

The Pandemic Preparedness Forum  
Theme: Donor Insights into Future Work on Animal and Pandemic Influenza  
Thursday, 2 December 2010, Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok

**ADB's Report to the Pandemic Preparedness Forum chaired by the United Nations  
System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC)**

ADB's Strategy 2020 and Operational Plan for Improving Health Access and Outcomes affirm that health is vital to development, productivity, social inclusion, and gender equity. The Strategy confirms ADB's involvement in the control and prevention of infectious diseases, and in particular avian and pandemic influenza, as part of ADB support for regional public goods.

**Avian Influenza and Pandemic Preparedness in Asia and the Pacific**

ADB has contributed systematically to strengthening regional surveillance and response capacity for emerging infectious diseases since the SARS outbreak in 2003. When the region was confronted with the spread of H5N1 avian influenza, more resources were mobilized in the succeeding years in order to broaden regional initiatives and strengthen pandemic preparedness in Asia and the Pacific. These resources were pooled under a regional project, *Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza in Asia and the Pacific*, which has been a key part of the international effort to control avian influenza and prepare for pandemic influenza.

Consistent with ADB's Strategy 2020 in support of regional public goods, the main characteristic of the project was a regional approach to control the spread of avian influenza and other infectious diseases across borders, emphasizing regional capacity building and regional coordination. The other feature of the project was its reliance on multiple partnerships to ensure the greatest benefit for the region. Through partnership with the concerned global technical agencies, FAO and WHO, ADB has supported the development and implementation of regional strategies for emerging infectious diseases, such as the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED), the WHO Rapid Containment and Response guidelines, and ASEAN's Roadmap towards an HPAI-Free ASEAN Community by 2020 (also in collaboration with OIE). These regional strategies have given the impetus to many governments in Asia and the Pacific to adopt integrated surveillance systems to enable them to detect and respond to public health risks, as well as to generate evidence-based policy decisions on public health interventions. In fighting the spread of avian influenza, ADB also supported the coordination efforts of UNSIC, and worked with nongovernment organizations to involve cross-border communities in the control and prevention of avian influenza. Working closely with the CAREC Secretariat of CAREC (Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation) and the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) implemented in Central Asia by the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, ADB has provided support to all its member countries, from Central Asia to the Pacific.

Regional initiatives under the project have provided the platform to (i) facilitate and promote regional cooperation, in collaboration with regional organizations such as ASEAN and CAREC;

(ii) adopt a multi-sector approach, in particular the One World, One Health approach involving human health services and veterinary health services to address emerging zoonoses (animal diseases that affect human); and (iii) harmonize and strengthen surveillance and response capacity to communicable diseases outbreaks.

At the country level, in line with ADB's commitment at the Global Conference in Beijing in January 2006, ADB has avoided providing parallel or duplicating assistance by closely coordinating its support with other development partners, in particular under the coordination of the World Bank, as agreed by the global community in Beijing. When requested, ADB has provided emergency assistance to a series of countries, as well as temporary assistance to bridge government's financing gaps while waiting for the release of grants from other sources. Bangladesh, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, and the Philippines have benefited from this emergency or bridging assistance.

### **Public-Private Collaboration on Health Security in Asia and the Pacific**

Finally, prior to project's completion on 31 August 2010, ADB has been instrumental in organizing, in collaboration with WHO preliminary consultations with the private sector to explore a possible public-private partnership on Regional Health Security.

In collaboration with WHO, ADB organized in July 2010 a roundtable with selected private sector companies working or based in Asia, to discuss public-private sector coordination, and possible mobilization of resources. The proposed partnership will hope for a longer term collaboration to build up health security and strengthen capacity in the region, with increased focus on disease surveillance and public health system capacity to respond to health threats in the region. A follow up regional workshop is proposed in 2011 to further discuss institutional arrangements, financing mechanisms, and draw up specific terms of reference of the partnership.

### **Other ADB Activities Related to Avian Influenza**

The Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Regional Communicable Disease Control Project in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam aims at strengthening national health systems for surveillance and rapid response capacity, to improve control of communicable diseases in the GMS. Additional resources are being mobilized for this regional project.

Other previous initiatives also related to prevention and control of communicable diseases, include Strengthening of Epidemiological Surveillance and Response for communicable diseases in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines; and the Emergency Support to Address SARS and Emerging Diseases.