

**Southeast Asia Regional Inter-agency Information Sharing/Coordination  
Meeting on Avian & Human Influenza (AHI)**  
*Hosted by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center  
Funding by Nestle Thailand*



**2 April 2009 (Thurs), 2 - 5 PM**  
Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Sukhumvit Soi 22, Bangkok

**Theme: Zoonotic Diseases and Natural Disasters**

These minutes, presentations, handouts, and information about future and past meetings can be found on the **Strengthening Community Based Approaches to Management of Avian and Human Influenza in Asia** website. The original partnership comprised of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), CARE, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Federation) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and funding partnership was by the ADB, project website: <http://www.adpc.net/communityAHI-Asia/MEETING/Default-MEETING.asp> Currently the AHI monthly information sharing forums are coordinated by ADPC and funding is from Nestle Thailand.

Full project details can be found here: <http://www.adpc.net/communityAHI-Asia/>

Chair: **Elizabeth Cromie, Public Health in Emergencies team, ADPC**

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**14:10 start.**

Welcome Address

Organizations Present:

- |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. ADPC              | 6. University of Amsterdam |
| 2. AUSAID            | 7. LSHTM                   |
| 3. WSPA Asia-Pacific | 8. Murdoch University      |
| 4. VSF               |                            |
| 5. Nestle Thai       |                            |

**Information sharing (round table):**

ADPC:

ADPC made an announcement on the implementation of Zoonotics project being funded by Rockefeller Foundation. The overall goal of the project is to strengthen capacities to manage the risks of zoonotic disease emergencies, including those with pandemic potential. Project components include further development of an assessment tool and corresponding guidelines, and with guidance from a team of experts, test and evaluate the assessment tool with community workers in four different countries. The workshop has been planned for July 2009 which will look into emerging issues of the disease.

VSF:

VSF shared that they are non-governmental medical-humanitarian organisation working for Building community practice and ecology of health for the improvements of human and animal health and are keen to provide their expertise and collaborate in the efforts to manage the risks of zoonotics and natural diseases.

**EXPERIENCE SHARING 1: Dr Ian Dacre; World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).**  
**“WSPA Disaster Management Program”**

Dr. Dacre presented the programmes of WSPA

Programme 1: Strategic Advocacy - to embed animal welfare into human disaster management...“MAKE ANIMALS MATTER” ...

Programme 2: Strategic Coordination - to coordinate animal welfare organisations’ response to disasters worldwide

Programme 3: Disaster Response- to deliver effective emergency relief to animals

Programme 4: Risk Reduction - to embed animals into national disaster plans

Shared experience from Myanmar. See slide presentation.

**Question and Answer:**

Q. How was animal assistance perceived in the affected villages in Myanmar?

Ans. The animal assistance was welcomed by the Myanmar government. Village chief was aware about the visit, arrangements about their security and safety were considered.

Q. Is culling or vaccination appropriate during an outbreak?

Ans: The outbreak is referred case by case. It is difficult to control animal movement for vaccination. 2001 Foot and mouth outbreak: govt slaughter thousands of animals. Culling is done humanely.

Q: Is there any plans to replace animals?

Ans: As a start up programme FAO and LVBD are doing the stockpiling (buffalo and cattle) through CARE, UNDP. However, this will take a long time.

**Comment:**

Thailand has good vet recourse so was able to mobilise the team during an outbreak. In Indonesia where poor vet structure, the AHI spread was rampant.

Vaccination is pretty expensive so difficult for small local farmers to go for vaccination

Animal health should be well coordinated with Public Health

Australia Bush fire experience: emotional attachment with pets

AI outbreak in Vietnam, very little compensation was provided by the govt. Hence devastation at the local level.

**15:20: COFFEE BREAK**

**15:50 EXPERIENCE SHARING 2: Prof. Stan Fenwick; Murdoch University. “Zoonotic Diseases and Natural Disasters”**

Prof. Fenwick discussed about the Zoonoses associated with floods, Different classification of zoonoses and transmission of zoonotic infections (may be direct, indirect via arthropod vectors, or from environment)

See slide presentation.

**Question and Answer:**

Q. What do you do with the dead animals?

Ans. Usually in the rural area people consumes dead animals. People should change their culture and habits to dispose dead (infected) animals properly. Consuming infected animals may increase the risk of human being infected with the virus.

Q. If pandemic situation of zoonotic diseases occurs?

Ans: Probably people will start taking less care of animals, live in a more isolated environment. Food security may stops (big city suffers more that in the rural areas)

Comments: In China some 3000 children die every year from Rabies

#### **4:55 Other business:**

Announcements:

- This forum can be a venue to share Classified ads – write ups on the related issues and topics
- 29<sup>th</sup> April – launch of new Communicable Diseases Policy Research Group (CDPRG) Bangkok office which is based at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University.

**Next forum – Thursday, 14 May 2009**