

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**for**  
**Cooperation to Prevent and Control Transboundary Animal Diseases in the Greater**  
**Mekong Subregion**

The Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;

**Acknowledging** the importance of preventing and controlling transboundary animal disease (TAD) epidemics in the wake of disease outbreaks in the recent years, i.e., SARS and avian influenza (AI) in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS);

**Recognizing** that foot-and-mouth disease (of cattle) and classical swine fever are just as menacing TADs in the GMS although less well-known to the general public due to their relatively limited impact on human health compared to SARS and AI;

**Recognizing further** that all these TADs have posed serious threats and losses to livestock industry, human health, livelihoods of poor smallholders, and foreign trade in the Subregion and that TADs have caught wide attention of the international community as their threats have global implications;

**HAVE AGREED** to cooperate and collaborate formally and closely to fight against the deadly animal diseases, as follows:

**Article 1**

Through consultations, the GMS countries have agreed that they would make common and concerted efforts to take necessary measures to establish an effective Subregional TAD prevention and control system. To this end, they have agreed to:

- (i) Implement prevention and control measures that will include policies and regulations on management of animal movement across common borders, improve herd immunity where appropriate to reduce the incidence and further spread of disease outbreaks.
- (ii) Establish early warning systems to share real-time data against animal epidemics within GMS countries and the region, including strengthening regional veterinary networks, surveillance, and diagnostics capacity and other information channels to communicate disease outbreaks; organize expert consultations for joint evaluation on their development and trends; and exchange information through regional networks to ensure rapid forecasts.
- (iii) Organize annual workshops on prevention and control of important TADs on a rotational basis among GMS member countries. Workshop subjects, to be identified in advance, will cover a wide range of topics directly relevant to TAD control in the region. Such topics would include modern research and developments on disease control methodologies and technologies, improved disease information systems, emergency

preparedness plans, and progressive plans for control and eradication of disease in the Subregion. These workshops will provide an important regional forum to share and exchange information and experiences.

- (iv) Establish regular country visits and meetings within the Subregion for senior agricultural officials and veterinary experts. Such visits and meetings shall be organized as when necessary, but at least once a year to exchange information on measures adopted in response to disease outbreaks of common concern so as to formulate appropriate Subregional policies and emergency programs for rapid and timely response.
- (v) Establish open veterinary laboratories for mutual training and joint research programs. Such programs shall target highly pathogenic avian influenza and other important TADs by making use of state and Subregional animal disease reference laboratories in the People's Republic of China and other GMS member countries.
- (vi) Establish emergency assistance mechanism against newly introduced TAD outbreaks. On declaration of such an outbreak by a member country, other GMS countries shall make active response and provide financial resources, supplies, and technical assistance according to their respective ability.
- (vii) Propose amendment(s) to this MOU. Such amendment(s) shall be subject to mutual consent of member countries, and shall be effected by signing of an addendum to the MOU by the duly authorized representatives of each GMS member country.

## Article 2

This MOU shall become effective upon the date of signature, and will remain in force for five years (from 2005 to 2010). The present MOU shall be extended by mutual agreement by signatory countries when resources permit to do so. Signatory countries shall reach agreement on its extension through correspondence. Signatures on this MOU indicate authorization from their respective governments or authorities.

01/11/05

Done at Hexapla in Kunming, People's Republic of China on 5 July 2005, in the English language, all six texts in respective national languages being equally authentic.

Signed:

For the Royal Government of Cambodia



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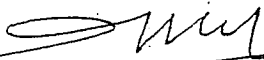
His Excellency Chan Sarun  
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

For the Government of the People's Republic of China



His Excellency Niu Dun  
Vice Minister of Agriculture

For the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic



His Excellency Somphong Mongkhonvilay  
Minister to the Prime Minister's Office

For the Government of the Union of Myanmar



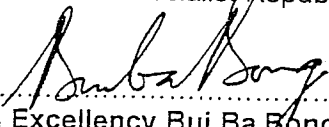
His Excellency Soe Tha  
Minister of National Planning and Economic Development

For the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand



Her Excellency Khunying Sudarat Keyuraphan  
Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives

For the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam



His Excellency Bui Ba Bong  
Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

