



# ข่าวเพื่อสื่อมวลชน

กรมควบคุมโรค กระทรวงสาธารณสุข โทร 02 590 3862 โทรสาร 02 590 3386



## **Bangkok call for action and Policy consultation of national disease prevention and control authorities in association with the 6th ASEAN Dengue Day 2016**

On 22th June 2016, Dr. Amnuay Gajeena, Director-General of the Department of Disease Control (DDC), the Ministry of Public Health, said that on 14th June in Bangkok, Thailand, the head of national disease prevention and control authorities from ASEAN Member States (AMS) such as Dr. Bounlay Phommasack Director General Department of Communicable Disease Control, Lao PDR, Dr. Chong Chee Kheong Director Division of Disease Control, Malaysia, Dr. Zaw Lin Deputy Director and Program Manager, Myanmar and the representative of the ASEAN Secretariat were invited to participate in the "Policy Consultation on Disease Prevention and Control in association with the 6th ASEAN Dengue Day 2016". This special meeting was aimed for enhancement of regional collaboration on disease prevention and control activities.

In alignment with the ASEAN 2025 and the ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan, several health challenges within the region have emerged. ASEAN has been aiming to reduce health gaps and increase sustainable institutional capacities in health development across region. To achieve these aims, policy guidance is crucial as well as a good collaboration at the operation level which will drive the policy forward, making the policy the reality.

"The meeting actively discussed on how to operationalize the policy on communicable disease prevention and control based on the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, IHR and GHSA." said Dr. Amnuay.

Considering the ASEAN connectivity and the increasing risk of outbreaks of communicable diseases and events of significance, the delegates preliminary agreed to 1) work collaboratively and share our expertise to strengthen IHR and GHSA core capacity, 2) place SDG high in priority list, 3) enhance regional early warning system by sharing critical information, bilaterally and regionally using ASEAN EOC network, 4) support local staffs to implement cross-border and transnational disease surveillance, prevention and control effort, 5) share best practices, lesson learned, technical paper (such as clinical practice guidelines) on disease prevention and control, and 6) finally, agree to have annual meeting of the directors of the National Disease Prevention and Control Authority. The meeting can be done on rotation basis and back-to-back to ASEAN Dengue Day.

"I believe that close collaboration among ASEAN Member States and partners using ASEAN platform especially at the operational level, which is the main responsibility of DG or director of National Disease Prevention and Control Agency will foster strategic discussion and regional collaboration on prevention and control of communicable diseases. If we, as a head of our National Disease Prevention and Control Agency, use this platform, we will be able to discuss among our friends on the issues of 1) work collaboratively to operationalize what the ASEAN policy level and ASEAN expert has already agreed upon, 2) make a concept of ASEAN EOC network, as proposed by Dr. Chong and the Malaysian Team, a reality, and 3) translate policy to implementation." said Dr. Amnuay.

Apart from the Policy Consultation session, the participants in the 6th ASEAN Dengue Day including representatives from all AMS resolved to submit "Bangkok call for action" to work together and enhance cooperation as one community to fight Dengue. The call upon all stakeholders of ASEAN to 1) strengthen the community empowerment and social mobilization to find the innovative ways and share the information among the Asia Pacific Region as AEC one community, 2) promote multi-sectorial partnerships, 3) enhance the effective communication, and 4) harmonize the country specific action plan on dengue prevention and control. The 6th ASEAN Dengue Day adopted a resolution on Bangkok call for action on the prevention and control of Dengue on 15th June 2016. More information can be found on the DDC website or through our hotline 1422.

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