

### CONTENTS

**1** ASEAN COUNTRIES AND PARTNERS  
 SCALE UP EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE  
 RABIES

**3** THE FIFTH GLOBAL HEALTH  
 SECURITY AGENDA (GHS) A  
 MINISTERIAL MEETING AND A SIDE  
 MEETING ON ZOO NOTIC DISEASES IN  
 INDONESIA

**3** VIETNAM AND US BOOST  
 COOPERATION IN INFECTION  
 CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF  
 DRUG RESISTANCE

**4** ASEAN MINISTERS TO ADOPT 23  
 ACTION PLANS FOR AGRICULTURE  
 AND FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

**4** LESSONS FROM ONE HEALTH/  
 ECOHEALTH IN ASIA PRESENTED AT  
 A GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN ITALY

**5** NEWS IN BRIEF

**6** RELEVANT LEGAL DOCUMENTS

**7** ONE HEALTH UPCOMING EVENTS

RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN ONE HEALTH

## ASEAN COUNTRIES AND PARTNERS SCALE UP EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE RABIES



More than 100 representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States, regional and international organizations including the ASEAN Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the World Health Organization (WHO), donor agencies and other One Health partners agreed to accelerate regional and country initiatives as they reiterated their commitment to tackling rabies during the ASEAN-Tripartite Rabies Meeting in Hanoi on 4-6 December 2018.

The meeting was co-chaired by Vice Minister of Health, Dr Truong Quoc Cuong, and Dr Albert Lieberg, the representative of Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations in Viet Nam (FAO) on behalf of the Tripartite (FAO-OIE-WHO).

Rabies causes approximately 59,000 of human deaths every year in over 100 countries, mostly affecting underserved communities in Africa and Asia with limited access to health and veterinary systems. In up to 99% of cases, domestic dogs are responsible for transmission of the rabies virus to humans through bites or scratches. In Viet Nam, human rabies has decreased from more than 400 cases in 1992 to less than 100 cases annually since 2016 due to a strong government commitment and support from international partners. Political support and the availability of human resources are critical factors for maintaining momentum on rabies elimination efforts.

Giving his opening remarks at the meeting, Vice Minister of Health, Dr Truong Quoc Cuong said “Viet Nam is delighted to host this important meeting. As a leading country in rabies prevention and control, Viet Nam has been the ASEAN regional focal point in the development of the ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy, as well as the action plan guiding its implementation. The country is also an active player in strengthening collaboration mechanisms among ASEAN Member States through international conferences”,

“In Viet Nam, the Government also pays much attention in providing direction and support for activities of Rabies prevention and control, and the issuance of National Action Plan on Rabies following a One Health approach with involvement of multi-sectors and governments at different levels. Additionally, there are clear priorities including the human health sector focus on surveillance and prevention of Rabies in humans while the animal health sector focuses on surveillance and prevention Rabies in dogs and cats. Despite these differences in priorities, there is close coordination between the two sectors during outbreak containments and communication on Rabies prevention and control in community. Many provinces have organized vaccine campaigns for dogs and cats, and provided subsidized vaccines for people bitten by dogs and cats for the poor and minor ethnic people”, shared by Dr Truong Quoc Cuong

Although the ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES) sets a target for the elimination of human rabies in the ASEAN region by 2020, a number of ASEAN Member States may find it very difficult to achieve this goal. Rabies is still endemic in the canine populations of a majority of ASEAN Member States and nearly all of the human rabies cases are

due to bites from rabid dogs. Controlling the disease in dogs and cats through dog and cats vaccination is the most cost-effective way to prevent human rabies.

“Successful rabies control programmes require a multi-sectoral, collaborative One Health approach. They require community participation, public awareness and education, and access to related health services in the human and animal sectors, including dog and cats vaccination and human post-exposure prophylaxis. We commend the strong commitment of ASEAN Member States in collectively taking action against rabies. This regional initiative, coupled with individual country efforts, reflects that we are indeed “United Against Rabies”, Dr Albert Lieberg, FAO Representative in Viet Nam affirmed at the meeting.

The participants proposed a roadmap to fast-track the implementation of the ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES), a strategic framework for rabies control activities which was endorsed by health and agricultural ministers of ASEAN countries in 2014. FAO, OIE, and WHO will continue to provide technical advice on ARES implementation, including status monitoring. Participants also identified key regional and country actions for 2020 onwards, as well as the support potentially needed from partners.

FAO, OIE, WHO, and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) have established “United Against Rabies,” a collaboration platform that has jointly developed the Global Strategic Plan to achieve “Zero human rabies deaths by 2030.” ASEAN Member States will continue to work with these organizations and other partners to bring an end to human deaths from dog-mediated rabies, as well as to call for stronger actions and participation in the “United Against Rabies” initiative ■

## SOME PICTURES OF THE MEETING



## THE FIFTH GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA (GHSA) MINISTERIAL MEETING AND A SIDE MEETING ON ZOOONOTIC DISEASES IN INDONESIA

On 4-6 November 2018 in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia hosted the fifth Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Ministerial Meeting, as well as a side meeting on Zoonotic Diseases to address the emergence of many diseases amid climate change around the world.

The Health Minister, Ms Nila F. Moeloek provided a welcome speech at the GHSA Ministerial Meeting opening meeting and said Indonesia had built a collective awareness along with other GHSA members to prevent global health threats for the past five years.

"We managed to increase other countries' awareness

regarding the importance of IHR. Moreover, we also gained a lot of new members during the last framework period," the Health Minister said, adding that the number of GHSA members had increased from 29 countries in 2014 to 65 in 2018.

The fifth GHSA evaluated its previous framework and launched the 2024 GHSA framework. In the new framework, Indonesia will be a permanent member of the GHSA steering group, while Indonesia, Senegal and Viet Nam will jointly lead the Zoonotic Diseases Action Package (ZDAP) of the GHSA ■

## VIETNAM AND US BOOST COOPERATION IN INFECTION CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF DRUG RESISTANCE



Viet Nam's Minister of Health, Nguyen Thi Kim Tien, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the US, Robert Redfield, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in infection prevention and antibiotic resistance and infection surveillance related to medical care in Hanoi on 12 December 2018.

The MoU is intended to strengthen the capacity of infection prevention programmes, including through risk assessments, developing policies and guidelines, and monitoring and evaluating relevant programmes.

It also aims to improve testing capacity to detect antibiotic-resistant pathogens through training and consultation, exchange of isolated strains of bacteria, and sharing of information on best practices

and scientific advances in microbiological testing techniques.

The two parties will exchange personnel and materials serving training programmes, organise meetings, conferences and workshops related to infection and drug resistance control, and will work on expanding the national supervision system on antibiotic resistance and infection in health care.

Mr Redfield - Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hoped to enhance cooperation between his agency and the Vietnamese side in preventing bird flu, stressing that that Vietnam's sharing of information related to the influenza strains is very useful for research and production of vaccines across the globe ■



## ASEAN MINISTERS TO ADOPT 23 ACTION PLANS FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

The ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) reviewed 23 proposed new action plans and documents in the fields of agriculture and forestry at the 40th annual AMAF meeting which opened in Hanoi on October 11.



*Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung*

Addressing the meeting, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung said that the agriculture and forestry industries have been contributing factors in the strong development of ASEAN nations in recent years. The agriculture sector in particular has played a core role in the socio-political and economic stability of each member country.

For most ASEAN countries, agriculture is both a reliable and consistent industry that helps ensure food security and sustainable development. Therefore, cooperation in agriculture and forestry has always been a key focus of the ASEAN Economic Community, Mr Dung underscored.

The Deputy Prime Minister continued to say that agriculture is a vulnerable sector facing numerous risks. The agriculture sectors of Vietnam and other regional countries are facing fierce competition from other economic sectors, particularly in relation to the use of labour, land and water resources.

He expressed his belief that with the concerted efforts of regional partners and each member country, the AMAF meeting would accelerate the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Community Vision as well as the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry between 2016 and 2025.

As an active member of the ASEAN Community, Vietnam takes a leading role in regional cooperation and will continue to develop feasible initiatives to improve the efficiency of ASEAN cooperation for the sustainable development of agriculture, Mr Dung said.

The 40th AMAF meeting approved strategies, policies and guidelines for the regional agriculture and forestry industries and proposed cooperation initiatives both with partners and international organizations with a view to realizing the targets of the ASEAN vision to 2025 and the UN sustainable development goals to 2030 ■

## LESSONS FROM ONE HEALTH/ECOHEALTH IN ASIA PRESENTED AT A GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN ITALY

The 'Creating Impact for One Health and EcoHealth: advancements in implementation, evaluation and governance' conference was held in Bologna, Italy, 10-12 September 2018, and drew more than 100 participants from five continents.

The global conference brought together human and animal health experts to explore how EcoHealth and One Health approaches are being evaluated and implemented in practice in different parts of the world. The conference also looked at the changes in institutional and regulatory structures and how to promote One Health in the translation of science into practice.



*Hung Nguyen (second row, fifth from left) and about 100 participants gather at the conference to find sustainable and ethical solutions to global health challenges (photo credit: Network for Evaluation of One Health).*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

At the conference, Hung Nguyen, from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and regional representative for East and Southeast Asia, gave a presentation reflecting on the use of One Health and EcoHealth in Asia.

Mr. Nguyen underlined how One Health capacity development has been developed through the Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN) that links and empowers 67 universities to generate intellectual and social capital across human, animal and environmental health sectors. He also shared the model of Vietnam's One Health Partnership (OHP) which has reaped much success in boosting One Health activities in the country.

He cautioned that wider implementation of One Health approaches in the region will need to be supported by further policy changes, capacity development in One Health and greater inclusion and coordination between the health, agricultural and environmental sectors.

Representatives from Africa, Europe, North and Latin America, and Oceania also made presentations at the conference, which gave participants a panorama of One Health and EcoHealth activities globally.

NEOH is a global platform that brings together more than 200 members from 30 countries, representing a wide range of disciplines, sectors and organizations, with the aim of enabling future quantitative evaluations of One Health activities and furthering the evidence base by developing and applying a science-based evaluation protocol in an interdisciplinary community of experts ■

## OVER VND760 BILLION FOR BIRD FLU CONTROL DURING 2019-2025

A national plan on bird flu control during 2019-2025 will have a budget of VND 762 billion (over US\$32.6 million), as reported at a conference in Hanoi on 16 October 2018.

The conference was held by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to sum up the outcomes of the national control plan for avian influenza in the agriculture sector from 2014-2018.

The Animal Health Department of MARD said that the State budget would provide VND 51.5 billion for the plan, while localities will contribute a further VND711 billion from their own budgets.

Besides strengthening the monitoring of disease outbreaks, the plan aims to vaccinate at least 80% of poultry flocks and to build safer poultry production chains and regions in line with the recommendations of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

MARD Vice Minister, Mr Ha Cong Tuan, said that avian influenza has so far been under control, with only local outbreaks and reduced risk of virus transmission to humans. He added that no case of avian influenza infection in humans has been detected in the country since mid-2014.

Deputy Director of the Animal Health Department, Mr Dam Xuan Thanh, said that Viet Nam has been successful in preventing the A/H7N9 virus from entering the country, with no case of A/H7N9 virus infection detected so far.

However, he noted that there is still a high risk of other avian influenza virus strains entering Viet Nam through border provinces. Disease monitoring also showed a high prevalence of A/H5N1 and A/H5N6 viruses, with an average detection rate of 5% ■

(Source: VOV)

## NO NEW CASES OF H5N1 BIRD FLU IN HUMANS REPORTED SINCE 2014

Viet Nam has reported no new human cases of avian influenza A/H5N1 and has successfully controlled outbreaks of the H5N1 strain over the past five years, according to a leader of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

At a meeting between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention of the US (CDC) in Hanoi on 11 December 2018, the Deputy Minister said the CDC had offered effective support for Viet Nam's animal health sector in combating diseases.

MARD pledged to effectively implement programmes supported by the CDC and hoped the organisation would continue to share information to assist the country in vaccine production and research, he said.

The CDC said it valued the initiative taken by the animal health sector in Vietnam to control diseases. The agency said that it would extend its support in sharing its monitoring and disease control toolkit as well as dispatch experts to help Vietnam better control influenza and rabies.

The CDC helped Viet Nam carry out the “Studies at the Animal-Human Interface of Influenza and Other Zoonotic Diseases” project from 2012-17 with total investment of over US\$2.3 million.

The Department of Animal Health under MARD was the main recipient, along with research partners including the National Centre for Veterinary Diagnosis.

The project aimed to strengthen the capacity of the animal health and public health sectors to design, conduct, analyse and describe the results of local, regional and national surveillance and research studies.

The CDC is also sponsoring the continuation of the project between 2017-2022 with US\$2 million investment. It targets different types of bird flu including H5N1, H5N6 and H7N9 at live poultry markets and smuggling/culling points in 10 selected provinces and cities ■

(Source: Vietnam News)

## EXPERTS DISCUSS WAYS TO COMBAT INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**Local and international health experts discussed measures to confront infectious diseases at an international conference in Hanoi on 13 November 2018.**

“One Health Academic Challenges: Preparing Today’s Workforce to Combat Tomorrow’s Infectious Diseases”, was organised by the Institute of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Hanoi Medical University, Hanoi, Vietnam and the Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN).

“We live in a fragile and connected world where a disease can easily transmit across the globe in just a matter of days. Experts say that the next outbreak or epidemic is inevitable, but preventing it from becoming a pandemic is possible,” said Ms Le Thi Huong, Dean of the Institute of Preventive Medicine and Public Health.

Delegates also shared their research and experience in building a sustainable One Health workforce to ensure that each country can effectively respond to any infectious disease threat.

Established in 2011, SEAOHUN currently has four national country networks including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, with 67 member universities.

The network’s mission is to link and empower leading universities in Southeast Asia to generate social and intellectual capital on One Health against infectious disease threats ■

## ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE THREATS TO HUMAN HEALTH

On 19 November 2018, the National Tropical Diseases Hospital in coordination with the Viet Nam Society of Infectious Diseases held a ceremony to pledge the responsible use of antibiotics.

Hospital Director Dr Nguyen Van Kinh said that the widespread application of antibiotics in the 20th century had been a turning point of human medicine history. Since then, antibiotics have helped to save millions of lives from infectious diseases.

However, inappropriate use and overuse of antibiotics in healthcare and agriculture have resulted in an increase in antibiotic resistance, which is threatening the treatment of contagious diseases and weakening healthcare progress, Dr Kinh added.

The Director called for responsibility in using antibiotics. Patients should not take antibiotics without a doctor’s prescription, drug store assistants should refuse to sell antibiotics without a prescription, and livestock producers should not feed antibiotics to animals indiscriminately.

According to the World Health Organization, antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security and development. Annually, at least 700,000 people die of antibiotic resistance in the world. Without close control over the matter, more people will die due to antibiotic resistance by 2050. ■

## RELEVANT LEGAL DOCUMENTS

### DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Decision No. 1092/QĐ-TTg dated 2 September 2018 of the Prime Minister on approval of Viet Nam's Health Program

<https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/The-thao-Y-te/Quy-et-dinh-1092-QĐ-TTg-2018-phe-duyet-Chuong-trinh-Suc-khoe-Viet-Nam-393271.aspx>

### DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MARD

Circular No. 11/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated 1 October 2018 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on national technical regulations on agricultural, forestry and fishery wholesale markets and auctions - requirements for food safety assurance

<https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Thuong-mai/Thong-tu-11-2018-TT-BNNPTNT-Quy-chuan-ky-thuat-quoc-gia-cho-dau-moi-cho-dau-gia-nong-lam-san-398440.aspx>

Decision No. 110/2008/QĐ-BNN dated 02 November 2018 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on list of quarantine objects of animals and aquatic animal products.

<https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Tai-nguyen-Moi-truong/Quy-et-dinh-110-2008-QĐ-BNN-Danh-muc-doi-tuong-kiem-dich-dong-vat-va-san-pham-dong-vat-thuy-san-82132.aspx>

### DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MOH

Circular No. 40/2018/TT-BYT dated 7 December 2018 (effective on 25 January 2019) of the Ministry of Health on regulations on management of infectious disease samples

<https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/The-thao-Y-te/Thong-tu-40-2018-TT-BYT-Quy-dinh-ve-quan-ly-mau-benh-pham-benh-truyen-nhiem-369319.aspx>

Decision No. 6847/QĐ-BYT dated 13 November 2018 of the Ministry of Health on approval of a communication proposal for the improvement of personal hygiene, environmental sanitation and rural clean water usage during the period 2018-2025 and vision to 2030

<https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Tai-nguyen-Moi-truong/Quy-et-dinh-6847-QĐ-BYT-2018-De-an-truyen-thong-ve-cai-thien-ve-sinh-ca-nhan-ve-sinh-moi-truong-400323.aspx>

Circular No. 29/2018/TT-BYT dated 29 October 2018 (effective on 1 January 2019) of the Ministry of Health on clinical drug testing regulations

<https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/The-thao-Y-te/Thong-tu-29-2018-TT-BYT-Quy-dinh-ve-thu-thuoc-tren-lam-sang-329759.aspx>

## ONE HEALTH UPCOMING EVENTS

### February, 2019

**U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Sciences Program (USJCMSP) 21st International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases In The Pacific Rim**

26 Feb – 1 March  
Hanoi, Vietnam

**6th International Congress on Infectious Diseases**

Feb 25-26, 2019  
London, U.K

### March, 2019

**14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Infectious Diseases, Prevention and Control**

March 21-22, 2019  
Dubai, UAE

**12<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Virology and Infectious Diseases**

March 13-14, 2019  
Holiday Inn Atrium, Singapore

**From Innovation in Tropical Infectious Diseases to Global Health Solutions**

March 24 - 29, 2019  
TX, US

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN ONE HEALTH

**Public health risks associated with food-borne parasites. First published: 04 December 2018.**

<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2018.5495>

**Clinical one health: A novel healthcare solution for underserved communities. Available online 19 October 2018**

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.onehlt.2018.10.003>

**Fieldhouse JK, Wang X, Mallinson KA, Tsao RW, Gray GC. A Systematic Review of Evidence that Enteroviruses May Be Zoonotic. Emerging Microbes & Infections.**

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41426-018-0159-1>

**Bioaerosol Sampling to Detect Avian Influenza Virus in Hanoi's Largest Live Poultry Market**

<https://sites.globalhealth.duke.edu/dukeonehealth/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2018/09/ciy583.pdf>

The continual threat of influenza virus infections at the human–animal interface <a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/emph/eoy013">https://doi.org/10.1093/emph/eoy013</a>
One Health Series: The Politics of Antimicrobial Resistance (Video) <a href="https://www.drovers.com/article/one-health-series-politics-antimicrobial-resistance">https://www.drovers.com/article/one-health-series-politics-antimicrobial-resistance</a>
Partnerships—Why it is critical for technology scaling. Published on Dec 24, 2018 <a href="https://www.slideshare.net/ILRI/faolri-niyi">https://www.slideshare.net/ILRI/faolri-niyi</a>
Saving Lives By Taking A One Health Approach <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/pdfs/OneHealth-FactSheet-FINAL.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/pdfs/OneHealth-FactSheet-FINAL.pdf</a>
Replication of MERS and SARS coronaviruses in bat cells offers insights to their ancestral origins. Published: 10 December 2018 <a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41426-018-0208-9.pdf">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41426-018-0208-9.pdf</a>
Zika virus infection in human placental tissue explants is enhanced in the presence of dengue virus antibodies in-vitro. Published: 01 December 2018 <a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41426-018-0199-6">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41426-018-0199-6</a>
Characterising routes of H5N1 and H7N9 spread in China using Bayesian phylogeographical analysis. Published: 21 November 2018 <a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41426-018-0185-z">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41426-018-0185-z</a>
What is the goal of One Health? Published on December 3, 2018 <a href="https://www.seaohun.org/single-post/2018/12/03/What-is-the-goal-of-One-Health">https://www.seaohun.org/single-post/2018/12/03/What-is-the-goal-of-One-Health</a>
AMR Policy Review and Development Framework. Published on December 11, 2018 <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/CA1486EN/ca1486en.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/CA1486EN/ca1486en.pdf</a>

