

## Way Forward

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The overall objective of this technical consultation is to bring together the representatives of ASEAN Member States and technical experts to examine the status of aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems currently being practiced in the region in order to identify gaps and other initiatives for regional cooperation. In the general sense, the RTC is successful in achieving the general objective.

As for the specific objectives, (a) to assess existing laws, legislations and standard operating procedures (SOPs), among others had been partially achieved. This is because the consultation didn't assess but was only informed (through the reports of country representatives) of the current situation in ASEAN member countries. The way forward of this is to complete the EPRS audit questionnaire as basis of the more systematic assessment. The second objective is (b) to assess the need for a regional aquatic EPRS in the ASEAN, the participant voted in the affirmative. The way forward of this is to create the ASEAN guidelines including the mechanics. The third objective is to (c) enhance cooperation among Member States, regional/international organizations and other relevant stakeholders on initiatives that support aquatic EPRS for effective management of aquatic animal disease outbreaks. This objective has been achieved. The way forward for this is to get the same people for a planned and proposed consultation II for continuity and for emphasis on more private sector and academe representation.

During the two full days of consultation, the following information were gathered:

1. Common issues presented are on communication, funding, stakeholder consultation, risks analysis, and lack of information, planning and system. Dr. Reantaso mentioned that these should be captured in the report of the consultation and in the proposed ASEAN guidelines on EPRS as part of the situational analysis and guiding principles.
2. Regular meetings, more funding, and

trust between government and private sectors in disclosing information are the top recommendations in establishing a functional and effective engagement on EPRS between government, producers and academic sectors.

### Plan of action

1. To complete the EPRS audit questionnaires as basis for a systematic assessment which will be done by SEAFDEC/AQD and member countries.
2. To develop the ASEAN EPRS guidelines including the mechanics which will be led by SEAFDEC/AQD, supported by ANAAHC and Consultation partners. The process of the developing the guidelines are the following:
  - a. Use the analysis as a reference point
  - b. Form a working group that will develop the scope and content. The zero draft will be circulated to participants including external experts (peer review)
  - c. Information, analysis and synthesis in the working group matrix will be captured in the guidelines either in the situational analysis or guiding principle or actual guidelines.
  - d. Organize a writeshop to popularize and refine the guidelines including country-level implementation and monitoring
3. To organize a part two of the consultation to present the guidelines for refinement and consensus. It is also recommended that the consultation II will not be limited to a workshop but will be an actual capacity

building on preliminary guidelines implementation. The following themes are suggested:

- a. Simulation exercise;
  - b. Database registry analysis of surveillance data, experts, laboratories, preparation of contingency plans for high-profile disease, aquatic epidemiology, risk analysis pathology, etc. including private sector leads;
  - c. This will be taken to ASEAN process for endorsement and approval
4. To get the same people for a planned and proposed consultation II for continuity and for emphasis on more private sector and academe representation. It was suggested to keep the AEPRS network including member countries, producers, academe and institutional partners. ANAAHC and the member countries will be responsible for this.
  5. In order to accomplish the aforementioned plans, the consultation should develop a concept note or proposal to member countries, donors and explore new ways for resource generation and mobilization to support all activities. This will be the responsibility of member countries and Consultation I partners.