



 **ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM** 
Promoting peace and security through dialogue and cooperation in the Asia Pacific

TIMBOP Regional Bio Preparedness Task Force Briefing

Makati City, Philippines 29 August 2014

Key Themes Across the Exercise

- Risk/threat assessment
- Transparency
- Bio-surveillance/Security/Intelligence/Quarantine
- Acquire Bio-surveillance tools
- Information sharing/between countries and regional task force
- Communication/media
- Cooperation/collaboration/coordination
- Resource sharing
 - Food, vaccines, medicines, and the like.....

Good outcomes from exercise

- Demonstrated importance of a regional task force in ASEAN organization
- Clear Terms of Reference
 - Organizational structure
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Lead country identified
 - Country representation/expertise
- Sharing and adopting of Best Practices

Strength of Bio-Preparedness Plan Template in helping your team develop solutions

- Useful in the four phases
 - Preparedness, response, rehabilitation/recovery, prevention/mitigation
- Good for naturally occurring outbreaks
- Good for national and regional planning

What Were the Gaps in the Plan?

- Does not consider a Bio terror attack
- Needs terms of references for establishing a regional authority
- Does not consider food safety
- Agriculture terrorism is not considered
- Good only for naturally occurring outbreaks
- Should be a combination of law enforcement and health
- Needs to Address legal issues



Specific Actions Effective in Mitigating Challenges Later

- In inject 2- relax the patents for drugs so regional pharma could start production of drugs
- Early rule out of bio terror event



Was This a Bio Terror Attack?

- Indicators
 - Simultaneous outbreak in 15 countries, in four continents and India. (Asia, North America, Europe, Australia)
 - Common cause, Novel corona virus
 - Could it be an IID (Improvised Infectious Dude)?



Considerations for Bio Terror

- What is the common factor for all the effected
 - Were all of these people on the same plane
 - Did they meet in a certain place
 - Is there significance that South America or Africa not effected?
 - January 1 is index case, does he have terrorist connection, was he a test case?



Actions taken early that might have led to a more effective response

- Early Consideration of Bioterrorism
 - Virus Identification
 - What laboratory could be involved
 - Early diagnosis
 - Early treatment
 - Early containment
 - Early involvement of law enforcement
 - Explains the youtube video



How can ID Bio Terror



- Sequence
- Compare cases, are they same organism
- Look for bio engineering
- Bring in forensics



Conclusions/Recommendations

- A bio-terror event can look like a naturally occurring outbreak so should be considered early and ruled out
- Integrated surveillance and responses towards One Resilience Concept
- Regional task force is vital with appropriate formal agreements
- Bio-surveillance tools modernization
- Education towards awareness of pandemics
- Need Global Effective Communication
- Plan needs to be improved by integrating bio-terrorism inputs