

The 2nd GHSA Videoconference
for Workforce Development Action Package
18:00 (Thailand time zone, UTC+07:00), 20 June 2016

Meeting Summary

The second GHSA videoconference was launched at 18:00 (Thailand time zone, UTC+07:00) on 20 Jun 2016, with the representatives from Finland, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Yemen, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Update from Thailand

Thailand as one of the leading countries for the GHSA Workforce Development Action Package, achievements accomplished during 2015-2016 were conducting the first *GHSA Meeting on "Step towards Regional Strategic Collaboration in Asia-Pacific on Workforce Development, National Laboratory System Strengthening & Antimicrobial Resistance Prevention to Respond Global Challenges"* on 6-8 May 2015, the first *GHSA videoconference for Preparation of upcoming GHSA regional strategic framework workshop* on 25 Mar 2016 and the *Workshop on Regional Strategic Framework for Human Health Workforce Development on Epidemiology Advancing IHR/GHSA* on 9-10 May 2016, and establishing the Thailand GHSA Regional Coordinating Office in April 2016.

Finalization of Regional Strategic Framework for Human Health Workforce Development on Epidemiology

Thailand announced the finalization of the *Regional Strategic Framework for Public Health Workforce Development and Systems Strengthening on Epidemiology (2016-2020)*, following circulating and revision after the GHSA workshop. FAO recommends strengthening the network by identifying more partners, and expanding the framework by integrating other disciplines and promoting One Health approach. This framework and the proceedings of the workshop will be available on the GHSA webpage of Thailand in the near future. The Regional Strategic Framework is aligned with the *Regional Strategic Framework for Veterinary Epidemiology Capacity Development and Networking in ASEAN*. This type of coordination and collaboration can serve as a model if applicable to other regions.

GHSA Action Plan of Thailand

As part of the GHSA Action Plan in 2016, Thailand will maintain the functional regional coordinating mechanism and office, and strengthen the regional networks on workforce development. The first joint meeting between human and animal health epidemiology network (AVEG and ASEAN+3 FETN) will be held in Aug/Sep 2016 and the project summary meeting will be organized in Dec 2016. In 2017, the regional strategic framework will be utilized as a tool for resource mobilization through the following strategies:

Strategy 1: Strengthen sustainable public health institutions, structures and systems to support functions of epidemiology

Strategy 2: Expand the regional and national networks to promote collaboration and maximize efficient and sustainable uses of available resources

Strategy 3: Expedite building field epidemiology capacity under One Health approach

Strategy 4: Enhance and promote in utilizing public health information for evidence-based decision making and resource mobilization at regional and national levels

Roles of Leading and Contributing Countries

Challenges in communication with **Jordan**, the other leading country, exist and the Thailand GHSA Regional Coordinating Office will try to communicate with the representatives from Jordan. Regarding to the roles of contributing countries, Yemen will identify further with the team in the ministry. Yemen suggests inviting participation of the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) in the GHSA workforce development events. Yemen is eager to share experiences and learn from other countries about the epidemiology training program.

Saudi Arabia highlights that as the national Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) program focuses more on human health sector, collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and other animal health sectors was initiated since after the commitment for the GHSA. Trainings for people from neighboring countries are performed through basic and intermediate training courses as well. Saudi Arabia informs about the upcoming GHSA meeting on 23-24 Aug 2016 in Jakarta. The Thailand GHSA Regional Coordinating Office suggests Saudi Arabia to review and share the regional strategic framework with counterparts in their region to seek the opportunity to apply it in the regional setting.

Regarding the GHSA activities conducted in Finland, engagement with neighboring countries is conducted in developing workforce understanding on biosecurity issues. National network of biosecurity and biosafety exists, and several trainings are conducted in collaboration with other agencies and universities. Training courses on workforce epidemiological investigation are also underway through multi-sectoral activities with universities, food safety and livestock management. Courses on international health are being conducted as Master level and will project up to PhD degree in the future. Under the leadership of GHSA, Finland will participate in a 1-week meeting organized by World Health Organization (WHO) in Bali to discuss further on security strengthening in linkage with GHSA activities. Currently, joint external evaluation process under WHO new strategic framework for assessing IHR capacity is taking place in several countries. During the last week, the meeting about process of control assessment was held in Geneva under the support of WHO and multiple international partners, including GHSA. Any information related to Workforce Development is welcomed to dispatch and disseminate through the GHSA network.

The roles of contributing countries will be developed and discussed with the contributing countries in the next videoconference.

AOB

Thailand is conducting the 1-month training course in June, with participants from Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. This marked 37th cohort of Thai FETP. The 2-month training-of-trainer (TOT) course will be started in next week with 5 international (Ethiopia, Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar and Vietnam) and 3 Thai participants. Scholarships for the future training courses will be announced in this platform as well.

The Thailand GHSA Regional Coordinating Office will improve technology and method of communication for the next videoconferences.

Annexes

Annex 1. Agenda

VDO conference of GHSA Workforce Development
Monday, 20 June 2016, at 18:00-19:00 hr (Bangkok Time)

a) Opening [5 min]

By Dr. Khanchit Limpakarnjanarat, the Chairman of this meeting

b) Update from Thailand [15 min]

By Dr. Wanna Hanshaoworakul, Thailand

c) Finalization of Regional Strategic Framework for Human Health Workforce Development on Epidemiology [15 min]

By Dr. Yin Myo Aye, Thailand GHSA Regional Coordinating Office

d) GHSA Action Plan of Thailand [15 min]

By Dr. Wanna Hanshaoworakul, Thailand

e) Roles of Leading and Contributing Countries [10 min]

By Dr. Khanchit Limpakarnjanarat, the Chairman of this meeting

f) Any other business & Closing [5 min]

City(Country)	Local time for VDO meeting	Time zone UTC offset
Bangkok (Thailand)	Monday, 20 June 2016, 18:00	UTC+07:00
Amman (Jordan)	Monday, 20 June 2016, 14:00	UTC+03:00
Helsinki (Finland)	Monday, 20 June 2016, 14:00	UTC+03:00
Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)	Monday, 20 June 2016, 14:00	UTC+03:00
Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)	Monday, 20 June 2016, 14:00	UTC+03:00
Sana (Yemen)	Monday, 20 June 2016, 14:00	UTC+03:00
Atlanta (USA - Georgia)	Monday, 20 June 2016, 07:00	UTC-05:00

Annex 2. List of Participants

Leading Countries:

1. Jordan

- Unable to establish the connection

2. Thailand (Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health)

- Dr. Khanchit Limpakarnjanarat, Consultant, Thailand GHSA Regional Coordinating Office
- Dr. Wanna Hanshaoworakul, Director, Field Epidemiology Training Program, Bureau of Epidemiology
- Dr. Teerasak Chuxnum, Special Veterinarian Expert, Bureau of Epidemiology
- Dr. Chakrarat Pittayawonganon, Special Medical Expert, Bureau of Policy and Strategy
- Dr. Chen Lei, Staff, Field Epidemiology Training Program, Bureau of Epidemiology
- Dr. Yin Myo Aye, Coordinator, Thailand GHSA Regional Coordinating Office

Contributing Countries:

1. Ethiopia

- None

2. Finland

- Prof. Mika Salminen

3. Saudi Arabia

- Dr. Naif Alraihan

4. United States

- None

5. Yemen

- Prof. Abdulwahid Al-Sarori, Technical Advisor, Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program, Ministry of Public Health and Population, Yemen

Contributing International Organizations:

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Dr. Juan Lubroth, Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal Health Service C-532
- Dr. Julie Sinclair
- Dr. Scott Newman

2. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

- Dr. Sudarat Damrongwatanapokin, Regional Animal Health Advisor, USAID Regional Development Mission Asia, Thailand

3. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

- Dr. Pennapa Matayompong, STRIVES Programme Coordinator, OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia