

**ACMECS Leaders' Declaration
On Partnership in Combating Avian Influenza and Other Infectious Diseases
2nd ACMECS Summit, Bangkok**

We, the Heads of Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,

Noting the significant threat posed to the goals of ACMECS by newly emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, in particular avian influenza, as well as HIV/AIDS, and other diseases, which have the potential to severely undermine human security, including causing massive loss of human lives and severe economic disruption,

Conscious of the current situation of avian influenza and the need for a concerted and closely coordinated regional effort at all levels to prevent and stem the spread of infectious diseases, with the highest priority on avian influenza,

Commending ongoing national efforts in the ACMECS member countries and steps being taken to forge closer regional cooperation on avian influenza,

Do hereby declare our resolve and commitment to undertake the following:

- Endorse the decision of ACMECS Foreign Ministers at their Meeting on 5 August 2005 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, to establish public health as the sixth sector of cooperation under ACMECS, with a Working Group to coordinate and carry out work in this sector;
- Further strengthen surveillance and response systems through:
 - Training on surveillance, including at the grassroots community level, and laboratory work to facilitate the early recognition and prompt containment of avian influenza and other emerging infectious diseases;
 - Region-wide monitoring of poultry stocks and putting in place systems for rapid reporting of poultry infection;
 - Establishing a Regional Surveillance and Rapid Response Network as a clearinghouse for real-time information sharing, with each member country setting up an Avian Influenza Unit to serve as its focal point in the Network;
 - Facilitating prompt and open exchange of information on infectious diseases among ACMECS countries and with concerned development partners and relevant international agencies;
 - Allocating required resources to develop, strengthen and sustain the capacity of disease surveillance and response systems.

- Strengthen preparedness through:
 - Launching a region-wide public outreach and education campaign on the warning signs of avian flu infection in birds and humans;
 - Rapid response training for relevant government agencies, including preparing hospitals for possible surges in admissions;
 - Promoting increased collaboration between relevant institutions and agencies at all levels, including those concerned with animal health, through the establishment of joint investigation teams, exchange of experts and other measures, in conjunction with international bodies where appropriate;
 - Conducting joint studies, transferring technologies relating to the production and the supply of vaccines under ACMECS, and undertaking collective measures to mobilise the assistance of the international community on this matter
 - Developing and implementing a coherent influenza pandemic preparedness plan at the national and sub-regional levels, including the setting up of strategic stockpiles of antiviral drugs to effectively preempt the pandemic at the source, in combination with other public health measures;
 - Developing and coordinating a multi-agency contingency response plan for the eventuality of an outbreak of human-to-human avian influenza;
 - Establishing new channels of communication to study, treat and track emerging infectious and conventional diseases, including through telemedicine for collaborative medical procedures and the dissemination of medical best practices;
 - Developing plans of action to address the socioeconomic impact of infectious diseases in the ACMECS countries with a view to integrate HIV and AIDS into national socioeconomic development planning and to prevent HIV and mitigate AIDS impact in the transport sector, with support from concerned international organizations.
 - Convene at first opportunity a meeting of Health and Agriculture Ministers to elaborate preventive plans to combat Avian Flu in collaboration with the WHO and FAO.
- Instruct Ministers and Senior Officials to supervise the ACMECS Public Health Working Group in coordinating and propelling the above efforts, with a view to regularly report progress to the ACMECS Coordination Working Group.

Adopted this 3rd day of November 2005, in Bangkok, Thailand.

For the Kingdom of Cambodia



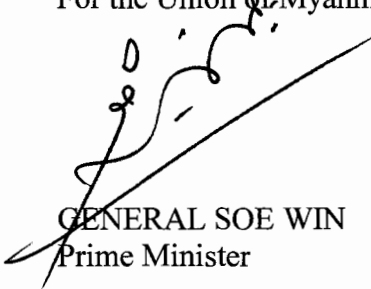
SAMDECH HUN SEN
Prime Minister

For the Lao People's
Democratic Republic



BOUNNHANG VORACHITH
Prime Minister

For the Union of Myanmar



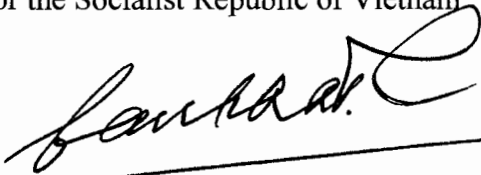
GENERAL SOE WIN
Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand



THAKSIN SHINAWATRA
Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Vietnam



PHAN VAN KHAI
Prime Minister