



Press Release

The GHSABangkok Meeting on the Progress & Ways forward for the Regional Strategic Frameworks in Animal & Human Health on Workforce Development

13-15 March 2018, Bangkok, Thailand



In light of serving the purposes of the GHSABangkok 2024 as well as expediting the epidemiological workforce development towards global health security, “the GHSABangkok Meeting on the Progress & Ways forward for the Regional Strategic Frameworks in Animal & Human Health on Workforce Development” was held on 13-15 March 2019 in Arnoma Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting aimed to summarize the progress of action items under the Workforce Development Action Package based on the Regional Strategic Framework for Public Health Workforce Development and Systems Strengthening on Epidemiology, share experiences from effective implementation of workforce development, and explore on the direction for the workforce development action package (2020-2024) and the future collaboration.

Total 18 country delegates from 11 countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand) participated in the meeting, including seven delegates from animal health sector and 11 representatives from human health department. While the delegate from the Netherlands represented the Chair of the GHSABangkok Steering Group, two contributing countries of the workforce development action package namely Saudi Arabia and United States of America engaged in the meeting activities. Total 25 people from 11 international development partners exhibited support through active participation in the meeting. In addition, the meeting was fortified by 43 Thai participants from the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives as well as the Ministry of Public Health.

On 13 March 2019, while the achievements and challenges of the workforce development in the countries were summarized and presented to the meeting, animal and human health representatives from Malaysia, China,

Thailand and Cambodia also shared the experiences of workforce development following the strategies of the Regional Strategic Framework for Public Health Workforce Development and Systems Strengthening on Epidemiology (2016-2020). Through intensive and interaction discussions on 14 March 2019, the draft GHSA workforce development action package was crafted.



The ways forward for intercountry collaboration and partnership for workforce development was conceptualized on 15 March 2019 as followings:

- Develop and implement national plan, institutionalize training programs into government structure and set clear career path
- Increase the number of field epidemiology workforces at all levels
- Advocate policy makers at all levels to use of evidence-based decision making and support for training program
- Increase the number of field epidemiology mentors by training of trainer/exchange trainers (leading country)
- Conduct joint field activities between animal and human health sectors, and
- Promote and share epidemiology publications to other countries.



The meeting adjourned at noon on 15 March 2019, followed by “*the GHSA Workshop on Strategic Plan for Workforce Development*” in the afternoon in order to galvanize the development of the national strategic plan for workforce development in the countries. The workshop highlighted the benefits, barriers, elements of strong execution, stakeholder engagement through energetic discussions and exercises.

Both the aforementioned activities were convened by the Department of Disease Control under the Ministry of Public Health, in close collaboration with the Department of Livestock Development under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand. The Thailand GHSA Regional Coordinating Office affiliated under the Bureau of Epidemiology acted as a secretariat. The activities were achieved through the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC).
