



## Bird Flu News 23 – 28 January 2007

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### Poor countries demand fair share of bird flu drugs

23 Jan 2007

Developing countries from Asia to the Middle East demanded on Tuesday that they receive their "fair" share of limited bird flu vaccines and anti-virals if a deadly pandemic strain emerges.

Hard-hit China and Thailand promised to provide more virus samples from birds and humans -- deemed vital for developing vaccines and diagnostic tests for the deadly disease.

The debate highlighting the gap between rich and poor countries was held in the Executive Board of the World Health Organisation (WHO), which warned of a "serious" threat that the H5N1 bird flu virus may mutate into a pandemic influenza strain.

"The pandemic will definitely occur in developing countries, not developed countries. But we are sending our virus (samples) to the rich countries to produce anti-virals and vaccines. And when pandemic occurs, they survive and we die," Thailand's representative Suwit Wibulpolprasert said in a blunt speech.

"It is unfair to let the poor die and the rich survive," said Suwit, a senior Thai public health officer.

Calling it a "national security issue", Suwit said: "We are not opposing the sharing of information and virus, but on the condition that every country will have equal opportunity to get access to vaccine and anti-virals if such a pandemic occurs."

The United Nations agency, in its report to the 32-member board, said it is grappling with "ethical issues". The bird flu virus has infected 269 people since 2003, killing 163, and could still mutate into a form transmitted more easily among people.

Current supplies of Tamiflu, the frontline anti-viral drug by the Swiss company Roche <ROG.VX>, and flu vaccine production capacity would be inadequate to meet world demand in a pandemic.

Seasonal influenza vaccine capacity is some 400 million doses, mainly based in rich countries. The WHO's recent global action plan, which calls for transferring vaccine production technology to developing countries, has estimated it will take years to reach adequate vaccine production at current levels.

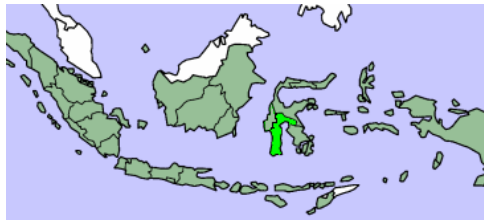
Source: Reuters

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## Indonesia: More suspected bird flu patients in South Sulawesi

Date: Wed 24 Jan 2007



Four suspected bird flu patients were admitted on Tue 23 Jan 2007 to Wahidin Sudirohusodo Hospital in Makassar, South Sulawesi, raising the number of patients treated there to 5 within 2 days. The 5, including 3 children -- one 11 years old, one 2 years old, and one 22 months old -- come from the same area, namely Tamamaung village in Panakkukang district, Makassar.

They were sent to the hospital after coming down with similar symptoms: a high fever and breathing problems. A team of doctors treating the patients said quick test results found that one was infected with influenza virus type A, the species to which avian flu viruses [and seasonal influenza viruses - Mod.CP] belong. Team member Bob Wahyudi said the test results could not be taken to mean that the patient had bird flu, however.

The team has sent blood and mucus samples to Jakarta to determine whether the patient has the disease. "We are still waiting for the results of the laboratory tests," Bob said.

In Semarang, Central Java, a 22-month-old baby was rushed to an isolation room at Kariadi Hospital on Monday [22 Jan 2007] night with a suspected infection of bird flu. The baby is the son of a 26-year-old resident of Bambankerep in Ngaliyan district, Semarang. The [parent] had been admitted to the hospital earlier on Monday for similar symptoms.

Besides these 2, the hospital is treating a 51-year-old resident of Bangunharjo, Semarang. Another suspected bird flu patient treated at the hospital has recovered and gone home. Hussein Gausem, head of Kariadi Hospital's Infectious Disease Emergency Team, said family members had disclosed that the [parent] had close contact with poultry before coming down with a high fever and cough. "Before being admitted to the hospital, the [22-month-old son] had suffered from a high fever, with a temperature reaching 39 C, for 3 days. He was briefly treated at Tugu Hospital before being sent to Kariadi Hospital," Hussein said. The team is also awaiting the results of blood and mucus tests from Jakarta. "It will take up to 3 days to get the results," he said.

Source: [The Jakarta Post online](#) [edited]

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## Suspected bird flu case in Azerbaijan

Thu 25 Jan 2007



Health authorities in Azerbaijan are treating a 14-year-old boy for suspected bird flu, the Health Ministry said on Thursday.

The boy's sister was one of five people who died last year in an outbreak of H5N1 strain bird flu in the former Soviet republic between Turkey and Russia, the ministry said.

"It is too early to speak of an exact diagnosis. The boy's blood sample has been sent for analysis to a laboratory in London," said a Health Ministry official who did not want to be named.

The official said tests by a laboratory in Azerbaijan were negative for bird flu. He said doctors will now wait for the result from the London laboratory, which is endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO).



The boy is being treated in a respiratory illness institute in the capital, Baku.

The WHO sent a team of experts to help Azerbaijan's health officials manage the previous outbreak, which began last spring.

The boy now in hospital is from the southern region of Salyan, which was one of two centres of last year's outbreak.

WHO experts traced the infection then to local people plucking migratory birds to use their feathers. It said the outbreak was contained and since April last year there have been no confirmed cases in Azerbaijan.

Bird flu has killed 163 people since 2003, according to the WHO. H5N1 is the most deadly strain so far identified.

Source: Reuters

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## H5N1 bird flu confirmed in Hungary - EU

January 25 2007



Brussels - The first outbreak of bird flu in the European Union this year was confirmed on Wednesday after the EU Commission said the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain had been found in dead geese in Hungary.

"The European Commission has been informed by the Hungarian authorities today of an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Csongrad County, south-east Hungary," the EU executive said in a statement.

Tests were carried out for bird flu after an abnormally high mortality rate was reported in a flock of more than 3 000 geese. All of the remaining flock were culled, the Commission said.

A spokesperson for the Commission said Brussels was "very satisfied" with Hungary's response and there was "no immediate threat" to Hungarian poultry or poultry exports.

"A protection zone of 3km and a surveillance zone of 10km is in place," he said.

"Our experts will meet on Friday, with ministers set to discuss it on Monday, but unless there is an escalation we are happy that these measures will suffice."

Nonetheless, neighbouring Serbia banned the import of poultry and poultry products from Hungary and introduced control measures in response to the outbreak.

It was the first finding of the disease in the 27-member bloc this year, but there have been fresh outbreaks of bird flu across Asia since the start of 2007.

Five people have died of the H5N1 virus in Indonesia since January 1, while new cases in poultry have been reported in Japan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Since 2003, outbreaks of bird flu have been confirmed in around 50 countries, killing 163 people according to World Health Organisation figures.

Source: Reuters

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## Miyazaki gets bird flu task force

Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007



New Miyazaki Gov. Hideo Higashikokubaru set up a prefectural task force Wednesday to deal with a suspected case of bird flu, possible the second this month.

"I will work hard to prevent further infections. I hope for your cooperation," Higashikokubaru, who was elected Sunday, told the task force of senior prefectural officials.

The prefecture continued its work disinfecting the poultry farm in the municipality of Hyuga, where about 570 broiler chickens have died in one of the five coops. The suspected outbreak was announced Tuesday.

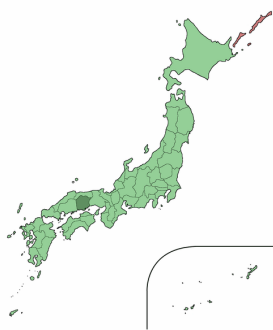
Preliminary tests on 11 chickens from the Hyuga farm show that one was positive for avian flu and four were suspected positive, prefectural officials said.

Source: [The Japan Times](#)

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## Okayama begins disinfecting farm believed hit by bird flu

Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007



Workers sent by the Okayama Prefectural Government began disinfection work Sunday at a poultry farm after the agriculture ministry designated it as a probable bird flu site.

As of 3 p.m., 17 more chickens had been found dead at the farm in Takahashi, Okayama Prefecture, raising the number to 39, prefectural officials said.

Thirteen of the birds found dead Sunday were in the same poultry house where 22 chickens died earlier, while four were in a different poultry house, they said.

Wearing masks, goggles and protective gear, nine workers began disinfecting the farm at around 10 a.m., liming soil in and around the farm and spraying disinfectant solution around the poultry houses.

Okayama Gov. Masahiro Ishii convened a meeting of a task force comprising officials from relevant prefectural divisions.

"The first thing is to prevent (bird flu) from spreading," Ishii was quoted as telling the team. "It is also important to gather data correctly and speedily and inform people."

The Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry announced Saturday that bird flu was suspected at the farm, where two birds died Friday and 20 more Saturday.

Preliminary tests were conducted on seven of the dead birds, and all tested positive.

A further analysis to determine whether the virus is the H5N1 strain that is deadly to humans was being conducted at the National Institute of Animal Health in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture.



If the final tests come back positive, all 12,000 birds at the farm will be slaughtered, the agriculture ministry said.

Earlier this month, bird flu was found at two poultry farms in Miyazaki Prefecture. Both were confirmed to be outbreaks of the lethal H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus.

Source: [The Japan Times](#)

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## Russia, Ukraine ban Hungary poultry for fear of bird flu

January 27, 2007

Russia and Ukraine closed their borders to Hungarian poultry products on Friday, joining Serbia and Croatia, which had imposed a ban earlier this week amid fears of bird flu spread, Hungary's news agency MTI reported.

Romania's animal hygiene and food safety authority announced on Friday that it would abide by a European Union decision to limit poultry imports from Hungary to the actual area where bird flu was discovered earlier this week, and would not introduce further restrictions.

The European Union said on Friday that member countries must not introduce a full ban on poultry imports from Hungary.

The Brussels Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH) approved the measures introduced by Hungary against the outbreak of bird flu, saying they were in full compliance with those included in the guidelines against bird flu and no further restrictions were justified.

Source: [Xinhua](#)

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## Japan confirms third bird flu outbreak in January

28 Jan 2007

Japan confirmed a fresh outbreak of bird flu at a poultry farm in the western prefecture of Okayama, the agriculture ministry said in a statement on Monday, the third such case in the country this month.

The ministry said tests showed the presence of H5 subtype influenza among chickens at the farm in the city of Takahashi, where 39 birds out of 12,000 have died since Friday.

Further tests will be carried out to confirm whether the virus was the H5N1 strain, the ministry added.

The H5N1 virus has killed at least 164 people worldwide since 2003, most of them in Asia, and over 200 million birds have died from it or have been culled to prevent its spread.

There have been no reported cases of human infection from the virus in Japan.

The agriculture ministry said it had ordered all poultry at the farm to be killed and the site to be disinfected. Movement of people and goods within a 10 km (6 mile) radius of the farm was to be restricted, it added.

Earlier this month, Japan had two cases of an H5N1 outbreak among poultry in the southwestern prefecture of Miyazaki, the country's biggest poultry producing region.

There had been no H5N1 cases in the country for three years.



In 2004, Japan had four H5N1 poultry outbreaks between January and March, including one in Kyoto in western Japan in which 240,000 chickens were culled and 20 million eggs destroyed.

Last week, authorities in Hong Kong confirmed a third case of H5N1 virus found in dead birds, while six people have died of bird flu in Indonesia since Jan. 1.

Source: Reuters

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## Summary of confirmed HPAI H5/H5N1 outbreaks in the Asian Region

Country	First outbreak	Latest outbreak	Affected populations	Human cases (cases/deaths)
Afghanistan	02/03/06: Jalalabad	04/04/06: Kapissa	dom. poultry, wild birds	no
Cambodia	12/01/04: Pong Peay	24/08/06: Balaing village	dom. poultry, wild birds	6/6
China	20/01/04: Longan, Guangxi	27/09/06: Baotou (revision)	dom. poultry, wild birds	22/14
Hong Kong SAR	19/01/04: Kowloon	14/01/07: Shek Kip Mei	wild birds	no
India	27/02/06: Gujarat	18/04/06: Jalagaon	domestic poultry	no
Indonesia	02/02/04: Banten	10/06: West Java	dom. poultry, pigs (without clinical signs)	80/62
Japan	28/12/03: Ibaraki	12/01/07: Kiyotake	dom. poultry, wild birds	no
Kazakhstan	22/07/05: Aktau	10/03/06: Vinogradovka	dom. poultry, wild birds	no
Korea Rep. of	10/12/03: Asan	21/01/07: Cheon-An	dom. poultry, wild birds	no
Laos	15/01/04: Ban Nonsavang	14/07/06: Xaythani district	domestic poultry	no
Malaysia	19/08/04	21/03/06: Titi Gantung	dom. poultry, wild birds	no
Mongolia	10/08/05	Early/06/06: Bulgan	wild birds	no
Myanmar	08/03/06: Mandalay	25/04/06: Shwebo Distr.	domestic poultry	no
Pakistan	23/02/06: Abbottabad	01/07/06: Nelore	domestic poultry	no
Russia	15/07/05: Shatrovo	31/07/06: Tomsk	dom. poultry, wild birds	no
Thailand	23/01/04: Song-Peenong	09/01/07: PlaiChumPol	dom. poultry, wild birds, tiger	25/17
Viet Nam	09/01/04: CaMau	17/01/07: Bac Lieu	domestic poultry	93/42



#### ASIAN REGION

**Cambodia:** Information on sick and dying poultry as well as negative surveillance results.

**Hong Kong:** Confirmation of H5N1 infection in a wild bird.

**Indonesia:** Confirmation of H5N1 infection in humans and poultry plus additional information.

**Japan:** Confirmed HPAI outbreak in poultry plus information on virus sequencing.

**Sri Lanka:** Information on dead wild birds.

**Thailand:** Confirmed outbreak of HPAI in poultry and suspected H5N1 infection in humans.

#### EUROPEAN REGION

**Azerbaijan:** Information on a suspected human case of H5N1 infection.

**Hungary:** Confirmed HPAI outbreak in poultry.

#### AFRICAN REGION

**Nigeria:** Suspected H5N1 infection in humans.

Source: EMPRES: A Publication of FAO.

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