



ASEAN Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Taskforce 20-21 December 2004, Singapore

The First Meeting of the ASEAN HPAI Taskforce was held on 20-21 December 2004 in Singapore. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Chua Sin Bin, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore.

2 The Meeting was attended by delegates from ASEAN member countries and representatives from the People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, The Netherlands, FAO, OIE and WHO. The aim of the meeting was to coordinate cooperative activities for the prevention and control of HPAI in the region.

3 The ASEAN HPAI Taskforce was successfully established and the members exchanged information and experiences on the disease situation and the control measures in their respective countries. The Taskforce unanimously agreed to focus on the following 8 activities which will be coordinated by the respective countries:

- i. **Thailand:** Disease surveillance and alert systems to ensure prompt disease detection and reporting
- ii. **Malaysia:** Effective containment measures such as quarantine, border and movement control to prevent the spread of the disease
- iii. **Indonesia:** Stamping out policy and strategic vaccination to minimize infection
- iv. **Thailand:** Diagnostic capabilities for quick and accurate disease diagnosis
- v. **Malaysia:** Establishment of disease free zones for recover of export capacity
- vi. **Singapore:** Information sharing for regional epidemiologic study to assist in decision making and planning for the region
- vii. **Malaysia:** Emergency preparedness plans to enable rapid response to new outbreaks of HPAI
- viii. **The Philippines:** Heighten public awareness and communication to aid control of HPAI

4 Each coordinating country will prepare detailed workplans for consideration at the follow up meeting to be held in Thailand in May 2005. Malaysia and Indonesia have been elected as the Chair and Vice-Chair for the ASEAN HPAI Taskforce respectively.

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