

**Press Statement**  
**ASEAN Looks to Bring on US to Assist in Addressing Influenza A(H1N1)**  
**ASEAN Secretariat, 4 May 2009**

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Attempts are under way to involve the US Government in addressing the threat that Influenza A(H1N1) poses to the region. Officials from the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand and the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, were working over the weekend to realise the participation of the US Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, via video conference at an ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers' Special Meeting on Influenza A(H1N1).

"America, the frontline state, with the best of defence mechanisms, is willing to share with ASEAN and East Asia its expertise and experience on how to face this common threat to humanity worldwide", said Dr Surin. The video conference with Secretary Sibelius is expected to involve updates on the H1N1 situation and effective responses.

The meeting which involves Health Ministers from the ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three countries - China, Japan and the Republic of Korea - will take place on 8 May in Bangkok.