



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 6.10

Report to the Planning Group on Health Security Financing

Purpose: Consideration

Submitted by: Australia



**Life Sciences and Innovation Forum
Planning Group Meeting
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
14 August 2018**

SOM3 2018 LSIF Planning Group (LSIF PG) Meeting

Tuesday, 14 August 2018

6.10 Health Security Financing

Following a request from the APEC Secretariat, LSIF was asked to appoint a representative to the World Bank Health Security Financing Task Force being formed for the East Asia and Pacific region. I was nominated by the LSIF Secretariat for that role.

The Health Security Financing Task Force was established following concern, within the World Bank and WHO, about the preparedness of countries affected by pandemics to meet the health financing and broader economic costs of such outbreaks. A major reason for establishing the Task Force in the East Asia and Pacific region was the potential for serious outbreaks of SARS and bird flu virus transmitted by poultry flocks grown in close proximity to humans in urban areas.

Concurrently, a May 2017 report by the World Bank International Working Group on Financing Preparedness, chaired by Peter Sands, supported the adoption by national governments of a Health Security Financing Assessment Tool (HSFAT), which would, in documenting the capabilities of national governments to finance their response to pandemics, assist in the planning process for such outbreaks.

The HSFAT was designed to be a financing companion of the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) which assessed countries' capacity to meet the health threats of a pandemic.

The Task Force was established with membership from:

- individual countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam)
- international agencies including WHO, FAO, OIE, USAID ADB and APEC
- supported by the governments of the US and Australia,

to help draft the HSFAT. It met on several occasions (Bali, Da Nang, (Viet Nam) and Bangkok) to discuss various drafts of the Tool. The first meeting was held in Bali in December 2016. Representatives of Pacific Island nations joined later meetings. Other meetings were conducted by phone with a drafting advisory subcommittee of which I was a member.

The purpose of the HSFAT was to:

- Assess health security arrangements and flow of funds
- Identify critical constraints and opportunities for building finance systems
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of the coordination and implementation arrangements
- Facilitate policy dialogue on domestic and external financing arrangements

Completing the tool required the integration of a considerable amount of health (both human and animal), finance and economic data and information.

A final draft of the Tool was finalised at the Da Nang meeting in April 2017. Viet Nam agreed to pilot the Tool.

Reporting back to the meeting in Bangkok in January 2018, Viet Nam said that it had found the information load quite daunting and the tool challenging to complete. It required co-ordination of input from at least three ministries, health, finance and agriculture. Various suggestions and options were considered to simplify the informational load while meeting the basic purpose of the tool.

While the HSFAT initiative targets the only health security funding, the information gathered about health financing from the collaboration of health and finance ministries may prove helpful to our attempts to advance the profile of health financing. The number of countries engaged in the World Bank process is likely to grow and to take in a higher proportion of APEC economies.

Prof Bruce Rasmussen

LSIF Co-chair (Academic)