



THE SOUTH-EAST ASIA FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE CAMPAIGN (SEAFMD) - THE 2020 ROADMAP

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SEAFMD 2020 provides a roadmap and strategic direction for achieving freedom from FMD with vaccination by the year 2020. The South East Asian FMD Program (SEAFMD) which underpins the eradication effort commenced in 1997. Eight countries – Cambodia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia – actively participate in the program under the guidance of an OIE SEAFMD Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) in Bangkok. The Yunnan Province of the Peoples’ Republic of China participates in the program. The basic concept is that FMD can be prevented and managed at the Sub Regional level if there are sound veterinary services and professional coordination of animal health activities between countries. Effective coordination includes factors such as strong governance procedures for decision making; the conduct of regular policy/strategic and technical meetings; follow-up on recommended approaches; formal and informal meetings at all hierarchical levels; effective education and communication; obtaining and leveraging funds and monitoring and evaluation. Countries are responsible for their own disease management systems but coordination, guidance and support are provided by the RCU. SEAFMD is in its 3rd phase of operation. Phase 1 (1997-2001) saw the establishment of the RCU, the development of linkages with countries, the commencement of technical training and evaluation of program needs. Phase 2 (2001-2005) continued the expansion of effective networks, staff training in areas of diagnostics, surveillance, disease management, engagement of industry and enhanced communications and public awareness. Importantly concepts of progressive zoning were introduced. The current Phase which commenced in 2006 will extend programs and work with neighbouring countries such as China and a range of global and regional organizations to maximize effectiveness, improve capacity building and promote socio economic developments. There have been a number of SEAFMD achievements including training and surveillance programs; the establishment of five Progressive FMD Eradication Zones; maintenance of FMD freedom in Indonesia; OIE recognition of FMD-free zones in Western Malaysia and central and southern Philippines. Pakchong is now an OIE recognized FMD Reference Laboratory. There has been no FMD in the Philippines for three years and application will be made to OIE for free status. Critical to the ongoing success of the SEAFMD have been: political support; adequate funding; leadership, drive and energy with a clear vision and program of action; the development of technical competencies and networks; and recognition that socio economic activities are essential and critical components of animal health activities. Importantly it should be recognized that the SEAFMD provides a first class model for the management of a range of trans boundary diseases such as HPAI and classical swine fever; and that effective veterinary services are critical to success. In this latter regard, the OIE PVS initiative is seen as an essential underpinning to the SEAFMD.