



Bulletin on Avian Influenza in Cambodia

UN system in Cambodia

Update on the Avian Influenza Situation (as of 8th February 2008)

Issue No. 137



The information summarized below is gathered from official and non official sources, which are quoted in the text. This bulletin is prepared by the UN in Cambodia in cooperation with the Royal Government of Cambodia and development partners.

I. Latest information on Avian Influenza in Cambodia

1. Country situation: Animal Health

The animal health hotline received 29 calls from 11 provinces this week. Ten callers from Phnom Penh, Kampot, Prey Veng, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Kampong Cham, Takeo and Preah Vihear provinces reported about sick and dying chicken. 14 callers asked about what to do when their poultry get sick or die, what the clinical signs of HPAI are in poultry, if eggs can be a source of HPAI infection, what the transmission routes are in poultry, and prevention measures. Three calls turned out to be pranks and one was missed call. A team of provincial and district vets went to villages with suspected AI cases and found that AI was not the cause of the illness or deaths.

NAVRI received three samples from different species of sparrows collected at the merits birds market at Wat Phnom resort and Riverside in Phnom Penh. Results of laboratory testing were negative for the H5N1 virus.

During the week, the Department of Animal Health and Production (DAHP) issued an announcement alerting border officials to the risks associated with increased movement of poultry before the Chinese New Year celebrations. The Department met market sellers in Phnom Penh this week and conducted disinfection of the area where birds are sold. DAHP also met with provincial animal health chiefs to distribute IEC materials.

The National Veterinary Research Institute (NaVRI) signed this week a Letter of Agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) to

test 2,000 tracheal samples from captured wild birds in the wetlands and in the market that deal in birds from the wetlands over the next six months. A separate LOA between NAVRI and Wildlife Conservation Society was signed a month ago for the latter to start collecting tracheal samples from wild birds.

The new phase of Village Animal Health Workers Training Programme organised by DAHP and FAO has been conducted in Kep, Otdar Meanchey, Preah Vihear and Mondulakiri. The training is currently conducted in Ratanakiri. From there it will move on to fill gaps in the training of VAHWs in other provinces. The new programme aims to train around 3,000 VAHWs and 3,000 Village Chiefs in these five provinces on the science of the Avian Influenza disease and their role in spreading prevention messages to and new information about bird flu to their communities before, during and after an outbreak.

2. Country situation: Human Health

During week 5 the MOH hotline made 18 calls out (returning missed calls) and received 16 calls. 29 callers asked about signs and symptoms of avian influenza in humans and 5 calls involved animal health and was referred to MAFF. Calls came from Takeo, Kampong Cham, Kandal, Kampot, Phnom Penh, Kampong Speu, Siem Reap, Koh Kong and Preah Vihear, Svay Rieng, Pursat provinces.

1 suspected human case was found this week but tested negative for H5.

II. Upcoming Avian and Pandemic Influenza events in Cambodia

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| 19 Feb | Regular API Partnership meeting at UN conference room, 53 Pasteur Street (gate 1). 14.30-16.00 |
| 26-27 Feb | Rattanakiri AI Community Forums (2), MEDICAM/UNICEF/FAO |
| 4-14 March | MPAT TE 14 Exercise co-hosted by the US Pacific Command and the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) on testing response capacity for natural disasters and pandemic influenza. |
| 10-13 March | Regional AHI Community Practitioners workshop in Bangkok, Thailand |
| 11 March | Regular API Partnership meeting at UN conference room, 53 Pasteur Street (gate 1). 14.30-16.00 |
| 11-13 March | Mondulakiri AI Community Forums (3), MEDICAM/UNICEF/FAO |
| 31 Mar-4 Apr | Step 4 in Siem Reap provincial pandemic planning pilot |
| 8 April | Regular API Partnership meeting at UN conference room, 53 Pasteur Street (gate 1). 14.30-16.00 |
| May | Step 5 in Siem Reap provincial pandemic planning pilot |

III. International issues

Click these links for the latest updates of the global situation on Avian Influenza:

<http://un-influenza.org>

http://www.hewsweb.org/avian_flu/