating Committee, AMS, ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and working groups, ASEAN Centres, entities associated with ASEAN, partners and other relevant stakeholders.
- iii) AOHN Secretariat will work closely and coordinate with relevant divisions of the ASEAN Secretariat, particularly in the decision-making processes involving relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies.

## FUNDING FOR THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AOHN

The funding for the operationalization of the ASEAN One Health Network Secretariat will be specified in the TOR for the ASEAN One Health Network Secretariat. Supplementary concept notes or terms of reference may be prepared to include funding for other AOHN-related activities.

## **VII. AMENDMENTS**

The TOR may be amended, subject to the consensus of the Coordinating Committee and approval of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD), Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF), and ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN).

## ANNEXURE 1 – INDICATIVE MEMBERSHIP LIST (DRAFT/NON-EXHAUSTIVE)

Anticipated Members are listed below but this list is not exhaustive.

AS	EAN One Health Network
Co	ordinating Committee
1	Lead Co-Chair, Coordinating Country 2 (Current Chair)
2	Sector Member, Coordinating Country 2 (Current Chair)
3	Sector Member, Coordinating Country 2 (Current Chair)
4	Co-Chair, Coordinating Country 1 (Immediate Past Chair)
5	Sector Member, Coordinating Country 1 (Immediate Past Chair)
6	Sector Member, Coordinating Country 1 (Immediate Past Chair)
7	Co-Chair, Coordinating Country 3 (Upcoming Chair)
8	Sector Member, Coordinating Country 3 (Upcoming Chair)
9	Sector Member, Coordinating Country 3 (Upcoming Chair)
AS	EAN Member States, Non-Coordinating Committee
1	Sector Member (3), Non-Coordinating Country 1
2	Sector Member (3), Non-Coordinating Country 2

- 3 Sector Member (3), Non-Coordinating Country 3
- 4 Sector Member (3), Non-Coordinating Country 4
- 5 Sector Member (3), Non-Coordinating Country 5
- 6 Sector Member (3), Non-Coordinating Country 6
- 7 Sector Member (3), Non-Coordinating Country 7

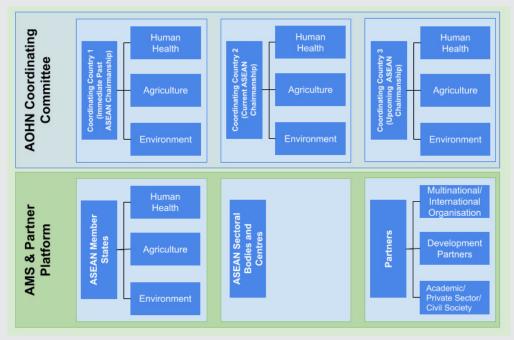
#### **ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Centres**

- 1 Senior Officials Meeting on Health and Development (SOMHD)
- 2 Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF)
- 3 ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN)
- 4 ASEAN Health Cluster 2 on Responding to All Hazards and Emerging Threats
- 5 ASEAN Health Cluster 4 on Ensuring Food Safety
- 6 ASEAN Working Group on Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG-CITES/WE)
- 7 ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL)
- 8 ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWG-NCB)
- 9 ASEAN Contact Points for Antimicrobial Resistance
- **10** ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED)
- 11 ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Animal Health and Zoonosis (ACCAHZ)
- **12** ASEAN Hydroinformatics Data Centre (AHC)
- 13 ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
- 14 ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC)
- 15 ASEAN Business Advisory Council
- 16 Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security Meeting (SCCC-FS)

#### Partners

- 1 World Health Organisation (WHO)
- 2 Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- 3 World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)
- 4 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- 5 ASEAN Dialogue, Sectoral and Development Partners
- 6 Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN)
- 7 ASEAN Private Sector Partners
- 8 ASEAN Non-governmental organisations

## **ANNEXURE 2 – AOHN COMPOSITION**



All activities of AOHN will include human, animal, plant, wildlife, environment, as well as food safety and antimicrobial resistance.

## BRIDGING GAPS, BUILDING RESILIENCE: ASEAN FINANCE AND HEALTH MINISTERS UNITE FOR A HEALTHIER TOMORROW



n a groundbreaking collaboration that transcended traditional boundaries, the ASEAN Finance and Health Ministers convened in a hybrid format from Jakarta on 24 August 2023. The meeting, a pivotal moment in regional cooperation, was organized to provide strong coordination and concerted efforts from the Finance and Health Ministries of the ASEAN Member States to propel an inclusive and resilient recovery from the pandemic, scale up regional health capacity for public health emergencies and other health threats, as well as promote the exchange of experiences and best practices, and effective coordination arrangements between the two sectors of the economies.

The meeting kicked off with a comprehensive presentation on the study conducted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Financing Gaps for Pandemic Response in ASEAN and explored innovative modalities to address these gaps. Leveraging data from the World Health Organization and the G20, the study gauged the disparities between the pandemic preparedness and response (PPR) needs and the estimated spending across ASEAN countries for the years 2019 and 2021.

Results from the study highlighted the varying degrees of the PPR financing gap across ASEAN nations. Government budget allocations, public-private partnerships, and external financing emerged as pivotal pillars for funding public health initiatives. Notably, the meeting explored the possibility of expanding the COVID-19 fund to address broader public health emergencies, showcasing a forward-looking approach to regional health challenges.

Interventions from both finance and health sectors underscored the pressing need to strengthen preparedness

against public health emergencies. The meeting emphasized the importance of aligning efforts with ongoing regional health programs, enhancing responsiveness, and establishing a symbiotic link with global health structures for seamless interoperability.

Priority was accorded to allocating resources strategically, strengthening domestic capacity to respond to health emergencies, and exploring governance and funding modalities for a potential regional funding facility. The ministers aimed to establish an effective and efficient mechanism for pandemic prevention and preparedness while ensuring swift responses during health emergencies. The meeting also pushed for expediting the establishment agreement of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) and strengthening its operations with external support.

An update on the COVID-19 and Other Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases ASEAN Response Fund revealed the current available funds, utilization, and the necessary concurrence with Contribution Agreements. The ministers extended appreciation to development partners for their contributions to the fund and emphasized the importance of enhanced fund disbursement and utilization to bolster regional and domestic capacities in tackling health threats.

As the ASEAN Finance and Health Ministers chart a course toward a healthier and more resilient future, the meeting serves as a testament to regional solidarity in the face of health challenges, paving the way for innovative solutions and collaborative strategies to build a robust public health infrastructure across the ASEAN region.

## CHARTING THE COURSE: ASEAN'S HIGH-LEVEL MEETING PAVES THE WAY FOR A RESILIENT POST-COVID FUTURE



n a momentous gathering that transcended geographical boundaries, the High-Level Meeting on Building a Sustainable and Resilient Future in the ASEAN Region unfolded through a hybrid format from Jakarta on 25 August 2023. Led by Indonesia and hosted by the Minister of Health, H.E. Budi Gunadi Sadikin, the event marked a significant step towards transitioning from emergency response to long-term COVID-19 disease management.

The meeting drew the participation of esteemed ASEAN Health Ministers, including H.E. Dr. Bounfeng Phoummalaysith from Lao PDR and H.E. Thet Khaing Win from Myanmar. Attendees at the venue included representatives from ASEAN Missions, with Timor Leste observing, and the ASEAN Secretariat. Virtually present were H.E. Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohammad Isham, Minister of Health, Brunei Darusalam, Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) focal points from Philippines, and Singapore. The international community's commitment was evident with representatives from the World Health Organization, Asian Development Bank, GAVI the Vaccine Alliance, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), and more.

## Sessions Unveil Insights: From Emergency Response to Long-Term Management

The meeting unfolded in two sessions, with Session 1 graced by H.E. Budi Gunadi Sadikin, H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, and H.E. Dr. Bounfeng Phoummalaysith. Session 2, focused on COVID-19 Effects, Strategy for Recovery, and Lessons Learned, featured panelists Dr. Ayoade Alakija, Dr. Pradeep Khasnobis, and Dr. Suman Rijal. Discussions encompassed the responses of ASEAN Member States, emphasizing lessons learned and strategies to enhance prevention, preparedness, and response.

Session 3 explored Potential Support for ASEAN Region, featuring experts such as Dr. Eduardo Banzon, Ms. Marie Ange, Dr. Ankur Muteja, Mr. Willo Brock, and Ms. Shuhaela Haquim. Presentations highlighted sustainable financing, vaccination strategies, building key networks, harmonizing regulatory policies, and preparing for future pandemics. Development partners reinforced their commitment to ASEAN Health Sector priorities, including the ASEAN Center for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), Mitigation of Biological Threats (MBT), ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance (AVSSR), and the One Health Initiative (OHI).

The meeting concluded with a commitment to action. Indonesia, at the forefront, will develop a Call for Action, a pivotal document that will shape discussions at the upcoming ASEAN Summit and ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting. This forward-looking initiative signals a collective determination to forge a sustainable and resilient future, ensuring that the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic lay the groundwork for a healthier, more secure ASEAN community. The meeting stands as a testament to the region's unwavering spirit of collaboration and shared responsibility in overcoming global health challenges.

## EMPOWERING ASEAN YOUTH: 'I WANT TO BREATHE FREE' IGNITES A DIGITAL REVOLUTION AGAINST TOBACCO

n a dynamic convergence of youth empowerment and health advocacy, the ASEAN Youth Workshop on Tobacco Control Social Media Campaign, held from 25-27 August 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia, marked a pivotal moment in the fight against tobacco use among the younger generation.

Organized by the Ministry of Health – Indonesia, the workshop drew enthusiastic participation from youth and health representatives across ASEAN Member States, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, with Timor Leste observing. This collaborative effort between ASEAN Health and Youth Sectors, spearheaded by the Ministry of Indonesia, aimed to implement the "Digital Media Campaign on Tobacco Control and Smoking-Related Issues among Youth in ASEAN Member States."

The workshop seamlessly aligned with the ASEAN Health Cluster 1 Work Programme 2021-2025, focusing on the promotion of a healthy lifestyle, specifically contributing to Healthy Priority 2: The Reduction of Consumption



of Tobacco and Harmful Use of Alcohol. Additionally, it resonated with the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025, emphasizing health and well-being as a priority area.

The workshop covered a spectrum of enlightening sessions, including updates on evidence-based data highlighting the negative impacts of tobacco use. Participants delved into global and regional cooperation related to tobacco control, communication strategies, and innovative content creation for engaging youth in digital campaigns on social media. Facilitators from the Ministry of Health Indonesia, WHO Indonesia, Meta Singapore, YouTube Health Indonesia, and the ASEAN Secretariat enriched the discussions.

A cornerstone of the workshop was the exploration of MPOWER measures—Monitor, Protect, Offer help, Warn, Enforce bans, and Raise taxes—an intricate strategy to reduce tobacco use globally. Participants gained insights into managing digital campaigns and communities, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of effective tobacco control.

The workshop wasn't confined to discussions alone. Participants actively engaged in the 2023 ASEAN Car Free Day event, launching the ASEAN Digital Social Media Campaign on Tobacco Control by Youth. The experience included an observation visit to a smoke-free community in Bogor City, providing tangible exposure to the impact of tobacco control efforts.

## 'I Want to Breathe Free': A Regional Slogan is Born

As a resounding symbol of unity, the participants unanimously agreed on the regional hashtag 'I Want to Breathe Free' for the digital campaign. This powerful slogan encapsulates the collective aspiration of the ASEAN youth to break free from the chains of tobacco.

As the workshop concluded, participants presented plans for digital campaigns in their respective countries. The agreement on finalizing and implementing these campaigns, coupled with the commitment to virtual sessions for experience sharing, ensures a sustained collaborative effort. The Ministry of Health Indonesia is set to produce a comprehensive workshop report and recommendations, marking the beginning of a new chapter in ASEAN's digital health advocacy. The MOH Indonesia's submission of a concept note for further activities signals a commitment to a lasting impact beyond the workshop, heralding a brighter, tobacco-free future for ASEAN youth.

## STRIDE TOWARDS HEALTH: ASEAN CAR FREE DAY 2023 TAKES JAKARTA BY STORM

n a vibrant display of regional unity and commitment to a healthier lifestyle, Jakarta, Indonesia, played host to the much-anticipated ASEAN Car Free Day (CFD) on 27 August 2023. This event, pioneered by Indonesia and launched in 2018, has become a symbol of the region's dedication to promoting physical activity and advocating for a culture of prevention as outlined in the ASEAN Declaration on the Culture of Prevention adopted in Manila in November 2017.

Indonesia's visionary proposal during the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting in 2017 has blossomed into a cornerstone initiative for the region. The 2023 ASEAN Car Free Day not only marked a commemorative activity during Indonesia's ASEAN Chairpersonship but also coincided with the observation of ASEAN Day in August.

The event saw the enthusiastic participation of esteemed dignitaries, including Indonesia's ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Minister and Health Minister, the Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN Economic Community, Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, representatives from ASEAN Dialogue Partners, and the World Health Organization. Their presence underscored the significance of the ASEAN Car Free Day as a regional commitment to fostering a healthier, more active population.

The 2023 ASEAN Car Free Day transformed Jakarta's bustling main streets of Sudirman and Thamrin into communal spaces for health and wellness. Communities, various sectors, and stakeholders came together for a lively fun walk during the traffic-free period, creating an atmosphere of unity and shared purpose. Notably, the event featured the energetic ASEAN Fun Aerobic Dance flash mob, captivating participants and onlookers alike.

The ASEAN Car Free Day wasn't just confined to the streets; it spilled over into the digital realm with the launch of a regional social media campaign on tobacco control by youth. This initiative was a direct outcome of the Workshop on ASEAN Youth Workshop on Tobacco Control Social Media Campaign, conducted in tandem with the Car Free



Day. It showcased the region's commitment to addressing public health challenges through innovative and engaging platforms.

## Stepping into a Healthier Future: The Legacy of ASEAN Car Free Day

As the sun set on Jakarta's lively streets, the echoes of the ASEAN Car Free Day lingered, leaving behind not just memories but a legacy of regional cooperation and a renewed commitment to health. The event served as a testament to ASEAN's dedication to fostering a culture of prevention and promoting a healthier, more active lifestyle throughout the region. The annual celebration has now firmly established itself as a key date on the ASEAN calendar, symbolizing the strides the region is taking towards a brighter, healthier future.

## PIONEERING RESILIENCE: ASEAN INSTITUTE FOR DISASTER HEALTH MANAGEMENT UNVEILED IN YOGYAKARTA

n a momentous leap towards regional preparedness, the ASEAN Institute for Disaster Health Management (AIDHM) was officially launched on 17 October 2023 in Yogyakarta, marking a significant health-related achievement during Indonesia's ASEAN Chairpersonship 2023. The AIDHM, hosted by the University of Gajah Mada, unfolded following the adoption of AIDHM's Terms of Reference by ASEAN Health Ministers in September 2023.

Situated within the Faculty of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing at the University of Gajah Mada, AIDHM embodies a commitment to regional capacity development on Disaster Health Management (DHM) across ASEAN Member States (AMS). The institute will play a crucial role in strengthening training, academic, and research programs, collaborating with international and regional agencies, and implementing initiatives that contribute to disaster resilience.

The launch of AIDHM stands as a flagship health-related deliverable of Indonesia's ASEAN Chairpersonship 2023. A symbolic ceremony, attended by key figures including the Chair of the Regional Coordination Committee on Disaster Health Management (RCC-DHM), the Head of the Centre of Health Crisis of MOH Indonesia, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Public Health and Nursing at the University of Gajah Mada, and representatives from AIDHM Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat, marked the official establishment of this pioneering institute.

As the host of AIDHM, the University of Gajah Mada shoulders five crucial mandates to spearhead disaster management strategies in ASEAN:

- Organizing Academic Activities: Developing curriculum, providing training, and conducting simulation exercises to fortify the capacity of personnel in disaster health.
- 2. Providing Consultations: Offering expertise and support in developing and implementing disaster health response activities across the region.
- Facilitating Regional Collaborative Exercises: Guiding and supporting the conduct of collaborative exercises on disaster health management in ASEAN Member States.
- 4. Backing ASEAN Academic Network on Disaster Health Management (AANDHM): Supporting AANDHM, including the steering committee, in fulfilling its mandates outlined in the Terms of Reference.
- 5. Establishing a Regional Network of Training Centers: Supporting and facilitating the establishment of a regional network of training centers in ASEAN Member States focused on general and specific learning, education, and research programs on disaster health management.

The launch of AIDHM stands as a testament to the region's commitment to fostering resilience, preparedness, and collaboration in the face of health-related disasters. As the institute takes its place at the forefront of disaster health management, it is poised to become a beacon of knowledge and innovation, guiding ASEAN towards a safer and more resilient future.

ASEAN e-Health Bulletin is produced semi-annually by the ASEAN Secretariat · 70A JI. Sisingamangaraja · Jakarta 12110 · Indonesia | Tel : (6221) 7262991, 7243372 · Fax : (6221) 7398234, 7243504 Coordinator: Health Division of the ASEAN Secretariat Editor and Focal Point: Department of Health, Philippines Note: The articles were contributed by the focal point from each of the ASEAN health subsidiary bodies.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia. General information on ASEAN appears online at the ASEAN Website: www.asean.org

> Catalogue-in-Publication Data ASEAN eHealth Bulletin. Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, December 2023 631.059 | 1. ASEAN - Public Health | 2. Health - Personal Health ISSN 2301-6809

# ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities for All