Beyond Silos Project – ASEAN Component



Workshop on Biothreat Reduction in South-East Asia

02-June-2026

WOAH SRR SEA

World Organisation for Animal Health

In partnership with Canada

Biorisk refers to the potential harm caused by biological agents or toxins to humans, animals, plants or the environment.



Natural events
Emerging and re-emerging diseases



Accidental events
Laboratory accidents or unintended release



Deliberate misuse
Intentional misuse of biological materials

Biorisk is becoming more complex



Human-Animal-Environment interface

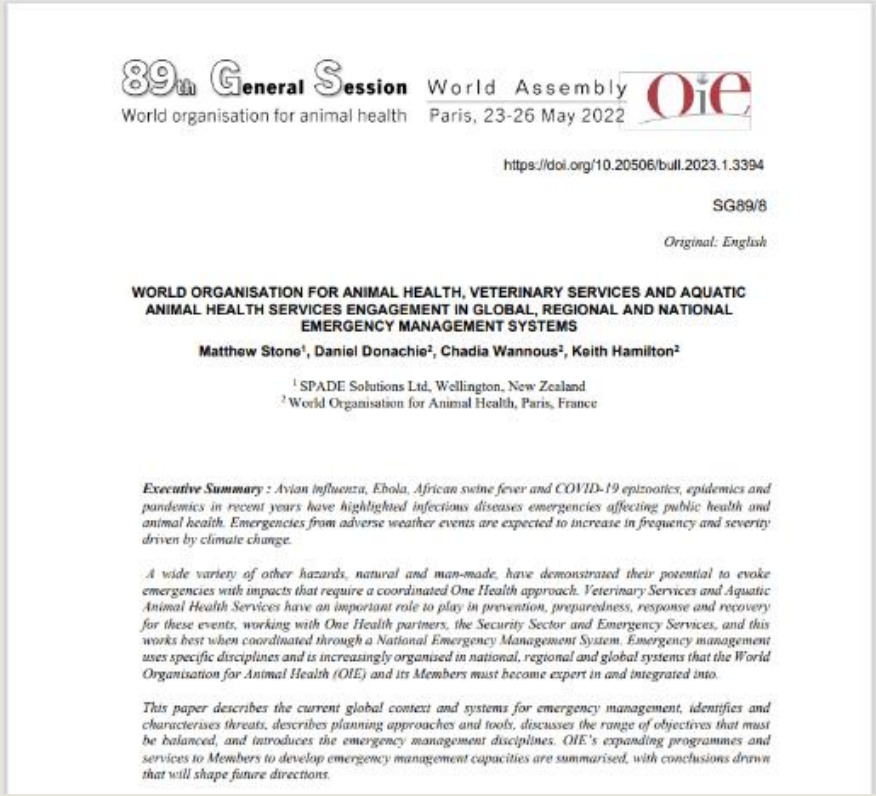


Global mobility & connectivity



Rapid biotechnology advance

Technical Item - Resolution 28 (GS 2022)



89th General Session World Assembly
World organisation for animal health Paris, 23-26 May 2022

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SG89/8

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WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH, VETERINARY SERVICES AND AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES ENGAGEMENT IN GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

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Executive Summary : *Avian influenza, Ebola, African swine fever and COVID-19 epizootics, epidemics and pandemics in recent years have highlighted infectious diseases emergencies affecting public health and animal health. Emergencies from adverse weather events are expected to increase in frequency and severity driven by climate change.*

A wide variety of other hazards, natural and man-made, have demonstrated their potential to evoke emergencies with impacts that require a coordinated One Health approach. Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services have an important role to play in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery for these events, working with One Health partners, the Security Sector and Emergency Services, and this works best when coordinated through a National Emergency Management System. Emergency management uses specific disciplines and is increasingly organised in national, regional and global systems that the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and its Members must become expert in and integrated into.

This paper describes the current global context and systems for emergency management, identifies and characterises threats, describes planning approaches and tools, discusses the range of objectives that must be balanced, and introduces the emergency management disciplines. OIE's expanding programmes and services to Members to develop emergency management capacities are summarised, with conclusions drawn that will shape future directions.

Global Conference on Emergency Management *(3-5 April 2023, Paris, France)*



April 2023

GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Calls for Action

Multisectoral and international cooperation to mitigate biological threats, whether natural, accidental or deliberate, has improved. However, gaps remain and further progress and support is needed across all of society and government including to take the One Health approach.

There should be universal recognition of the benefits of investing in the emergency management capacity of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, and that further efforts are needed to strengthen the functional relationship between health and other sectors, such as security (including Law Enforcement).

Greater efforts should be made to adopt an inclusive and sustainable all-hazards approach to emergency management through education, planning, partnerships and networks, and resources.

FAIR* and open access to data and scientific evidence are required to support national, regional and international epidemic intelligence and emergency management systems.

The process of mobilising, prioritising and receiving resources should be better integrated into emergency preparedness (e.g. contingency planning and exercising), and resource mobilisation mechanisms need to be fit for purpose to ensure timely response, whilst being able to adapt to opportunities and local needs.

Emergency management must keep up to date by anticipating new challenges including cybersecurity, misinformation and disinformation, and by learning from preparedness activities and real events.

*Findable. Accessible. Interoperable. Reusable

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Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction, Geneva (28-30 Oct,2025)

Key topics

One Health and Security: The biological threat landscape	Deliberate biological threats
Neglected deliberate biological threats	Emerging disruptive technologies
Innovation to improve the sustainability of laboratories	Advances in surveillance and diagnostic technologies for biological threat reduction
Sustainable approaches in emergency management	Strengthening global frameworks for biological threat reduction
Advocacy and investment strategies for biological threat reduction	Taking action for collective biological threat reduction

Our partners

Co-funded by the European Union

European Union

Canada

Global Affairs Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program

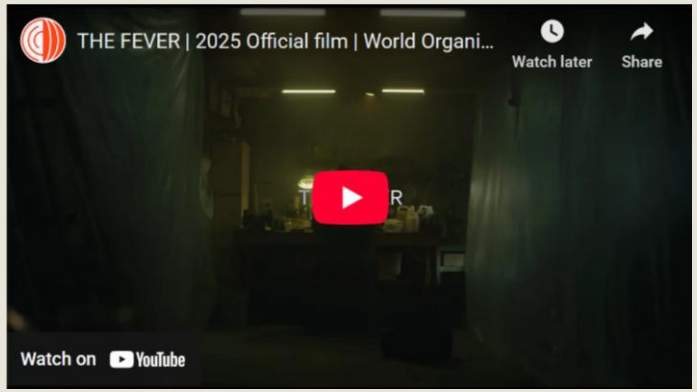
Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

UK Government

UK International Biosecurity Programme



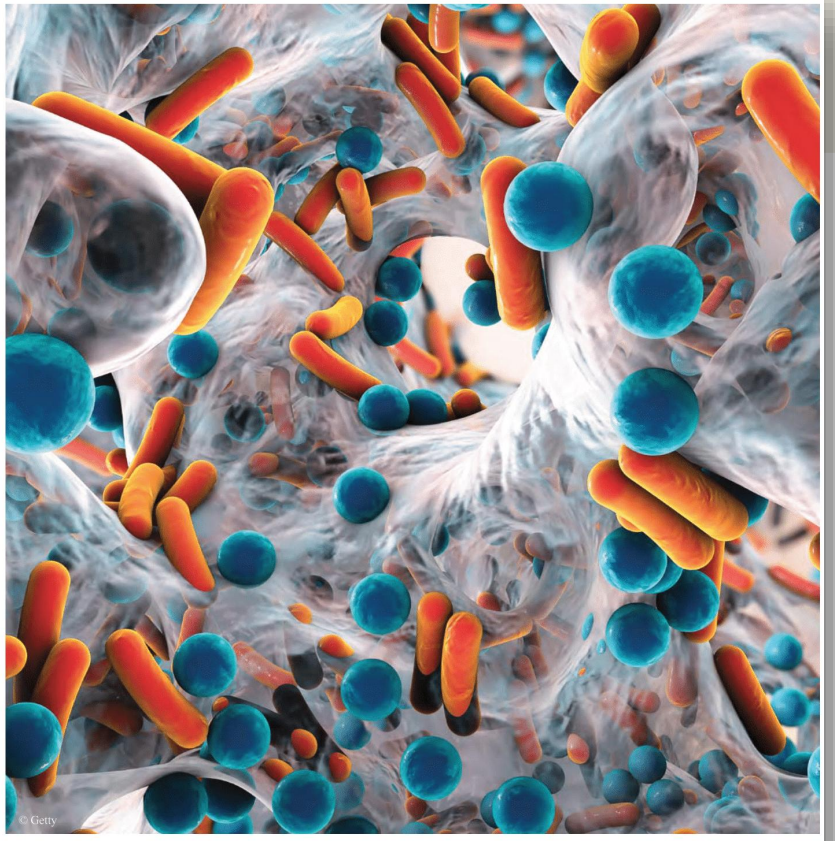


https://youtu.be/JZW1atcfCnA

Biological Threat Reduction Strategy

Biological Threat Reduction Strategy

- Maintaining scientific expertise and setting standards, and guidelines
- Good governance, capacity-building and implementation of the One Health concept
- Global disease intelligence and updates on the latest methods for disease prevention and control
- International cooperation and solidarity between countries
- Advocacy and communication



Biological threat reduction strategy

Strengthening global biological security

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Biological threat reduction

Operationalising Bio-Threat Reduction

WOAH contributes to bio-threat reduction through collaboration, guidance and capacity-building initiatives.

Engagement with Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

Promoting awareness and policy engagement on biological risk reduction.

Responsible science & dual-use awareness

Promoting awareness of dual-use risks, including Dual-Use Research of Concern (DURC).

Strengthening biosafety and biosecurity

Supporting Members to strengthen:

- biosafety practices in laboratories
- biosecurity systems for pathogen handling
- animal health systems

BioPrevail programme

WOAH contributes expertise on animal health systems and biological risk management within this international initiative.

Risk management along the pathogen value chain

Promoting biosafety and biosecurity across the entire pathogen lifecycle

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Operational guidance supporting Members

Detect suspicious events



Guidelines for investigation of suspicious biological events

Provide guidance to help Veterinary Services identify, assess and jointly investigate suspicious biological events, including those that may involve accidental or deliberate biological threats.

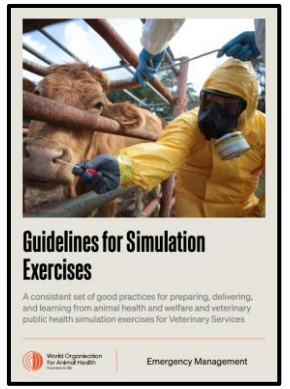
Ensure responsible science



Guidelines for responsible conduct in veterinary research

Provide guidance to help promote responsible veterinary research by identifying, assessing and managing dual-use risks throughout the research life cycle.

Enhance preparedness



Guidelines for Simulation Exercise

Provide guidance to help Members design and conduct simulation exercises to test preparedness, strengthen inter-agency coordination and improve response to animal health emergencies.

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Emergency management activities



WOAH Sub Regional Workshop on Emergency **Management, 14-16 August 2024**



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Testing and reviewing the Joint Multisectoral Outbreak Investigation and Response (JMOIR) Guidelines ASEAN Field Epidemiology Training Network (FETN) - ASEAN Veterinary Epidemiology Group (AVEG) Simulation Exercise Workshop

13-15 June 2023 at **Kula Lumpur Malaysia**



INTERPOL

Exercise Phoenix, Regional component

13-15 Feb 2023

Training Workshop on Simulation exercise (2025)

- How to conduct Simulation Exercise (SimEx)
- Table–top Cross border SimEx (2026)

Objectives :

- Strengthen cross-border collaboration and cooperation between Veterinary Authorities of neighboring countries, at both national and local levels.
- Clarify the roles of national, regional, and international entities in **managing cross-border incidents, including mechanisms for information sharing, coordination, and response.**
- **Build capacity to design and conduct simulation exercises to test and strengthen national contingency plans** and overall readiness of the Veterinary Authority.







Simulation Exercise (SimEx) in line with WOAH Guidelines on Simulation Exercise,10-12 Dec,2025,Philippines

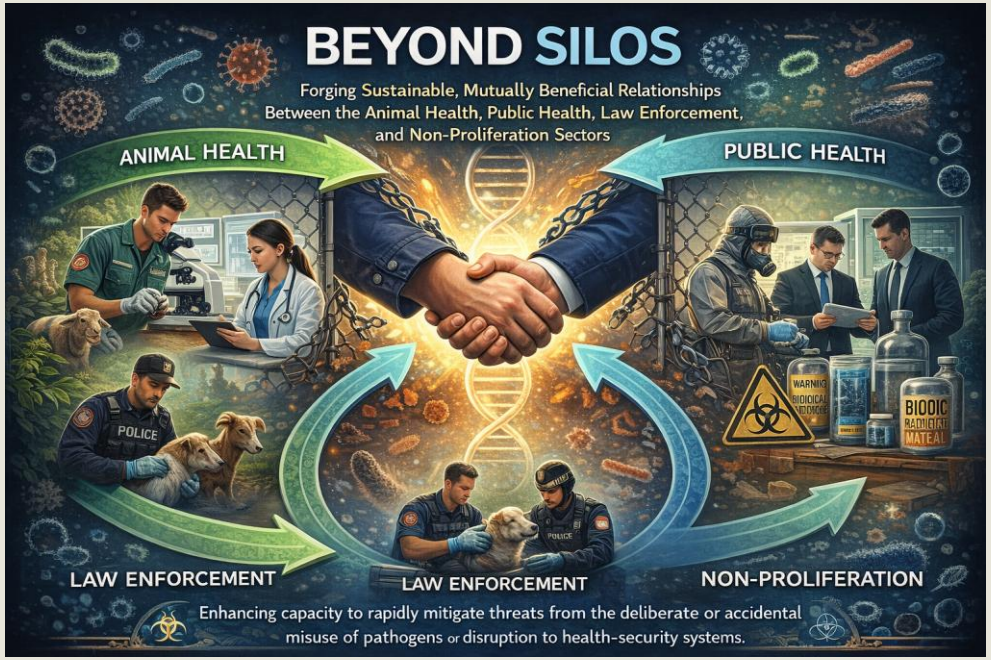
Beyond Silos Project

- Beyond Silos aims to dismantle barriers, creating a sustainable, mutually beneficial relationship between the **animal health, public health, and security sectors.**

- This approach **enhances capacity to rapidly mitigate threats from the deliberate or accidental misuse of pathogens or disruption to health-security systems.**

- Beneficiaries : ASEAN Member States (11)

- Partners : ASEAN, ASEAN Network Bodies, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Public Health, Interpol, Law Enforcement, Security Agencies, research institutions, private sector , academia , experts...



The Project supported by Global Affairs Canada for next 24 months starting from Feb 2026

Engagement of WOAH with ASEAN

- Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation signed between ASEAN and WOAH in 2008, 2011 and renewed in May2021.
- WOAH closely work with ASEC, ASWGL and AMS , and supported development and implementation of ASEAN TADs ASF, PPR, LSD) Strategies and ARES
- Associate Member of ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Animal Health and Zoonosis (ACCAHZ).
- Coordination and engagement with ASEAN Health Division and ASEAN Networks.

World Organisation for Animal Health

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS AND THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION

- Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation signed between ASEAN and WOAH in 2008, 2011 and renewed in May 2021.
- The MOU covers cooperations in following areas:
  - I. Development of appropriate measures to support the **control, prevention and eradication of animal diseases**;
  - II. Design and setting up of **epidemiological surveillance, disease reporting and animal health information systems** including the customized interconnection between ARAHIS and WAHIS as well as preparing for emergency procedure for disease outbreak;
  - III. Development of **standards for trade in animals and animal products**; and
  - IV. **Strengthening of the veterinary services** by carrying out WOAH PVS missions as well as by supporting training courses in Veterinary fields.

For the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):

Dato Lim Jock Hoi
Secretary-General of ASEAN

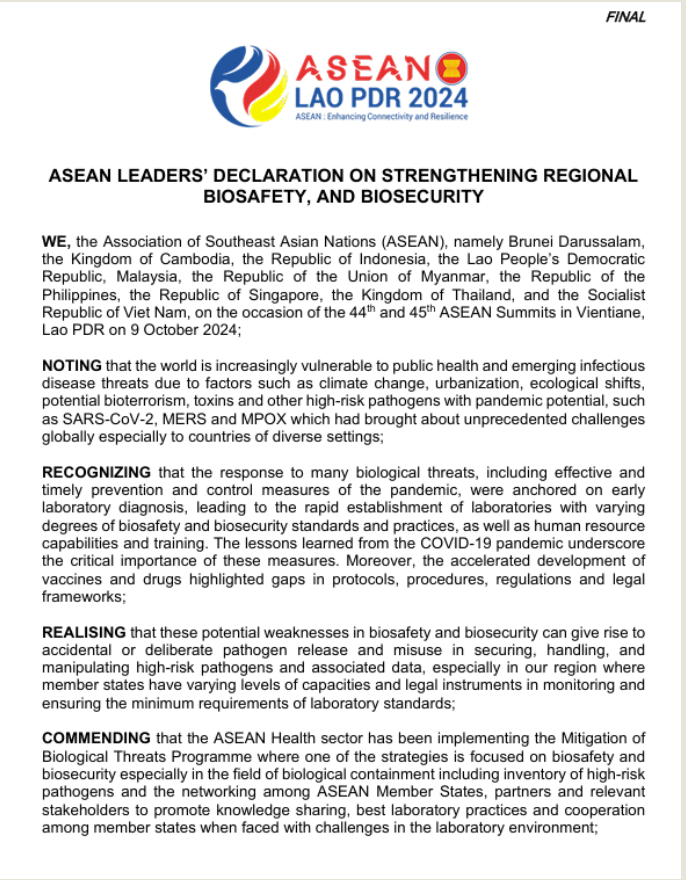
For the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE):

Monique Eloit
Director-General

- Beyond Silos also aims to strengthen the animal health commitment to implementation of the **ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Regional Biosafety, and Biosecurity**.

- Beyond Silos will contribute to **enhancing early detection of deliberate release events by providing guidance (field and laboratory investigation), operationalising guidance, facilitating dialogue between key stakeholders** (local, national, international level), and facilitating, sharing and analyses of intelligence between WOAH, public health and security sector (and potentially with other partners).

- A horizontal objective of the Beyond Silos will be to **actively encourage engagement with sectors** not already engaged in biothreat reduction activities, including with the environmental and private and to explore the potential for **public-private partnerships.**



FINAL

ASEAN LAO PDR 2024

ASEAN : Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience

ASEAN LEADERS' DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING REGIONAL BIOSAFETY, AND BIOSECURITY

WE, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 9 October 2024;

NOTING that the world is increasingly vulnerable to public health and emerging infectious disease threats due to factors such as climate change, urbanization, ecological shifts, potential bioterrorism, toxins and other high-risk pathogens with pandemic potential, such as SARS-CoV-2, MERS and MPOX which had brought about unprecedented challenges globally especially to countries of diverse settings;

RECOGNIZING that the response to many biological threats, including effective and timely prevention and control measures of the pandemic, were anchored on early laboratory diagnosis, leading to the rapid establishment of laboratories with varying degrees of biosafety and biosecurity standards and practices, as well as human resource capabilities and training. The lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic underscore the critical importance of these measures. Moreover, the accelerated development of vaccines and drugs highlighted gaps in protocols, procedures, regulations and legal frameworks;

REALISING that these potential weaknesses in biosafety and biosecurity can give rise to accidental or deliberate pathogen release and misuse in securing, handling, and manipulating high-risk pathogens and associated data, especially in our region where member states have varying levels of capacities and legal instruments in monitoring and ensuring the minimum requirements of laboratory standards;

COMMENDING that the ASEAN Health sector has been implementing the Mitigation of Biological Threats Programme where one of the strategies is focused on biosafety and biosecurity especially in the field of biological containment including inventory of high-risk pathogens and the networking among ASEAN Member States, partners and relevant stakeholders to promote knowledge sharing, best laboratory practices and cooperation among member states when faced with challenges in the laboratory environment;

Beyond Silos Project: Key Milestones Timeline

Strengthen the animal health commitment to implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Regional Biosafety, and Biosecurity

FEB 2026

Project begin

Beyond Silos Project officially commences.

MAR 2026

Nomination of biothreat contact points

to support the implementation of Beyond Silos Project.

MAR 2026

Project management team is in place.

Team established to oversee and guide project implementation.

ONGOING

Call for expression of interest

for Consultants and experts published to support the implementation of Project.

5 MAR 2026

Bilateral Meeting

held between WOAH and ASEAN Health Division and MBT secretariate to introduce Beyond Silos Project.

21 APR 2026

Meeting with Implementing Agency

WOAH met Division of International Collaboration, Department of Medical Sciences, implementing agency, ASEAN Cooperation Project under MBT Programme.

23 APR 2026

Virtual Consultative Meeting

Virtual Consultative Meeting on Biothreat Reduction in South-East Asia.

24 APR 2026

WOAH–Regional Public Health Laboratory (RHPL) Bilateral

Bilateral meeting held to strengthen collaboration on biothreat reduction.

2–3 JUN 2026

Workshop on Biothreat Reduction in South-East Asia

Regional workshop held to advance multisectoral collaboration and develop practical solutions.

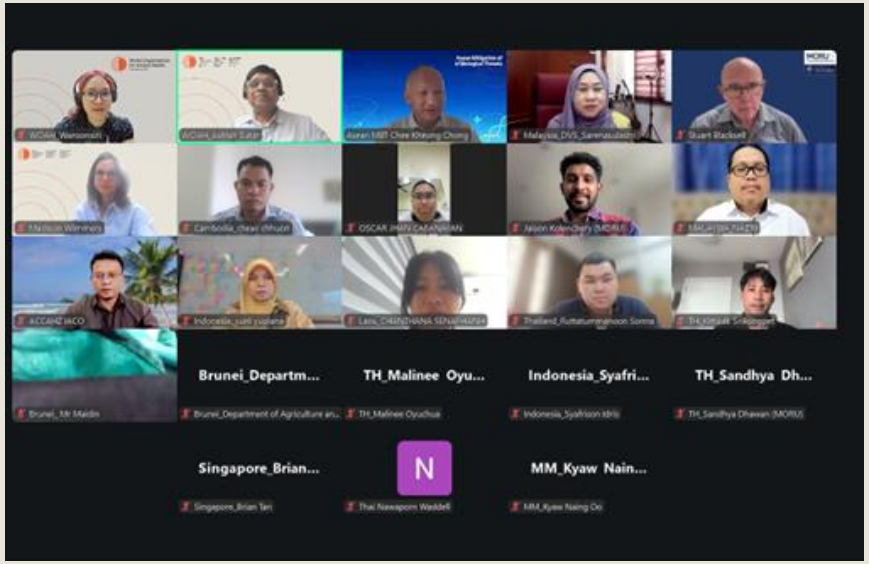
OUR GOAL

To enhance multisectoral collaboration, strengthen capacities, and reduce biological threats across South-East Asia through the Beyond Silos Project.

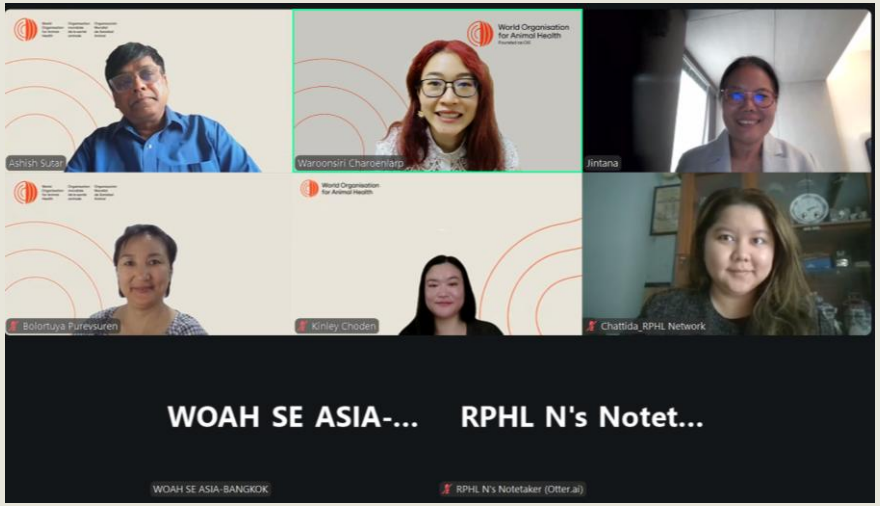
Animal Health | Public Health | Law Enforcement | Security | Partnership | Regional Cooperation

Working together across sectors for a safer, healthier, and more resilient South-East Asia.

Virtual Consultative Meeting on Biothreat Reduction in South-East Asia (23 April,2026)



Virtual Consultative Meeting on Biothreat Reduction in South-East Asia,23 April,2026



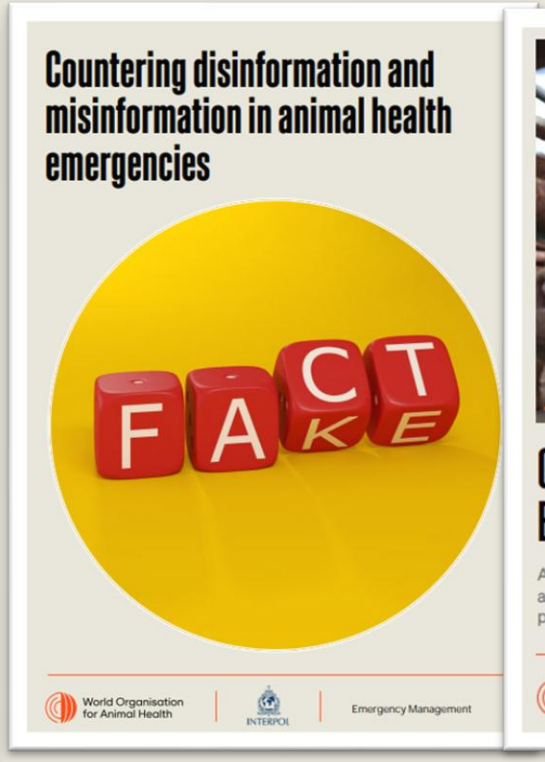
WOAH- Regional Public Health Laboratory (RPHL) Network,24 April,2026

- **7 WOAH Members** including Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand
- Partners : **ASEAN Health Division, Asean Coordinating Centre for Animal Health and Zoonosis (ACCAHZ), Oxford-MORU,**
- **Draft recommendation** :

- Strengthen regional coordination and coordination on biothreat reduction amongst Members and partners in SEA.
- Consider whole of Government approach irrespective of risks wheather laboratory associated infections, deliberate risks, agro-crimes etc.
- Identify and support national and regional priorities to enhance biothreat reduction and strengthen biological risk management. e.g Biothreat Reduction plan, Guidelines on biosecurity risk management.
- Support capacity building and training covering SimEx, secure handling of pathogens, pathogen storage inventory system.

Strategy and Guidelines











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Beyond Silos Project Phases

Strengthen the animal health commitment to implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Regional Biosafety, and Biosecurity

ANIMAL HEALTH | PUBLIC HEALTH | SECURITY SECTOR

YEAR 1: SCOPING PHASE (2026)

South East Asia scoping work
Consultancy for capacity analysis, stakeholder mapping, and gap identification.

Virtual Consultative Workshop — 23 APR 2026

Workshop on Biothreat Reduction in SEA — 2 – 3 JUN 2026
Workplan development.

Global Health Security Conference — 11 JUN 2026
(Side event + Soft launch)

Sub-regional workshop on biothreat reduction — JAN 2027
Workshop to review study results and develop workplans.

YEAR 2: IMPLEMENTATION PHASE (2027)

LAB TWINNING
Explore interests from ASEAN Laboratory Network interaction.

COMMUNICATION MATERIALS
Development and dissemination of communication videos and digital resources (with ILRI's technical support).

REGIONAL THEMATIC WORKSHOPS
- Agrocrime and Agro-terrorism,
- Multisectoral investigation and response and risk management,
- Risk communication focusing on Mis(dis)information, AI, other emerging disruptive technology, and cybersecurity.

TARGETED MEMBER SUPPORT
- Emergency Management framework,
- Laboratory preparedness,
- Early detection and multisectoral investigation,
- Interagency coordination and rapid response.

CAPACITY BUILDING
Veterinary Legislative Support Programme (VLSP) mission focus on bio-threat.

GOAL: Strengthen regional preparedness and response to biological threats through multisectoral collaboration, capacity building and sustainable cooperation in South-East Asia.

Animal Health | Public Health | Security Sector | Multisectoral Collaboration | Policy & Governance | Regional Cooperation

Upcoming activities

- Scoping study to analyse the biothreat landscape, capacities, gaps and opportunities on biothreat reduction
- Global Health Security Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia side event, 11 June – *'Advancing Biological Threat Reduction in Southeast Asia: Supporting the ASEAN Declaration on Biosafety and Biosecurity'*
- Planning and implementation of the Project activities for 2026/2027.
- Internal coordination and Project reporting as per the governance.
- Coordination going forward with WOAH Members ASEAN MBT Programme, ASEAN Health Division, ASEAN Network, ILRI and animal health, public health and security partners.

Summary

- As the global animal health authority, WOAH's mandate covers all-hazards relevant to animal health – including biological threats.
- **WOAH standards, Biological Threat Reduction Strategy, and tools such as WAHIS, PVS pathway,** Guidelines for **Simulation Exercises** (2020), **Countering misinformation and disinformation** (2024) are available.
- **Planning, Coordination, intersectoral (animal health, public health and security) multidisciplinary approaches** are essential principles in emergency management.
- **It is timely and essential that we continue to advocate for the integration of animal health into existing Emergency Management and MBT framework, while also exploring opportunities for dialogue and collaboration to support the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Biosecurity and Biosafety.**

Thank you

Acknowledgement:
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