Asean Mitigation of of Biological Threats

ASEAN MBT program and the Health Security Interface

Presented at the

WOAH Workshop Biothreat Reduction in SEA

2-3 June 2026 Bali, Indonesia

Dr Chong Chee Kheong, Senior Advisor
for the ASEAN MBT program

Dola AI

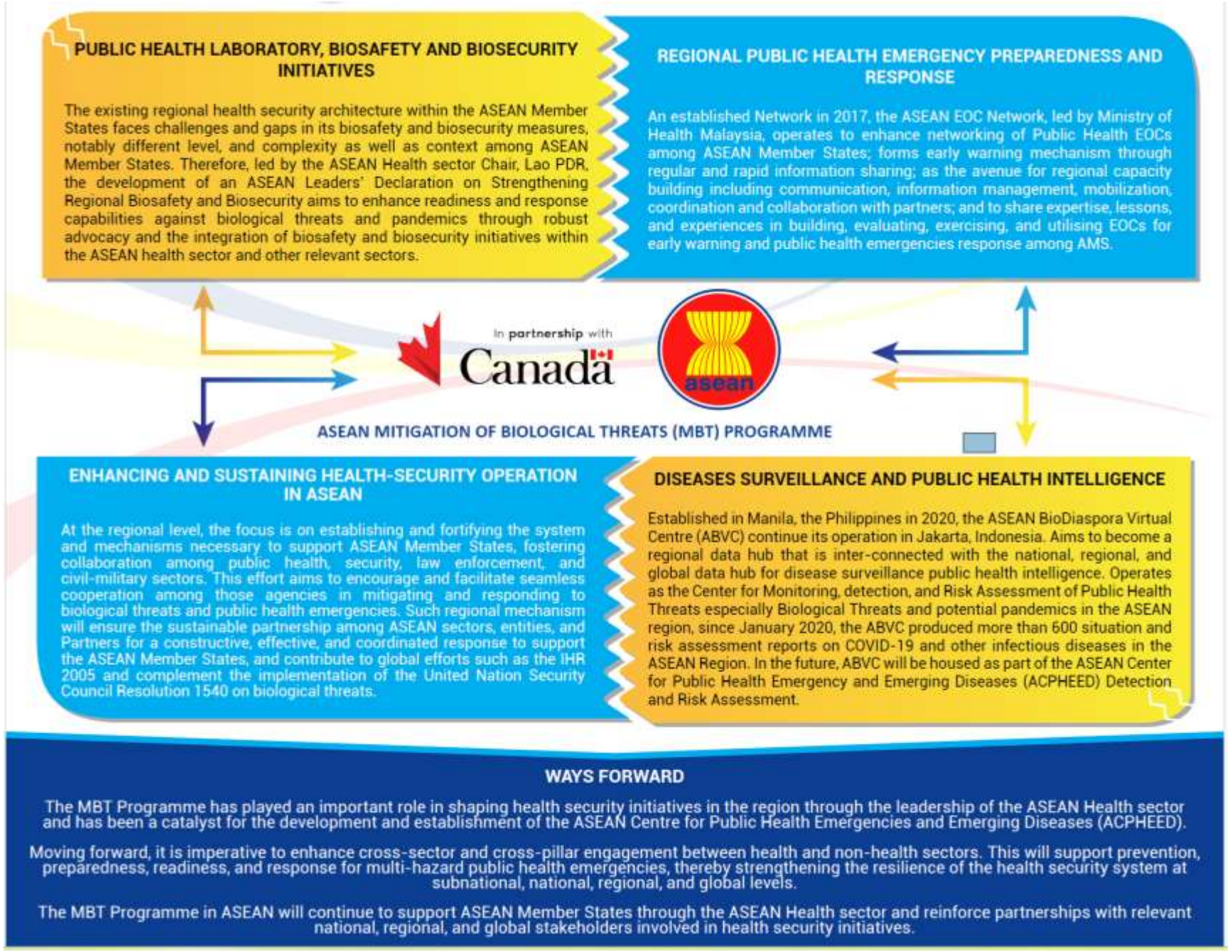


The ASEAB MBT program

- originated as a platform supported by Canada's WTRP for AMS of Health Cluster 2 to implement their activities.
- **transformed ASEAN's health security landscape by moving beyond project-based activities to system-wide, established-practical mechanisms** within the ASEAN Health sector.
- further **elevated ASEAN's role in global health security through high-level policy advocacy.** the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity.

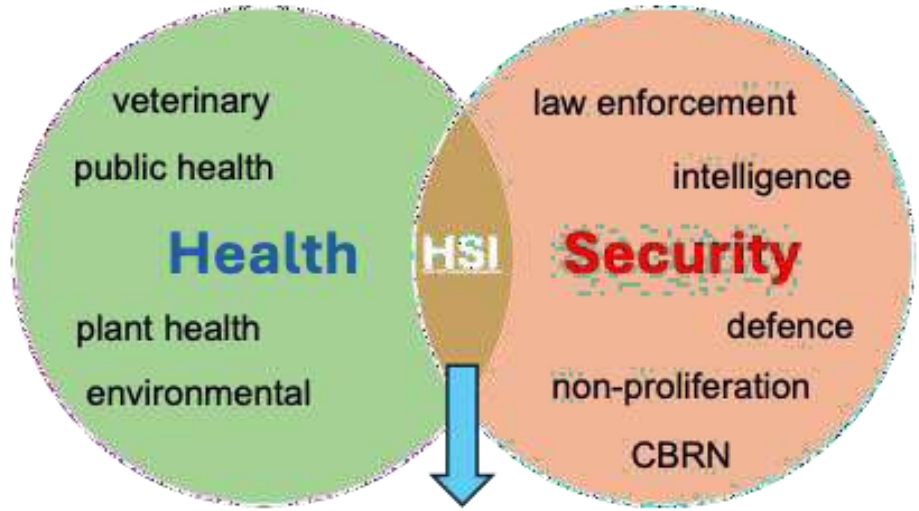
ASEAN MBT program 4 main domains

1. PH Lab BSS initiatives
2. Regional PHE Preparedness & Response
3. Disease surveillance and PH Intelligence
4. Enhancing and sustaining HS operations in ASEAN



Health Security Collaboration to Mitigate Biological Threats

Biological threats posed by infectious diseases are diverse and ever-evolving. They may result from known or novel pathogens that affect humans, animals or plants, can originate from natural, accidental, or deliberate causes, and can have whole-of-society impacts at the national, regional and/or global levels. In view of the scale and complexity of biological threats, sustained multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration is essential to effectively prevent, detect, anticipate, and respond to them. This includes cooperation between the health and security sectors at the "**health-security interface**", including through the Mitigation of Biological Threats (MBT) Program, where the interests, activities and responsibilities of the different communities overlap and intersect.



Health Security Interface (HSI) includes multisectoral collaboration on, *inter alia*, biosafety, biosecurity, disease surveillance, epidemic intelligence, lab strengthening, detection, diagnostics, investigation, response & non-proliferation.



The ASEAN MBT program

Asean Mitigation of of Biological Threats

- Since its inception 2014, it has many activities both regional and in-country targeting the HIS.
- All the activities reflects the expectations of the
  - Quadripartite Call to action for the adoption and promotion of the enhanced intersectoral health governance
  - OH JPA (Action track 2): Reducing the risks from emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemic
  - Health priorities of the ASEAN Health Sector
  - Elements of WHO Health Security Interface
  - Tenets of the BWC

Dola AI

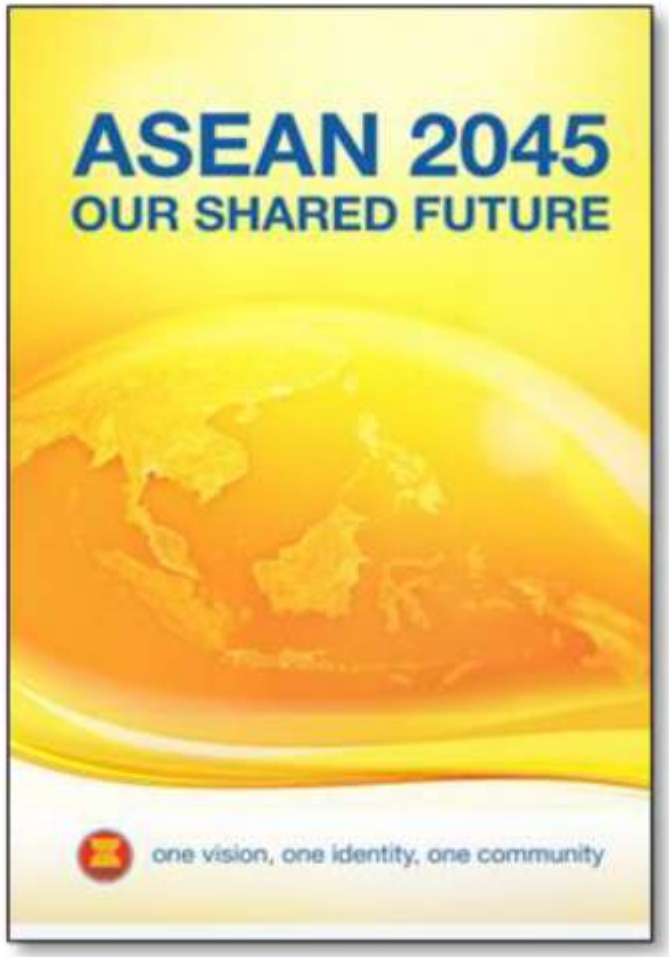
Asean Mitigation of of Biological Threats

- Significant contributions of the ASEAN MBT program
  - ALDBSS
    - https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/6-ASEAN-Leaders_-Declaration-on-Strengthening-Regional-Biosafety-and-Biosecurity.pdf
  - Asean LMS
    - https://elearn.asean-phe.org/



Dola AI

ASEAN Community Vision 2045: Resilient, Innovative, Dynamic, and People-Centred ASEAN



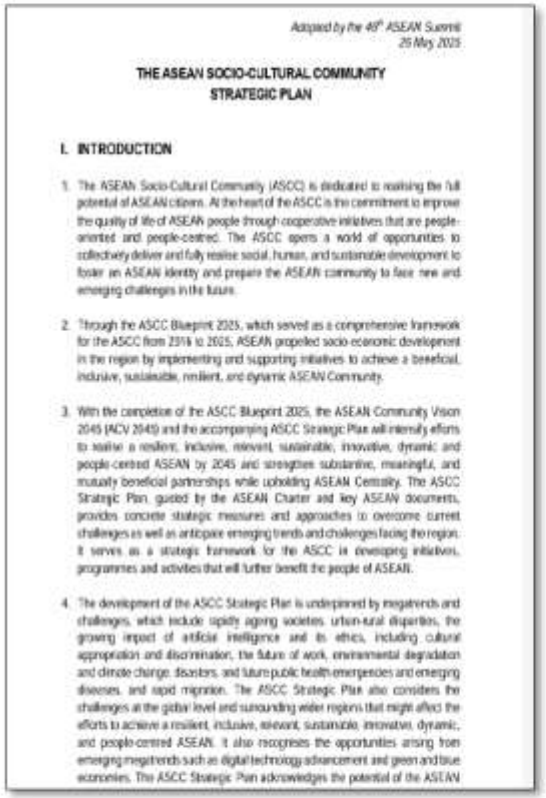
Socio-Cultural Community:

- A caring Community that will ensure the full potential and improve the quality of life for its peoples that is participative, inclusive, sustainable, and promotes social cohesion, hereby ensuring shared prosperity, especially among vulnerable groups, and leaving no one behind.

- A healthy ASEAN populace, with higher life expectancy, well-being for all ages, safe from communicable and non-communicable diseases with Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and access to resilient healthcare architecture.

Political Security Community:

- A Southeast Asia that is a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality, and free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.



Adopted by the 45th ASEAN Summit
26 May 2025

THE ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) is dedicated to realising the full potential of ASEAN citizens. At the heart of the ASCC is the commitment to improve the quality of life of ASEAN people through cooperative initiatives that are people-oriented and people-centred. The ASCC opens a world of opportunities to collectively deliver and fully realise social, human, and sustainable development to foster an ASEAN identity and prepare the ASEAN community to face new and emerging challenges in the future.

2. Through the ASCC Blueprint 2025, which served as a comprehensive framework for the ASCC from 2016 to 2025, ASEAN propelled socio-economic development in the region by implementing and supporting initiatives to achieve a beneficial, inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic ASEAN Community.

3. With the completion of the ASCC Blueprint 2025, the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 (ACV 2045) and the accompanying ASCC Strategic Plan will intensify efforts to realise a resilient, inclusive, relevant, sustainable, innovative, dynamic and people-centred ASEAN by 2045 and strengthen substantive, meaningful, and mutually beneficial partnerships while upholding ASEAN Centrality. The ASCC Strategic Plan, guided by the ASEAN Charter and key ASEAN documents, provides concrete strategic measures and approaches to overcome current challenges as well as anticipate emerging trends and challenges facing the region. It serves as a strategic framework for the ASCC in developing initiatives, programmes and activities that will further benefit the people of ASEAN.

4. The development of the ASCC Strategic Plan is underpinned by megatrends and challenges, which include rapidly ageing societies, urban-rural disparities, the growing impact of artificial intelligence and its ethics, including cultural appropriation and discrimination, the future of work, environmental degradation and climate change, disasters, and future public health emergencies and emerging diseases, and rapid migration. The ASCC Strategic Plan also considers the challenges at the global level and surrounding wider regions that might affect the efforts to achieve a resilient, inclusive, relevant, sustainable, innovative, dynamic, and people-centred ASEAN. It also recognises the opportunities arising from emerging megatrends such as digital technology advancement and green and blue economies. The ASCC Strategic Plan acknowledges the potential of the ASEAN

Objective 11.2.

To achieve a resilient Community, especially at the local level, against future crises and long-term challenges, including climate change and health emergencies preparedness and response through a whole of ASEAN approach for sustainable resilience.

Strategic Measure

11.2.1. Strengthen health systems to be resilient in the prevention, preparedness, and response to health-related hazards, including chemical and biological, which incorporate biosafety and biosecurity concerns, radiological-nuclear and hazards and emerging threats.



Adopted by the 46th ASEAN Summit
26 May 2025

ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The *ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2025* provides the roadmap in ASEAN's journey towards what is envisioned to be a political-security community, one of the three pillars of the ASEAN Community. The effective implementation of the Blueprint has significantly contributed to the ASEAN Community-building process under the APSC Pillar and elevated ASEAN political and security cooperation to a higher level.

2. With the completion of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, a successor ASEAN Community Vision 2045 was crafted, along with the APSC Strategic Plan which is meant to contribute to efforts in realising a resilient, innovative, dynamic and people-centred ASEAN by 2045.

3. Amidst the intensified geopolitical dynamics, ASEAN shall continue to drive the regional architecture and project its position on regional and global issues. ASEAN remains committed to maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes.

4. The APSC Strategic Plan is guided by the ASEAN Charter as well as other key ASEAN instruments and documents, which provide the principles and frameworks for ASEAN political and security cooperation and their implementation. The strategic measures provided in the APSC Strategic Plan shall be translated into initiatives, projects and programmes in pursuing the Strategic Goals.

5. Cognisant of the rapidly evolving global environment, especially in the post-2025 era, the implementation of the Strategic Plan will require an innovative, responsive, inclusive, forward-looking and people-centred approach. This is to ensure the relevance of the APSC Strategic Plan in anticipating and effectively addressing the impacts, while seizing the inherent opportunities, of existing and future megatrends.

II. STRATEGIC GOALS OF APSC STRATEGIC PLAN

6. The APSC Strategic Plan contains nine Strategic Goals pertaining to political-security cooperation, which are interconnected and complementary to one another. It shall be pursued in a holistic manner, which allows for greater synergy and coordination across sectors under the APSC Pillar, as well as with the other Community Pillars and ASEAN Connectivity, where relevant.

7. The Strategic Goals of the APSC Strategic Plan are as follows:

Strategic Measure

B. Contribute to global efforts on non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy

6.13 Strengthen existing regional mechanisms, including the Network of ASEAN Chemical, Biological and Radiological Defence Experts, regional and international preparedness and cooperation against chemical, biological and radiological threats.

Existing platform in ASEAN (addressing biological threats)

Asean Mitigation of of Biological Threats

Asean HC2

- ALDBSS 2024
- ALDOH 2O23
- AMBT
  - Lab training on BSC
  - AEOCN
    - EOC training (ICS, IMS)
    - SIMEX training
  - ABVC
  - Bio-banking framework

Other sectoral bodies

- ASNL (ACCSQ, AES)
- Singapore RRCBRM
- ACBR Network
- ARDEX (SASOP)* [*indirectly only*]

National programs

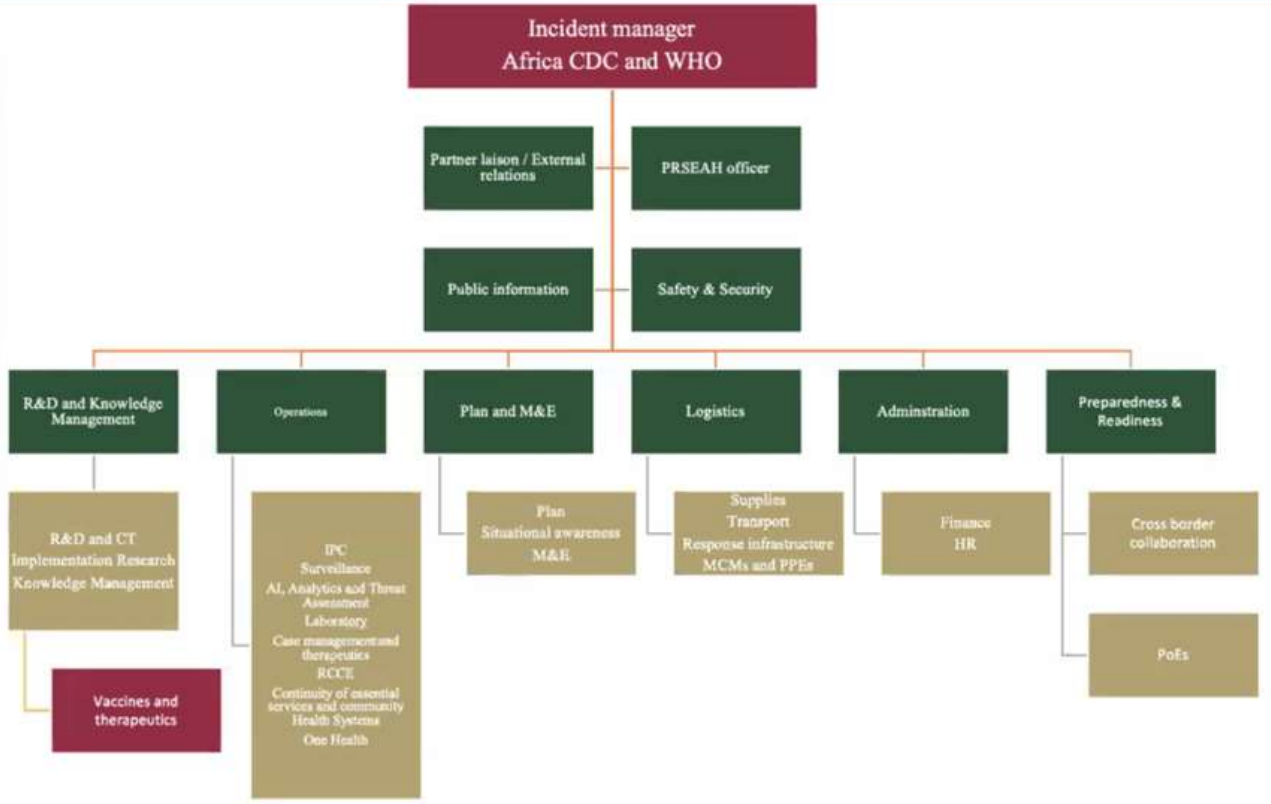
- BRITE (DTRA)
- IBC (Interpol)

Dola AI

Eg of EOC

STRUCTURE OF THE IMST FOR THE EBOLA RESPONSE





Thank You