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OVERVIEW OF THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL SITUATION FOR FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE SITUATION AND CONTROL STRATEGIES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC – THE CURRENT SITUATION

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Foot and Mouth Disease is endemic in mainland South East Asia - comprising of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Peninsular Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Countries detached from the mainland are relatively free of the disease. Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Singapore are recognised by OIE as FMD free countries without vaccination. Zones recognized by OIE as FMD free without vaccination are Sabah and Sarawak of Malaysia, and the islands of Mindanao, Visayas, Palawan and Masbate of the Philippines. Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea are traditionally Free of FMD but has yet to apply for OIE recognition.

The FMD serotypes present in the mainland South East Asia are O, A and Asia 1. Serotype O is the most common and there are three topotypes present - the South East Asia, the Pan-Asia and the Cathay (pig adapted strain). The South East Asia topotype is considered indigenous in the sub-region and there are two distinct groups – the Cambodia 94 and the Myanmar 98. The Pan-Asia topotype was probably introduced into the sub-region in the late 1990s. The pig-adapted serotype O was reported in the Philippines in 1995, Vietnam in 1997, Malaysia and Thailand in 2005. Cathay is the only serotype detected in the Philippines since 1996 and no outbreak has been reported since December 2005.

Serotype A is endemic in Thailand. Sporadic outbreaks were also reported in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Malaysia. Vietnam had its first epidemic of serotype A in 2004, which could be due to cattle movement from neighboring countries.

Serotype Asia 1 has not been very active in the region for quite sometime. It was last detected in Lao PDR in 1999, Myanmar in 2001, Malaysia in 1999, Thailand in 1998, Cambodia in 1997 and Vietnam in 1992. But in August 2005, an outbreak of Asia 1 was reported in Kayah State, Myanmar. On the same year it was also reported in the central and northern parts of Vietnam.

The role of animal movement in the spread of FMD has long been recognized. Some data shows correlation between the distribution of FMD outbreaks to animal movement pattern. The clustering of outbreaks in the south of Thailand and northern part of Malaysia follows the flow of cattle movement particularly during the months of October to December when the demand of cattle is high in Malaysia.

Sub-regional control of FMD is being coordinated by the South East Asia FMD (SEAFMD) Campaign since 1997. Progressive zoning is the main strategy adopted. Various tools such as surveillance, risk analysis, animal movement management, vaccination, regulatory controls, public awareness, private-public sector linkages, social network analysis, policy/strategy development and practical researches are applied to progressively control and eradicate FMD. A SEAFMD Epidemiology Network (EpiNet) and Laboratory Network (LabNet) provides technical support to the campaign.