

Concept Note

Advancing Biological Threat Reduction in Southeast Asia: Supporting the ASEAN Declaration on Biosafety and Biosecurity

Side event at the Global Health Security Conference 2026

Thursday, 11 June 2026

13.00 -14.00

Background

The fourth Global Health Security Conference ([GHS 2026](#)) will be held from 9–12 June 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, bringing together policymakers, researchers, and practitioners from across the global health security community. The conference provides an important platform to exchange experiences, discuss emerging priorities, and strengthen collaboration to advance global health security.

South-East Asia presents both opportunities and vulnerabilities regarding biological risks. high-density livestock production, rapid population growth, porous borders, and interconnected trade networks create favorable conditions for biological risks, disease incursions and spread, and biosafety and biosecurity challenges.

WOAH Members with variable technical capacity, in South-East Asia still face uneven bio surveillance systems, variable laboratory biosafety and biosecurity practices, and limited collaboration between veterinary services and national security sectors. These gaps increase the risk of accidental, deliberate, or naturally occurring biological events.

‘Beyond Silos’ the new Project supported by Global Affairs Canada Weapons Threat Reduction Program (GAC) aims to strengthen animal health commitment to implementation of the [ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration on Strengthening Regional Biosafety, and Biosecurity](#). The Project activities will contribute to enhancing early detection of deliberate release events by providing guidance (field and laboratory investigation), operationalising guidance, facilitating dialogue between key stakeholders including animal health, public health and security sector.

The side event at GHSC provides an opportunity to bring together WOAHA Members and partners to discuss the situation update, challenges and opportunities advancing regional cooperation on biological threat reduction efforts in South-East Asia.

Objectives

The proposed session aims to:

- Provide visibility to a new 'Beyond Silos' project and its relevance to regional and global health security.
- Present key outcomes and recommendations from Virtual Consultative Meeting and in person workshop (June 2026) on Bio threat reduction in South-East Asia
- Highlight progress made by WOAHA Members in advancing regional cooperation and Call for Action initiatives to advance the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Biosafety and Biosecurity.
- Promote dialogue among partners and experts on challenges and opportunities for biological threat reduction in Southeast Asia.

Target Audience (Registration is mandatory)

WOAHA Members, Partners and other relevant stakeholders, Policymakers, public and animal health professionals, laboratory practitioner, biosecurity and biosafety experts, researchers, international organizations, and development partners engaged in global health security.