

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)



ASEAN+3 Regional Exercise Management Training Workshop

1. Introduction

Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and avian influenza outbreaks have highlighted the need for a more effective and coordinated response to outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. Against this background, ASEAN+3 (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) initiated the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme (ASEAN+3 EID) in 2004. Building on the gains of the first phase of the programme (2004–2005), the 8th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting in Yangon, Myanmar, in June 2006 endorsed the ASEAN+3 EID Programme Phase II, a three-year programme (January 2007 to December 2009) managed by the ASEAN Secretariat and funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). The programme supports various activities proposed and endorsed by ASEAN+3 that contribute to enhancing regional preparedness and capacity through integrated approaches to prevention, surveillance and timely response to emerging infectious diseases.²⁹

As one of the main activities of the ASEAN+3 EID Programme, the Government of Thailand has been leading a project to build the capacity of the people responsible for exercise management for preparedness, prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases in ASEAN+3 countries. This has been conducted through the development of a training package for use in subregional training courses on exercise management, and organizing regional or subregional exercise management training workshops in several countries in collaboration with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC).

2. Objectives and expected outcome of the project

The primary objective of the Thailand-led project is to enhance the knowledge and skills of the people responsible for exercise management for preparedness, prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases in ASEAN+3 countries. The primary beneficiaries of the training will be the people responsible for conducting



Introduction to ASEAN+3 Regional Exercise Management Training Workshop.

exercises, who would then act as agents of capacity development in their respective countries during the subsequent training courses at the national level. As a product, the project plans to deliver a training package for use in the subregional training courses on exercise management appropriate to the regional context. This project builds on the conduct of a regional experience-sharing workshop and refinement of an exercise management training package supported by Kenan Institute Asia.

3. Design of the workshop

A five-day pilot training course has been designed and tested. It focuses on designing, developing, conducting and evaluating exercises to train national personnel who have responsibility for managing exercises in their respective countries or may have a role in training personnel in exercise management. After taking the course, the trainees are expected to contribute as facilitators for subsequent subnational or national exercise management training courses.

4. Workshop objectives

The objectives of the workshop are to provide participants with the necessary knowledge and skills:

- to build expertise in the management and conduct of communicable disease exercises;
- to provide participants with the skills and knowledge to conduct effective exercises;

²⁹ For more details about the programme, please visit the ASEAN+3 EID web site (www.aseanplus3-eid.info, accessed 25 August 2008).

- to practise these skills and knowledge in the preparation and conduct of an exercise in the workshop.

5. Workshop sessions

The workshop is composed of 10 units conducted over a period of five days. The different sessions are based on the exercise management model cycle guiding the participants through the different steps, approaches, techniques and issues in managing an exercise. Each unit is designed in such a way that participants build their respective exercises thus: identify the need, analyse the need of the exercise they agreed to develop, design the

exercise, conduct the exercise and plan how to evaluate the exercise. The exercise plans developed by the small groups are presented in plenary and the facilitators provide feedback for improvement. The model workshop agenda is shown in Table 19.

6. Future of the project

After several subregional training workshops with subsequent national and local exercises have been conducted, a regional workshop will be convened to integrate lessons learnt and feedback into the refinement of the training package.

Table 19 Model workshop agenda

30 March Sunday	Time	31 March Monday	1 April Tuesday	2 April Wednesday	3 April Thursday	4 April Friday	
Participants arrive and book into accommodation	08:30	Registration	Review of previous day	Review of previous day	Review of previous day	Review of previous day	
	09:00	Open ceremony	Need identification and analysis	Exercise planning	Preparation for presentation	After action review (AAR)	
	10:00	Tea break					
		Workshop introduction	Excise design	Exercise documentation	Group presentation	Workshop evaluation closing ceremony	
	12:00	Lunch					
		Exercise management overview	Exercise design	Exercise control	Group presentation	End of workshop	
	15:00	Tea break					
		Exercise management experience (country presentations)	Exercise design	Conducting the exercise briefings and debriefing	Group presentation		
	17:00	End of day					
		Participant feedback					