

The background features a light gray map of Southeast Asia. Overlaid on the map are several curved, overlapping lines in yellow, blue, and red, which sweep across the top of the image from left to right.

ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES) Endorsement Process and Revision

Presentation by ASEAN Secretariat

ASEAN-WOAH Rabies Meeting to Develop the ARES Implementation Plan

24-26 February 2025, Pattaya, Thailand



Outline

- The First ARES
- ASEAN-Tripartite Rabies Meeting
- Revised ARES



The First ARES

- Drafting of the first ASEAN rabies elimination strategy (ARES) was started in 2013
- This was a joint effort by animal health and human health sectors through ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) and the ASEAN Experts Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD) respectively
- The strategy was consulted, endorsed by ASWGL and AEGCD as well as SOM-AMAF and SOMHD; and adopted at the 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) and the 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) in 2014
- Rabies control and elimination programmes were implemented based on ARES

ASEAN-Tripartite Rabies Meeting

- ASEAN-Tripartite Rabies Meeting was conducted in December 2018 in Hanoi, Vietnam with salient points:
 - AMS presented updates on their progress towards rabies control and elimination
 - Review of ARES 2015-2017 (Phase 1), preliminary findings and recommendations through the leadership of Viet Nam
 - Incidence of human rabies did not substantially change during 2015-2017
 - Dog vaccination coverage did not significantly increase within the same period

- Recommendations from the Meeting to strengthen rabies elimination programs:
 - Need for more financial resources to sustain rabies control and elimination programmes, particularly human rabies vaccine, public awareness, and advocacy campaigns
 - Need for stronger legislative and law enforcement support to implement regulatory measures
 - Revision of ARES including to extend the timeline and align with the 2030 global goal and targets

- The outcomes were reported to ASWGL and AHC 2 Meetings who then agreed with the recommendations including the need to revise ARES



Revised ARES

- There is need to review the regional rabies elimination target, align with the Zero by 30 global strategic plan, and reflect recent innovations and research that hold promise for accelerating progress towards rabies elimination
- ARES revision was delayed due to COVID-19
- Consultation meetings on 17-18 January 2023 (virtual) and 2-4 May 2023 (in person) involving ASWGL and AHC 2 and supported by WOA and Nossal-Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne were held to revise ARES
- The revised ARES document has been finalized, endorsed by AHC 2 and ASWGL, SOMHD and SOM-AMAF and now in the process of adoption by AHMM and AMAF



Revised of ARES

- From the human health sector, AHMM Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand have shared their adoption
- From the animal health sector, AMAF has in-principle adopted the revised ARES while consultation by human health sector was ongoing
- Once full adoption is obtained from AHMM, AMAF will have another review and note the final version of ARES

- Highlighted updates in the revised ARES:
 - Definition of rabies elimination with progress stages towards elimination/rabies-free status
 - Theory of Change identifying key intermediate outcomes and activities
 - Recommended technical activities including recent innovations and updated international guidelines
 - Emphasis on One Health approach with specific areas for operationalisation and guidelines for sectoral roles and responsibilities
 - Emphasis on empowering communities and their participation in rabies elimination programs
 - Recommendations for regional resource mobilization including formation of ASEAN regional coordination group
 - Annex with key resources from international organisations and partners

**Thank you for
your attention!**



**For more inquiries
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