

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **GHSA Meeting: 4-year Workplan Development & Strengthening Workforce Development**

***7-8 February 2017, The Berkeley Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand***

The “GHSA Meeting: 4-year Workplan Development & Strengthening Workforce Development” was convened on 7-8 February 2017 at The Berkeley Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, under the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The meeting was held under the objectives to strengthen animal and human health workforce development by updating progress of Workforce Development Action Package, and develop the 4-year workplan for Workforce Development Action Package.

Total 77 participants have contributed to the successful meeting. Honorable delegates comprised of 23 people from animal and human sectors of ASEAN+3 Member Countries, 5 people from GHSA leading and contributing countries, 17 people from ASEAN and SAARC Secretariats and international development partners, and 32 people from Thailand. The Thai representatives were from Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Public Health.

The light of the meeting was officially kindled by remarkable opening report by Dr. Karoon Chanachai (Senior Veterinary Officer, Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services, Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives, Thailand), welcome remark by Dr. Suraphol Charuphong (General Inspector, Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives, Thailand), and opening remark by Dr. Sombat Thanphasertsuk (Acting Deputy Director-General, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand).

Following clarification of the meeting objectives and agenda, the Thailand GHSA Regional Coordinating Office reported the successful regional achievements and informed the upcoming activities to the participants. Being the Chair of the GHSA Steering Committee in 2016, Indonesia has proudly presented the activities conducted in 2016, highlighting the joint external evaluation (JEE), health security financing assessment tool (HSFAT), action package coordination and engagement with stakeholders. The Republic of Korea has been practicing to be ready to “Take Action: ACE for GHSA” as the current Chair of the GHSA Steering Committee, with three main focus areas of: extending the implementation of action packages by practically driven approach, developing country capacity through operation in align with country assessment and reflecting JEE results into the revised national plans.

The session conveying one of the meeting objectives was initiated with highlighting the important issues for the 4-year workplan. In order to achieve multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-level workforce, challenges in context of workforce development fall on core competencies required to plan, coordinate and conduct: field investigation and containment, preparedness for emergency response, simulation exercise, and anticipate the future threats and drivers taking into consideration the changing disease landscapes. Communication, collective actions based on consensus,

commitment to agreements, considerate to the society and wisdom, and continuity of trust are essential components for successful networking. In addition, results from the survey of the epidemiologist training and development in Thailand accentuated the essential competencies in prevention, control and response to public health hazards. Utilizing the crucial and beneficial inputs, the 4-year workplan for workforce development was conceptualized through exuberant brainstorming by the participating countries.

Implementation of the national workforce development strategy and plan is one of the principal action items under the GHSA Workforce Development Action Package. Hence, a workshop was convened for the half day on 8 February 2017, introducing the crucial tools for development of national strategic plan as well as sharing the results from analysis of public health and veterinary workforce in Thailand.

Spotlighting the development of the 4-year workplan, the representatives from Jordan, Saudi Arabia and United States of America presented their country experiences on workforce development in epidemiology; and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat and World Health Organization, South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO/SEARO) informed their roles to support the countries in two different regions. Following the presentation on summarized results from country update, the 4-year workplan for workforce development was formulated through the panel discussion.

The last session of the meeting was furnished with supporting opportunities by ASEAN Secretariat and international development partners. The ASEAN Secretariat emphasized to seeking support from the Secretariat through the ASEAN platform. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) supported the evaluation of veterinary competencies through the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS). The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) reminded accessible support opportunities in the region and expanding workforce development beyond epidemiology. The World Health Organization (WHO) underlined to assist the countries in the region with limited resources, strength the health system by providing evidences to Ministry of Finance, promote technology development and build up the regional partnership.

The meeting was successfully adjourned with the closing speech by Dr. I Nyoman Kandun, Director of FETP Indonesia, as a representative from the Chair of the GHSA Steering Committee of 2016.

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