

PUBLIC TALK INVITATION

Regional Integration and Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases' Surveillance in Asia and Europe

Organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

In the past decade, emergence and re-emergence of infectious diseases with pandemic potential brought renewed attention to the need for international collaboration and coordination. Driven by these concerns, the World Health Organization (WHO) made several efforts to strengthen global surveillance systems and to promote collective actions by governments and national authorities. Over the time this cooperation has evolved and been organised at the regional level owing to the following factors: past experiences of outbreaks of communicable diseases such as SARS and Avian Influenza with enormous regional scale impacts; decentralisation of the WHO through its six regional offices (in Africa, Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, Southeast Asia and Western Pacific); and consolidation of political cooperation in several parts of the world that subsequently serving as new institutional bases for the development of regional public health policies. For Asia and Europe, the latter has driven regional cooperation and created institutional platforms for the shaping of public health policies and programmes beyond national borders. In the European context there is a process of increasing rationalisation and centralisation of regional policies and programmes, driven by the leading role of the European Union. While in Asia, the situation is more fragmented and various institutional actors are involved at the regional level, with different agenda, organisational structures and timeframes. Differences in political and economic constellation indisputably color the regional and national diseases' surveillance and response programmes in both regions. The Public Talk will portray this situation of surveillance mechanisms in Asia and Europe – the status, challenges and way forward. It will also provide room for discourse on how these two regions can benefit each other in a sustainable way.

Speakers:

Dr. Ailan LI, Medical Officer (IHR), Health Security and Emergencies, World Health Organization, Western Pacific Regional Office

Chair:

Assoc. Prof. Ralf EMMERS, Acting Head of the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS), RSIS, Nanyang Technological University

Discussants:

Dr. Bill DURODIÉ, Senior Fellow and Coordinator, Health and Human Security Programme, NTS, RSIS, Nanyang Technological University

Dr. Anita DAVIES, Public Health Specialist, International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Date: Thursday, 27 January 2011 | **Time:** 10am to 12pm | **Refreshments served between:** 9.30am to 10am | **Venue:** Conference Hall, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), 31 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119595 | **Tel:** +65 6874 9739 | **Website:** www.asef.org | **Please send your RSVP to** debasmita.dasgupta@asef.org

The entire event is sponsored by the Government of Japan.