

ASEAN to Collaborate with its Partners on Addressing Swine Influenza
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ASEAN public health officials could shortly have an opportunity to discuss the issue of Swine Influenza with the Atlanta-based US Centre for Disease Control, said the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

“We are exploring the possibility of a teleconference between both sides taking place on 7 May when the ASEAN health officials are in Bangkok,” said Dr. Surin Pitsuwan. The officials would already be in the Thai capital preparing for an ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting which is scheduled for 8 May. The Ministerial Meeting was first proposed by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen to discuss measures to address the outbreak.

“The teleconference is an excellent opportunity for the technical people from the US Centre for Disease Control and the ASEAN public health authorities, to have direct exchanges, he said, after discussing the matter with the US Ambassador to ASEAN, Scott Marciel, who is based in Washington.

In the meantime, a Coordinating Centre has been established at the ASEAN Secretariat to monitor the developments on the Swine Influenza situation in the region. The Coordinating Centre will, on a daily basis, monitor and collate the information on situational updates and precautionary measures taken by the ASEAN Member States. The Coordinating Centre will also collaborate with the World Health Organisation on information sharing.