Summary of
The GHSA Regional Meeting: Enhancing Collaboration Between Detect 1 (National Laboratory System) & Detect 5 (Workforce Development)
5-7 February 2018, Baiyoke Sky Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

This report summarizes essential contents derived from the two-and-a-half-day international meeting in February 2018, organized by the Government of Thailand with financial support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in pursuance of global health security.

The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) is a voluntary global partnership aiming to strengthen both the global and nationals' capacity to prevent, detect and respond to human and animal infectious diseases threats through a multilateral and multi-sectoral approach. The GHSA in 2018 involves more than 50 countries and covers 11 Action Packages organized around the general concept of "prevent, detect and respond" to threats.

Thailand has made a commitment since 2014 when the GHSA partnership emerged in Washington DC, USA to try her best to be one of the GHSA leading countries particularly for Detect 1 (National Laboratory System) and Detect 5 (Workforce Development) Action Packages. This meeting is the sixth GHSA-related international meeting organized by Thailand since and the first-ever regional meeting that brings 2 GHSA action packages together and aims to develop a list of prioritized potential activities for collaboration after taken into account the past achievements and current needs among interested countries and development partners. Among others, past achievements include two major documents which were made available based upon contents collectively developed by all parties which were present at previous meetings. These are the Regional Strategic Roadmap on Laboratory System Strengthening (2016-2020) and the Regional Strategic Framework for Public Health Workforce Development and Systems Strengthening on Epidemiology (2016-2020).

This meeting registered a total of 95 participants. Forty two non-Thai participants were from 19 countries while there were 30 participants from Thailand. There were four participants from 2 other GHSA leading and contributing countries (Ethiopia and USA), 4 from ASEAN Secretariat Office and 16 from 7 development partners. Participants could be categorized into 21 Animal health and 22 human health professionals with 15 laboratory scientists and 28 participants who are workforce-focused.

Objectives of the meeting are as follows:

1. To share experiences and lessons learned among national laboratory system (Detect 1) and workforce development (Detect 5) in animal and human health
2. To identify advantages from linkage of national laboratory system and workforce development in animal and human health
3. To identify and prioritize collaborative areas, activities and mechanisms among national laboratory system and workforce development in animal and human health, based upon IHR/PVS core competencies.

Following the opening session, the meeting proceeded step-by-step from looking to the past until the present time of the meeting. This period were covered by three consecutive sessions as follows:

- Session 2: Where are we now? – updates of action packages Detect 1 and Detect 5.
- Session 3: How did we work together? – presentation of two collaborative models in action, namely the four-way linking at the human-animal interface and the Global Laboratory Leadership Program (GLLP).
- Session 4: How can we work together better and get more? - sharing of country experience/initiatives in relation to linkage between Detect 1 and Detect 5 by representatives from five countries, namely India, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Topics covered in this sharing session include Rabies, Emerging Infectious Diseases, and One Health approach.

After looking into the past achievements and sharing of what have been done, the meeting moved further into Session 5: Identification of gaps, advantages and collaborative areas among laboratory-epidemiology for both animal health and public health sectors. During Session 5 all participants were divided into four small groups. Each group conducted three rounds of group discussion as facilitated by multi-party facilitators and resource persons. Briefing sessions on relevant IHR and PVS requirements in laboratory system strengthening and workforce development, as well as on the contents of the two existing major documents on regional strategic roadmap/frameworks and workplans for Detect 1 and Detect 5 were also given to the meeting.

Salient points on gaps and prioritized potential collaborative activities as mentioned during group discussion by participants are summarized as below:

1. **Gaps:** Three categories of gaps were identified, namely: gaps of Detect 1 and Detect 5; common gaps of Detect 1 and Detect 5; and gaps of joint collaboration. Common gaps include inadequate resources both in terms of human resource capacity and funding; inadequacy of monitoring and evaluation system and modern technology use including bio-informatics, etc. Gaps of joint collaboration include disparities between Animal Health and Human Health sectors regarding disease prioritization, standards

and organizational structure. In addition, there are inadequacies of communication between the two sectors.

2. **<u>Prioritized potential collaborative activities:</u>** Activities for implementation at national level were prioritized along with activities for regional implementation. For national level implementation: capacity building of essential workforce, sharing of resources and information, and joint operation were identified as priorities. For those activities involving regional implementation: priorities include capacity building, sharing, coordination and networking, and joint operations.

On the third day of the meeting participants received input from development partners through Session 6: How can the regional and international partners contribute? The inputs were provided by ASEAN Secretariat, FAO, OIE, SEAOHUN, APHL, US government, and WHO.

Finally, Session 7: What will be next? was conducted right before the end of the meeting. Taking note of the findings of group discussion, participants, resources persons and development partners collectively identified action points for the next steps. Following are agreed to summary on ways forward after this meeting:

1. In ensuring global health security through linking Detect 1 to Detect 5 in animal and human health, all participating countries of the GHSA partnership could contribute by tirelessly enhancing their national capacity to prevent, detect and respond to threats, building upon their existing capacities and achievements.

2. The self-help direction implemented by country needs to be augmented by international support in compliance with international standards so that global solidarity and health security could be guaranteed in the long run. Each country and each of their settings may need different support. However, the following types of support have been regarded as highly relevant and are in need by most, if not all, participating countries:

    2.1. Capacity building (training and retention of the critical mass)

    2.2. Sharing (of resources and information, expertise, best practices, etc.)

    2.3. Coordination and Networking (focusing on issues among the "4 legs", i.e. animal health, human health, national laboratory system and the workforce who can cooperate to meet relevant IHR and PVS core competencies)

    2.4. Joint operations (such as simulation exercises, outbreak investigations, etc.)

3. It is recommended that at this early phase of multi-lateral and multi-sectoral collaboration, lead and contributing countries for D1 and D5 action packages as well as other GHSA member countries enhance the implementation of the priority activities in cooperation with existing networks, and development partners.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 12:00 hours on Wednesday 7 February 2018.