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APEC Capacity Building Seminar on Avian Influenza: Preventing AI at its Source and a Dialogue on Indemnity

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Japan & USA



**Health Task Force Meeting
Da Nang, Viet Nam
14 – 15 September 2006**

**APEC Capacity Building Seminar on Avian Influenza:
Preventing AI at its Source and a Dialogue on Indemnity**

September 12-13, 2006

Hoi An, Viet Nam

1. BACKGROUND

The highly pathogenic avian influenza virus, H5N1, has been spreading among bird populations across the globe, with continued but limited numbers of human infections. In order to prevent the emergence of a pandemic influenza virus and to mitigate the damage to the poultry industry and the livelihood of small farmers, it is crucial to take effective action to prevent and control avian influenza at its bird source. Last November, APEC Leaders agreed on the “APEC Initiative on Preparing for and Mitigating an Influenza Pandemic”. In this Initiative, APEC economies agreed to work collectively to “enhance capacity building in preventing and controlling a pandemic of avian origin at its source.” Moreover, in the APEC Action Plan agreed at the APEC Ministerial Meeting on Avian and Influenza Pandemics, Ministers agreed to “Promote adequate systems in each economy to encourage timely and complete reporting of disease and implementation of appropriate disease control measures,” and to “Share reports on domestic measures to mitigate the negative effects of avian influenza [, and] to enhance efforts to control and interrupt transmission of H5N1 in poultry.”

To assist in building capacity to take effective domestic measures in order to prevent and control avian influenza, Japan and the United States co-sponsored a seminar on preventing Avian Influenza at its source and a dialogue on indemnity. Nearly 80 participants from 17 APEC economies, ASEAN nations, and relevant international organizations participated in this important seminar.

2. OUTCOME

This goal of the seminar was to increase information sharing and collaboration, not only among APEC economies and with international organizations, but between animal and human health officials to prevent a human pandemic. During the first day of the seminar participants heard about the human health concerns related to an HPAI pandemic, the various forms of communication and messaging being used in economies with the help of organizations like UNICEF, animal health projects in Japan aimed at capacity building, AI prevention activities in Viet Nam, lessons learned from AI in Japan, HPAI control in Indonesia, and OIE prevention activities. During Day Two of the event, participants learned of the tools and resources to design and implement an appropriate indemnity program to promote public participation in domestic surveillance and eradication programs for trans-boundary animal diseases, like highly pathogenic avian influenza.

3. CONTACTS

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