

Crisis Management in the ASEAN Plus Three Countries

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1. Rationale

Enhanced cooperation and interaction among the ASEAN Plus Three countries significantly fosters political, economic, and social development in each individual country and the region as a whole. Nevertheless, new challenges have emerged and without proper management they have become crises, for instance, natural disaster, migration and human rights, and epidemic. According to the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, crisis management is an immediate and cross-cutting issue in the three pillars of ASEAN Community. The Declaration urges member states and dialogue partners, including ASEAN Plus Three and ASEAN Plus Six, to develop more dynamic and robust regional mechanism to address challenging issues. Because of globalization and interconnectedness of the global citizens, a number of crises have inevitably affected many countries in the region. ASEAN have policies to deal with a number of crises, but those policies have never been translated into actions. Although each individual member state attempts to mitigate the effects of the crises, the lack of synergy in policy implementation hinders the effectiveness in regional crisis management.

The Post-2015 Vision indicates that natural disaster and climate change are emerging challenges. Along with human rights and economic challenges, natural disaster and climate change increase the number of forced and irregular migration which eventually affects health security in the region. These crises have brought about a number of consequences, for instance, loss of lives and livelihood, homeless and misplaced people, health care burdens, transnational crimes, to name a few. To address these crises effectively, concerted effort among the ASEAN Plus Three countries is needed at the levels of policy makers and academic community.

Hence, Thailand would like to propose the theme of 'Crisis Management' for the 24th and 25th Network of East Asia Think Tanks Coordinators Meetings and the 13th NEAT Annual Conference. It consists of three sub-themes: natural disaster and climate change, migration, and health security. The main goal of the meetings and the conference with the theme 'Crisis Management' is to support the Post-2015 Vision by initiating dialogues among scholars and providing policy recommendations to the ASEAN Plus Three leaders. The concept papers on respective sub-themes appear in Annex 1, 2, and 3.

2. Background

Based on the ASEAN Community Blueprints and Post- 2015 Vision, ASEAN has encouraged and supported its citizens to cope with and benefit from globalization and regional integration. National and regional policies are likely to focus on economic and social aspects rather than handling negative impacts of the integration and global development. As a result, these impacts have gradually developed to become a regional crisis.

In the past few years, the ASEAN Plus Three countries have experienced a number of major disasters, for instance, the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami (Indonesia and Thailand), 2008 Sichuan Earthquake (China), 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami (Japan), Cyclone Nargis (Myanmar) and Typhoon Haiyan (the Philippines), volcanic eruptions in the Philippines and Indonesia, and droughts and floods in many countries. Such phenomena have demonstrated the need for effective management to mitigate the impacts of natural disaster and climate change. Although ASEAN and its dialogue partners' leaders emphasized the necessity and importance of a preparation for natural disasters and climate change, the ASEAN Plus Three countries remain inadequately prepared and reluctant to allocate resources to address its impacts including forced migration and epidemic.

According to the ASEAN Economic and Socio-Cultural Blueprints, the mobility of people and workforce is an important element to enhance regional economic and social development. ASEAN member states have made a number of initiatives to foster free and "freer" flow of skilled labor, including Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) and ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework. These are supported by the emergence and betterment of transportation network, including low-cost airlines and land transportation systems. However, the higher proportion of intra-ASEAN migration is unskilled and low skilled workforce. In addition, there is a trend of irregular and illegal migration within the region due to the human rights violation, economic challenge, and natural disaster. The irregular migration and migration of unskilled labor have become a precursor to a number of economic and social issues, for instance, human trafficking and slavery, drugs trafficking, and epidemic. Unlike the mobility of skilled labor, ASEAN and ASEAN Plus Three countries have not had concrete and comprehensive policy to address different natures of people mobility.

Like the two aforementioned issues, health risks in Asia are on the rise due to the increasing threats, such as irregular migration, natural disaster and climate change, and occupational risks. ASEAN is a hotspot for emerging infectious diseases and epicenter for antimicrobial resistance (Roth, 2016). The major challenge in regional health security is a fragmentation of supply chains and unregulated health service providers. Although health mechanisms in the region were put in place, they critically need reinforcement and support to strengthen regional health security and enable each individual country to effectively address the emerging and re-emerging epidemics, for instance, MERS, multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, and Ebola.

Considering the increasing impacts of the three immediate and interconnected crises: natural disaster and climate change, migration, and health security, for economic development and social well-being of the ASEAN Plus Three countries, Thailand, as chair of Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT) in 2016 would like to urge policy makers and academic community in the ASEAN Plus Three countries to make consolidated efforts to tackle the issues.

3. Objectives

The objectives of this paper are as follows:

- 3.1. to provide a platform for the ASEAN Plus Three countries to share knowledge on current situations of, and policies and best practices on natural disaster and climate change, migration, and health security,

- 3.2. to identify ways and means for cooperation among the ASEAN Plus Three countries in crisis management,
- 3.3. to identify feasible approaches to address emerging issues in natural disaster and climate change, migration, and health security, and
- 3.4. to provide policy recommendations on crisis management in the ASEAN Plus Three countries to the 12th ASEAN Plus Three Summit.

4. Implementation

- 4.1. Working groups are expected to be formed to address each sub-theme. Individual NEAT member countries are welcomed and encouraged to host each working group.
- 4.2. The working groups are expected to identify and analyze current situations, and policies and practices on the given sub-themes. The analysis should lead to policy recommendations on crisis management in the ASEAN Plus Three countries. Proposed activities may include, but not limit to, joint research studies, capacity building programs, and regional forum.
- 4.3. Results and recommendations from the working groups will be presented at the 25th NEAT CCM and 13th NEAT Annual Conference. They will be synthesized and tabled at the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR in September 2016.

5. Expected outputs and outcomes

- 5.1. The expected outputs are policy recommendations on crisis management focusing on natural disaster and climate change, migration, and health security.
- 5.2. The expected outcomes are:
 - 5.2.1. concrete and feasible crisis management action plan and measures,
 - 5.2.2. an establishment of network of scholars on each sub-theme, and
 - 5.2.3. alleviation of negative impacts of the crises in the ASEAN Plus Three countries.

Annex 1: Natural Disaster and Climate Change

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1. Introduction

The countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, is geographically located in one of the most disaster prone regions of the world. The ASEAN region sits between several tectonic plates causing earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis. The region is also located in between two great oceans namely the Pacific and the Indian oceans causing seasonal typhoons and in some areas, tsunamis. The countries of the region have a history of devastating disasters that have caused economic and human losses across the region. Almost all types of natural hazards are present, including typhoons (strong tropical cyclones), floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, landslides, forest-fires, and epidemics that threaten life and property, and droughts that leave serious lingering effects.

Typhoons are the most prevalent hazard in the region, causing destruction to human life, buildings, agriculture and infrastructure alike, while causing flooding and landslides/mudslides. The region provides compelling evidence of the destructive power of such disasters. For example, the recent tropical cyclone Nargis of May 2008 in Myanmar killed over 133 thousand people, affected over 2.4 million people and caused an estimated economic loss of over \$ 4 billion. Over 600 thousand hectares of agriculture land was flooded, killing about 50 per cent of the draught animals. In the same year, on June 21, 2008, Typhoon Fenghsen in the Philippines killed 573 and affected at least 4 million people in just four hours. In October 2009, cyclone Pepang (Parma) in the Philippines killed 539 people, affected 4.5 million and caused an estimated economic loss of \$592 million.

Some of the major disasters of recent times in the region are: the December 26, 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, September 16, 1990 Luzon earthquake (Philippines), May 26, 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake (Indonesia), June 1991 volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo (Philippines), 2005 (Thailand), and 1997 (Vietnam) droughts, September 2009 cyclone Ketsana (known as Ondoy in the Philippines), catastrophic flood of October 2008, and January 2007 flood (Vietnam), September 1997 forest-fire (Indonesia) and many others. Climate change is expected to exacerbate disasters associated with hydro-meteorological hazards.

Often these disasters transcend national borders and overwhelm the capacities of individual countries to manage them. Most countries in the region have limited financial resources and physical resilience. Furthermore, the level of preparedness and prevention varies from country to country and regional cooperation does not exist to the extent necessary. Because of this high vulnerability and the relatively small size of most of the ASEAN countries, it will be more efficient and economically prudent for the countries to cooperate in the areas of civil protection, and disaster preparedness and prevention.

Climate Change is another one of the most challenging issues of the twenty-first century. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Fourth Assessment Report confirmed that

“warming of the climate system is unequivocal”, based on decades of evidence, and changes on changes in climate will affect natural and human systems. However, our capacity to cope and plan for it is uncertain, with the poor and developing countries most vulnerable to its risks. The key challenge in climate change adaptation is dealing with prediction uncertainty. While studies and research have been conducted on potential adaptation options, such as resilient city, flood resistant crops and water resources management, formulating informed and appropriate responses faces difficulty, and policy options and debatable. The challenges in the future of ASEAN Plus Three lies in food and health security, and occurrence of natural disaster such as flood, drought, and hurricanes. The prediction is possible, but uncertainties remains within these prediction models. Hence, it leave room for more debate on the investment to reduce the risk of natural disasters.

2. Background

It has been observed by the Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate (BASC), that the global average temperature has increase by 0.8 degree Celsius since industrial revolution. The global negotiation has agreed on the limited of average global temperature at 2 degree Celsius. In order to stabilize temperature, global climate emissions must peak within 5-10 years and decline rapidly every year thereafter. Every year of delay adds \$500 billion to the investment required. Our present course leads to certain catastrophe. It is currently estimate that the annual average temperature will be 6 degree Celsius higher by 2100 if no actions are taken. In a case that the annual average temperature reaches 12 degree Celsius, up to half the current inhabited land on the planet would be too hot for humans to live on it. The main climate change challenges in the ASEAN are most likely to be in agriculture and water resources management, due to changes in the average annual temperature and precipitation patterns in the region. The impact of climate variability, especially the fluctuation in the reliability of precipitation and, consequently, water supply, on crop production contributes to the coefficient of variation in crop yield over the years.

The ASEAN summit, held in the southern Thai town of Hua Hin on Oct. 25, 2011 pledged to integrate efforts to raise levels of preparedness and reduce the risks of natural disasters and climate changes. It was attended by the 10 ASEAN members and their dialogue partners, China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand. Many activities were conducted such as creating “ disaster-resilient” community under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, cooperation agenda by organizing workshop conducted by governments and aid agencies, education to improve “very low” level of awareness of the potential risks which was cited as a key reason for the high death toll, coordination to cooperate at local and regional levels to remove logistical and operational bottlenecks and ensure adequate resources when crisis occurred, regulation at Hua Hin Thai prime minister’s statement suggested that only operations would be standardized.

However, despite plenty of collaborations in the past few years, most South-east Asian countries remain insufficient prepared and seemingly reluctant to commit resources to prevent impact from the natural disaster and climate change. Attempts at cooperation level should be more focus and strong support from the governments in order to achieve the common goal of developing sustainable community among APT countries.

3. Objectives

3.1. To assist APT countries to overcome climate change challenge especially in the area

of natural disaster management.

3.2. To reduce the loss and damage caused by natural disaster.

3.3. To establish a network of ASEAN plus three countries on natural disaster.

4. Methodology and approach

4.1. Review the occurrence and frequency of natural disaster in ASEAN Plus three countries

4.2. Review of climate models prediction on the potential precipitation and temperature changes via network on researchers and scientists from ASEAN Plus three countries.

4.3. Estimate the risk of natural disaster in ASEAN Plus three countries

4.4. Conducted economic analysis to estimate the damage cost from natural disasters in ASEAN Plus three countries

5. Expected outputs and outcomes

5.1. A collaboration Network of ASEAN Plus three researchers and scientists on natural disaster management.

5.2. An annual meeting to discuss disaster risk in ASEAN Plus Three countries.

5.3. Reduction of loss and damage due to natural disaster in ASEAN Plus three countries.

5.4. Recommendation lead to public policy for natural disaster and climate change management.

Annex 2: Migration

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1. Rationale

A crisis is “specific, unexpected and non-routine events or series of events that create high levels of uncertainty or threat or perceived threat to an organization’s high priority goals.” For ASEAN (and + Three), the “high priority goals” are to create “an organization that would help bring about a Southeast Asian region of peace, freedom and prosperity for our peoples.” This reflects ASEAN’s “desire and collective will to live in a region of lasting peace, security and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress, as well as promote ASEAN interests, ideals and aspirations.” However, within ASEAN, there exist a number of “crises” and mini-crisis” which arise from “highly complex circumstances”. Such crises tend to take place in a political space, where the level of states’ preparedness and responses are crucial. Many of these situations may be “intense, deadlocked, and extremely difficult to resolve” such as man-made and natural disasters, conflicts over the South China Sea, mixed and forced migration, various health risks, etc. Some attract the attention of the international community such as the case of irregular movement of Rohingya in the Andaman Sea but, often times, interest has faded away until the crisis re-emerged. Such crises do not just affect neighboring countries or regions, but they could become threats to the very purposes of the region and its dialogue partners themselves. Crisis management is the procedure through which states and organizations interact in striving to effectively react to an emergency that threatens the safety and well-being of the people. Without proper management, the crises mentioned earlier will definitely hinder the “high priority goals” which are peace, security, prosperity and the social progress of ASEAN and beyond.

2. Background

As of 2015, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was home to approximately 630 million people. The proportion of people’s movements within the region is rapidly rising. Migration has become an important and integral component of development in the region and its dialogue partners. The causes of migration may vary from one country to another but more and more common problems are poverty, violent conflicts, discrimination, persecution and other forms of human rights violations. In addition, environmental migration and displacement through other causes are becoming increasingly prevalent in the region. There are also many others who are forced to leave their country of origin because of development projects initiated and imposed by the government, which in many cases result in the loss of livelihood. Irregular and mixed migratory flows are also key trends in ASEAN. Irregular migration is the cross-border flow of people who enter a country without that country’s legal permission to do so. Mixed migratory flows are complex population movements including both voluntary and forced ones. The most common forms of irregular migration in the region are irregular labour migration, trafficking for labour and/or sexual exploitation as well as people fleeing from persecution, discrimination or armed conflict. Although migration has been always in the region, ASEAN has never had any comprehensive policy to deal with it. Most agreements and

policies in ASEAN deal mainly with movements of skilled labour or professions.

Although the issue of migration is not new to ASEAN (and the Plus 3- Japan, China and South Korea), and despite an increasing number of maritime movement which reminds us of the ‘boat people’ from Indochina in the 1970s, the situation has not been recognized by ASEAN member states as a “crisis”. This increase in irregular maritime movements and a loss of life at sea which has added to the already flourishing people-smuggling and human-trafficking networks in the sub-region calls for proper solution and management. Unless migration is properly managed, it will have permanent and intensifying negative impacts on countries in the region. Forced migration, if not properly and consistently addressed, contributes directly to smuggling, trafficking and transnational crime. What is lacking in the region currently is a collective, comprehensive and coordinated response to challenges associated with both sudden and entrenched practices of displacement, regardless of cause.

3. Objectives

The paper seeks:

- 3.1. to understand these crises of migration in the ASEAN context and how ASEAN has dealt with them so far,
- 3.2. to analyze the different responses, or lack thereof, of ASEAN (and possibly plus 3) to such highly complex situations in order to learn which policies are working, which ones are not, and why,
- 3.3. to find possible solutions and ways to prevent and manage the crisis (including institutional guidelines at the regional level to resolve the problem or problems), and
- 3.4. to assess effectiveness of the existing policies and mechanisms in the region in addressing the issues in order to provide recommendations for a regional approach to migration.

4. Methodologies and approach

4.1. *Research questions*

- 4.1.1. What makes the situation a crisis or turns it into a crisis?
- 4.1.2. What are the regional actions taken to resolve the crisis? Who are the principle actors/mechanisms that take these actions? Special attention will be put on the responses of regional and member states;
- 4.1.3. What actions, actors/mechanisms or factors helped improve the situation or made it worse?
- 4.1.4. What (regional) solutions or ways of managing or methods of preventing kept the situation from becoming a crisis?

4.2. *Conceptual Framework*: “human security perspective” which examines not only state-related but also people-related challenges. Since migration is complex, multi-faceted and trans-border, using human security framework would be viable given that it is “people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and preventive” (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2016). This framework would eventually render one to effectively solve the emerging and ongoing threats that face both state and people.

4.3. *Approach*: The approach will be people-centered/people-oriented. People-centered/people-oriented approach is directly related to high level of accountability given that it allows all stakeholders such as state, business, civil society, and academics at national, regional, and international levels to actively engage in discussion of issues. In addition, regional consultation among the ASEAN member states can lead to a high

level of feasibility in terms of policy discussion, formulation, and implementation (exchanging ideas; validating data; individual interviews [government agencies; civil society; academic]; possible for policy recommendations).

4.4. Methods

4.4.1. Literature review and evidence-based which includes :

- Review of literature and existing data of all relevant information by relying on multi-sources including government agencies, NGOs, media, academics,
- If possible, field work to gather up to date data/information on migration by using ethnographic Interviews: using semi-structured interviews with key informants including those on the move themselves.

4.4.2. Regional stakeholder Consultation (ASEAN Plus Three): A workshop will be organized. Relevant stakeholders including academics, NGOs, governmental officials, and civil society from ASEAN members as well as those from ASEAN Plus Three shall be invited to participate and share knowledge and experience as well as to shape the policy direction on migration.

5. Expected outputs and outcomes

5.1. Outputs:

- 5.1.1. Producing research paper that is relevant and eventually leads to policy and normative recommendations,
- 5.1.2. Knowledge and experience is shared through exchange of resources, views and materials,
- 5.1.3. A collaborative mechanism regarding migration is set to build partnership among the ASEAN Member States and Plus Three countries.

5.2. Outcome:

- 5.2.1. Adoption of comprehensive and systematic policy and possible work plan at both national and regional levels with respect to migration, forced migration, or those on the move,
- 5.2.2. Establishment of permanent regional Forum for the management of migration in a sustainable, participatory and people-centered manner.

Annex 3: Health Security

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1. Rationale

In September 2015, the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit had adopted a set of global initiatives for member countries to address development challenges post-2015. As a result, global community has begun the process of transformation targeting at achieving the so-called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comprising of 17 goals with 169 targets of which many are closely related to the health protection and attainment of health security for the world population.

Earlier in Asia, the 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 18 September 2014 and launched the joint statements on ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda that commit to the vision “A Healthy, Caring, and Sustainable ASEAN Community” and agreed upon the four clusters of health development, 7 goals and 20 health priorities. The 4 clusters included (1) promoting healthy lifestyles, (2) responding to all hazards and emerging threats, (3) strengthening health system and access to care, and (4) ensuring food safety. It should be noted that all the 4 clusters are in line with the SDG 3, and that one common character of these clusters is the nature of the problems of which many incidents are considered as health crises requiring emergency responses. Most of the incidents transcend national boundaries and require multi-country cooperation actions and solutions. Thus, it is essential that ASEAN countries together with key partners take measures to strengthen the health security in the region.

2. Background

Health is one of the seven categories of threats to human security described in the 1994 UNDP Human Development Report, titled “New Dimensions of Human Security” (UNDP 1994). The concept of health security in the report is compatible with a primary health care approach, emphasizing on health development and health improvement for those vulnerable groups such as pregnant woman and the poor. Eventually, health security was selected as the major theme of the 2007 World Health Day and that of the 2007 World Health Report, titled “A Safer Future: A Global Public Health Security in the 21st Century”. This report addresses on global public health security which focuses on specific issues that threaten the health of people internationally. Health security in this report is defined in terms of protection of national populations against external threats such as bio-terrorism and communicable disease epidemics. Such a definition is quite narrow and excludes many other global public health concerns such as maternal mortality reduction, child survival and nutrition. However, those two definitions of health security are the keys of interpretation of global health challenges and need to be reconciled. Those health challenges are intrinsically linked to poverty and health for

development which need to be effectively responded by global multi-organizations and partners.

Health risks in Asia are increasing and that South and Southeast-Asia are epicenters for antimicrobial resistance. Asia is a hotspot for emerging infectious diseases and many countries in this region have fragmented supply chains that impact the efficiency of drugs and vaccines and that faces the problem of unregulated health service providers. These risks could be addressed through strengthening health systems and increased accountability. Furthermore, investment in public health services by collaboration between countries and development partners is critically required. Harnessing health security investments in health systems, including human resource development, infrastructure and delivery is necessary.

The health threats in Asia also include natural disasters (earth quakes, tsunamis, floods, etc.), climate change and the undesirable outcomes from massive migration. Major crises from environment problems, occupational risks, and major traffic injuries are frequently reported in the region.

In 2013, the U.S. Center for Strategic and International Studies recommends the White House and Department of State to initiate a Greater Mekong Health Security Partnership with the goals to build and strengthen health security in Southeast Asia. The involved countries are Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and China. The proposed Partnership will concentrate on pandemic preparedness, malaria control, non-communicable diseases and women's health and child survival. The report showed that there needs to accelerate the strengthening of those countries' capacities in order to detect, assess, report, and respond to public health emergencies, in accordance with the International Health Regulations (IHR).

The ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers' Special Meeting on Ebola Preparedness and Response was held in Bangkok and had resulted in a joint statement on 15 December 201y. The joint statement declared resolutions on actions at national, regional and global levels which included three major areas: (1) enhancing capacity of each nations to be prepared and to respond to emerging diseases including EBOLA; (2) stepping up collaboration in prevention and control of trans-boundary emerging infectious disease through resources and information sharing and strengthening health systems of each country; and (3) fully supporting and urgently providing additional resources and assistances to the affected countries.

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore, published on its Bulletin in May 2015 urged that health security in ASEAN needs to be reinforced. This article showed that there has been rising of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, Ebola, multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in ASEAN and it is critical to strengthen ASEAN's preparedness to tackle these health threats. It also presented that there are mechanisms for ASEAN, which includes ASEAN Plus Three (APT) mechanisms, in controlling communicable diseases as there is the regional framework for it. Another is the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015) which charted a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach including collaboration, cooperation, and partnerships on health. There are five areas which include capacity building for communicable disease control, enhancing food security and safety, providing access to healthcare and promoting healthy lifestyles, building disaster-resilient nations and safer communities, and ensuring a drug-free ASEAN. It suggested that

this required not only health-centered approaches but also political and economically-motivated solutions to protect at-risk communities and vulnerable groups of society.

Rather, new mechanism may not be required. What is needed is to reinforce and sustainably support existing mechanisms to strengthen health security in the region. There has much progress for ASEAN in building the IHR core competencies even though there are still significant gaps among the ASEAN countries, particularly the gaps associated with IHR core capacity including coordination, preparedness, response, laboratory and human resources which are serious threats to regional health security. Closing these gaps need a more comprehensive approach that entails all three ASEAN Community pillars.

3. Objectives

The NEAT Working Group has the following objectives:

- 3.1. to provide platform for members to share knowledge and experiences on intervention and measures to address health security issues in the region,
- 3.2. to identify areas for and conduct joint research studies on health security,
- 3.3. to develop work plan for regional preparedness against health security crises,
- 3.4. to conduct programs and projects for capacity building of key responsible sectors in the areas of health security,
- 3.5. to set-up a protocol for joint crisis management to address major cross-border incidents of health security problem, and
- 3.6. to advocate for the need of policy and program support among health and non-health sectors in response to health security crises.

4. Methodology and approach

- 4.1. Formation of a regional task force for health security crisis management.
- 4.2. Develop a common proposal for the regional health security response.
- 4.3. Develop workplans to be implemented by member countries as well as joint implementation in selected essential thematic areas.
- 4.4. Organize regular meetings for experience sharing, monitoring and evaluation as well as the development of progress reports.
- 4.5. Jointly conduct capacity building activities addressing health security, both in health system areas (e.g. for universal health access, preparedness and responses) and thematic areas (e.g. emerging infectious diseases, specific health promotion, or other specific health threats).
- 4.6. Develop and advocate for agreements among member countries to support and urgently provide resources and assistances to the affected countries facing health security crises.

5. Expected Outputs and Outcomes

- 5.1. A common workplan that incorporates the essential elements for preparedness and response to health security issues and crises.
- 5.2. Regular health security forums organized for knowledge and experience sharing and agreement for joint intervention implementation.
- 5.3. Agreements among member countries on inter-country resource sharing and assistance to affected countries facing health security crises.
- 5.4. Implementation reports on joint capacity building for health security responses.
- 5.5. Regular progress reports to be shared by high level policy makers and administrators in member countries.

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