

SUMMARY

2nd Workshop of GHSA Detect 1

“Enhancing Joint Collaborative Efforts for Lab Preparedness”,

8-10 February 2017, Thailand

INTRODUCTION

1. Presided over by His Excellency, H. E Professor Emeritus Dr. Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, Honourable Minister of Public Health, Thailand, the three – day regional Workshop was conjointly hosted by the Ministry of Public Health through Department of Medical Sciences and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives through Department of Livestock Development, in collaboration with USAID and FAO.

2. The Workshop was attended by representatives of both animal health laboratories and human health laboratories from many countries including:

- GHSA Chair, Republic of Korea;
- Lead countries [USA, Thailand, Tanzania and South Africa];
- Contributing countries [China, Canada, Japan, and Malaysia];
- ASEAN Member States [Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia Malaysia , Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam];
- South East Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) [Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal]; and
- Timor Leste.

3. Experts and 11 key developments partners are also in attendance to join efforts with nations including FAO, OIE, WHO [Headquarter, Western Pacific Region, South East Asia Region, and Thailand], USAID [Headquarter, Indonesia, and Thailand], U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); TUC, JICA, Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Science (AFRIMS), Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), and Global Partnership Program (GPP Canada)].

4. Key themes for the workshop included identifying joint collaborative efforts across action packages and regional networks; and establishing strong linkages between other action packages including Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) and zoonosis.

5. **Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)** related to laboratory was presented by experts and there were visits to AMR labs at the National Institute of Health and National Institute Animal Health. The participants discussed on how to strengthening coordination and collaboration between human health laboratory and animal health laboratory in advancing lab preparedness and responses.

6. Countries shared experiences on national lab preparedness for zoonotic and One Health diseases such as Ebola, MERS, and Nipah Virus outbreaks. During break-out sessions, the multi-sector participants used the Strategic Roadmap on Laboratory System Strengthening [2016-2020] developed in the first GHSA Laboratory Action Package Meeting to outline gaps, challenges and areas of future collaborations.

7. As a side meeting, led by Indonesia and Thailand, the participants and key development partners such as WHO and FAO had a meeting to draft a general Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) template to facilitate stronger regional One Health partnerships.

HIGHLIGHTS

- a) Direction of GHSA Chair, Korea for 2017 "ACE" --- Action Package, Capacity building, Evaluation;
- b) Sharing experiences and lessons learnt, and using common sites as repositories of information and updates (such as ghsagenda.org);
- c) Broadening of One Health Concept which is a tremendous model for other Action Packages;
- d) Began discussion on the concrete linkages of the Action Packages – AMR, Biosafety & Biosecurity, Emergency Operation Centers (EOC); Workforce was identified as another Action Package that would benefit from identifying and building linkages, including and beyond the epidemiology focus of that Action Package.
- e) AMR related issues for laboratory are large and under-supported. Issues include quality assurance, utilization of data; engagement with regulatory authorities, epidemiologists & clinicians/veterinarians. There are more laboratory resources for human health laboratories which could be shared or adapted to the animal health sector.

- f) Laboratory preparedness is crucial. It's important to prepare plans for outbreaks and unexpected events & to share these plans and lessons learned. Each outbreak response provides us with an opportunity to improve the process.
- g) While some progress has been made, to properly address GHSA goals there must be stronger collaboration between animal health and human health;
- h) There is an opportunity to develop laboratory activities for AMR and Zoonotic Diseases which will connect these action package to achieve goals;
- i) Workforce issues are a major gap and barrier which must be addressed. The Workforce Action Package should also include laboratory personnel, additionally advocacy and strategic planning are needed to address workforce issues in both the human and animal health sectors.
Recommendation—support a workshop focused on laboratory workforce

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- a) Countries should conduct a Joint External Evaluation (JEE)¹ if they have not done so and also use a Laboratory Mapping Tool (LMT) (such as FAO² and WHO³ to gather information about the animal and human health laboratories' performance.
- b) Recommend that the UN Tripartite [FAO, OIE, WHO] clarify the concrete and tangible linkages among their lab assessment tools (WHO International Health Regulations (IHR), OIE Proficiency of Veterinary Services (PVS), Laboratory Mapping Tool (LMT), etc.) and with the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and work to harmonize these assessment tools. Also, recommend that all partners leverage these and other One Health tools including “Four Way Linking” and the World Bank’s work on Sustainable Financing for Global Health Security to achieve GHSA and JEE goals.
- c) Encouraging countries to utilize the Strategic Roadmap on Laboratory System Strengthening [2016-2020] as a tool to achieve the GHSA goals and Joint External Evaluation (JEE) targets;
- d) Strengthening roles of lead countries and contributing countries to achieve their National GHSA goals, while developing tools, practices and activities to help countries- regionally and globally achieve GHSA goals.;

¹ WHO- Joint External Evaluation (JEE) - http://www.who.int/ihr/publications/WHO_HSE_GCR_2016_2/en/

² FAO Lab Mapping Tool - http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/news_130514.html

³ WHO Lab Mapping Tool- http://www.who.int/ihr/publications/WHO_HSE_GCR_2016_2/en/

- e) Continue to build upon laboratory networks such as ASEAN and SAARC Lab Directors Forum; and African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), etc. Explore mapping MTAs in the region to better understand existing networks and improve collaboration and sharing.
- f) Advocacy on the importance and needs of laboratories is needed at high levels;
- g) Encourage countries' commitments/contributions to achieve common GHSA goals⁴ based on the measurable indicators and findings through JEE's and other tools; and
- h) Identifying possible collaborative regional activities of animal health and human health lab such as training on AMR surveillance; and External Quality Assurance (EQA) on AMR. (Thailand offered to host)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) Continue to use the Laboratory Action Package Group to develop and define a few targeted tangible cross-cutting activities to address gaps and link to other relevant action packages.
- b) Large gaps identified include specimen transport, human resources, lack of EQA, low biosafety and biosecurity (BSS), weak AMR testing capacity. There is a need to ensure focus on all 4 laboratory indicators within the JEE but also others which apply to labs in AMR, Zoonosis, BSS, workforce, and reporting.
- c) Identify activities which truly integrate animal and human health laboratories.
Examples-- Integration of laboratory mapping tools, joint training, assistance to adapt protocols and reagents for animal and human health, etc.

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⁴ GHSAgenda.org