Better Health for ASEAN Community Beyond 2015

Ha Noi, 19 September 2014

The ASEAN Health Ministers gathered together for their 12th Meeting in Ha Noi, Viet Nam from 18-19 September to discuss regional health concerns with the theme of “Better Health for ASEAN Community Beyond 2015”.

The two-day event discussed the ways forward in accelerating the contribution of the ASEAN Health Sector in achieving the ASEAN Community 2015; the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development from 2010-2015; and It was started with the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting (PrepSOM) for 12th AHMM on 15 September 2014 and followed by the PrepSOM for the 6th ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting and PrepSOM for the 5th ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting on 16 September 2014. Four side meetings were held on 17 September 2014 namely: (i) Expanding Health Insurance Coverage for Informal Sector, (ii) Emerging Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control, (iii) Advocacy on sustainable financing for HIV/AIDS in ASEAN Countries and (iv) Policy response for the ageing.
The 12th AHMM opening ceremony on 18 September 2014 was graced by H.E. Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of Viet Nam and attended by H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Thi Kim Tien, Minister of Health of Viet Nam, ASEAN Health Ministers, Dr. Poonam Khetrapa Singh, Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO), Dr. Shin Young-soo, Regional Director of WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) and representatives of ASEAN Secretariat, International Organisations.

During the opening ceremony, the ASEAN-WHO MOU 2014-2017 was signed by the Secretary General of ASEAN and respective Regional Director of WHO SEARO and WPRO. The signed ASEAN-WHO MOU will provide a good opportunity for enhancing collaboration to address issues of common interest for better health in the region. In the retreat session in the morning, the Ministers exchanged views on ways to Strengthen primary health care towards universal health coverage. Then at the 12th AHMM, the Ministers adopted the four clusters for ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda namely: (i) Promoting healthy lifestyles, (ii) Responding to all hazards and emerging threats, (iii) Strengthening health system and access to care and (iv) Ensuring food safety.

The 12th AHMM was then followed by the 6th ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting held in the morning of 19 September 2014. In this meeting the Ministers exchanged views to strengthen the primary health care for prevention and control of NCD. Furthermore, the 5th ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting was held in the afternoon and in this meeting the ASEAN Health Ministers Plus China discussed the follow up from the MOU between the Governments of the Member States of ASEAN and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on Health Cooperation which was signed at the 11th AHMM in Phuket in 2012. The Ministers then exchanged views on the Multi sectoral collaboration for the prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases. The next 13th AHMM and related Meeting will be held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam in 2016.