

**Pandemic Preparedness Forum**

Thursday, 2 December 2010, 1:30pm-5pm  
Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Sukhumvit Soi 22, Bangkok

**NOTE FOR THE RECORD**

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**Overview of Pandemic Preparedness Forum**

The Pandemic Preparedness Forum (PPF) is a Southeast Asia inter-agency information-sharing forum focused on avian and human influenza. Through monthly meetings, PPF aims to improve coordination and enhance knowledge sharing between organizations working to mitigate the threat of pandemics in Southeast Asia. It is hosted by the UN System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC) and its members consist of a wide range of representatives from national and international non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, donors, academia and the private sector. The December Forum was themed, 'Donor insights into future work on animal and pandemic influenza' and a summary of the meeting is provided below.

**1. Presentation by the World Bank providing an update and future needs assessment on its international financial and technical assistance**

Annu Lehtinen, Regional UN System Influenza Coordinator, UN System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC) Asia Pacific Regional Hub, on behalf of the World Bank, provided an update on the Bank's international financial and technical assistance. Financing gaps continue to persist, it was reported, especially in Africa, and additional funding is needed to sustain the response to animal and human influenza, and advance the 'One Health' framework. In addition, while a flexible financing framework has served the international community well in the emergency phase, other arrangements are required for medium and long-term preparedness and response. Effective reporting is viewed as the key to flexible financing.

**2. Review by the European Commission on its AHI financing and the 'Outcome and Impact Assessment of the Global response to the Avian Influenza Crisis' Report**

Alain Vandersmissen, DVM, Coordinator Influenza, Emerging Diseases, 'One Health', European Commission, touched on four key areas. The first was the recently launched Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases (HPED) Programme which aims to minimize the social impact of HPED in Asia. The programme, in partnership with ASEAN, SAARC and a number of countries, will run for the next four years. The 20 million Euro budget will be implemented by FAO, OIE and WHO. The second area presented was the results of the 'Outcome and Impact Assessment of Global Responses to Avian Influenza (GRAI)'. The EU study aimed to assess the outcome of work on avian influenza against inputs with global and regional focuses, from mid-2009 to mid-2010. The major achievements included the development of multilateral partnerships and the creation of a culture of collaboration. Challenges identified by the study include the difficulty in achieving the behaviour change in the short-term as a result of communication interventions. Another areas of discussion was the Commission's future support to AHI work from 2011-2013. The priority of a 'One Health' approach was stressed as a policy guide in this respect. Lastly, the recent Lisbon Treaty enactment saw the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security, H.E. Baroness Catherine Ashton, as the key focal point for external relations. The Treaty sees the establishment of the European External Action Service from 1 Jan 2011.

UNSIC noted that the GRAI assessment highlighted achievements and also issues to be tackled in the future. The results have implications not only to animal and human influenza but also to other crisis's. The USAID-funded review, entitled 'Towards a Safer World', is also reviewing GRAI, in particular the area of multi-sectoral preparedness and response.

### **3. Presentation by the Japanese Embassy on its international corporation on pandemic influenza**

Mamoru Yamashita, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Thailand, briefed participants on the Asian stockpile of 1.5 million courses of anti-viral drugs in Singapore. The Embassy of Japan is working with WHO to strengthen measures against Pandemic H1N1, to build the capacity to tackle avian and other influenzas in high-risk countries in Asia and to organise the Japan-WHO Joint Meeting on Early Response to Potential Influenza Pandemic. In addition, through work with OIE and FAO, Japan is funding three avian influenza projects. With UNICEF and other humanitarian organisations, it is supporting prevention and awareness-raising efforts around AHI. In the area of research and development, the Embassy is working with the Japan Initiative for Global Research Network on Infectious Diseases (J-GRID) to strengthen AHI research. And finally, it is providing bilateral technical cooperation through JICA and other assistance through the World Bank and other multilateral development banks.

### **4. Presentation by AusAID on its Pandemic and Emerging Infectious Diseases Framework (2010-2015)**

Mr. Royce Escolar, Regional Program Manager, AusAID, briefed participants on three main areas of AusAID's work. The first area covered was the Australian government's Pandemics and Emerging Infectious Diseases Framework (2006-2010) which targets key programmes such as the WHO APSED Programme, the OIE Community Avian Influenza Risk Reduction in Mekong Programme, and the bilateral Indonesia Programme. The presentation also discussed lessons learned, which to date include the need to link animal and human influenza efforts with the Millennium Development Goals, the need of health system strengthening to ensure sustainability, the importance of supporting veterinary services, the need for a 'One Health' model in action, the need for evidence-based policy and activities such as cost-benefit analysis and the need of accountable and harmonized aid effectiveness. In addition, the presentation discussed AusAID's Emerging Infectious Diseases Framework 2010-2015 which continues to focus on Asia-Pacific. It aims to assist countries to comply with animal health standard and targeting community systems, rapid response to outbreaks and evidence-base to emerging infectious disease response. Its guiding principles are to align with partner priorities, harmonize and use existing systems, apply a multi-disciplinary approach, be pro-poor and science-based, and to measure performance. The AusAID budget in this area for 2010-2015 is Aus\$32 million.

### **5. Organizational updates and other business**

CARE: Reported that its community-based surveillance and bio-security programme materials are available for distribution.

DAI: Reported that it conducted region-focused training on basic veterinary skills in November. It is currently working on developing a curriculum module on One Health for Chiang Mai University.

OIE: Reported that it is implementing its assessment of country veterinary services and capacity building in line with Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS). It is conducting capacity

strengthening of veterinary services in each member state. In 2011, OIE will propose to donors the 'One Health' oriented programme for funding.

UNSIIC: Briefed participants on the last meeting of the Pandemic Preparedness Forum Core Group who met on 25 November. The meeting discussed the organization of the PPF in 2011 as well as the Forum's objectives. In 2011, ADPC, AED and DAI will co-organize the Forum. Going forward, PPF will try to broaden its scope beyond avian and pandemic influenza, to include other emerging infectious diseases with pandemic potential and the 'One Health' approach.

World Vision: Noted that its migration and tuberculosis programme report is available upon request.

WSPA: Reported that its organization is not only working in the animal area but also the area of disaster preparedness. Kasasart University called for students to respond to the central Thailand flood for the first time.

## ANNEX 1

### List of Participants

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AusAID, Royce Escolar, Regional Program Manager  
CARE, Jacquelyn Pinat, Regional Program Manager  
DAI, Nancy Claxton, Regional Trainer  
DAI, Ratikorn Khuptarat, Training Officer  
DAI, Stan Fenwick, Technical Advisor  
Embassy of Japan, Mamoru Yamashita, First Secretary  
European Commission, Alain Vandersmissen, DVM, Coordinator Influenza, Emerging Diseases, "One Health"  
European Commission, Filip De Loof, Programme Officer in Health  
ICAO APO, Manjit Singh, Regional Officer  
ILO, Connor McGuinness, Technical Officer on OSH/Influenza  
ILO, Sunan Suthikorncompee, Programme Assistant  
ILO, Tsuyoshi Kawakami, Senior Specialist on Occupational Safety and Health  
IOM, Dr. Jamie Calderon, Regional Migration Health Program Manager  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Piya Hanvoravongchai, Lecturer  
OCHA/PIC, Ingo Neu, Senior Planning Officer  
Rapid Asia, Daniel Lingren, Founder  
Thai Red Cross Society, Chor Kemsiri Kongrukreatiyos, Family Physician, Relief and Community Health Bureau  
UNICEF, Ketan Chitnis, Regional HIV/AIDS Specialist  
UNSIC APRH, Annu Lehtinen, Regional Avian and Human Influenza Coordinator  
UNSIC APRH, Hitoshi Murakami, Avian and Human Influenza Regional Coordination Officer  
UNSIC APRH, Panupatcharee Kaewprasit, Team Assistant  
WFP, Yasnyako Misara, Programme Advisor  
World Vision Thailand, Kobchai Tanpaitoonditi, Government Liaison  
World Vision AP, Grace Gayoso-Pasion, Regional Health Team  
WSPA, Dr. Ian Dacre, Disaster Management Operations Director