

Sub-regional training workshop on zoning and compartmentalisation in the facilitation of safe trade

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

28-30 April 2026

Actions and Recommendations

World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Sub-Regional Training Workshop on Zoning and Compartmentalisation for the Facilitation of Safe Trade was held in Kuala Lumpur from 28–30 April 2026. The workshop brought together participants from nine ASEAN Member States, along with resource persons from the WOAH Code Commission, WOAH Headquarters and the Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (SRR-SEA), as well as international experts on zoning and compartmentalisation, and representatives from the private sector

The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of WOAH Members in South-East Asia to effectively implement zoning and compartmentalisation for terrestrial animals in line with WOAH standards and guidelines, thereby facilitating safe trade and ensuring business continuity.

Through a series of technical deliberations and group work sessions, the workshop generated the following recommendations:



Group Photo

Engagement in standard-setting

- Members commit to participating early and more actively in the standard-setting process, expressing their priority areas for standards development or revision;
- Members to use the provisions of WOAAH standards and guidelines to improve their disease control efforts and to facilitate safe trade;
- Members to consider establishing regional mechanisms, such as through ASEAN, to coordinate joint positions and comments on draft standards to ensure effective engagement in the standard-setting process;

Safe trade

- Members identified key commodities and national priorities. They acknowledged the importance of facilitating safe national, cross-border and international trade, and the harmonisation of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures in the region.

Implementation of sanitary measures for zoning and compartmentalisation

- WOAAH to work with its network of experts, in consultation with Members, to provide guidance to Members on the implementation of zoning and compartmentalisation for a range of diseases;
- Members recognise the importance of engaging a range of stakeholders, including other Competent Authorities, industry groups, and trading partners in the implementation of zoning and compartmentalisation.
- Members noted the importance of taking into account the results of cost-benefit analyses in order to make a business case for the establishment of zones and compartments and to work with relevant stakeholders to ensure ongoing maintenance and sustainability, vis-a-vis other national priorities
- Members to leverage on the existing WOAAH tools (WAHIS, PVS and the e-learning platform) and resources as well as other partners' learning resources to strengthen Veterinary Services' capacity to facilitate safe trade.
- Members commit to transparency and the prompt sharing of their animal health status or sanitary conditions to maintain trust between trading partners and facilitate ongoing trade.
- Members to strengthen coordination and networks with other relevant ministries and organisations (e.g. commerce, customs, and military) and stakeholders in both the public and private sectors.
- Members and partners to consider establishing, maintaining, and seeking recognition of free zones and compartments based on robust epidemiological evidence, effective surveillance, and verifiable traceability systems.
- Members recognise the importance of implementing harmonised digital systems that capture and securely store traceability records, surveillance and risk assessment data, laboratory results, movement permits, and certification documents in a format that is easily accessible and verifiable for audits to facilitate trade domestically and internationally.

Networking

- Members to continue to engage with each other to share experiences in the implementation of zoning and compartmentalisation for disease control and safe trade; this may be facilitated through the establishment of a community of practice or other networking modalities.
- WOAHA to support regional coordination and cooperation including provision of platforms for the Members and other partners which will contribute to the creation of an enabling environment and facilitate safe trade.

Capacity building

- WOAHA and partners, both public and private, to consider coordinating sub-regional training workshops to strengthen awareness and capacities on other relevant WOAHA standards (e.g Chapter.5.5; Chapter 5.6) to support Members in informed decision making and the implementation of standards.
- WOAHA and partners to support the Members in enhancing their disease prevention and control efforts, including the ability to conduct risk assessments, epidemiological outbreak investigations, design of cost-effective surveillance systems, and to run outbreak simulation exercises in order to facilitate safe trade;
- Members to commit actively to promoting and disseminating zoning and compartmentalisation approaches within their institutions and with national partners to ensure sustained outcomes from capacity building over time.

Acknowledgement

- Express gratitude to the Government of Malaysia for its successful hosting of this Sub-Regional Training Workshop on Zoning and Compartmentalisation.
- Express gratitude to the Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) for their continuous financial support to strengthen capacity building to facilitate safe trade under 'Disease Prevention and Control' component of the 7th Strategic Plan Project.
- Thank all the participants, resource persons and presenters for their active engagement in the training workshop.