

**Inter-agency information sharing/coordination  
Meeting on avian influenza**

*Hosted by the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies,  
Southeast Asia Regional Delegation, Bangkok*

**5 April 2007 (Thurs), 2-5 PM  
Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok**

**Minutes (Final Draft)**

**Key theme: AI Poultry Vaccination and Human Influenza Vaccine Research**

**The focus of the meeting:**

- Challenges and strategies for poultry vaccination against Avian Influenza, vaccination as an aid to AI eradication;
- Global Action Plan to Increase Supply of Pandemic Influenza Vaccines

**Opening:**

Chair - Nichola (Nicky) Hungerford, Communications Officer, South East Asian Foot & Mouth Disease Campaign, OIE - RCU

**Introductions round table** (see list of participants at the end of this document)

- WHO Thailand, OIE-SEAFMD, UNICEF, UNSIC, UNDP, ECHO, AusAid, ADB/UNSIC
- Murdoch University (WA, USA), Kenan Institute Asia
- Sun Valley (Thailand), Fort Dodge Animal Health, Nestle, Coverage (Thailand), MedConsult
- American Red Cross, Oxfam, Save the Children Sweden, IFRC, World Vision International.

**Experience Sharing:**

*For full copy of the presentation, see attachment.*

**1) Dr. John Walters, Manager, SE Asia, Fort Dodge Animal Health**  
***“Vaccination against Avian Influenza as an aid to eradication”***

Dr. Walters' presentation covered:

- AI control strategies and the role of vaccination in overall AI control strategy;
- possible approaches and different scenarios to vaccination;
- different types of vaccines available and how to choose the right type of vaccine for different purposes;
- how to diagnose AI in poultry, what is DIVA system and how to monitor vaccine use in vaccination areas.

Some key messages:

- Vaccination is one of many tools and its effectiveness depends on different factors.
- Biosecurity is critical, vaccines will not work w/o biosecurity
- Vaccine can be provided for routine, emergency and preventive purposes (Italy).
- Role of vaccination: vaccination is not a “fire and forget” strategy, needs good monitoring

**Q&A**

Issues discussed:

- **Exit strategy for vaccination:** quite challenging, too early to monitor this strategy. It is physically difficult to control virus in the whole country unless cracking the reservoir of virus.

- Some examples: Thailand - has done a good job in controlling AI w/o vaccines - the reason is that they can control birds, but still have some outbreaks happening.
- Vietnam - birds continue to shed virus after vaccination > hence countries choose not to vaccinate
- **Trading for vaccine/commercial purpose, trade implications of vaccination:** in Europe, EU allowed internal trade for countries that have vaccination in place. If you have DIVA strategy in place, then you can effectively monitor trade. In Asia, only 1% of them have DIVA strategy

## 2) Dr. Maureen Birmingham, Technical Officer, WHO Thailand

### *“Global Action Plan to Increase Supply of Pandemic Influenza Vaccines”*

The key question of the presentation was: how does the world produce enough pandemic influenza vaccine for the entire population on the planet?

The presentation covered 3 key approaches to expanding production for a safe and effective vaccine in a pandemic, challenges and achievements so far in those areas. These approaches are: (1) Increase use of seasonal influenza vaccine; (2) Increase production capacity for pandemic vaccine, independent of seasonal vaccine use; (3) Research and develop new technologies. It also outlined the roles of WHO in implementing these three strategies.

## Q&A

### Issues discussed:

- **Availability of vaccine stocks:** Available in Vietnam, Indonesia, Taiwan, may be Pakistan.
- **Shelf life of vaccine stocks:** Vaccine will be able to keep for a certain period of time. As it is required to activate vaccine every year, it could be infer that the vaccine will be effective for only one year.
- **Amount/dose of pandemic vaccine:** in case of pre-pandemic, one dose of vaccine will be provided when pandemics starts and when spread, two doses.
- **Pre-pandemic vaccine:** Pre-pandemic vaccine - one vaccine for population, when pandemic happens - everybody gets a booster. There is a discussion led by UK and other EU countries.
- **Timeframe for vaccine production, once a pandemic starts:** Even with increased capacity for vaccine production, currently - 6 months. Target to reduce 4 months, with new technologies. If you look at the past pandemic, it happens in waves. So with containment strategy, it is possible to lower morbidity and lower pandemic spread speed.
- **Govt pandemic plans:** focused more on mitigation of impact, less on vaccine dissemination.
- **Vaccine adaptation strategy:** use of veterinary vaccine technology to meet seasonal infl vaccine GMP: probably not sooner vet vaccines will not meet standards for human inf vaccine. Most of vet vaccine production companies are owned by companies that also human vaccine.
- **Vaccine use in Southeast Asia:** 2 countries (Vietnam and Indonesia ) have adopted vacc strategy. Vietnam adopted very quickly. Indonesia - it is becoming more stringent regulatory framework for adoption of vaccines >> slower adoption. There are some factors: economic, government/political reasons when countries decide to adopt or not to adopt vaccination strategy.

### Plenary:

#### DIVA strategy:

- Italy was the first to adopt, now some other countries are adopting this.
- The reason why only Italy: it had high pathogenic AI outbreak in the past, 1- economic reason. 2- very active scientific community in Italy.

### Update situations:

#### UNICEF:

- Organizing global communication online centre for AI- repository of materials. It is established in response to demand from countries and int'l organizations. It contains a lot of CREATE tool materials, but also other materials. [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org). Work in progress. Contact Mary Hendersen - if necessary.
- Putting more emphasis now on M&E campaign to support the region to develop centre for excellence. This will be focus of work this year. This will be effective in supporting outbreak campaign, analysis audience, etc.
- Testing process of preparedness for pandemic response at the UNICEF level, run simulation exercise and office based scenario planning in SEA region. UN agencies, government partners, NGOs and others are involved. Happy to present at next meetings the outcome.

#### **OXFAM**

- Currently conducting pandemic planning: outline of regional policy weakness. Clarify trigger of change of phase. Plan to run a general contingency simulation in end of May. Interested other organizations can participate in this exercise.

#### **World Vision**

- Asia Pacific - engaged in 9 countries in AI. 9 month project started in 2006. Drill in WV staff of 462 developmental programmes, empower communities where WV programmes are to adopt safe practices. The end of this month will be able to report on this

#### **Next meeting:**

- **May 3 Meeting:**
  - Key focus: monitoring of Ai programmes
  - Presenters: (1) USAID office in Bangkok; (2) UNICEF
  - Chairman: Mary Hendersen from UNICEF.
- **Meeting in June:**
  - Key focus: Legal preparedness for pandemic response (tentative)
  - Presenters: (1) IFRC, International Disasters Laws, Rules and Principles, Asia Pacific Programme- doing studies on legal aspects for influenza pandemic for Cambodia; (2) open.
  - Chairman: ??
- **Meeting in July:**
  - Key focus: simulation exercise.
  - Objective: Simulation should be about contingency plan and force people to think outside the box in order to think of how to work together and understand each other.
  - Format: No presentation. Since there is no inter-agency regional plan at this point, the exercise will be conducted as role play, with reference to pandemic plan in a generic sense. The participants in this exercise will not be acting as representatives of different organizations or wear any organizational functions. Participants will be assigned generic roles by the facilitator.
  - Main facilitator: Andrew Duriex from Coverage. A small group of interested participants will meet before Jun meeting to prepare for this role exercise, together with Andrew.
  - Presenters: (1) IFRC, International Disasters Laws, Rules and Principles, Asia Pacific Programme- doing studies on legal aspects for influenza pandemic for Cambodia; (2) open.
  - Chairman: ??

END