REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) STATES PARTIES TO THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION ON “STRENGTHENING NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CAPACITIES TO PREPARE FOR AND RESPOND TO DELIBERATE USE OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS”

Bangkok, Thailand
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2 days workshop focused on preparedness to respond to the deliberate use of BW

Organised by the ISU BWC and the Government of Thailand

More than 50 experts participated (ASEAN Member States, Regional & International Organizations)

Facilitated by scientific experts from Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security
To encourage participants to actively contribute in the technical discussion with respect to the preparedness process to respond to a catastrophic bio-incidents.

To enhance the operational and decision-making capacities of ASEAN States Parties at the national and sub-regional level to prepare for the deliberate use of biological weapons.

To serve as a platform to address and sharing national perspectives on issues such as Biological weapons threat in Southeast Asia; National and operational preparedness aspects; and International cooperation opportunities.
Active learning session

**Topic discussed:**
- Disease outbreak surveillance and epidemiology
- Education and awareness raising
- Regional and international collaboration
- Cross-sectoral cooperation between public health, law enforcement, and military sectors

Common themes emerged from the group discussions:

- Various plans and programmes in place to address natural outbreaks (led by MOH or MOA)
- More diversity between countries, more complex in managing deliberate bio-incidents: cross-sectoral collaboration
- The need to further invest into efforts ensuring the responsible use of science and to establishing appropriate regulatory frameworks
- Improve regional collaboration for disease surveillance, reporting and incident response activities
The importance of further strengthening existing preparedness mechanisms and capacities.

The need for close cooperation between the health and the security/law enforcement sectors to prepare for and mitigate the potential consequences of a deliberate bioincidents.

Four areas that require further strengthening:
- Risk communication, risk assessment,
- information sharing and the ability to shift response efforts from a natural to a deliberate event.
Gain a better understanding about different SE Asian contingency planning and response models adopted for a BW threat/use scenario

OBJECTIVES

Learn about crucial aspects related to the establishment and deployment of rapid response teams including their concepts of operations based on some regional examples

Introduction to emerging technologies to address global catastrophic biological risks

Understand the key principles for successful on-site incident management and coordination

Gain a better understanding on the key aspects related to the delivery and receipt of assistance

Understand the main principles of communication during a national emergency incident

REGIONAL WORKSHOP (2)
1-2 October 2019, Kuala Lumpur
REGIONAL WORKSHOP (3)

Feb/March 2020, Phillipines

OBJECTIVES

- Raise awareness of decision makers regarding preparedness for BW scenarios
- Test segments of the decision-making, coordination and communication processes through the conduct of a Table Top Exercise
- Identify suggestions for future capacity building initiatives in close collaboration with other States Parties, potential donors as well as regional and international organizations
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