THAILAND HOSTED THE 6th VIDEO CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA (GHSA) DETECT 1: NATIONAL LABORATORY SYSTEM

Chaired by Dr. Apichai Mongkol, Director General of the Department of Medical Sciences (DMSc), Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, 7 pm (Thailand Time) on 23 September 2016, the 6th video conference was attended by representatives of lead countries: USA, South Africa and Thailand, as well as key development partners including WHO, USAID (Thailand and Headquarter), and FAO. The 6th video conference also marked the first time to welcome the three contributing countries of GHSA Detect 1, including United Kingdom, Canada and Georgia. Other interested GHSA member countries such as Saudi Arabia as well as relevant staff of the DMSc were also in attendance.

Highlights of this video conference are as follows;

1. Updating on key outputs of Regional Workshop: Enhancing Regional Partnership Towards Strengthening Laboratory System in Accelerating GHSA’s Implementation: Detect 1, which was held during 27-29 July 2016, Bangkok, Thailand;

2. Noting on relevant GHSA events such as outputs transpiring from the "GHSA Action Package Coordination Meeting", 23-25 August 2016, Jakarta, Indonesia;

3. Following up on the progress of key regional activities identified during the 1st Regional Workshop in July 2016 in order to accelerating an implementation of the Strategic Roadmap on Laboratory System Strengthening [2016-2020], to name a few include;

   - Bioengineering Training to be scheduled in the 1st quarter of 2017;
   - Sharing Experience on Lab Preparedness; Lessons learned from EID outbreak as part of the 2nd Regional Workshop on GHSA Detect 1 scheduled in February 2017;
   - On – site Training on Influenza Sequencing Bioinformatic Basic course;
   - Need assessment on packaging and training transportation including biosafety and biosecurity competency; and
   - Training on Stepwise laboratory development towards National Accreditation to be tentatively held in November 2017.
4. Noting the upcoming 2nd Regional Workshop of GHSA Detect 1 which scheduled to be taking place in February 2017, Thailand as a platform to share the best practices and fostering the “One Health Approach”; and

5. Noting the retirement of Director General of DMSC, Dr. Apichai Mongkol and announcement of his successor, Dr. Sukhum Karnchanapimai.

GHSA, launched in 2014 to promote global health security as an international security priority, aims to enhance and complement an implementation of an International Health Regulation 2005 through identified 11 Action Packages. Among others, Thailand takes leadership on the two Actions Packages including “Detect 1: National Laboratory System Strengthening” and “Detect 5: Workforce Development”.

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