

OIC

Department of Disease Control

Report



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2020-2021

**DREAM IT
BELIEVE IT
DO IT**



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Compiled and published by the Office of International Cooperation,
Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand

Revised edition: January 2022



Friday January 21st, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

The Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control (DDC), Ministry of Public Health, has prepared this document to present the achievements of the past year under vision: "To develop national and international cooperation on disease prevention and control to strengthen global health security by 2024".

It also reports on four fields in the mission; 1) Policy development and international cooperative strategy, 2) Network development and strengthening of international cooperation of the Department of Disease Control, 3) To develop the competencies of the staff of the Department of Disease Control in the field of international cooperation and, 4) To develop effective management for international travel and knowledge management to prevent diseases and health threats.

The activities carried out under the aforementioned mission fall into five sections, namely, international cooperation development, strategy and organization development, foreign relations, general administration, and external budget project. These are the primary mechanisms for working toward effective goals. Additionally, as part of the COVID-19 outbreak responses, the Office of International Cooperation has been tasked with a number of activities, such as the liaison taskforce for coordination with international relations, organizing international meetings to provide updated information to foreigners, vaccine management, collaborating with various task forces of the Department of Disease Control's Emergency Operations Center, and integrating international work with networks and stakeholders within and outside the Ministry of Public Health.

This document reflect the dedication and effort of the team to resolve all obstacles and strengthen performance under the mission of the Office of International Cooperation. It also supports the mission in the response to emergencies related to the COVID-19 outbreak to reach the target of bringing good health to the population.

Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy

DVM, Msc, MPH, DrPH

Director of the Office of International Cooperation
Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health

**DIRECTOR'S
MESSAGE**

#OICalwaysmakesithappen

MISSION

Develop international cooperation policy and strategy by developing trustworthy channels of international cooperation together with strengthening the international cooperation capabilities such as policy advocacy, international cooperation information, and talking points.

Develop networks and establish international cooperation of the DDC by establishing and developing cooperation and partnerships with relevant national, regional, and global agencies.

Develop DDC staff competencies for international cooperation roles for both internal and external personnel in supporting the cooperation between countries and platforms with skills such as diplomatic skills, languages, digital literacy. Moreover, it covers the understanding of their personal roles under the international cooperation mission.

Develop efficient management for travel abroad and knowledge management for disease and prevention by developing international DDC Specialists and a database of coordinators, innovative processing for DDC personnel going abroad to increase and strengthen the national disease prevention and control capabilities.

About us

Office of International Cooperation

Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand





VISION

To develop national and international cooperation on disease prevention and control to strengthen global health security by 2024



Lóók insio our- h^m



35 Staff

- 13 Government officers
- 13 Government employees
- 9 Hired staff members

5 Comprehensive Sections

- International Cooperation Development
- Strategy and Organization Development
- Foreign Relations
- General Administration
- External Budget Projects

1 Misison



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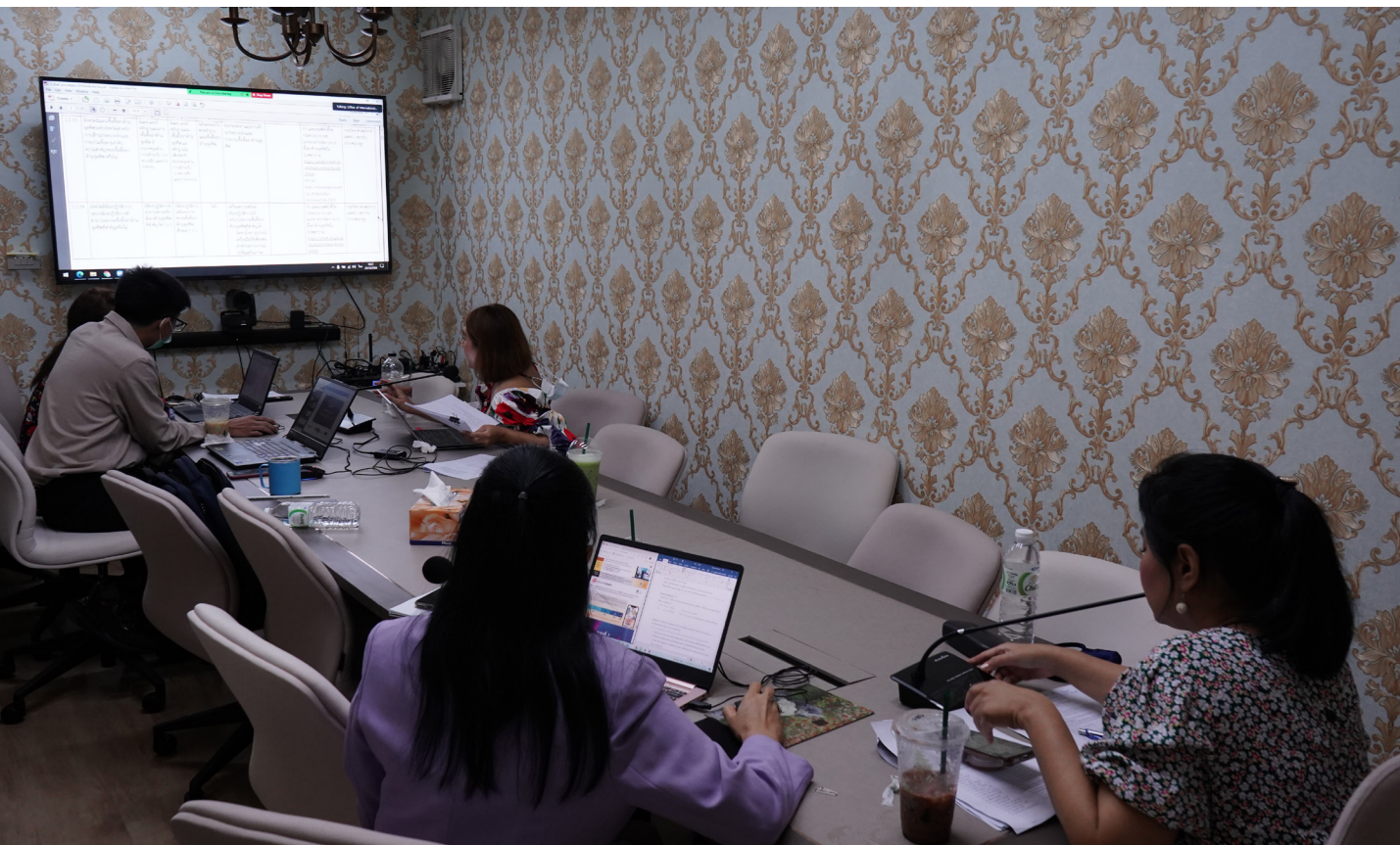
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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DEVELOPMENT SECTION

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Main activities of cooperation

- Supporting MOUs
- Developing action plans
- Implementation with partners
- Coordination with acting agencies
- Monitoring programs
- Evaluation for achieving goals

Role & Responsibility

Sub-National GHSA

Sub-national Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)
Mechanisms for surveillance, prevention and control of diseases and health hazards have been developed in targeted border provinces in accordance with the GHSA Framework

This is to prepare and respond to international health threats and to support, encourage and push Thailand to become a strong member of the World Health Organization. This is also to maintain compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) regarding health security

Bilateral Cooperation

Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, China, Kenya, Sudan, Bhutan, Iran, Vietnam, Singapore, India, Japan, Denmark, UK, USA

National Cooperation

Targeted areas:
23 border provinces in Thailand and
24 parallel cross border provinces

These areas are in the conceptual framework of "twin cities" with Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia.

Regional Cooperation

- Ayeyawady – Chao Phraya – Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS)
- Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI)
- Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance (MBDS)
- Mekong – Lancang Cooperation (MLC)
- Great Mekong Subregion (GMS)
- Cambodia - Laos - Myanmar - Thailand - Vietnam Cooperation (CLMTV)

International Cooperation Activities Completed in 2021



Sub-National GHSA

- Established an academic committee and GHSA working group at the provincial level.
- Developed and Applied the Global Health Security Index criteria in activities at the provincial level.
- Established a pilot implementation plan for GHSA efforts in border provinces (Nan and Satun provinces).
- In 2022, the sub-national GHSA program has been developed and extended to eight provinces, namely Sa Kaeo, Ranong, Tak, Sisaket, Chanthaburi, Mukdahan, Nong Khai, and Bueng Kan. Finally, Phase I will include 10 border provinces.



Migrant populations

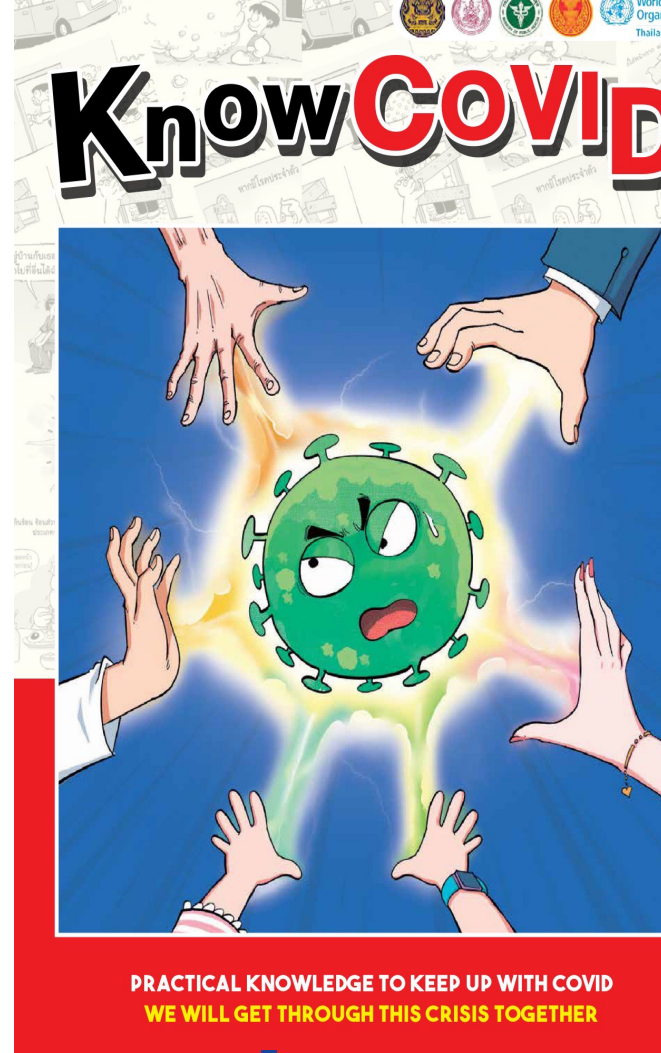
- Project for capacity development among migrant worker/volunteer networks on epidemiology, surveillance, prevention, control, and monitoring disease investigations (supported by TICA, MFA)
- Epidemiology curriculum in surveillance, prevention, control and disease monitoring of migrant workers/volunteers (cooperated with Division of Epidemiology, WHO Thailand, NGOs, and academic institutes)
- An article titled "Performance Evaluation of the Migrant Workers Hotline 1422 in Response to COVID-19 in Thailand" was published in the DDC Journal.



National Cooperation Activities



International Cooperation Activities Completed in 2021



International Cooperation

- Coordinated and developed the second Cambodia-Thailand development cooperation programme on Health (2022-2024)
- Published a comic book "Know COVID" in five languages, including Thai, English, Khmer, Burmese and Lao, with 12,000 copies (supported by TICA, WHO).
- Oversaw the donation of an ambulance with the medical equipment from Sa Kaeo Provincial Public Health Office to Mongkolburi Hospital.
- Oversaw the donation by the Trat Provincial Public Health Office to establish an emergency care facility for COVID-19 treatment at Koh Kong Hospital.





MBDS

- Coordinated and updated of the Department of Disease Control list for the MBDS Executive Board and the MBDS Coordinator.
- Attended and presented in MBDS Board meetings via virtual meetings.
- Actively participated in the regional TTX and MBDS simulation exercise for Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, from 14 to 15 January 2021 and from 27 to 28 May 2021.
- Monitored MBDS EBS regional collaborative application training and monitored analysis for EBS Reporting from the border provinces of Thailand.

GMS

- Coordinated a DDC speaker and attended One Health in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region: Where Are We Now and Where Next?
- Contributed to digital health solutions for COVID-19 vaccines in the Greater Mekong sub-region.

JICA

Coordinated with relevant DDC organizations to collaborate with JICA to increase Thailand's ability to address COVID-19 and emerging infectious diseases.

MLC

Coordinated with relevant DDC organizations to strengthen HIV/AIDS cooperation in the CCLM (China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar) countries.



CHALLENGES

The context of each border area is different according to endemic diseases, political problems, international law, culture, landscape, etc. In addition, the insufficient operational budget for local operations and identifying the person responsible for each main task is sometimes unclear. It requires coordination and support from departmental and regional network partners to develop disease surveillance, prevention and control. Involving network partners at the departmental and regional levels in the preparation of the plan is important.

The lack of qualified personnel requires a large budget to develop human capabilities.

A main priority is to develop the staff's capacity to have knowledge, skills and competences in English and the language of neighboring countries. Experts to develop staff capabilities for the area on a regular and ongoing basis are necessary. A forum to learn how to monitor, prevent, control diseases with network partners within and outside the country may be another tool to increase workforce development.

Integrating collaborative networks within and outside the department can improve teamwork to better support the operating budget in order to be more effective and reduce duplication of work.

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STRATEGY AND ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT SECTION

Office of International Cooperation

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Policies and Strategies

Develop the policies and strategies regarding the disease prevention and control about health threats



Budgets

Prepare a budget request plan, government action plan, and other budgets



PMQA

Develop the organization in accordance with PMQA



Potential

Develop, support and promote the organizational potential



Certification

Develop and prepare certifications for the performance of official duties

What We are Doing

WE DRIVE THE MISSION WITH PASSION

Develop - Prepare - Support

How it Began

The International Cooperation Policy and Strategy



The first step

Published the International Cooperation in Disease Prevention and Control Policy and Strategy.

Action time

The Strategy has been integrated with operational activities for relevant stakeholders, such as provinces in border areas and other development partners.

Monitor and evaluate the strategy.

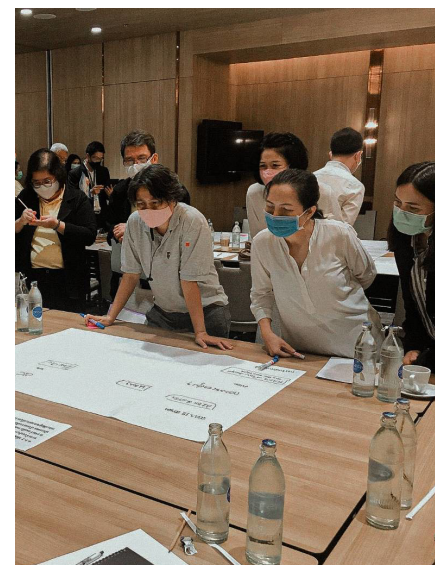
2019

2018

2017

The Committee

Established the Committee for the International Cooperation in Disease Prevention and Control Policy and Strategy.





2020

2021

Phase I achievement

Revised and updated the Committee for the International Cooperation in Disease Prevention and Control Policy and Strategy

Further development of network mapping in the context of International Cooperation in Disease Prevention and Control policy and strategy.

Organized meetings to discuss with the Advisory Committee the improvement of the strategy evaluation form to assess the International Cooperation in Disease Prevention and Control Policy and Strategy.

Oversaw and monitored the implementation of strategic development.

Summarized the evaluation of the International Cooperation in Disease Prevention and Control Policy and Strategy.

2022

Phase II & Way Forward

Revised and updated the Committee for the International Cooperation in Disease Prevention and Control Policy and Strategy

Implement the results of Phase 1 and prepare for Phase II of the International Cooperation Policy and Strategy (2022-2026)

Hire experts to develop the draft policy and strategy for International Cooperation in Disease Prevention and Control (2022-2026)

Convene the meeting to review and approve the proposed International Cooperation Policy and Strategy on Disease Prevention and Control (2022-2026)



Development of the Global One Health Approach for Communicable Diseases Curriculum



OBJECTIVES

- 1 To develop networks and improve international coordination mechanisms for the mitigation of communicable diseases using the One Health principle
- 2 To increase human capacities and skills for responding effectively and efficiently to the burden of communicable diseases



SKILLS

Hard skills

- Global health security landscape and governance
- One Health literacy
- International law and regulations/codes
- Burden of EIDs /zoonotic diseases
- Applied epidemiology for One Health
- Social science and health economics
- Risk analysis
- Information technology that supports One Health/Global Health Management

Soft skills

- Systematic thinking
- Risk communication (National, regional, community level)
- Leadership/team management collaboration/network development
- Global health diplomacy



Policy/experience sharing

International collaboration, international health management, cross cultural practice, public – private collaboration



PARTNERS

PUBLIC

- Ministry of Public Health
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Livestock Development

Academic Institutes

- Mahidol University
 - Chulalongkorn University*
- *Accredited with School of Global Health*

Global Partners

- World Health Organization Thailand
- USAID
- Thailand-US CDC Collaboration
- Southeast Asia One Health University (SEAOHUN)

CHALLENGES

1. Most staff in the Strategy and Organization Development Section are government employees with frequent personnel turnover. Furthermore, staff must work outside the section of the mission such as Situation Awareness Team: SAT, COVID-19 Vaccine passport, screening mobile units, liaison etc. This may result in a workforce shortage within the group and a workload issue.

2. The importance of policy and strategy for international cooperation in disease prevention and control Phase II should be promoted at the regional level up to the policy level in different sectors.



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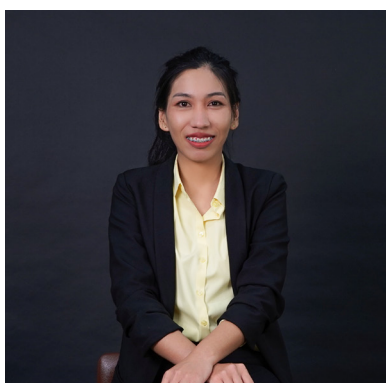


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FOREIGN RELATIONS SECTION

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Foreign Relations Section Main Tasks

Translate documents
(both Thai and English versions)



Issue official documents for civil servants
assigned to a mission/study abroad



Support resources

- Information about disease prevention in English
- Language assignments
- Staff



International Cooperation

- Support and participate in global and regional health platforms
- Serve as rapporteurs at international conferences

Other tasks

- DDC COVID-19 tasks
- Masters of ceremonies
- Speechwriters

A NEVER-ENDING PARTNERSHIP

International Networks & Multilateral Cooperation



1. Thailand Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Coordinate in the international cooperation for disease prevention and control

2. Embassies

- Update the health and situation information on an ongoing basis
- Support foreign nationals residing in Thailand who have concerns about disease prevention and control

3. Regional level

- Share knowledge and information among ASEAN Member Countries
- Update health protocols and regulations on a continuing basis

CHALLENGES

1. In terms of the challenging COVID-19 pandemic and related tasks, there has been urgent and spontaneous coordination which has caused occasional misunderstanding of the protocol while coordinating. Additional staff with a wide range of international experience is required.

2. The career paths for international relations officers should be defined in a way that encourages staff to pursue tasks. International tasks require expert staff to work over the long term and understand international mechanisms.

3. DDC personnel need to build English skills and soft skills to be confident in speaking & networking at global forums.



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GENERAL ADMINISTRATION SECTION

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MAIN

TASKS

01.

Document Tasks

- Receive - deliver and register documents

02.

Human Resources

- Manage offices personnel and benefits

03.

Accounting

- Report financial information
- Provide & support budget/technical assistance

04.

Procurement

- Provide & support materials, goods, and services regarding office' activities

05.

Happy Workplace

- Promoting happy lives at the workplace
- Promote morality and team building

06.

IT supports

- Computer installation
- IT maintain & Support service
- Facilities and vehicle services

07.

Thai-US Collaboration

- Support the technical steering committee meetings
- Support the collaboration between both countries

Continuous development back office and soft skills

Support and maintain DDC's mission and vision by engaging OIC colleagues in all activities



#MORALITYDECLARE



#SAVEOURWORLD



#BIGCLEANINGDAY

Warm, lively and close relationships.

The environment enables us to be innovative and fulfill powerful work.

Also, it is a good driver for mental and physical health.



#TH-US_COLLABCELEBRATION



**#A COLD CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATION**



#OD_WEAREFAMILY

#Work hard with spiritual balance

CHALLENGES

1. In respect to international tasks and the basis of the secretariat, particularly in the pandemic situation, the number of general service staff is not sufficient.
2. Unstable internet at the DDC makes videoconferencing an related work such as the in-out document system difficult & sometimes missing in urgent moments.



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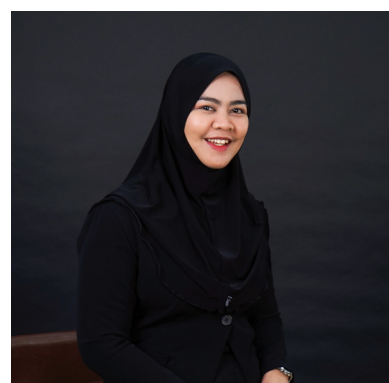


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EXTERNAL BUDGET PROJECTS

Office of International Cooperation

Strengthening preparedness and response capacity across Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Malaysia (TCLM)

DGHP–iEOC Phase IV (FY2020 – 2021)



OBJECTIVE

1. To strengthen core public health capacities of preparedness and emergency response operations across TCLM countries.
2. To develop networks and improve international coordination mechanisms for emergency responses.



TARGET GROUP

- Partners from the international level of multiple sectors across TCLM
- Other networks including ASEAN Secretariat (ASEAN Health Cluster 2), ASEAN + 3 FETN, ACMM, and development partners
- Other potential ASEAN member countries



OUTCOME

1. The SOPs/manual for international coordination mechanism of Emergency Operations Center (EOC) among TCLM.
2. The training course/modules for enhancing core public health capacities of preparedness and emergency response operations across TCLM and other potential ASEAN member countries.
3. Strengthening the international EOC network of multiple sectors.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Identify focal points for each participating countries



Display the iEOC desk review



EOC capacity assessment



Collect responses to the questionnaire on EOC coordination between TCLM countries from the Health/Civil and Defense Focal Points, and from development partners



Identify best practices and gaps in international coordination at the local and provincial levels in Thailand's border provinces.



▲ iEOC Desk Review (Paper)



► Capacity Assessment at the sub-national level in border provinces



◀ Conducted TTX among ASEAN countries with Ministry of Defense



▲ Identified best practices and gaps on EOCs of border provinces

Thailand's Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Coordinating Unit

Accom

GHSA Ministerial Meeting 2020

1. There were 1,460 participants from 97 countries around the world (354 GHSA delegates from 47 countries and 1,109 observers from 97 countries)
2. There were 16 side meetings organized by GHSA members, international organizations and development partners.

The meeting

1. fostered coordination with relevant sectors including foreign affairs, security, finance, transportation, defense, and the private sector in realizing GHSA goals, specific roles and actions,
2. promoted multi-disciplinary engagement the 6th GHSA Ministerial Meeting across human, animal, and environmental health sectors,
3. shared best practices, specific resources, and concrete actions for members aligning with the GHSA 2024 Framework and

4. fostered greater financial preparedness to support capacity strengthening to prevent, detect and respond to disease outbreaks

GHSA Steering Group Meeting

1. Conducted 3 Steering Group Meetings in 2021
2. Reviewed collective GHSA efforts and identified concrete actions to accelerate progress towards the GHSA 2024 Target
3. Provided strategic direction in moving towards the GHSA 2024 Target

GHSA Leadership Meeting

1. Reaffirmed GHSA's crucial roles and leadership on global health security to a high-level audience
2. Agreed on strategic direction and concrete actions to accelerate progress towards the GHSA 2024 Target

Unity is Power



Accomplishments

Achievements during Thailand's chairmanship

1. Ministerial Meeting and Chair's Declaration
2. Global partnerships
3. Steering Group Meetings
4. Direction for action
5. Secretariat tasks
6. Support members by cooperation and sharing information
7. GHSA Newsletter
8. Promoting GHSA visibility through the global forums
9. Friends for friends initiative
10. Cooperated with relevant partners beyond health sectors



Avian Influenza Surveillance among Poultry and Live Bird Markets in Border Provinces

DGHP–AISP (FY2019 – 2021)



Objectives

To determine the frequency of avian influenza transmission to humans among poultry populations in border provinces.

To assess the risk factors for avian influenza among poultry farms, live bird market, poultry farmers and poultry traders, including describing the relationship between infections in animals and humans.



1. 17,935 samples were collected. One sample tested positive for H9N2 avian flu virus.
2. Twenty-two monthly meetings to monitor project activities and progress.
3. Field visits to discuss surveillance objectives and plans with local stakeholders in four study provinces
4. Twenty-seven newsletters
5. Arranged portable PCR devices in the pilot area for more rapid detection of avian influenza.
6. The poultry trade network study and value chain analysis in four study provinces were conducted
7. Table top exercise workshops for avian influenza outbreak preparedness and response in border provinces
8. Workshop on avian influenza surveillance and response in border provinces. Participants came from several sectors working on the avian influenza surveillance network.



CHALLENGE

Ongoing project support and sustainable partnerships are needed.

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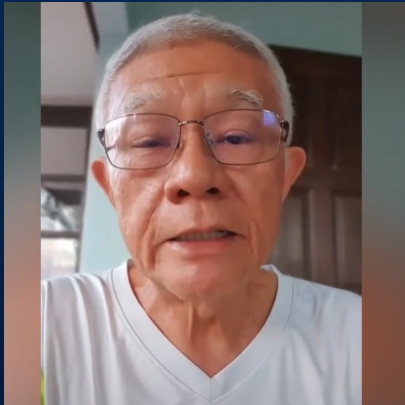
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#OICALWAYS
MAKESITHAPPEN




ACTIVE WORKING

URVO

GOOD
SUPPORT



 Working with OICA



CREATIVE



PARTNERSHIP

HAPPY



PRODUCTIVE



MOTIVATED



NG

CHOICE

C 2021 OICDDC | Q

KIND



ADAPTIVE



on Chanachai
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nal Health Advisor)



GOOD STAFF



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D D C