



Biosecurity Implementation in Action

ASEAN life scientists at the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva December 2015

The ASEAN Academies of Science together with the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (US-NAS) and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) have been involved in a number of important meetings on biosecurity in the ASEAN region during the past years. A successful Biosecurity workshop has been organised by the Indonesian Academy of Science (AIPI) during the 9th ASEAN Science and technology Week in Bogor (August 2014). And in May 2015 a biosecurity meeting was linked to the celebration of the 25th anniversary of AIPI in Jakarta. Both these meeting were generously supported by SEA EU NET. Later that year the biosecurity issue was one of the central elements in workshops on responsible science in Yogyakarta and in Kuala Lumpur.

The Meeting of States Parties (MSP) of the Biological Weapons Convention (BTWC) on 14-18 December 2015 was seen as an important opportunity for Academies of Science to identify and highlight relevant issues in the fields of science and technology that should be dealt with during the 8th Review Conference that will take place in 2016. That is why US-NAS and KNAW have organized two activities on 13 and 14 December to showcase the biosecurity-related developments of the ASEAN. This meeting was again supported by SEA EU NET.

The first activity was a one day-long pre-conference workshop on Sunday 13 December, with the following aims:

- 1 to present biosecurity-related activities organised by ASEAN scientific organizations in the region;
- 2 to give scientists and Academies' officials from ASEAN countries the opportunity to become acquainted with the BTWC;
- 3 to explore how life scientists and Academies, particularly from the ASEAN region, can contribute to the preparation of the 8th Review Conference of the BTWC.

Scientific experts from five ASEAN states (Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippine, Thailand and Vietnam) attended the conference. They gave presentations about the way their governments and scientific communities deal with biosecurity issues and identified possible contributions to the process in the BTWC.

The second activity was a side event during the MSP conference on 14 December. The main aim of this side event was to provide participants in the MSP (diplomats, government experts) with the opportunity to interact with life scientists from the ASEAN region. The results of the preconference held on 13 December about biosecurity activities in the ASEAN region were presented by participating ASEAN scientists. They gave examples of how (ASEAN) scientists and Academies of Science can support the goals of the BWC and how they can contribute to the preparation of the 8th Review Conference of the BTWC.

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