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Cumulative Number of Confirmed AI Human Cases A/(H5N1)

14 September 2006

Country	2003		2004		2005		2006		Total	
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	8	5
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	2	6	6
China	1	1	0	0	8	5	12	8	21	14
Djibouti	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	6	14	6
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	19	12	46	37	65	49
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
Thailand	0	0	17	12	5	2	2	2	24	16
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4	12	4
Viet Nam	3	3	29	20	61	19	0	0	93	42
Total	4	4	46	32	97	42	99	66	246	144

Total number of cases includes number of deaths.
WHO reports only laboratory-confirmed cases.



China vaccinates 4.88 bln domestic fowls

06 September 2006

BEIJING, China had vaccinated 4.88 billion domestic fowls by the end of June this year in a bid to prevent and control the spread of bird flu diseases, said a senior official of the Ministry of Agriculture on Tuesday.

Li Jinxiang, deputy director of the veterinary bureau under the ministry, told a press conference that China's efforts on prevention and control of the disease have been recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health.

The ministry has informed the world of each outbreak of bird flu in China and measures that have been taken to handle the cases based on the principles of "timely reporting and transparency," said Li.

He noted that the ministry has "actively" promoted global and regional cooperation on the prevention and control of bird flu disease and established good cooperative ties with the WHO, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Bank.

China has also offered technical aid to neighboring countries like Vietnam, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Indonesia in fighting the disease.

He admitted that China still faces great challenges in vaccinating domestic fowls in remote mountainous areas, adding that the ministry would soon launch a fowl vaccination drive in the autumn.

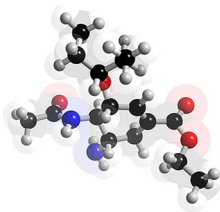
China produces 14 billion fowls each year, the largest number in the world.

Xinhua - China

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Indonesia to produce millions of tamiflu to combat bird flu

September 06, 2006



Indonesia will produce 5 million tablets of tamiflu this year and conduct a massive vaccination of poultry to combat avian influenza, senior officials said here Tuesday.

Two local companies, the Kimia Farma and the Indo Farma have registered to take part in the production, said Director General of Pharmacy Services of the Indonesian Health Ministry Richard Panjaitan.

"The next plan is to obtain (tamiflu) from domestic production, " he told Xinhua.

"Five million capsules of tamiflu will be produced before December this year," said Panjaitan.

However, he said that the materials for the capsules would still be imported from other countries.

Earlier, Indonesia has imported 5 million tamiflu from India and 2 million from Switzerland, he said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Indonesia George Peterson said that as long as the bird flu epidemic still occurs on poultry, there might be occasional human cases of avian influenza.

Authorities and experts have said the huge territorial and large amount of backyard-centered chicken farms have hampered efforts to completely eliminate the highly pathogenic H5N1 in Indonesia.



And 14 out of 61 people contracted with the avian influenza have survived in Indonesia.

"On human we have seen slightly increasing cases lately," Peterson told Xinhua.

"I think the most important thing is to control the epidemic in the bird, and we know that the government together with donors have been working on that, that needs to be scaled up," he added.

More than a third of the Indonesian territory has been infected by the avian influenza, according to the health ministry.

Indonesian Minister of Agriculture Anton Apriantono told Xinhua that his ministry would carry out a massive vaccination on hundreds of millions of chickens in the country.

Indonesia reported the biggest cluster in Karo district in North Sumatra province in May, that killed seven people linked by blood.

More than 40 million people were killed in a bird flu pandemic between 1918 to 1919, the WHO has said.

Source: Xinhua

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Cambodia reports new bird flu outbreak

September 06 2006



Cambodia - A new outbreak of bird flu has been confirmed in ducks on two family farms in eastern Cambodia, where the deadly H5N1 virus was also detected last month, senior agricultural officials said Wednesday.

Tests confirmed bird flu in five of 12 samples taken after nearly 500 ducks died last week in Kompong Cham province, said Yim Voeunthan, secretary of state at the Ministry of Agriculture.

"The result came out on Friday confirming that five samples are positive for the H5N1 virus," he told AFP.

He said health officials destroyed the remaining 300 ducks on Saturday and disinfected the area.

'Five samples are positive for the H5N1 virus'

Last month, two outbreaks of bird flu were discovered in the same province, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of ducks.

The virus re-emerged in the kingdom earlier in August in ducks in Prey Veng province, some 90km east of the Cambodian capital where 1 400 birds died or were slaughtered, after a four -month lull.

So far, only six people have died from the H5N1 strain of the virus since 2003 in Cambodia, which has largely been spared the devastation suffered by its neighbours Thailand and Vietnam.

But most poultry in Cambodia is raised on small farms or in backyards, making it difficult to prevent the spread of the virus, and farmers in the impoverished agricultural country are also likely to resist efforts to combat outbreaks if it means culling valuable birds.

The H5N1 virus circulates among wild birds and poultry, which can then pass it on to humans nearby, but human-to-human transmission is hard in the virus' present form. The disease has killed nearly 140 people, mostly in Asia, since 2003.



Independent Online - Cape Town, South Africa

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Bird Flu's Spread Tracked With Satellite-Linked Swans (Update1)

September 7, 2006

Sept. 7 (Bloomberg) -- Swans fitted with the same global positioning system satellite transmitters used to navigate cars may help scientists better understand the role wild birds play in the spread of avian influenza.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations said its scientists are teaming with other agencies including the U.S. Geological Survey to track the birds during their seasonal migration across Asia and Europe.

The study will alert governments to potential threats from birds carrying diseases, such as the H5N1 avian flu strain, which reached 38 countries this year. The virus is known to have infected 241 people in 10 countries, killing 141, since 2003. Millions could die if the virus mutates to become easily transmissible between people, sparking a lethal pandemic.

"We are working to understand the role wild birds may play in the spread of H5N1," Scott Newman, the FAO's international wildlife coordinator for avian flu, said in a statement on the agency's Web site. "Although poultry and bird trade are probably the primary routes of movement, migratory birds are likely involved in some areas."

The project, which is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, also involves the Wildlife Conservation Society and Mongolian Academy of Sciences.

Whooper swans captured by biologists last month in Mongolia, near the borders of Russia and China, have been targeted in the study. Wild birds flock to the northern regions of those countries, as well as Siberia, to breed during the Northern Hemisphere summer.

Backpacks for Swans

Ten of the 8-kilogram (18-pound) swans were fitted with backpacks weighing 70 grams and made of Teflon ribbon that deteriorates and falls off of the birds within a few years, the FAO said.

The location of the swans is updated twice-weekly and can be accessed using Google Inc.'s Earth mapping software.

"When we find infected birds, we need to know where they are going," William Karesh, coordinator of the surveillance project, said in the statement. "We will not be able to fully understand their role in this disease unless we better understand their movements."

The current wave of H5N1 infections was first reported to the World Organization for Animal Health in December 2003, when an outbreak was recorded in South Korea. Nine countries reported infections in birds in 2004 and seven countries did last year. So far this year, initial outbreaks have been reported in 38 countries.

A severe winter in Russia and the Caucasus area at the end of 2005 pushed migratory birds south and westward, the Rome-based FAO said in a June 19 report. About 50 non-domestic bird species are susceptible to infection from the H5N1 virus, though aquatic birds play a major role in its spread.

By Vesna Poljak

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Thailand to train Egypt on bird flu

September 8, 2006

Thailand's Public Health Ministry will provide training for the control of bird flu and producing anti-viral medicines to combat the deadly disease for Egyptian medical doctors and related specialists, starting late this year, according to Prat Boonyawongvirot, Permanent Secretary for Public Health.

Dr Prat has just returned from a two-day visit and talks, which began Thursday, with Egyptian Public Health and Population Minister Hatem el-Gabali and his Egyptian counterpart on cooperation and exchanging knowledge on the disease.

The two countries have experienced the outbreak of the disease this year, in which the UN World Health Organisation (WHO) has confirmed that 14 patients in Egypt have contracted the disease, and six have died.

Under the cooperation plan, Thailand will organise a short-term training program for Egyptian medical personnel and send doctors and nurses to provide medical check-up to more than 2,000 Thai students and workers now staying in that country, said Dr Prat. (TNA)

Bangkok Post - Thailand

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Bird flu spreading like fire in Indonesia

September 10, 2006

Jakarta -- Bird Flu in Indonesia is spreading like wild fire, making it the most affected country of Asia. The World Health Organization today confirmed the death toll to be 48.

The deaths, which occurred last year, were also added to the recent tallies because of some changes in the standards set by WHO. The 14 year old girl from Makassar in South Sulawesi province who died on June 24, 2005 and the 8 year old girl from Tangerang in Banten province who died on July 14, 2005, were also added to the list.



According to the new case definitions for H5N1 infection, a total of 63 cases have been reported in Indonesia after the epidemic broke, out of which 48 people died.

Influenza A virus subtype H5N1, also known as A(H5N1) or H5N1, is a subtype of the Influenza A virus that is capable of causing illness in many animal species, including humans.

A bird-adapted strain of H5N1, called HPAI A(H5N1) for "highly pathogenic avian influenza virus of type A of subtype H5N1", is the causative agent of H5N1 flu, commonly known as "avian influenza" or simply "bird flu", and is endemic in many bird populations, especially in Southeast Asia. One strain of HPAI A(H5N1) of Asian lineage is spreading globally. It is epizootic (an epidemic in nonhumans) and panzootic (a disease affecting animals of many species, especially over a wide area), killing tens of millions of birds and prodding the culling of hundreds of millions of other birds in an attempt to control its spread.

The authorities are trying to control the spread of virus in fowls, which eventually pass to humans. At present, Indonesia has the highest death toll from bird flu.

Last month, Indonesian health authorities had culled fowls as a measure to save the country from any more deaths.



The global spread of (highly pathogenic) H5N1 in birds is considered a significant pandemic threat.

While prior H5N1 strains have been known, they were significantly different from the current H5N1 strain on a genetic level, making the global spread of this new strain unprecedented.

Since 2003, the virus is known to have infected 244 people in 10 countries, of whom 143 were killed.

by Gunika Khurana - The Money Times - Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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Vietnam metro to check passengers for bird flu

Tuesday, September 12, 2006



International visitors arriving at Ho Chi Minh City airport will have their body temperatures taken as a precaution after bird flu outbreaks were recently reported in some countries.

Remote temperature-measuring machines using infrared and specialized thermometers are being installed at Tan Son Nhat Airport, ready to operate around the clock.

Those having a temperature of over 38 degrees Celsius would be taken to isolation rooms to test for bird flu.

The task will be carried out jointly by the International Quarantine Center and airport authorities.

The Health Ministry has instructed 14 hospitals in major cities to keep continuous watch to tackle probable outbreaks.

The hospitals and preventive health care centers have been told to ensure the operation of disease surveillance systems around the clock and sufficient supply of facilities for treating bird flu patients.

The government recently instructed state agencies and local administrations to intensify the fight against bird flu, and temporarily ban import of live poultry and poultry products from countries hit by the disease.

Bird flu has killed at least 141 people in 10 countries since December 2003.

Vietnam has registered 42 fatalities, second only to Indonesia where 47 have been killed. No new human cases have been reported since mid-November 2005

Thanh Nien Daily - Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam

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Deadly bird flu outbreak rocks southern Sudan

September 13 2006 at 11:19PM

Juba - Authorities in autonomous southern Sudan said Wednesday they had confirmed an outbreak of the H5N1 strain of bird flu in poultry, with two other suspected cases of the virus potentially fatal to humans.



The outbreak, confirmed by laboratories in the federal capital, Khartoum, and Britain, has not infected any people, they said, but has prompted an alert in neighbouring Uganda amid fears it could spread to humans.



The tests confirmed that several chickens from a residential backyard in the southern Sudanese capital of Juba had died from H5N1 on August 3, said Louis Morris Kyanga of south Sudan's Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries.

"We received the results of the tests, and unfortunately all the samples have proven to be positive," he told reporters, adding that further tests were being conducted on the carcasses of 18 ducks found in two backyards on September 9.

"Samples from those have been sent again to Khartoum and the United Kingdom, as we do not have the laboratory facilities here, but they are suspected to be avian flu just by the signs," Kyanga said.

H5N1, which has killed nearly 140 people, mostly in Asia, since 2003, was reported in northern and central Sudan in April but had not spread to the south.

Sudan shares a lengthy border with Egypt, which has suffered more from bird flu than any other country outside Asia since the virus began spreading worldwide earlier this year.

The only human case thus far reported in sub-Saharan Africa has been in the Red Sea state of Djibouti.

While the virus does not spread easily among people, the chance of a mutation that would allow it to do so is heightened as more humans catch it from infected birds.

Scientists fear that if this occurs, a global flu pandemic with a massive death toll could result.

Africa is considered particularly at risk due to the close proximity between poultry and humans on small family farms such as the affected homesteads in Juba.

Kyanga said southern Sudan authorities were taking steps to contain the flu but had not yet resorted to culling.

"A surveillance team has been sent to the affected areas and there is a ban on the movement of birds," he said. - Sapa-AFP

Independent Online - Cape Town, South Africa

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S. Korea says 5 more infected with bird flu 2003-04

15 Sep 2006



More SEOUL, Sept 15 (Reuters) - Five more South Koreans were infected with the H5N1 bird flu virus about three years ago but none of them developed any serious illnesses, officials said on Friday after recently completed testing on old samples.

South Korea, which did not have comprehensive testing at the time, sent samples of 318 poultry industry workers taken during an outbreak in late 2003 and early 2004 to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2005 for further examination.



Of those workers, four South Koreans were infected, the CDC has said. The government said in February the four did not develop major illnesses.

The results prompted South Korean health officials to send samples to the CDC from another 2,109 people and of these, five were also infected, the health agency said on Friday.

"The five did not develop major illnesses and have no strain to transmit bird flu," the Korea Centre for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement.

About 400,000 poultry at South Korean farms were infected by bird flu between December 2003 and March 2004, but no human cases were reported at that time.

All of the samples sent by South Korea to the United States were from people involved in the culling of about 5 million poultry.

There have been no reported cases of bird flu in South Korea since the 2003-2004 outbreak.

The World Health Organisation said on Thursday two cases in Indonesia had been recognised retroactively, including one where human-to-human transmission could not be ruled out.

The latest number of cases globally stands at 246 since 2003 not including the South Korean cases, with 144 deaths.

Source: Reuters

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Indonesia receives US\$47 million to overcome bird flu

September 15, 2006

Indonesia has received such a committed loan of US\$47 million to prevent the avian influenza from developing into the next stage, a minister says.

Speaking in a press conference after receiving senior UN System Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza David Nabarro and other delegates here on Friday, People's Welfare Coordinating Minister Aburizal Bakrie said his talks with the UN envoy focussed on one of the government of Indonesia's top bird flu priorities such as vigorous and sustained action to control the H5N1 virus at its source particularly in animals.

H5N1 virus is still primarily an animal disease, but experts believe it could mutate into a form which spreads easily among humans, possibly setting off a global pandemic.

"The objective is to prevent the avian influenza from developing into the next state. Culling, compensation, vaccination and bio-security are clearly vital to reducing the threat," said Bayu Krisnamuthi, chief executive of the National Committee for Avian Influenza Control and Influenza Pandemic Preparedness (Komnas FBPI).

Komnas FBPI hosted the talks with the participation of UN agencies, the World Bank, donor countries and government agencies involved in battling bird flu.

The meeting took stock of action taken since consultations with international experts in June, and a meeting with donor agencies in August when the government of Indonesia and international partners agreed on a refocussed national bird flu strategy.



Animal control measures are now a top priority, along with risk communications, information and public awareness and disease surveillance in animals and humans.

"We have the right strategy," Krisnamurthi said. "Since the June meeting of International experts, we in Indonesia have been re-doubling our efforts to confront this virus."

Dr Naborro, the top UN official for bird flu, is in Jakarta to find out what more the international community should do to support the Indonesian government's refocussed national bird flu strategy.

He also noted that the Indonesian Agriculture Ministry had made great progress in recent months, setting up new systems for early detection of disease outbreak and coordinated response measures, including programs like participatory disease surveillance and participatory disease response.

These programs are being expanded to more than 150 districts in Java, Sumatra and Bali with the support of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and donor agencies including USAID, AusAID and the government of Japan.

Source: ANTARA News, Jakarta

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