OIE/ASEAN Mid Term Evaluation of the Southeast Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign

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I – Executive Summary

The Office International des Epizooties (OIE) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) commissioned a Mid Term Evaluation of the SEAFMD Campaign from 29 November to 12 December 2003. The evaluation team was led by Dr Gardner Murray (President of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in Southeast Asia) and team members were Dr Ronello Abila (ASEAN), Dr Francois Roger (European Union Consultant), Dr Shiro Yoshimura (Japan), Dr Liu Zaixin (PR China) attended for part of the mission. The Terms of Reference (TORs) called for an evaluation of progress in Phase II of the Campaign, advice on future directions for the next Phase, a review of progress with the transition to ASEAN responsibility for the SEAFMD Campaign and advice on funding for the next phase and any interim arrangements. The future role of PR China and an implementation timetable were also to be considered.

The evaluation team built on the outcomes of an earlier AusAID Mid Term Review (MTR) and visited the Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia. The team consulted with a wide range of stakeholders, conducted two workshops, went on two field trips, and studied a range of resource materials.

The team concluded that the Southeast Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign has largely met its objectives in Phase II and has demonstrated that successful approaches with FMD clearly have spin-off effects to other animal health activities including shared infrastructure and linkages with industry. The control of FMD in Southeast Asia is important for poverty alleviation and to support expanding trade opportunities. There are significant benefits for small livestock owners, commercial livestock producers, traders and the regional and global economies. The longer the program continues the greater the benefits will be.

The SEAFMD program is an extremely complex program demonstrating the need for coordination between countries. The benefits of a professional regional coordination unit and the credibility that it brings have been demonstrated. In Phase II, several new initiatives have been put in place in addition to meeting the objectives of the work plan. These include the progressive zoning approach, a secondment program, recruitment of a volunteer, and refined communication networks. The staff of the Regional Coordination Unit and member countries should be complimented for their initiative and efforts in implementing the eight components of the SEAFMD program.

The SEAFMD Campaign needs the highest level of political support and this will require strengthening the engagement and commitment at Ministerial level. Active involvement of all stakeholders including livestock owners and animal traders is also needed.

The campaign involves high level coordination and facilitation of regional disease management and scientific activities and there are significant socioeconomic impacts. The MTE team is of the opinion that it is necessary to demonstrate clearly the benefits of the work program and its elements, for example, zoning. Ongoing independent economic analysis should be a feature of the next phase.

In regard to the future, it is considered that the existing components and objectives are largely relevant and the critical importance of regional coordination to the SEAFMD Campaign is confirmed. However, a number of areas of emphasis need to be included in the next phase and these are a greater planning role, accelerating the regional approach to zonal freedom, enhanced epidemiological analysis, strengthening the competency of
national and regional laboratories, strengthening of veterinary services, improved systems for emergency management (preparedness and response), access to independent professional economic analysis, assistance with facilitation, negotiation and alignment of resources for implementation of regional and national initiatives (i.e. act as a broker between stakeholders and donors), and maintenance and enhancement of communication and public awareness. It will also be necessary to build on what has already been achieved and to put a high priority on private sector integration and industry development as these are essential to the successful implementation of FMD control.

There is a need to be realistic in expectations of the program and its timeframes and to recognise that all countries are at different stages of development. Several of these will need more assistance from neighbouring countries and the international community if they are to be capable of fully implementing the operational aspects of the program. Neglect of this aspect will cause the work carried out by regional programs and their neighbouring countries to fail. The twelve-year time frame originally proposed for the campaign will need to be adjusted to allow for this.

Phase III of the SEAFMD Campaign is proposed to commence in January 2006 with management by ASEAN in a shared partnership with OIE. Features of this phase will be the appointment of an ASEAN national as the Regional Coordinator and the establishment of an ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund (AAHTF) with funding from a combination of sources including member country contributions. It is recognised that all countries will not be able to contribute to the trust fund immediately and that a phased approach with a defined schedule of contributions will be required. Therefore, for Phase III there will need to be additional funding from one or more international donors with contributions from other stakeholders as appropriate. ASEAN and OIE will need to work together at the earliest opportunity to negotiate the funding required.

A critical gap has been identified between the end of Phase II in November 2004 and the proposed starting date of January 2006 for Phase III. The evaluation team strongly supports interim funding for the program so that substantive work of the campaign can continue, including preparation of a business plan for Phase III. This process needs to be accelerated by the recruitment of a new ASEAN Regional Coordinator. There is concern that without a smooth succession, morale would be low and momentum would not be maintained.

II – Major Findings and Recommendations

Below are major statements and recommendations to guide planning for Phase III and the transition period. It is recommended that:

*Continuation of the SEAFMD program under Phase III (2006-2008)*

1. A third phase of the SEAFMD campaign be conducted from 2006-2008 with 2005 to represent an interim period where the fine details and negotiation on Phase III will be completed.

2. ASEAN countries must show a commitment to the SEAFMD Campaign from a policy and financial perspective and ASEAN should finalise the establishment of the AAHTF and draw up a schedule of contributions.

3. A clear understanding of responsibilities is needed and it is proposed that in Phase III, ASEAN will have prime responsibility for policy, staffing and financial matters. Thailand, as the lead country will continue to host the RCU and OIE will maintain and
fund the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in Southeast Asia. OIE will nominate the Chair of the Steering Committee and will also provide technical advice on standards and assist with evaluation. Both organizations will work together to maximize commitment and funding from member countries, international organizations and donors. It will be necessary to have strong professional inputs and to strengthen engagement with the livestock industries. Effective linkages and consultation mechanisms with all stakeholders, PR China and other related programs will be required.

4. Finalising negotiations on the contribution of 10 percent of OIE subscriptions by member countries to the OIE SEAFMD Trust Fund is an indicator of pre-commitment.

Transition arrangements from Phase II to Phase III.

5. There will need to be a transition to ASEAN responsibility from the end of the current project in November 2004 and the commencement of Phase III in January 2006. An approach for interim funding is strongly supported to ensure that the substantive work of the campaign, including planning for Phase III and the ASEAN transition, can continue under the current OIE arrangements.

6. OIE, with Thailand as the host country, will continue to be responsible for the conduct of the program and the RCU in the interim period and this will include progressively increased ASEAN involvement including ministerial involvement and oversight.

7. The characteristics of the interim period will be:
   - An ASEAN Regional Coordinator will be appointed by OIE in consultation with ASEAN and the donor for the next 18 months
   - Main functions will be coordination, strategy and policy development, with maintenance of priority functions
   - Work by ASEAN and OIE to source the funding required to maintain the sustainability of the project
   - The current Regional Coordinator will mentor and train the new coordinator
   - The current and future regional coordinators will draft relevant documents including the work program for the transition, a business plan for Phase III and letters of agreement between OIE/ASEAN and ASEAN/Thailand. ASEAN, OIE and donors will be consulted in the process.

The Regional Coordination Unit in Phase III

8. The Regional Coordination Unit should continue with adequate resources and in a similar form in Phase III. Any changes will be those required to service the business plan for Phase III.

9. The functions of the RCU will be to achieve the objectives of the strategic plan and the annual work plan, harmonise regional activities, develop and implement regional plans, assist member countries particularly those that are less developed, ensure high level communication and public awareness, maintain and analyse relevant information, and broker funding between donors and member countries. The RCU will need to maintain an equivalent level of accountability for activity and resources in future phases to ensure that donor confidence is maintained.

10. There is a need for competent staff to carry out the work of the RCU and it will be necessary to make provision for professional advice through the employment of consultants, and continued secondment of regional and international staff and volunteers
and to provide additional skilled assistance to allow the ASEAN Regional Coordinator to carry out the high level strategic and policy duties required.

External relationships

11. The regional coordination approach has been successful and could be used as a model in other regions.
12. Strengthen cooperation and exchange with countries neighbouring Southeast Asia.
13. Explore the potential for ASEAN+3 to take the lead in the control of FMD in the extended region.
14. There is a need to explore improved cooperation with PR China and there are several suggestions for doing this. They include:
   • Cooperation on technical matters, training and sharing of information
   • Cooperation on FMD control and zoning with the Yunnan and Guanxi Provinces
   • Cooperation in the planning and development of standards for potential disease-free zones in PR China and the Mekong basin countries of Southeast Asia. Zoning for the Beijing Olympics could be included in this
   • Build on existing support by PR China through facilitation of increased assistance to Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam
   • The Director General of OIE to write immediately to PR China to explore these possibilities before the final planning for Phase III.
15. OIE and FAO are to be congratulated in their plans to establish a joint regional steering committee with regard to the Global Framework on Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADS) because these have the potential to increase efficiency and to prevent gaps and overlap.

Communication and Public awareness

16. Communication and public awareness should be maintained and strengthened. Regional and national communication plans should include targeting of all stakeholders, and particularly smallholder livestock owners. There should be a continuation of sharing of experiences and expertise and a regional approach to production of communications materials when appropriate.

Acceleration of planning for the regional progressive zoning approach

17. Progressive zoning is a logical long-term approach to FMD control and eradication in the region and needs to be accelerated by encouraging relevant organisations to fund and/or to carry out the surveillance, epidemiology and economic studies required. The twelve-year time line originally proposed will have to be extended to allow for this. A major priority for Phase III will be implementation of the progressive zoning approach.

Progressing the Malaysia-Thailand-Myanmar Peninsular Campaign

18. Noting good progress by Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar in implementing the MTM Campaign, there is now a need to ensure success by strengthening commitment and support by all stakeholders at all levels. Recommendations to assist this include:
   • Each country to focus their efforts to implement or exceed the MTM minimum standards in the MTM zones
   • Accelerate plans for assistance to Myanmar
   • Establish and maintain a tri-state network for epidemiological and economic analysis
• Maximize involvement and commitment by all stakeholders through the establishment of appropriate regional consultative mechanisms
• Encourage cross-border participation in training courses/meetings/workshops.

Maintaining Free Zones

19. The team recognises that Indonesia and parts of the Philippines are free zones for FMD to OIE standards and that East Malaysia is likely to achieve this status in the very near future. The maintenance of this status is an extremely high priority.
20. Commission a consultancy to work with Indonesia and other free zones and to recommend on the strategies and resources required to maintain FZ status.

Strengthening Veterinary Services in the least developed countries

21. Conduct a study to look at the major limitations affecting FMD control in the less developed countries.
22. Urge all stakeholders, including neighbouring countries, international organisations and donors to put priority on strengthening veterinary services that are necessary to control and eradicate FMD in less developed countries.
23. Recognising the importance of previous investments, encourage existing supporters to maintain and extend animal health capacity building projects.

Strengthening the Regional Reference Laboratory

24. The Regional Reference Laboratory (RRL) and its management will be critical from a regional perspective. Priorities activities are:
• Develop a progressive implementation plan and this should describe priority functions, staffing needs, regional and international linkages, financial support required and opportunities for secondment, training and technology transfer
• Ensure that staffing levels are adequate to provide a quality regional service
• Ensure that agreed procedures are in place for the safe and efficient import and transport of isolates of FMD virus to the RRL
• Strengthen skills at the RRL by encouraging international, regional and national research organisations and postgraduate students to collaborate on research at the laboratory
• Gain regional support for international projects (e.g. AADCP) that will make international scientists available to assist with implementing quality, bio-containment, diagnostic development and research
• Establish an international advisory committee, chaired by Thailand, with membership of ASEAN, OIE, WRL, regional and international experts
• OIE to invite the RRL to become a member of the OIE Sub-Commission
• Actively involve FMD experts from within the region in secondments and training activities at the RRL
• Provide advice on vaccine issues.
25. The RRL should be underpinned by a network of capable national laboratories and it is necessary that national FMD laboratories have the skills, equipment, test kits and materials to carry out quality FMD diagnosis. Member countries and international organisations need to identify deficiencies and to help build the required capacity
26. Each country should have an effective information system that is capable of receiving, transmitting, analysing and reporting information at field, laboratory, national and international levels. It should be tailored to suit the needs of users at all levels.

27. The MTE team supports the recommendations of the AHPISA workshop on improvement of FMD reporting by integrating the three OIE databases and establishing formats for flexible and electronic data transfer.

28. There is a need to strengthen the epidemiological capacity in the region through training and building skills and capacity in each country and by establishing regional epidemiological networks.

29. The evaluation team recommends increased use and analysis of the regional FMD database and national databases by the RCU and epidemiological networks.

30. Ongoing strain characterisation of FMD viruses is an important aspect of planning for disease control and in the selection of suitable vaccine strains. There has been a gap in information in some parts of the region and this has to be overcome immediately and in future member countries must send samples to the RRL/WRL on a regular basis.

Vaccines for FMD

31. To maximize the availability of affordable quality vaccines to enable the control of FMD in the region. The principles of private and public supply of vaccine could usefully continue. The main elements to be:

- Encourage public and private interests to cooperate on regional approaches to the production and supply of quality and affordable vaccines
- Ensure that vaccines produced in the region provide coverage against the strains that are present in the region and to carefully monitor antigenic variation in field strains
- Carry out a study to determine the conditions under which the public sector should produce and supply vaccine

Private Sector Integration

32. There has been a good start to the process of private sector integration and there is now a need to pursue this initiative with vigor by:

- A phased approach recognizing the different stages of private sector development in each country
- Appoint a private sector member as Chairperson of the PSCC
- Convert the “alternate” category of membership to full membership
- Examine ways to increase engagement with the private sector

Monitoring and evaluation

33. A modest evaluation of progress with the transition should be conducted in October 2004 and a full Mid Term Evaluation of Phase III in 2007.

34. Ongoing independent economic analysis should be carried out.

35. It will be necessary to meet the following timelines to achieve a successful transition to Phase III and ASEAN responsibility:

January 2004
- OIE/ASEAN/AusAID to urgently progress the recruitment of an ASEAN Regional Coordinator.
- Director General OIE to write to PR China immediately
- RCU to prepare draft of submission to AusAID for extension
Chair of MTE to submit the MTE report to Director General of OIE
OIE to consult with ASEAN and AusAID on the MTE report

February 2004
- OIE/ASEAN to authorise the public release of the report
- RCU to circulate draft Phase III Business plan to OIE/ASEAN
- ASEAN/OIE to begin negotiation with international donors on funding for Phase III. To continue until funding assured

March 2004
- 10th OIE Sub-Commission to consider MTE report and draft business plan

May 2004
- OIE International Committee to consider MTE report and business plan

May 2004
- ASEAN (ASWGL, SOM-AMAF) to consider MTE report and plan
- ASEAN to approve Animal Health Trust Fund and transitional arrangements

Nov 2004
- Extension of Phase II begins

March 2005
- 11th OIE Sub-Commission to consider

May to 2005
- ASWGL/SOM-AMAF meetings

Dec 2005
- End of Phase II
- Key elements for commencement of Phase III and ASEAN Transition are in place eg. ASEAN Regional Coordinator, AHTF operational, business plan agreed and external support assured
III – Mission Report

1. Background

36. The Southeast Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign (SEAFMD) commenced in 1996 and the eight member countries are Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The aim is to reduce the impacts of FMD on livestock owners, reduce poverty and to promote international trade in livestock and animal products in the region. The Campaign operates through a Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) in Bangkok that works in cooperation with the member countries and under the direction of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in Southeast Asia. The Campaign was originally designed using a three phase approach and included Phase I (1996–2001) – Preparation, Phase II (2001–2004) - FMD control, Phase III (2004–2006) - Eradication and consolidation.

37. In April 2003, AusAID, the major funder for Phase II, conducted a review of progress in the first half of the project [http://www.seafmd-rcu.oie.int] and the result was acknowledgement of a high level of performance against the objectives for Phase II and that in several areas the project had exceeded objectives. An area requiring special attention was the transition to ASEAN responsibility.

38. Phase II is now at the two year mark in a three year project and OIE and ASEAN planned a Mid Term Evaluation (MTE) of SEAFMD to set clear directions for transition to the next phase (Phase III) of the Campaign. The ASWGL and the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) met in June 2003 and agreed to the principles for the transition and to establish an Animal Health Trust Fund (AHTF) as a key part of the process.

2. Methodology and Terms of Reference

39. This Mid Term Evaluation (MTE) was conducted from 30 November to 12 December 2003 and involved visits to the Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia, two workshops with stakeholders and 20 consultations with representatives of governments, livestock departments and other stakeholders. Organisations consulted included the Asian Development Bank, AusAID, FAO, JICA, EU and the private sector. Field visits were conducted to see relevant activities in the Philippines and Cambodia. The RCU in Bangkok, Thailand provided valuable inputs and resource materials.

40. The Terms of Reference (TORs) are in Appendix 1 and these required the team (Appendix 2) to evaluate progress in Phase II, advise on future directions for Phase III, review progress with the transition to ASEAN responsibility for the SEAFMD Campaign and to advise on funding for the next phase and any interim arrangements. The future role of PR China and an implementation timetable were also requested.

3. Program relevance and progress

i. Context

41. Livestock are a particularly significant asset for the rural poor because they provide income and security, as well as draught power and fertiliser. Demand for animal products is growing fast as a result of demographic trends such as urbanisation and increasing incomes. The rural poor are exposed to numerous risks, particularly from animal infectious diseases. To reduce the vulnerability, risk management is necessary and should include strategies focusing on improving livestock services, strengthening producer associations, providing demand-driven research, tackling animal diseases and
enhancing market access. Infectious diseases are a main impediment to sub-regional, regional and global trade and should be controlled by means of local, national, regional and global strategies.

42. FMD, one of the most important constraints to both development and trade, is still endemic in the region with the exception of free zones in Indonesia and parts of the Philippines. East Malaysia is likely to achieve free zone status in the near future. Increased trans-boundary trade and movement of people and animals within the region have increased the risks for FMD and therefore more effort to prevent and control the disease is required.

43. Good coordination and cooperation between countries is considered essential for FMD control and the SEAFMD has achieved good progress using a regional cooperative approach. This creates a favorable environment for international organisations to make contributions in the form of funding and technology transfer. In this way all parties can combine their efforts in progressive control and eradication and to achieve the benefits that flow from the establishment of FMD-free areas.

44. The MTM zoning initiative is considered to be an important and achievable project and a model for the cooperative approaches planned for other areas. There are less geographical advantages than for archipelagos like Indonesia or the Philippines, however the main obstacles can be overcome by good management and cooperation.

45. There is great potential for increased involvement by PR China in the activities of the SEAFMD Campaign and there are mutual benefits. This is because trans-boundary diseases like FMD affect all stakeholders in the region and PR China has long borders with three of the SEAFMD countries.

46. The MTE team found a remarkable consistency in the commitment of those consulted to support the campaign and its transition to a regionally managed FMD program and this is because it will help to alleviate poverty and create wealth.

47. Given this context the review team concluded that the SEAFMD is highly relevant in enhancing the livestock production potential of the region and in supporting poverty alleviation, and that a coordinated approach to the management of the program is essential. The transition to ASEAN responsibility is a critical period in the life of the program and will need careful management and adequate resources.

ii. Campaign Phase II, Progress (Appendices 3a, 3b and 3c)

48. The SEAFMD Strategic Plan 2001 – 2004 consists of eight components and these provide the framework to develop and implement activities that will move the program activities forward at the regional level. A work plan is approved by and then reviewed for progress each year at the meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in Southeast Asia. The work plan is reviewed and updated quarterly by the RCU and the last two annual work plans are in Appendices 3a and 3b.

49. The review team conducted interviews and workshops, studied the AusAID Mid Term Review report, the SEAFMD Progress Report (Appendix 3c) and other resource materials to check the progress being made by the RCU and participating countries against the eight program components.

50. The evaluation team visited the Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia to get a better perspective on national programs and participation in the SEAFMD Campaign. The Philippines have achieved OIE FMD free zone status for Mindanao and the Palawan-Masbate-Visayas and there is strong commitment by the BAI and other stakeholders.
Their program provides good models for application elsewhere in the region, particularly the task force approach (national and regional), project management, communications and public awareness and private sector involvement. Thailand has been working hard to implement the eight SEAFMD components and provides strong support to the program and the RCU in its role as the lead country for FMD in Southeast Asia. In addition to making a very significant investment in FMD control, Thailand hosts the RCU and the soon to open RRL and provides support to neighbouring countries. Thailand is also a key player in the Malaysia-Thailand-Myanmar (MTM) Peninsular Campaign. Cambodia was visited as a representative of the less developed countries in the region and the evaluation team was impressed by the preparatory work being done. However it was clear that to properly implement the eight components of SEAFMD, the DAHP will need international support in the short to medium term because of serious budgetary and resource constraints. Projects currently planned by international agencies such as the EU, JICA, ADB, AusAID and ACIAR will be important in overcoming these problems. In the longer term these projects will provide a good framework and skilled staff to be funded from national sources. The visit to the export feedlot at Kampong Som provided a good example of the serious impact of FMD and the need for a shared responsibility between government and the private sectors. It was seen that there is a strong potential in Cambodia for the export of live cattle and the trade is in jeopardy because of the risks from FMD. If the disease risks can be managed there is likely to be a favorable outcome because the investor has made a big investment in development of facilities and is taking a strong responsibility for animal movement management and disease control. His work needs to be complemented by effective FMD control in Cambodia. If successful this will result in higher prices for local farmers and benefits to the national economy.

51. Based on the information provided and the observations made, the MTE team concluded that the Southeast Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign has largely met its objectives and has demonstrated the benefits of professional regional coordination. The main achievements have been a positive report by the AusAID Mid Term Review, agreement by all parties to the transition to ASEAN responsibility for the SEAFMD Campaign, the development of national plans, agreement on a progressive zoning approach to FMD control in the region, completion of the planning phase and signing of a MOU for the Malaysia-Thailand-Myanmar (MTM) Campaign for FMD Freedom, the establishment of the PSCC, strengthened communications, completion of Private Sector and Communication Plans, the successful initiation of a regional secondment program, the appointment of an Australian volunteer to manage the RCU’s communications program, the first meeting of the Private Sector Consultative Committee (PSCC), the successful conduct of 16 meetings including two Sub-Commission Meetings and three National FMD Coordinator’s Meetings and progress with the progressive zoning approach.

52. In Phase II, the program has achieved in excess of planned outputs in several areas and some new initiatives have been added. These include the progressive zoning approach, a regional secondment program and recruitment of a volunteer.

53. In most areas the program is on track to achieve the outputs and objectives specified by the end of the current phase. Areas where progress has been slower than hoped are:

- National FMD plans have been completed and are now waiting on high level government approval
• The transition to ASEAN responsibility will be slower than originally expected because of the annual decision making processes of ASEAN and the fact that the RCU does not have lead responsibility for progressing the matter.
• The 10 percent levy on OIE subscriptions has been agreed by all countries and has now been implemented by approximately half the countries. OIE continues to negotiate with members on this issue.
• There has been slow steady progress with the establishment of the RRL. This has been due to competing demands for time and resources and the need for assistance particularly in regard to validation of bio-containment standards. The RCU provides assistance and attempts to facilitate.

54. The staff of the Regional Coordination Unit and member countries should be complimented for their initiative and efforts in implementing the eight components of the SEAFMD program.

IV – Strategic Priorities

The main strategic priorities for the SEAFMD Campaign are described in detail below.

1. Malaysia-Thailand-Myanmar Peninsular Campaign for FMD Freedom

55. There has been sound progress with the MTM Peninsular Campaign for FMD Freedom (MTM Campaign) and this culminated with the signing of an MOU on 6 November 2003. The MTM Tri-state Commission has two members per country, oversees the campaign and reports to Director Generals and the ASWGL. Dr Chaweewan Leowijuk is the current Chairperson. The main achievements to date include development of a project management framework including project description and logical framework, minimum standards for FMD control (Standard Definitions and Rules), criteria for zone progression, establishment of a technical working group, consultancies on information systems, surveillance standards and qualitative import risk analysis, collaboration on a quantitative risk assessment project and member countries are carrying out operational activities such as managing animal movements, targeted vaccination, surveillance and public awareness.

56. Cooperation between the three countries was an essential element of the campaign and it was noted that Thailand was assisting Myanmar with vaccine for use in the buffer zone and that Malaysia was considering a proposal to provide further support. The evaluation team recommended acceleration of this consideration. There is a need for further support for Myanmar to ensure that all aspects of the program can be delivered according to the minimum standards. There is also a need to establish a tri-state epidemiological network to carry out the epidemiological and economic studies required to give the Tri-state Commission the information required to direct the campaign. An international project to facilitate this would be of great advantage.

57. The evaluation team believes that commitment by all stakeholders and particularly at the local level is required if the initiative is to be successful. It was suggested that the Regional Task Force approach used in the Philippines to involve stakeholders be examined for use in the MTM zones.

58. In addition to the strategies for animal movement management, it is necessary to consider the strategic location of slaughter houses and export/import feedlots in the MTM zones to reduce the risks, while providing the needs for animal products in the region.
2. Progressive zoning approach

59. During Phase II, a progressive zoning approach has been proposed as a long term strategic framework for the control of FMD in Southeast Asia. The approach builds on the MTM Campaign and involves identifying potential zones and facilitating a process driven by member countries to carry out the technical and economic feasibility studies necessary to attract the resources required for implementation. Working groups have been established for progressive zoning approaches in the Lower Mekong, Upper Mekong, Myanmar and an expert team from the EU and New Zealand was used to advise on the Red River Delta zoning proposal. Working groups have been funded for 4 meetings over two years. International organizations are supporting this initiative by in kind contributions and they, member countries and international organizations are beginning to align their activities to support the initiative. Funding proposals that will support aspects of this are in the pipeline and these need support from ASEAN and member countries to ensure their success. Acceleration of the progressive zoning approach was confirmed as the top priority for Southeast Asia in the recent round of consultations for the Global Framework on Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADS). The Evaluation Team supported the progressive zoning approach as a logical approach to controlling FMD and enhancing trade. They noted the long term nature of the initiative and that it would require commitment and support from all stakeholders to be successful.

3. Maintenance of existing and future FMD Free Zones

60. The MTE Team has confirmed that maintaining existing and future disease free zones is a very high priority for the SEAFMD campaign and requires strong quarantine measures, effective surveillance, emergency response, effective communications and public awareness. The main danger is complacency by all stakeholders, including lack of public investment and lack of responsibility by the private sector. A consultancy to work with Indonesia and other FMD free zones to recommend on strategies and resources to maintain free zones is suggested.

4. Strengthening of Veterinary Services

61. Figure 1 shows the relationships between the different technical and scientific issues in animal health. Progressive Zoning (PZ) has to be based on sound epidemiological and economic work and this requires a foundation of well-built veterinary services. Diseases, and especially FMD, are an important constraint on livestock productivity. Thus, projects for improving veterinary services, or making them more available to the target group, can have a significant impact on rural poverty alleviation. The different countries concerned by the SEAFMD campaign have different levels regarding the availability, quality and efficiency of the veterinary services. Indeed, the less developed countries such as Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar need assistance to strengthen their veterinary services. Other countries should be more concerned by the progress and expansion of their diagnostic capacities and the sensibility and effectiveness of their monitoring and surveillance systems. Moreover, surveillance and control structures developed for FMD will allow surveillance and control, at marginal cost, of other animal diseases, especially CSF.
62. Governments must give long term commitment to carrying out livestock disease control programmes on a sustainable basis. The evaluation team believes that each country must aspire to achieving a veterinary service that is capable of instituting the key elements of disease control to OIE and international standards and guidelines. These include effective risk based quarantine and animal movement management, efficient field and laboratory surveillance systems, information systems, emergency response planning, harmonised national plans for FMD control and eradication, policy and legislation and public awareness programs. These capabilities will be necessary to support the progressive zoning approach.

63. The initiation and establishment of private veterinary services and the collaboration between official veterinarians, private veterinarians, para-veterinarians and livestock producer organizations needs to be reinforced, particularly in order to consolidate monitoring and surveillance systems.

64. Veterinary staff should receive training in a wide range of subjects including epidemiology, microbiology, and economics and the training can be from short-term technical training to MSc or PhD level. A regional training centre could be visualised and connected to the RRL. Moreover, education of instructors should be undertaken for technical support of village animal health workers and farmers associations. The veterinary services have also to continue, under the regional coordination, to improve the awareness of animal health problems for farmers, farmers association and animal health workers (e.g. Cambodia).

5. Monitoring and Surveillance
65. The strengthening of monitoring and surveillance systems (MOSS) in the ASEAN region is essential. It requires a clear understanding of the roles of the provincial, national and regional laboratories within the regional surveillance networks. The evaluation team recommends that the RCU encourages the assessment of these laboratories and promotes their restoration when it is needed. The use of OIE guidelines for quality management in veterinary diagnostic laboratories is important for credibility. In that context, the support from AAHL, IAEA, JICA, WRL and other international agencies is very important.

66. Evaluation of the existing MOSS and the development of efficient MOSS for countries where the systems are not in place should also be undertaken. In this framework, it is suggested that a process for harmonisation of performance indicators for MOSS be developed. Mapping and geo-referencing of animal movement at the national and regional levels should be undertaken using MOSS and other sources such as specific field surveys.

67. Tools for MOSS improvement should be developed in connection with research and technical organisations. Spatial methods should be used to identify geographical areas that require strengthening or to allow reduced surveillance effort. Moreover, a set of epidemiological tools adapted to the different surveillance objectives and field conditions could be tested in pilot areas. The tools can include methods such as serological and clinical surveys in herds, markets and abattoirs and participatory epidemiology (PE). PE is based on the farmer knowledge and uses a broad range of interviewing, scoring, ranking, and visualization methods and can harness networks of alternative health services. They can be used in remote areas with limited infrastructure where conventional data are difficult to collect.

68. The RCU should continue to facilitate the involvement of research institutes and universities in conducting epidemiological studies. The emphasis in these studies should be to use, when relevant, the full range of epidemiological techniques including geo-referencing, spatial epidemiology, structured field surveys, quantitative risk assessment, modelling and decision support tools. Improved sampling methodologies, sample submission and harmonisation of sampling frames for sero-surveillance in free areas are required. The epidemiological roles of carriers and sub-clinical FMD infection in livestock and the role of wildlife should be investigated.

69. Wherever possible there should be efforts by national, regional and international research institutes and universities to integrate ASEAN and overseas post-graduate students in plans for implementing research and epidemiological studies. Scientific cooperation with PR China should be encouraged.

70. Where zoning is being planned and there is export potential for the pig industry, surveillance and epidemiological studies should include Classical Swine Fever.

6. Strengthening the Regional Reference Laboratory and laboratory networks

71. The establishment of a Regional Reference Laboratory (RRL) at Pak Chong in Thailand has been agreed by ASEAN and a longer term aim is to achieve OIE Reference Laboratory Status. The construction of the level three bio-containment facility is now complete and is being used for FMD diagnosis using domestic samples. It is anticipated that the laboratory will begin receiving samples from the countries in the region in 2004. The next stages are to validate bio-containment and complete documentation for quality assurance (QA) accreditation. In regard to these matters, Thailand is working with the national QA accreditation agency and has sent two staff
members to AAHL for training in bio-containment, quality assurance and FMD diagnosis. An IAEA funded consultant on bio-containment is preparing a report at present and an AAHL staff member will visit Thailand in January 2004 to assist with writing manuals for quality control.

72. The RRL should be the interface between the national laboratories and the WRL and therefore it needs to be underpinned by a network of capable national laboratories. There is a need to ensure national FMD laboratories have the skills, equipment, diagnostic kits and other materials to carry out quality FMD diagnosis and where necessary to encourage member countries and international organizations to identify deficiencies and to help build the required capacity.

73. The long term role of the RRL should be to provide an excellent regional diagnostic service, provide quality advice, to conduct research, maintain quality and bio-containment systems, maintaining standards and participate in regional training on FMD diagnosis. There is a need for international assistance and this should involve a combination of full time and short term appointments. Recommendations by the evaluation team to strengthen the RRL include development of a progressive implementation plan, provision of appropriate levels of staff and resources, the immediate recruitment of a scientist to assist with implementing quality, bio-containment, diagnostic development and research, a regional exchange programme, of scientists and post-graduate students from the ASEAN countries, supporting agencies to encourage greater use of regional expertise in training, the establishment of an international advisory committee chaired by Thailand with membership of ASEAN, member countries and international experts and for the OIE to invite the RRL to become a member of the OIE Sub-Commission.

74. The technical support from IAEA has to be maintained and in particular the IAEA/AAHL/RRL project for the distribution of FMD diagnostic kits to participating countries. The RRL with the help of IAEA, AAHL and JICA will test and package and supply diagnostic kits for FMD to countries in the region and this should take place in 2004. After its QA accreditation, a future function of the RRL should be to coordinate a quality control and proficiency testing process for the national laboratories. JICA should be encouraged to continue and strengthen its support for the RRL and the networking of the national labs. The MTE strongly encourages ASEAN and AusAID to ensure the success of the project proposal submitted to the ASEAN Australian Development Cooperation Program (AADCP) because it is considered an essential element in achieving the goals of the RRL.
75. Maximising the availability of affordable quality vaccines to enable the control of FMD in the region is a very high priority for the SEAFMD Campaign. The team looked at the options and concluded that the principles of private and public supply of vaccine could usefully continue. The main elements would be:

- Encourage public and private interests to cooperate on regional approaches to the production and supply of quality and affordable vaccines
- Ensure that vaccines produced in the region provide coverage for the strains present in the region and to carefully monitor antigenic variation in field strains
- Carry out a study to determine the conditions under which the public sector should produce and supply vaccine

76. The establishment and maintenance of a FMDV serotype/topotype database at the regional level is essential. Molecular epidemiology should be carried out in close collaboration with WRL. Emphasis should be put on the improvement of QA by the use of reference standards. Continued exchange of information with the WRL and vaccine manufacturers will ensure the quality and availability of the vaccines.

7. National and regional information systems

77. Each country should have an effective information system targeted to its information and reporting needs. They need to be capable of receiving, transmitting, analysing and reporting information for local, national, regional and international purposes.

78. The RCU maintains a database comprised of monthly reports by member countries on FMD outbreaks with relevant epidemiological information. Regional reports are circulated monthly and there is a mapping function on the database. The mapping function was not operational for much of 2002 and that problem has now been overcome. There is a need for increased use of national and regional databases and this includes epidemiological analysis.

79. A workshop on FMD reporting was held in association with the annual meeting of the Animal Health and Production Information System for Asia (AHPISA) and among other recommendations was strong support for integration of the three OIE databases and to introduce the capacity to transfer data electronically using flexible data entry options. This is under negotiation between OIE Paris, Tokyo and Bangkok and this process should be supported and accelerated. The benefits will be better and more accurate information and reduced workloads in member countries and at the RCU.

80. The control of FMD and vaccine selection depends on good knowledge of the FMD strains active in the region. Early recognition of new strains is particularly important. The way to achieve this is to have regular submission of samples to reference laboratories for strain characterisation. This has been difficult to achieve and for some countries there have been no submissions for several years. The main obstacles have been the cost and the logistical difficulties of getting samples to the WRL. This will be easier when the RRL opens for regional service and by the initiative for the private sector to assist with submissions. The RRL, the DLD, the RCU and member countries must put a high priority on the submission of samples.
V – Programme Design and Funding

1. General

81. The SEAFMD Campaign is an umbrella project involving coordination and facilitation of support for regional activities within the components of a long term strategic framework. Its main roles are implementation of regional plans, facilitation and harmonisation. At present the Regional Coordination function receives USD 330,000 per year from AusAID, the major donor for Phase II, and is supplemented by contributions for office accommodation, staffing and meeting costs by organisations such as DLD, Kasetsart University, member countries, OIE and the OIE Japan Trust Fund. A financial report is in Appendix 3d and shows that at the end of November 2003 total expenditure was USD 631,781 (64%). Projections show that there is likely to be approximately USD 50,000 available in the third year (2004) to partially fund the appointment of the ASEAN Regional Coordinator.

82. Progress with FMD control in Southeast Asia is dependent on commitment by the member countries, cooperation and assistance between countries and the alignment of the resources and skills of international agencies and donors to the objectives of the control of FMD in the region.

83. The main activity for the remainder of Phase II and Phase III is to effect a smooth transition to ASEAN management of the SEAFMD Campaign in a spirit of shared responsibility with OIE. This will require clarification of management structures and TORs for supporting bodies.

2. Transition to a shared responsibility between ASEAN and OIE

84. In 1999, the external evaluation team recommended strengthened commitment by member countries and the transfer of the SEAFMD Campaign to ASEAN responsibility and now both ASEAN and OIE have agreed to this. In April 2000, ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) agreed to commit resources to support their respective FMD control and eradication programs. Since then the transition of SEAFMD to ASEAN has been considered at every meeting of ASWGL and AMAF. During the last round of meetings there was agreement by ASEAN (ASWGL, SOM-AMAF and Ministers) to set up an ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund (AAHTF) primarily to support the FMD campaign. Details on the mechanics of contribution and management of the trust fund will be discussed at the next round of meetings in May to August 2004. A schedule of contributions should be agreed at the earliest opportunity.

85. To ensure accountability and maintain the credibility built by OIE, the MTE Team is of the opinion that a Steering Committee should be created to give advice to the ASWGL and RCU on technical aspects of the SEAFMD campaign and to recommend the annual work plan. It should be composed of a nominee of the Director General OIE, the Chair of the ASWGL, a representative of SEAFMD member countries nominated by the FMD Sub-commission, APHCA-FAO, the OIE Regional Representative and experts selected for their individual capacity and approved by ASEAN/OIE. The ASEAN Regional Coordinator will be the Executive Officer. It is recommended that the OIE representative Chair the Steering Committee. The organisational structure giving details to this arrangement is in Figure 2.

86. It is essential that a Letter of Agreement (LOA) between ASEAN and OIE be developed to clearly define the partnership and responsibilities. The LOA will include definition of responsibilities for Phase III and interim arrangement during the transition period. Some of the items for consideration are the following:
The organisational arrangements for the ASEAN management of SEAFMD

ASEAN Responsibilities
- Management and direct supervision of the operation of the RCU
- Set policy direction, approve annual work plan and budget
- Management and accountability of funds through the AAHTF
- Monitoring and evaluation of the program
- Thailand the lead country will host and provide ongoing support to the RCU and RRL

OIE Responsibilities
- Provide professional and technical support and maintain international profile to ensure scientific credibility
- Director General to nominate Chair of the Steering Committee
- Maintain the FMD Sub-commission in Southeast Asia and support its annual meetings
- Work with ASEAN in seeking commitment and funding from member countries, international agencies and donors

87. A LOA of Agreement between ASEAN and Thailand on the arrangements for hosting the RCU Office and the regional operations of the RRL is also necessary. This LOA shall also include the arrangements during the transition period.

88. There will also be a need to review the Terms of Reference for the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in Southeast Asia, its bureau (to be replaced by the Steering Committee) and committees (Advisory Committee and PSCC).

3. Phase III

89. Phase III will cover the period from 2006-2008. Essentially it will be a continuation of Phase II with stronger emphasis in certain areas. It will give focus for ASEAN to consolidate what has been accomplished by the SEAFMD under the auspices of OIE.

90. Regularity of ASEAN-SEAFMD member countries contribution to the Animal Health Trust Fund will be ensured during this period and additional support from other donor agencies will be continuously explored. The possibility of ASEAN+3 (PR China, Japan and South Korea) involvement in the campaign will be pursued by the ASWGL.

91. A work plan for Phase III will be completed during the transition period and this should describe priority activities, reflect the emphasis or new activities as described in this report and specify the staffing and resources required.

4. Interim arrangements for transition to Phase III

92. There will need to be a transition period from the end of Phase II in November 2004 and the start of Phase III in January 2006. The transition period will essentially be an extension of Phase II, hence it shall remain under the management of the OIE. During this period, preparations for the smooth transition of the SEAFMD campaign and the RCU to ASEAN will be completed and closer involvement by ASEAN is expected. Funding for the transition period is being requested from the existing donor. The evaluation team and the ASWGL have considered the possibility of lack of funding for an extension of phase II. The fallback position would be for the lead country to provide a part time coordinator to maintain the essential core functions of the RCU. Both groups concluded that very little of the current activities could be maintained and that the SEAFMD Campaign would be severely compromised resulting in loss of momentum and credibility and this could impact on the likelihood in attracting funding for the next phase of the Campaign.
93. It is recommended as an urgent priority that a person from an ASEAN country (ASEAN Regional Coordinator - ARC) be recruited to be the Regional Coordinator for a period of at least 18 months and this would include the last stage of Phase II until the end of the transition period in December 2005. It is anticipated that the ARC can be funded until November 2004 from savings of the current project. Funding from then until December 2005 will need to be covered by funding for the transition period. The
OIE will start the recruitment process early in the first quarter of 2004. ASEAN and the donor will be consulted in the selection of the ASEAN Regional Coordinator.

94. Major outputs expected during the transition period are:

- ASEAN will finalize the establishment of the AAHTF and draw up a schedule of contributions.
- The LOA between ASEAN and OIE will be finalised and approved, clearly defining the function of each party.
- The composition of the Steering Committee will be agreed and if possible will start to function during the transition period.
- The LOA between ASEAN and Thailand on the arrangements of hosting the RCU and the role of the RRL will be finalised.
- A workplan for Phase III will be completed and approved by ASEAN and OIE.
- ASEAN and OIE will look for external donors to support the implementation of Phase III. It is expected that ASEAN member countries will start their contributions to the animal health trust fund, but the amount expected during the start of Phase III may not cover the whole operation of the SEAFMD campaign.

5. Potential funding sources

95. Funding will be described in two parts and these are “regional coordination” and “underpinning activities” and these are described in the donor list in Appendix 7.

96. In regard to the future funding for regional coordination, the MTE recommends that OIE and ASEAN work together as an urgent priority to secure immediate funding for a continuation of Phase II in 2005 and then to negotiate funding for Phase III from 2006-2008. For the proposed extension of Phase II, the existing donor should be approached in the first instance.

97. It is clear that Phase III will coincide with the commencement of base funding by ASEAN countries using the AAHTF with increased in-kind contributions by member countries. Initially funding from this source will be limited and in Phase III there will be a need for additional funding. Several options for additional funding were considered by the MTE team and these included options involving single or multiple donors.

98. It can be seen that there are many related activities and the task is to maximize the alignment of these activities to FMD control, identify the gaps and then encourage member countries and potential supporters to fill the gaps.

99. There are many organizations and donors that have been assisting SEAFMD countries with animal health support on bilateral or multilateral bases and these include AAHL, ACIAR, AusAID, PR China, Australian Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), DFID, European Union (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam), FAO, IAEA, ILFI, JICA, New Zealand MAF, OIE, OIE Japan Trust Fund, Swiss Government, Veterinaire Sans Frontier (Vietnam), the World Bank and the World Reference Laboratory.

100. There are several projects currently under consideration that could make a significant contribution to the work of the campaign and these include:

- The Global Framework on Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADS) has the acceleration of the progressive zoning approach as its top priority for Southeast Asia. A successful outcome will be a major boost for the Campaign.
• AAHL has a submission being considered by the ASEAN Australian Development Cooperation Program (AADCP) for funding to maintain a staff member at the RRL and this would provide the additional expertise and the linkages with an international laboratory required to achieve the long term goals of the RRL. This proposal will need support from ASEAN and its members and is highly recommended by the MTE team.

• An AusAID SPS Capacity Building Project is under development and deserves support. An important element for the animal health component is to conduct pilot projects in the MTM and Lower Mekong zones. The MTM component will be of great benefit because one of the gaps in the MTM is the need for a tri-state epidemiology support network for the Tri-state Commission.

• A major project is under development by the Asian Development Bank with support from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction and it would provide skills and resources necessary in the Mekong basin the area of greatest need. The MTE team views this project as particularly important.

• The European Union has given generous support for capacity building in Lao PDR and Vietnam (EU/SVSV) for some time and continued support will be necessary to build on previous investments and to assist in the successful implementation of this and future regional approaches to animal health. The MTE Team strongly endorses the project planned for Cambodia as this country is in urgent need of such support in the short to medium term. The project in Vietnam has been very successful and is due to wind down in April 2004. In the view of the MTE team there is a need for further support in Vietnam as that country moves to establish zoning and to extend the capacity and training to all provinces. The EU is urged to reconsider an extension to this project.

• MAF New Zealand has provided technical assistance to a recent EU led mission of experts to advise on the feasibility of the Red River delta zoning proposal and it is hoped that further support on epidemiology and risk assessment will result.

6. Regional Coordination Unit: funding and operations

101. The OIE/SEAFMD Regional Coordination Unit has been in existence since the inception of the Campaign and currently has three staff, the Regional Coordinator (Dr John Edwards), an Assistant Regional Coordinator seconded from the DLD (Dr Narathip Moungsang), a part time Secretary (Khun Chutikarn Dhehabisit) and an Australian Volunteer (Mr Tom Chesson). The office has now relocated to the Department of Livestock Development in Bangkok to be closer to the lead agency for FMD in Southeast Asia and as part of the strategy for transition to ASEAN responsibility. The support of Kasetsart University in hosting the RCU during its early development is gratefully acknowledged.

102. In Phase II, the SEAFMD Campaign’s major source of funding is from the Australian Government’s overseas aid program administered by AusAID. Additional support has been provided by the OIE Japan Trust Fund, the DLD, Kasetsart University and member countries. The many in-kind contributions are difficult to quantify and these are likely to increase with the transition to ASEAN. Cooperation with other international organizations and private sector organization in the conduct and funding of meetings and workshops has been beneficial.

103. It is important that the RCU has access to an appropriate level of capacity and skills to carry out its core business now and particularly during the transition to
ASEAN. It is important that the core staffing of the RCU is the minimum to carry out the necessary work functions and meet the increasing demands on the RCU.

104. An important issue is to provide adequate training and mentoring and ongoing support for the ASEAN Regional Coordinator. Training and mentoring can be provided by the current regional coordinator if the recruitment process can be accelerated and it is possible to extend that on a part time basis.

105. The ASEAN Regional Coordinator will need support if he/she is to give proper attention to the important issues of communicating a strategic vision and achieving support at all levels including ministers, national livestock agencies, and non-government stakeholders and international agencies and responsibility for accountability issues at the RCU. There will need to be support for the routine work of the RCU and this includes preparation of financial and technical reports and submissions in English language. This support could be provided in the form of a full time technical adviser or by providing funds to contract a part time high level mentor/adviser and to provide funds to employ additional consultants as required. The MTE Team recommends that in Phase III, a full time technical adviser be employed to support the Regional Coordinator by providing technical advice and assist with carrying out operational duties. This will require additional funding.

106. Additional capacity and skills can also be obtained through a combination of affordable options such as the continuation of the successful regional secondment program, international secondments and volunteers.

7. Regional Reference Laboratory

107. Construction of the RRL is now complete and it is operating using samples from Thailand. As described earlier it is expected to begin operations as a regional laboratory in 2004. In this phase funding has come from Thailand with support from international agencies such as OIE/AusAID, AAHL, JICA, IAEA and FAO for training and equipment.

108. The RRL will be recognized by ASEAN in the first instance and the long term vision will be to achieve OIE Reference Laboratory status. To carry out the functions described in Section IV, additional funding will be required and this will need to come from a combination of sources eg increased allocation by Thailand, users in member countries, international organizations, donors and the private sector. The recommendations in this report will assist with achieving the resources required.

109. The long term credibility and sustainability of the RRL for FMD in Southeast Asia will depend on the ability of the laboratory to provide a quality assured regional service and carry out the full range of advanced diagnostic, standard setting, research and regional support functions. This will be facilitated by ensuring the involvement of national, regional and international experts in a coordinated and planned approach and with appropriate financial support. Initiatives requiring additional work include examination of long term regional sources of funding, short and long term secondments from regional and international laboratories and the use of regional experts in training programs.
VII – Strategies for the future

110. The comments and observations in this report recognize that the SEAFMD Campaign has been successful in its first two stages in building regional support and cooperation between member countries and there is now a long term vision for FMD control. The recommendations focus heavily on the important issues of planning for a transition to ASEAN management and a shared responsibility with OIE in Phase III and suggestions for managing the interim period. Other recommendations relate to issues that require greater emphasis.

111. The MTE Team considers that achieving strong support at all levels is critical to the future success of the campaign. This means that Government commitment and endorsement at Ministerial level is required in addition to active participation by ASEAN, animal health services (national, regional, local), international stakeholders and the private sector (small holders, farmers, traders).

112. A smooth transition to Phase III and shared responsibility between ASEAN and OIE is the key to future success and will require high and urgent priority from OIE, ASEAN and the RCU if the required deadlines are to be met. This involves immediate recruitment of an ASEAN Regional Coordinator, establishment of the AAHTF by ASEAN, seeking policy approval by OIE and ASEAN and preparation of the reports, submissions, business plans, recruitment materials and other documents to support this.

113. The evaluation team recognises the progress made in the issue of long term sustainability and that agreement on the establishment of the AAHTF is an important element. It has identified that there will need to be additional funding until the AAHTF is self-sufficient.

114. The OIE and ASEAN are urged to work together to secure funding for the extension of the Phase II and the successful transition to Phase III.

115. There is a need to strengthen cooperation and exchange with neighbouring countries and particularly PR China. The evaluation team has explored several options and these are not mutually exclusive and are listed below for future consideration.

- The minimum involvement could be cooperation on technical matters, sharing of information and attendance at meetings/workshops/training courses
- Cooperation on FMD control and zoning between Southeast Asia and the southern provinces of PR China (Yunnan and Guanxi Provinces). Membership and continued active participation in the Upper Mekong Working Group and consultations with Vietnam and Myanmar will be necessary.
- Cooperation in the development of animal health standards and provision of technical advice to the potential disease free zones in PR China.
- Build on existing support from PR China by facilitation of increased assistance to the poorer countries in the region eg Myanmar and Lao PDR
- Assist with technical advice on the disease free zone to be constructed for the Beijing Olympics in 2008.
- There is potential for PR China to be involved through the ASEAN+3 organization and this can be explored through the ASWGL and in follow up discussions with those parties
- The MTE team has recommended that OIE and ASEAN write immediately to China to request further consultation and to advise on the views of PR China on these options
116. Increased cooperation between international agencies will be required to improve efficiency and avoid overlap and the proposed OIE end FAO regional steering committees is one element of this. The long term strategic framework for the SEAFMD Campaign will assist in alignment of donor activity.

117. There needs to be greater emphasis by all stakeholders on progressing the feasibility study process for the long term control of FMD using the progressive zoning approach and maintaining existing and future FMD Free Zones. This is consistent with the major regional recommendation from the GF-TADS consultations. Where appropriate and to maximize the trade benefit of zoning, other important trade limiting diseases such as Classical Swine Fever may need to be considered.

118. Continued support for the MTM Campaign by all parties will be necessary to build on the progress to date and to use it as a model for other zoning approaches.

119. To achieve the regional objectives it will be necessary for ASEAN members and the international community to focus more attention on strengthening the capacity of Veterinary Services in the least developed countries. The control of trans-boundary diseases requires a coordinated effort involving neighbouring countries and all countries must have the capacity to carry out their roles to agreed minimum standards for disease control. Without additional resources, facilities, skilled staff and training these countries will not be able to carry out their roles. In the countries visited it is clear that animal health services are very keen to participate in the regional plans, however additional resources will be needed.

120. The evaluation team recognises the importance of previous support and encourages existing supporters to maintain and extend animal health capacity building projects. The evaluation team has also recommended a study to look at the major limitations affecting FMD control in the least developed countries.

121. The evaluation team suggests that it will be necessary to maintain and strengthen existing priority activities such as communication and public awareness, the integration of regional and national plans for FMD control and harmonisation of standards for FMD control.

122. Integration of the Private Sector into regional and national animal health activities is a long term process because in some countries the private sector is early in its development and poorly organized. The evaluation team recommends that this aspect be given high priority in the next phase and that the PSCC be strengthened with leadership from the private sector and that a phased approach recognizing the situation in each country be adopted.