Press Release
For immediate release

Tackling the Global Challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

AMR has been recognized as an important, serious and urgent health threat in Thailand and all over the World for the past few decades. The European Union (EU) has been active on AMR for more than 15 years with strives to bring about behaviour change and tackle this pressing issue within a "One Health" approach. Addressing the rising threat of AMR requires a holistic and multisectoral approach because antimicrobials used to treat various infectious diseases in animals may be similar to those used in humans. Resistant bacteria arising either in humans, animals or the environment may spread from one sector to the other, and from one country to another. AMR does not recognize geographic or human/animal borders.

In the last few years, One Health has gained significant momentum. This approach has been formally endorsed by the European Commission, the US Department of State, US Department of Agriculture, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), United Nations System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC), various Universities, NGOs and many others.

In Thailand, several resistant bacteria causing infections were reported and many attempts to contain AMR have been proposed or executed over the past decade. Thailand AMR containment programme has been implemented since 2012 with major domestic partners (e.g. the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and cooperatives) illustrating the One Health approach.

Over the years, the European Antibiotic Awareness Week - marked annually as the third week of November - has developed into a platform of global reach, partnering up with many countries outside the EU as well as relevant stakeholders, in line with the Commission's "One-Health" approach to AMR. To mark this week in Thailand, DG SANTE (through the Better Training for Safer Food programme) and the Delegation of the European Union to Thailand are organising an "International Conference on Tackling the Global Challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)", with participants from selected Asian countries (ASEAN + China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Japan, Korea, etc.) with high-level speakers from Thailand, the EU, the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), WHO, FAO, OIE. Experts from the region will share their experience in research or case studies on tackling AMR.

The Conference will take place on 15 November 2016, at Swissôtel Nai Lert Park Hotel, 2 Wireless Rd, Bangkok 10330. All presentations during the conference will be in English.

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