



WORKSHOP BIOSECURITY

Report by Koos van der Bruggen on the Workshop Biosecurity at the 25th Anniversary of AIPI (Indonesian Academy of Sciences), 26 May 2015, Jakarta, Indonesia

Background

Last year, 27 August 2014, a successful Biosecurity workshop has been organised by the Indonesian Academy of Science (AIPI) during the 9th ASEAN Science and Technology Week in Bogor. The U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) have given scientific, organisational and financial support. This workshop had participants from multiple ASEAN states, the US and The Netherlands. The aim of the workshop was to bring together stakeholders from science, industry and government, to raise awareness for biosecurity issues in relevant institutions, academies of science, government departments and industries in the ASEAN states; and to present methods and experience for education and awareness raising on biosecurity.¹

New workshop

The success of this workshop was reason for AIPI to propose a new workshop on biosecurity during the festivities that were organised because of its 25th anniversary. Funding of the workshop was provided by the European Union (via the FP7 project SEA EU NET) and the US State Department. As in 2014 the program was organized by the Indonesian Academy of Sciences (AIPI) in cooperation with the National Academies of Science (NAS, United States) and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).

Participants

The workshop was open for guests and visitors of the 25th Anniversary meeting (Academy delegates, ministers, high level policy officers and scientists). Special invitations were sent to practicing scientists in the Life Sciences (Eijkman Institute and other universities, hospitals and research institutes in and around Jakarta). The number of participants was about 50.

Programme

The program was split up in two parts.

In the morning session the focus was on issues that are relevant for Indonesian and ASEAN policy makers. Information was exchanged on more general and policy-orientated issues regarding biosecurity that are of common interest for ASEAN academies of science and policy makers. Highlight was the presentation of the Indonesian Code of Conduct on Biosecurity. Other issues were: responsible science and education, plans for a biosecurity code of conduct in Malaysia and biosecurity in relation to the Global Health Security Agenda.

The afternoon session focused on relevant scientific and technical developments from a biosecurity perspective (such as gain-of-function research) and on the need of education and awareness raising on

¹ See Post-Event Report Workshop Biosecurity on Awareness Raising Efforts in an ASEAN Perspective, Bogor, Indonesia, 27 August 2014 (AIPI 2014)

these issues. The workshop ended with a lively and engaged discussion between the participants on questions as:

Does gain-of-function research take place in the ASEAN region?; Should gain-of-function research be allowed in the ASEAN region?; Should virus-stems originating from the ASEAN region be use in gain-of-function research elsewhere?; How can ASEAN life scientists and policy makers contribute in the international and global biosecurity debate: what possibilities can be offered or used in the Global Health Security Agenda, the World Health Organization and - last but not least -in the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention?



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