

Meeting of the Technical Working Group for Technical Items #7 and #8 of the AMU/AMR Technical Advisory Group for South East Asia

18-19 March 2019; Bangkok, Thailand

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and justification:

Last November 2018, during the 2nd Meeting of the AMU/AMR Technical Advisory Group for South-East Asia, two technical items were identified to require further discussions. These are Technical Item #7 (*Regional bulk procurement of Commercial AST Plates following the recommended regional antibiotic panel to complement Guideline #1*), and Technical Item #8 (*Lack of clinical breakpoints for bacterial pathogens from diseased animals*).

Technical Item #7: During early implementation in countries that attempted to generate quantitative MIC data, one of the issues raised as a possible threat to future sustainability, is the prohibitive cost and intensive labor involved in carrying out microbroth and/or agar dilution tests. A potential area being explored to address these, is the use of commercial AST plates which presents the flexibility of being carried out manually or in an automated fashion depending on the country's available resources. The plates will allow customization to accommodate the recommended antibiotic panel (as per Guideline #1), and poses a promising solution to encourage further harmonization of the work in the region. With the building momentum to carry out AMR surveillance in the region, these flexibilities present a unique opportunity for the Asia-Pacific Region to procure these commercial plates in bulk to further reduce the costs across procuring countries.

Technical Item #8: Some countries have now commenced AMR surveillance in common bacterial pathogens recovered from diseased livestock and/or poultry. A major technical issue that countries are anticipating in view of this progressing work, is the lack of existing information on clinical breakpoints for most pathogen-animal combinations. One country is putting this issue forward and seeking for recommendations on how they can obtain the basis for interpreting the data to be generated from this work.

To bring these discussion points forward, it was agreed during the AMR TAG for South-East Asia 2018, that a volunteer Technical Working Group will be formed (to include CU, CLSI, Singapore, ESR NZ, FAO + additional volunteers for Technical Item #7; CU, CLSI, ANSES, ESR, FAO + additional volunteers for Technical Item #8) to discuss the details further. Updates on the task will be provided to the TAG 1st quarter of 2019.

Scheduled to be held back-to-back this March 18-19, 2019, the meetings will be held at the Main Conference Room of the Food and Agriculture Organization for the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP) 39 Phra Atit Road, Phranakorn, Bangkok, THAILAND.

Objectives/Outcomes This TWG discussion aims to:

1. Deliberate on the needs and benefits for a regional standardized supply pool for AMR surveillance in support of the implementation and future sustainability of AMR surveillance in the countries.
2. If the above is agreed, deliberate on the mechanisms to its operationalization.
3. Discuss advice for countries performing antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) of bacteria recovered from diseased livestock and poultry.

Expected Outputs: At the end of the consultation meeting, it is expected that:

1. TWG recommendations are provided to AMR TAG for SEA regarding the regional standardized supply pool for AMR surveillance of Commercial AST Plates.
2. TWG recommendations are provided to AMR TAG for SEA regarding the approaches to be taken for AST of bacterial pathogens from diseased livestock and poultry.

Key inputs/ Main Activities:

1. Review of existing information/mechanisms/processes.
2. Product presentation

Implementation Methods:

1. Group deliberation

Timing/duration and Location:

Date: 18-19 March 2019

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Expected participants:

- AVA Singapore – Dr Wong Wai Kwan and Dr Wei Ling Tan
- CU VET AMR, Thailand – Dr Rungtip Chuanchuen, Dr Taradon Luangtongkum, Dr Saharuetai Jeamsripong
- CLSI – Dr Shabbir Simjee
- ESR, New Zealand – Dr Dean Reynecke
- ANSES, France – Rodolphe Mader
- FAO RAP – Agnes Agunos, Filip Claes, Katinka de Balogh, Mary Joy Gordoncillo, Han Zifeng
- Observers – OIE, Mott MacDonald

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of the AMU/AMR Technical Advisory Group for South East Asia**

March 18-19, 2019

Bangkok, Thailand

Technical Item #7

Regional mechanism for standardized supply pool
following the recommended regional antibiotic panel to complement Guideline #1

DRAFT POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Welcome and introduction – Katinka de Balogh
- Framing the TWG objectives for deliberation – Mary Joy Gordoncillo
- Understanding fitness for purpose – Moderator: AVA Singapore
 - Product brief – Melody Tang, Thermoscientific
 - Is it technically sound and viable?
 - What will be the advantages/disadvantages for the countries/region?
- Possible mechanisms for operationalization – Moderator: CU VET AMR
 - Existing operational models – Filip Claes
 - Understanding FAO and country processes
 - Available options for procurement
 - Possible roll-out in the region
 - Data collection, storage and sharing
- Other considerations (e.g., Cost effectiveness) – Moderator: ESR
- Conclusions, Recommendations and Ways Forward – Moderator: FAO RAP

Technical Item #8

Lack of clinical breakpoints for bacterial pathogens from diseased animals

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Framing the TWG objectives for deliberation – Mary Joy Gordoncillo
- Current approaches – Moderator: AVA Singapore
 - CLSI
 - ANSES
 - Case examples from other countries
 - Overview on existing pilot projects
- Determining the options in the region – Moderator: CU VET AMR
 - Following existing models
 - Developing novel models
- Other considerations (e.g., capacity needs) – Moderator: ESR
- Conclusions, Recommendations and Ways Forward – Moderator: FAO RAP