Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Public Health Network

Accurate Scenarios Active Preparedness (ASAP) Project

Strategy Development Workshop on Pandemic Preparedness and Response for Food Supply Security

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Lao PDR, organises this workshop with the technical support of Nestlé and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Sponsored by the Government of Japan

22-23 October 2012

Vientiane, Lao PDR
The ASEF Public Health Network is a participatory platform which encourages public health dialogue, between actors from health and non-health sectors, across Asia and Europe.

The Network’s activities are primarily classified under three thematic areas:

**Regional Integration and Public Health**

The Network facilitates collaboration and coordination between Asia and Europe through the exchange of information and experience. This is done through research initiatives assessing the strengths and addressing the gaps in regional integration, resulting in public health policy options.

**Multi-sector Pandemic Preparedness and Response**

With a unique scenario approach, the Network brings together health and non-health sector representatives to look beyond today and address uncertainties around potential pandemics, developing long-term strategies for multi-sector pandemic preparedness and response.

**Public Health Dialogue**

Vulnerable groups such as young people, migrants as well as sexual and ethnic minorities are most affected during any public health crisis. The Network engages them through community-level initiatives so that their voices can be heard by policy makers.
Pandemic threat – always around the corner

The pandemic of 2009 influenza A (H1N1) was generally observed to cause a mild infection in the majority of cases. However, H1N1 served as a practice run for a more severe pandemic in the future. The global impact and risks of the pandemic presented challenges that are accelerated by mobility networks, cross-sector interdependencies and rapid communications. The subsequent public health emergencies such as a new superbug (NDM-1) in 2010 and an E. coli outbreak in 2011 underlined the impact of the increasing mobility of populations and emerging food safety threats. All these outbreaks show that a pandemic threat can be front-page news at any time. If we agree on that there will be another pandemic – it is just a matter of when, it is worthwhile now when we have the luxury of time to be better prepared through exercises and tests of processes and systems.

Food sector, its vulnerability and interdependency

A “whole-of-society” approach to pandemic preparedness, which promotes the engagement of multi-sector stakeholders at all levels in the planning processes, identifies nine essential operations and services (health, water, food, energy, telecom, transport, finance, law & order, and defence) which are necessary to be maintained during a pandemic. Among these critical sectors, the food sector is a complex one engaging multiple players from suppliers, manufacturers, wholesalers to retailers. This means, in other words, that the food sector can be very vulnerable to disruptions of any segment’s disability. For example, interruptions in transportation due to either unavailability of diesel fuel for delivery vehicles or delivery manpower absenteeism will affect the whole supply chain system. Therefore, it is important for leading service providers in the food industry to share information and work together with their business partners to keep their business going.

The uncertainties of the impact of a pandemic are also associated with the government’s preparedness and response capacities, as well as resource commitments. Implementation of procedures or regulations and potential disruptions such as border closings by the government, therefore, should be part of the food sector’s contingency planning. In the joint efforts by public-private partnerships, international organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) should be also involved. Their technical support and extended coordination will strengthen the preparedness and resilience of the food sector itself as well as of the communities where they belong and which they serve.
The ASEF Public Health Network promotes multi-sector pandemic preparedness and response by engaging health and non-health sectors. Throughout 2011 and 2012, the Network used ASEF-ASAP (Accurate Scenarios Active Preparedness) scenarios to develop sectoral as well as multi-sectoral strategies for pandemic preparedness and response. At the strategy development workshops that ASEF previously organised, high-level professionals involved in human security (health, food, water, and environment) and the passenger air transport sector shared their current preparedness plans, identified gaps and developed recommendations. The upcoming workshop on food supply security will bring together the key players in the food sector. Their active participation will be enhanced by a highly interactive and participatory format, as well as professional facilitation.
Main topic: Pandemic Preparedness and Response for Food Supply Security

Objectives:

- Identify shortcomings in the pandemic plans and assess the level of preparedness in view of possible futures by using the ASEF-ASAP scenarios;
- Develop strategies to address those shortcomings and challenges;
- Build and enhance partnerships with key stakeholders which facilitate continued cooperation during the crisis.

Venue:

Lao Plaza Hotel, 63 Samsenethai Road, PO Box 6708 Vientiane, Lao PDR
Main room: Plaza III; Break-out rooms: Plaza room, Plaza I, Plaza II

Day 1 (Monday, 22 October)

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<td><strong>Morning session</strong></td>
<td>Opening remarks by Dr Bounlay Phommasack, Director of Department Disease Control, Ministry of Health of Lao PDR</td>
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<td>Introduction to the ASEF Public Health Network by Mr Thierry Schwarz, Director for Intellectual Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation</td>
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<td>Introduction to the workshop by Dr Marc Gramberger, Prospex</td>
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<td>Pandemics - Approaching a Phenomenon by Peter Rakers, Prospex</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<td>ASEF-ASAP scenario safari</td>
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<td>Introduction to scenario planning by Dr Marc Gramberger, Prospex</td>
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<td>First scenario visit</td>
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<td><strong>Afternoon session</strong></td>
<td>Second scenario visit</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<td>Options for action across scenarios</td>
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<td>Review of options</td>
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<tr>
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Beverley (Bev) Postma has been Executive Director of Food Industry Asia (FIA) since 2010. A seasoned public-affairs specialist with more than 15 years’ experience in the agri-food sector, she has worked with the food industry in both Europe and Asia. Before joining FIA, she held regional advocacy roles with leading companies, including Kellogg’s, Syngenta and the British Agriculture Bureau.

An accomplished policy adviser, Beverley has been at the forefront of many noteworthy projects, including the launch of the leading quality-assurance mark for British food, the development of self-regulatory codes on food labelling in Europe and Asia, and the introduction of a pan-Asia food-safety surveillance network and fast-response unit for the industry.

An intuitive business leader with a proven track record for science-based advocacy, Beverley oversaw the launch of FIA back in 2010. She now manages the FIA secretariat from its regional headquarters in Singapore and travels extensively throughout Asia. She is a respected adviser and spokesperson for the food industry and a leading expert on policy developments that relate to regulatory harmonisation, food-safety standards and the complex dual burden of under-nutrition and obesity.

Chadia Wannous is a Senior Policy Advisor at the UN System Influenza Coordination Office in Geneva, Switzerland. Chadia is a public health professional with a doctorate degree in International Health and Development. She has more than twenty years of experience working in the public health field in a number of countries in the Middle East, South East Asia, the Caribbean, and North America.

Prior to her current position in Geneva, Chadia served as a Technical Officer at WHO Regional Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response sub-unit in Bangkok, and as a Senior Advisor for the UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt and then as a Regional Coordinator for the UN System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC) in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Since 2006, Chadia is working on emergency preparedness with a focus on Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response. Most recently she is involved in the Toward A safer World Network, which goal is to contribute to increased societal resilience (including continuity of governance, economic systems, critical services and resilient livelihoods) in the face of disease pandemics and other comparable threats to health.
Since the beginning of 2009 Christophe is working for Copa-Cogeca (the EU representative organisation for EU farmers and agri-cooperatives). His main responsibilities include food and feed safety dossiers, quality assurance as well as competition legislation. Before joining Copa-Cogeca, he worked for the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission (in the department dealing with international trade negotiations). He worked before at the French interprofessional organisation for the fruit and vegetable sector and for the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery. He studied EU and agri-food law at the University College of Cork in Ireland and at the University of Rennes and Nantes in France. Christophe’s areas of expertise are EU Agricultural policy, EU food hygiene legislation and competition law.

Christine Chan graduated from the National University of Singapore, majoring in Food Science and Technology (Honours). She started her career in Cold Storage Singapore as a Category Executive, before moving on to the Food Safety Department. She is currently involved in supplier audits and handled customers’ feedback with regards to food safety and quality issues.

Christine Chan
Category Executive - Bakery
Cold Storage Singapore Pte Ltd.

Christophe Derrien
Policy advisor
Copa-Cogeca
Emil Agustiono, epidemiologist, is an Indonesian medical doctor who has been working at the Ministry of Health of Indonesia. He dealt with health crisis and emergency preparedness and response for eleven years, followed by another ten years at the Coordinating Ministry for People’s Welfare coordinating the multi-sector agencies in disaster preparedness and response, including pandemics. Before he was appointed to his current position of Deputy Minister for People’s Welfare, responsible for coordinating health and population affairs, he was appointed as a director for the health crisis centre under the Minister of Health of Indonesia. He has also been assigned by the President of the Republic of Indonesia through presidential decree since 2011 as secretary for the National Commission for Zoonotic Control. The National Commission is responsible for coordinating the multi-sector institutions to prevent and respond to animal and human zoonotic diseases, including avian flu and other emerging pandemic threats in the country. The National Commission coordinates inter-ministerial and multi-lateral agencies such as WHO, FAO, UN-OCHA, USAID and others. Currently, he is also a focal point of the ASEAN Technical Working Group on Pandemic Preparedness and Response (TWGPPR), with the responsibility to strengthen the ASEAN Member States’ (AMS) capacity to respond to pandemics and disasters, including the development of assessment indicators of the non-health sectors’ pandemic preparedness capacity in the region. He is also facilitating the PREPARE-project funded by USAID to develop Indonesia’s pandemic preparedness plans of the transportation, communication and energy sectors by implementing a whole-of-society approach.
Graduated from the French University of West Brittany (Master of science in quality assurance, safety of food and environment) and the French National School of Public Health (Master of science in public health and environmental risk prevention and management), Florence Allot worked one year as a quality assurance engineer for a French food industry company and is a civil servant specialised in environmental health and risk management for the French health ministry for almost 8 years.

Within the French health ministry, she has held different management positions at the local and national levels and thus has acquired competencies regarding environmental health risk prevention methods, crisis management and the development of national health emergency capacity to respond to major environmental, infectious or technological disasters.

Currently, her main activities include: the conception of policies and the elaboration of all-hazard preparedness and response plans to strengthen the national health care system, for example, the storage and distribution of emergency medicines through governmental stockpile (vaccines, antivirals, iodine tablets, etc.) strategies; the elaboration of national guidelines for the management of major health threats; the development of territorial guidelines to allow the implementation of national strategies at the local level, for example guidelines for the organisation of massive vaccination campaigns in case of pandemics or other infectious diseases; and the participation in major disasters preparedness works, for example floodings, chemical or nuclear power crisis management plans, as well as electricity, water or fuel shortage recovery plans.

She also ensures that the national capacity developed is coherent and consistent with the European and international policies, for which she takes part in working groups and conferences held by the European Commission, the European Centre for Diseases Prevention and Control, and the World Health Organization. She is also a member of the Pandemic Influenza Working Group, within the Global Health Security Initiative.
Hoksrun received his Pharmacist Diploma from the University of Health Sciences in Phnom Penh in 1998. In 2005, he participated in the ASEAN Training on HACCP Verification and Auditing at the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI). In 2007, he took part in the International Training Program on Strategies for Chemical Management in Stockholm, Sweden. In 2011, he attended the International Training on Food Policy in Tokyo, Japan. From 1990 to 1993, he was Deputy Chief of the Medical Analysis Laboratory and Blood Bank Sector of the Hospital of Kpong in Chhnang Province. Since 2000, he has been working in several positions for the Food Safety Bureau at the Department of Drugs and Food of the Ministry of Health. During the first five years he was a Food Safety Officer. Subsequently, he became Deputy Chief of the Food Safety Bureau. In 2010, he started with his current position as Chief of the Food Safety Bureau. In addition, he is the current Chief of the Technical Working Group on Food Hygiene, Food Additives, Nutrition and Food Dietary Uses of the National Codex Committee, Cambodia. He is also the ASEAN Food Safety Contact Point and the INFOSAN Focal Point for Cambodia.

John is a registered nurse by profession with 16 years’ experience in pre-hospital emergency care, health emergency risk management, and disaster preparedness and response with specific interest and expertise in: managing capacity building programmes in mass casualty management, health facility preparedness, exercise management, incident management systems, emergency preparedness and response planning, emergency medical service system (EMS), medical first response/first aid, search and rescue, health risk assessment, rapid health needs assessment, international disaster response systems, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, and pre-hospital emergency care in South and South East Asian countries.

Currently John is the Deputy Chief of Party of the Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER), a USAID-OFDA funded regional program implemented in 10 countries in Southeast and South Asia with a main focus on developing capacities and emergency systems for Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) and Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE). He is also the Program Manager of the Public Health in Emergencies Department (PHE) that provides technical support to health risk management programs and projects of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), an international organisation based in Bangkok, Thailand.

Aside from his active professional engagement in Asia, John has provided technical support to WHO HQ and Global Influenza Program in Geneva on pandemic preparedness and exercise management and the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) activities in building capacity of the health sector on health risk management including health facility preparedness.

Hoksrun Aing
Food Safety Bureau
Department of Drugs and Food
Ministry of Health of Cambodia

Frederick John Abo
Program Manager, PHE Department and Deputy Chief of Party, PEER
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
Kit Yeng is involved in horizon scanning and contingency planning at the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore. Her work helps to anticipate threats that can potentially impact the supply of safe food to Singapore, and to bring up organisational preparedness and readiness to meet AVA’s vision and mission. Her general fields of interest are food-related technology and biology.

Kit Yeng Tham
Manager (Horizon Scanning & Emergency Planning)
Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA)

Loy has a 32-year career in multi-hazard disaster preparedness, risk reduction and resilience building, climate change adaptation and risk management, as well as their links to sustainable development and occupational/public safety. He is currently working as a facilitator of the first UNISDR online dialogue on the post 2015 Disaster and Risk Reduction (DRR) Framework.

He completed a lesson learning review, commissioned by UNDP on the Global Risk Identification Program (GRIP) and was co-author of the Mayors’ handbook developed under the UNISDR Resilient cities campaign. He supported the Government of Sri Lanka in organising a side event at the Rio+20 conference of 2012 that launched the “Asia Pacific Partnership of National Apex Bodies to accelerate implementation of National Sustainable Development Strategies”. He also serves as volunteer/advisor to the Global Call for Action against Poverty (GCAP) on climate justice and MDG-SDG linkages in the post 2015 development agenda.

Loy worked from 1996 to 2011 at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), most recently as its Deputy Executive Director and as Head of Secretariat of the Regional Consultative Committee for DRR (comprising NDMOs of 26 Asian countries) from 2000 to 2010. He has wide experience in guiding and advising governments at the national and local levels, UN agencies, regional organisations and NGOs, and in implementing regional programs on disaster risk reduction in over 20 Asian and Pacific countries.

Earlier he worked in India’s National Safety Council for 10 years since 1986 as its Joint Director where he led national programs on occupational and community safety and health, and chemical emergency preparedness. He also worked for India’s largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, Tata, Motors for five years. He is an engineer from the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, and holds a post-graduate diploma in Industrial Safety, as well as a degree in Law from the University of Pune, India.

Loy Rego
Researcher and Learning Practitioner
Mainstreaming Adaptation, Resilience and Sustainability into development (MARS-d)
Woraya is a medical doctor and an epidemiologist. After receiving her medical degree from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand in 1998 and her service at hospitals in rural areas as physician and hospital director, she developed an interest in the importance of public health. Then she decided to become an epidemiologist starting by enrolling in the Field Epidemiology Training Program, Ministry of Public Health, and subsequently obtaining a Master degree of Public Health at Mahidol University and finally acquiring a Thai Board of Preventive Medicine diploma (Epidemiology) in 2004.

Most of Woraya’s years of public health service have been spent in the preparedness and response to Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs), at the national and international levels. As part of the disease prevention and control authority, she is one of the key persons who launched national strategic plans on EIDs and the simulation exercises for EIDs preparedness, as well as Business Continuity Planning countrywide. She was actively involved in the introduction of technical guidance on prevention and control of avian influenza, pandemic influenza, deliberate use of biological agents and other EIDs for medical and public health personnel. Furthermore, she is the key focal point for the implementation of international collaboration projects under Thai-US collaboration and the Canada-Asia Regional Emerging Infectious Disease Project. She has served as World Health Organization temporary advisor on several occasions and has been serving as a member of the ASEAN Working Group on Pandemic Preparedness and Response. Currently, she is committed to the effort to move forward the national strategic plan on EIDs, which will enhance her country’s capacity in coping with EIDs threats.

Michael Mosselmans is a senior adviser in the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)’s Emergency Preparedness and Response branch in Rome, working on WFP’s Preparedness and Response Enhancement Programme.

From 2010 to July 2012, Michael led the Towards a Safer World initiative (TASW). TASW sought to identify and analyse best practices and lessons from 6 years of multi-sectoral “whole-of-society” preparedness for a severe influenza pandemic, and to promote the adaptation of relevant practices to assist preparedness for other comparable threats.

From 2006-2010, Michael was Chief of the Pandemic Influenza Coordination (PIC) team in the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva. PIC helped developing country governments and UN country teams to strengthen contingency planning for the “beyond health” impacts of a severe pandemic.

Narumon Tanticharoen was born in Bangkok. She received her Master’s degree in Food Engineering from the King Mongkut’s University of Technology in Thonburi, Thailand.

She worked at The Central Laboratory (Thailand) Co., Ltd. (CLT) as a scientist for 7 months. Subsequently, she took the opportunity to work at a factory for frozen chicken products as the section chief for R&D. Currently she works at Mit Phol Sugar Corp., Ltd. as a customer relationship officer. Her responsibilities include customer care, factory visits, answering questionnaires, and the coordination of product quality documentation and certification.

Mya Mya Than is 36 years old. She received her Bachelor of Medicine in Yangon in 2003. She served as a medical officer in Sittwe Hospital for three years, in Myae Bon Hospital for two years and nine months, and in Pauk Taw Hospital for three years. She joined the Nutrition Team in February 2012.

She attended a Pharmacy Practice Training in May 2012 in Nay Pyi Taw, where she also received a Drinking Water Supply training. In her position as Team Leader (Nutrition) at the Rakhine State Health Department, she is trying to improve the nutritional status of children and pregnant women. In addition, she intermittently conducts assessments of the Food Security status of some of the restaurants in her area.
Nyphonh Chanthakoummane received his degree from the Medical Science University in Vientiane in 1987. In 2003 he obtained a certificate of the International Field Epidemiology Training from the Ministry of Public Health in the Kingdom of Thailand.

In 1988, he started working at the Viengthong district hospital in Borikhamxay province as Deputy Director. From 1990 to 2003 he worked at the Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology of the Ministry of Health of Lao PDR on diseases surveillance and control. In 2003, he started to work at the Department of Hygiene and Prevention, where he was the technical focal point for the SARS and AI Task force and Country Coordinator for the MBDS Project.

His current responsibilities include: Deputy Manager of the Principal Recipient Office for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in the Ministry of Health; Project Manager of the AsiafluCap project in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (2008-2011); Project Manager for strengthening the outbreak response capacity of health veterinary services in a selection of provinces of Lao PDR with a One Health approach; Country Coordinator for the MBDS project; and Lao FTP Course Coordinator. He also assists the Department of Disease Control which has the responsibility to take the lead on diseases surveillance and response.

Ratchanee is 45 years old and she is married. She has been working at Mitr Phol for seventeen years. Her field of work is Quality Assurance. She was born in the northeast of Thailand (Khonkaen province). She has a Master’s degree in Business Management and a Bachelor’s degree in Biotechnology.
Sithong holds the Lao nationality and was born in Vangvieng District, Vientiane Province, Lao PDR. He married in 1987 and has two sons. He graduated with a degree in Veterinary Medicine at the National Institute of Agriculture of Mongolia in 1985 and obtained his Master of Science degree in 1997 from the Kasetsart University of Thailand. He has experience in the areas of Veterinary Vaccine Production and Quality Control, Livestock Farmer Support Services, and Veterinary Management. He was also a lecturer in Veterinary Pharmacology from 1998 to 2005. His current position is Deputy Director General of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Lao PDR. His current responsibilities focus on law and regulations on Livestock Production and Veterinary Matters.

Ulrich Sperling (Uli) studied molecular biology, biochemistry and biophysics at Tübingen University (Germany) and at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich (Switzerland) from 1989 to 1993. He was awarded the ‘Medal of Distinction’ for his Ph.D. in natural sciences from the ETH Zurich in 1998. He was working on photosynthesis by then, the very beginning of the food chain, as he still likes to underline.

Uli then worked for three years as a strategic management consultant with McKinsey & Company. Moving closer to science again, he joined Prionics AG, a veterinary diagnostics provider, in 2001 as International Product Manager and later became Head of Product Management.

Uli joined SAFOSO in 2005 as a partner and became a member of the executive board in the same year. Since 2010, Uli is a Director of SAFOSO.

He especially enjoys bringing together different perspectives of the food chain and working at the interface between distinct – apparently separate – areas, such as science/business, public/private stakeholders, analytical/strategic tasks, or European/Asian (esp. Japanese) culture.
Van Dang Ky graduated from Hanoi Agricultural University in 1977 and he took a PhD degree in Veterinary Science in 2002. His post-graduate research focused on epidemiological studies of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Vietnam. Van has published a number of research articles in Vietnamese magazines. He also published handbooks on Control and Prevention of Foot and Mouth Disease in 2011, Control and Prevention of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in 2005 and 2007. He has been working for the Department of Animal Health since 1978. He wrote plans for Avian Influenza Pandemic Preparedness in Vietnam in 2005.

He is currently a national coordinator of the FAO funded project for the control of rabies. He has experience in disease control of infectious diseases such as FMD, HPAI, Rabies, Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS). He takes full responsibility for HPAI communications in the Department of Animal Health in Vietnam. He took part in Short Training Courses Simulation Exercises on Pandemic Preparedness in Singapore 2006.

Currently, he is also the Chief of the Epidemiology Division, Department of Animal Health Epidemiology Division, Department of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Vietnam. He is responsible for the designation and implementation of disease surveillance and disease control programmes and development of the national surveillance programmes for HPAI/HSN1 viruses in poultry and post-vaccination monitoring. He also develops policies and strategies for the prevention and control of other animal diseases and he provides technical advice to local veterinary staff.

William Kuek received his Master of Business Administration (TQM) from the University of Leicester, UK and an International Diploma in Occupational Safety & Hygiene from Edith Cowan University, Western Australia. He is a certified Safety & Health officer from Malaysia and a member of the Institute of Occupational Safety & Health, UK. He is a certified trainer and facilitator for Philip Crosby Associates, Asia Pacific. He is a practicing Lead Auditor/Assessor for the ISO9001, ISO14001 and OHSAS18001 management systems.

He has been involved in leading various Quality and Health Safety continuous improvements in the petrochemical industry and at a leading food & beverage company (FMCG). He has also been involved in the development of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan and the Business Continuity Plans for Nestlé prior to the outbreak of SARS, Avian Flu, and H1N1 in ASEAN countries. He is also involved in the Crisis Management planning for Nestlé. He is actively involved in the development of ASEF-ASAP project since 2009.

He is currently responsible for the management of Safety Health and Environmental Sustainability in the Middle East Region for Nestlé. His key responsibilities include development & deployment of Business Continuity Plans for Pandemic Influenza and other safety, health & environmental related crises.
Maj Gen Dato’ Ya’akop bin Koming was born in Malacca in 1959. He successfully completed his medical studies and graduated in medicine from the National University Kebangsaan of Malaysia in 1984. He joined the Malaysian Armed Forces on 16th of May 1984 as Captain (Dr).


Maj Gen Dato’ Ya’akop has recently been appointed as the Medical Director of Health Services Division since 1st of December 2010.

He is married to Datin Rusaini bte Basir (Counselor) and they have 2 grown beautiful children. He loves reading, fishing and occasional gardening.

Xue Bo received his Bachelor of Medicine (BM) from the School of Public Health, Peking University, Beijing, China. He is now working at the Division of Emergency Response, Office of Health Emergency Response, Ministry of Health. He is responsible for emergency management of contingent events of public health and health emergency management. During the H1N1 Pandemic in 2009, he worked closely with numerous sectors in China to prepare for and respond to pandemics.

Xue Bo
Program Officer, Division of Precaution, Office of Health Emergency
Ministry of Health of China

Ya’akop bin Koming
Medical Director
Health Services Division
Malaysian Armed Forces
Marc Gramberger designs and facilitates corporate learning, stakeholder engagement and foresight processes. He is a renowned facilitator of international conferences, and an international expert in foresight, scenario and strategy methodologies as well as stakeholder engagement. He has facilitated complex and multi-stakeholder foresight processes for a number of international organisations and corporations, including ASEF, UNEP and the WBCSD. Among these are a series of projects combining quantitative and qualitative scenarios, e.g. EEAPRELUDE, SCENES (FP6), CLIMSAVE (FP7), GLOWA (Future of Water in the Middle East), etc. With interactive, creative and thorough interventions, he helps his clients to identify, understand and master strategic challenges in their organisational context. A former project director at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, Marc has published widely on the issues of foresight, strategy and communication. He is the author of the OECD handbook “Citizens as Partners”.

Peter Rakers is an international facilitator, specialised in foresight and learning processes and strategy. Peter currently co-facilitates the Asia-Europe Foundation’s scenario process on future pandemic threats and societal consequences, building on direct multi-stakeholder interaction between participants from both world regions. He is also a facilitator for the Rotterdam School of Management (RSM). Peter has worked with a variety of international firms specifically in the pharmaceutical sector, where he also held management and leadership positions. He is a clinical chemist by education.
Miao Zhao is a senior research and project coordinator at Prospex. She works for a series of EU FP7 and other research projects in diverse content areas, specialised on foresight exercises, strategy development, stakeholder identification and engagement. She has been educated in China, the United Kingdom and Belgium, with multidisciplinary study background and practices in law, education and management consulting. Miao is experienced in the domain of intercultural education and communication, with a focus on training and development for people mobility and diversity issues.
Thierry Schwarz is nominated by the French government to head the Intellectual Exchange department in 2012.

Prior to his secondment to ASEF, he was Adviser to the Council for Administrative Reform and Founder and Director of the Joint Master degree program of Public Management between the French National School of Public Administration (ENA) and the Royal University of Law and Economics in Phnom Penh.

He was founder and Dean of the Europe-Asia Undergraduate Program at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (l’Institut d’Etudes Politiques), France from 2007 to 2010. Between 2001 and 2007, Thierry was Regional Counsellor for Cooperation in South-East Asia with the French Embassy in Bangkok and Deputy Counsellor for Cooperation with the French Embassy in Beijing.


Thierry studied at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, California and the National School of Public Administration in Paris. He obtained his Master in Law with Paris II University.

Sunkyoung Lee joined ASEF in April 2009 as Project Executive for the ASEF Public Health Network. The Network promotes public health dialogue in Asia and Europe through a multi-level and multi-sector approach. Her involvement in this programme centres on overseeing the management of the Network as well as facilitating the establishment of interactive and sustainable networks across regions, organisations and individuals to tackle public health issues.

Sunkyoung has worked in Korea and Europe (Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium), and prior to joining ASEF, she interned at the Information Society and Media Directorate General of the European Commission. She obtained her BA degree in English Language and Literature at Ajou University and her MA degree in European Public Affairs from Universiteit Maastricht.
Peter Lutz is a Dutch native. He joined ASEF in 2012 as a Project Executive for the ASEF Public Health Network. He has over 10 years of experience, working in various positions for private companies and public organisations both in Japan and the Netherlands. Most recently he worked as a trainer and country expert for the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) and at the finance department of DOCOMO Netherlands. Prior to this, he worked as a project manager at Japan Euro Promotions and was involved in the production of several documentaries for the NHK and Fuji TV, organising intellectual exchanges between Japan and the Netherlands, and the coordination of Japan-related cultural and sports events. At JETRO his responsibilities included market research and advice. He also participated in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme in Osaka. He has an MA degree in Japanese studies from Leiden University, where he also participated in the Japan Business Programme. Additionally he completed a postgraduate course in international relations at Clingendael Institute.

Ratsamy Vongkhamsao studied at the Medical Science University in Vientiane from 1988 to 1994 and at the Mahidol University in Thailand from 2009 to 2010. From 2002 to 2006, she worked for the National Rehabilitation Center and for the Diseases Prevention Division of the Department of Hygiene and Prevention of the Ministry of Health. Subsequently, she started working at the Principal Recipient Office of the National Emerging Infection Disease Coordination Office. Ratsamy participated in several workshops and trainings on public health and pandemic preparedness, including a training on STH (soil-transmitted helminths) control in 2004 (Seoul, Korea), a Risk and Emergency Communication Workshop on Avian Influenza and Pandemic Preparedness in 2006 (Bangkok, Thailand), a training on disaster management in 2007, and a workshop from the Mekong Basin Diseases Surveillance in 2008 (Phnom Penh, Cambodia).

Nalinthone Vilaysane received her Master’s degree in Community Development from Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne in 2004. In 2006 she started to work as a Senior Programme Officer at the National Emerging Infectious Coordination Office (NEIDCO). Nalinthone received various awards, including the Lao Government Award and the AusAID Scholarship. She also participated in training programs in epidemiology, a training at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, and the public health intervention network.
The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), which currently comprises of 46 member states plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat (www.aseminfoboard.org). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since engaged over 17,000 direct participants through more than 600 projects in the realms of economy and society, public health, sustainable development and environment, academic co-operation and education, arts and culture and governance and human rights www.asef.org

In 2012, ASEF is commemorating its 15th Anniversary and invites everyone to take part in celebrating Connected Histories, Shared Future.

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was initiated in 1996 when the ASEM leaders met in Bangkok, Thailand. ASEM is an informal trans-regional platform for dialogue and co-operation between the two regions and has arisen out of a mutual recognition that the relationship between Asia and Europe needed to be strengthened in light of the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

The ASEM process is based on an equal partnership and its activities are grouped into three pillars: political, economic and socio-cultural. ASEM now brings together 49 member states (Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat.

ASEM holds a Summit every two years, alternately in Asia and in Europe. This is the highest level of decision-making in the process. Besides the attendance of the Head of States, the Summit also features accompanying Ministers, the Head of the European Commission and other stakeholders. Apart from the Summit meetings, the ASEM process is carried forward through a series of Ministerial and working-level meetings, as well as a number of activities arising from it. www.aseminfoboard.org