





**B**ogor - The National Workshop on Development of Strategies and Avian Influenza Surveillance Guidelines in Wild Birds was held on April 14 to 16, 2008, in Bogor. The workshop, which was sited in Hotel Salak the Heritage-Bogor, was collaboration between the National Committee for Avian Influenza Control and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (KOMNAS FBPI) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and was also supported by several



government and non-government organizations that are concerned and work in the field of wild bird surveillance such as the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia Institute of Science (LIPI), Wetlands International Indonesia Program (Wetlands IP), Wildlife Conservation Society Indonesia Program (WCS IP), Indonesian Ornithologist Union (IdOU), Yayasan Kutilang Indonesia, and Center for Indonesian Veterinary Analytical Studies (CIVAS).

Background of this workshop was that avian influenza has claimed human lives and up to date, Indonesia already had 107 human fatalities due to AI, where 12 fatalities had occurred in 2008. Many researches on avian influenza, both around the world and in Indonesia, have been done. Nevertheless, the role of wild birds in the spread of this disease needs special attention. Under coordination of KOMNAS FBPI, the Indonesian government is currently identifying and mapping avian influenza surveillance activities in wild birds. At the implementation level, the Ministry of Forestry as the technical agency for wild birds has formed a Task Force on Avian Influenza Control in Wild Birds. The objective of this workshop was to develop a national strategy for avian influenza control in wild birds in Indonesia, including the development of a guideline for surveillance in wild birds. Also discussed in the national strategy were the authorized bodies and the coordination mechanism between related parties for the control of

avian influenza in wild birds.

The national workshop had two main parts, one day of presentation from various sources related to surveillance activities in wild birds and two days of workshop. Presentations of the first day were brought by both domestic and foreign speakers, all presenting about various surveillance activities and researches in wild birds, thus stimulating information exchange. There were four topics in the first day; they were International Strategy, National Strategy, Wild Birds in Indonesia, and Guidelines on Capturing, Sample Collection, and Avian Influenza Surveillance Activities in Wild Birds.

In the two-day workshop session, the first day was filled by group discussions about various supporting guidelines for the surveillance activity and the strategy of establishing an information network. On the last day, or second day of the workshop session, participants discussed about the national strategy and action plan for avian influenza surveillance in wild birds. The national workshop was attended by 68 participants, consisting of representatives from various elements that are concerned and are also involved in wild bird surveillance activities, such as the Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Laboratories conducting surveillance or testing in wild birds, zoo managers, animal rescue centers, universities and non-government organizations concerned in wild bird conservation such as Bird Conservation Society (BICONS), ProFauna, Animal Advocacy Institute (LASA), Flora Fauna International (FFI), Indonesian Environmental Information Center (PILI), and Conservation International (CI).

By concession of all participants, the national workshop had recommended the following:

1. Development of a National Strategy and Action Plan with the following conditions: (a) The workshop formation team to assigned to finish the National Strategy and Action Plan document; (b) A two month deadline is placed for the finishing of the document; (c) Information and data brought up in the workshop should be used as main consideration for development of the National Strategy and Action Plan (d) The Komnas FBPI is trusted to establish the laws necessary to legalized this document
2. Development of a guideline which includes all aspects of avian influenza surveillance in wild birds that could be nationally applied in Indonesia
3. Improve inter-sector coordination through facilitation by Komnas FBPI
4. Include ecological issues and wild bird conservation as one of the concerns of Komnas FBPI, also for its programs and funding. (wind)

3. Support the food security program in increasing public consumption of good quality animal proteins, particularly for children, to achieve the creation of a healthy and smart nation.
4. Support the management of zoonoses.
5. Support the establishment of a body and legislation that regulates and guarantees the veterinary authority.

Besides Jakarta, the world veterinary day was also celebrated in Yogyakarta and Surabaya. (AJ)



**J**akarta - On every last Saturday of April, countries around the world celebrate the world veterinary day. This day is dedicated to honor the many roles of veterinarians in maintaining animal health, guarding the safety of animal products, and protecting the world from zoonoses. The world veterinary day was first initiated by the World Veterinary Association (WVA). This year, the world veterinary day was celebrated on April 26th, 2008.

In Jakarta, located at Bundaran Hotel Indonesia and Patung Kuda, around 120 people consisting of veterinarians and veterinary students held a sympathy act in the form of handing out informative items (leaflets, bookmarks), animal origami, and roses to people passing by. Also there was a theatrical act telling about the role of veterinarians to the public. The sympathy act focused on issues concerning safety of food from animal origin, the threat of zoonoses, and the need for a more specific body and legislation to regulate the veterinary authority.

The theme for this year was "With Veterinarians We Achieve Healthy Animals, Healthy Food, and Healthy and Welfare Humans". The act was collaboration between the Indonesian Veterinary Medical Association (PDHI), Center for Indonesian Veterinary Analytical Studies (CIVAS), Indonesian Veterinary Student Association (IMAKAHI), and the Veterinary Student Body of Bogor Agricultural University (KM FKH IPB). The sympathy act was closed with press release. In the press release, veterinarians encourage Indonesians to work together to:

1. Improve the health and welfare of animals.
2. Improve the safety of food from animal origin such as milk, eggs, and meat.

**B**ogor - As in the previous year of 2007, this year CIVAS has received another visit from students of the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph Canada. They were Melanie Youngs, Tiffany Trish Marchildon, and Leung Zee Dick from Global Vets 2008. Global Vets is a program at the Ontario Veterinary College which offers student veterinarians a unique opportunity to investigate animal health care in developing countries. The program was started in 1997 by two second year students, and is based on a program called Défi Vet-Monde at the Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire at the University of Montreal Canada. Melanie and friends were in Indonesia for two weeks, from June 22nd to July 6th, 2008.



Developing countries visited by the Global Vets students are countries in Central America, East Africa, South Africa, and Southeast Asia. Indonesia is one of the countries visited in South East Asia. In Indonesia, the students worked with Center for Indonesian Veterinary Analytical Studies (CIVAS) to study about avian influenza (AI). With Bogor, Sukabumi, and Jakarta as models, CIVAS had facilitated the students to visit several places that could help give them a general understanding about AI in Indonesia. Several places they visited were PT. Ayam Manggis Farm (broiler and layer farm), PT. Anthony Farm (commercial layer farm), Sukabumi Native Chicken Farmer Group (KEPRAKS), poultry collecting facilities in Bogor and Jakarta, and a poultry slaughter house owned by PT. Japfa Group in Parung, Bogor. To also learn about other animals, CIVAS took the students to the Dairy Cow Breeding and Development Center in Cikole-Lembang, a small animal clinic (Piet Animal Clinic) in Sentul, IndoLivestock exhibition at the Jakarta Convention Center, Tegal Alur Animal Rescue Center in West Jakarta, Taman Safari Indonesia, and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Bogor Agricultural University and its Animal Hospital where CIVAS collaborated with veterinary students from the Student Executive Body, Veterinary English Club, Pet and Aquatic Animal Interest Group, Wildlife Interest Group, and this year's best veterinary student. At the faculty, the students discussed and exchanged information on what they studied in their respective universities, Ontario Veterinary College - University of Guelph Canada and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine - Bogor Agricultural University.

On the last day, Melanie and friends did a presentation on all of their activities for the last two weeks and also presented about Ontario Veterinary College and Global Vets program. They also presented about the poultry and dairy cow system in their country. Melanie, Tiffany, and Zee have also expressed their hope for next year's Global Vets. They hope that next year Global Vets could work again with CIVAS to study more deeply about other animal health systems beside AI. (sev)

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