

# **VIETNAM AVIAN AND HUMAN INFLUENZA CONTROL AND PREPAREDNESS PROJECT (VAHIP)**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Development of enhanced coordination mechanisms between the animal and human health sectors in support of the national response to highly pathogenic avian influenza and a potential human influenza pandemic**

**National Consultant – Cross-Sectoral Coordination Expert  
(Agriculture and Health Sectors with a focus on Zoonoses)**

#### **Activity C1 OPI Integration and Coordination**

##### **1. Background**

###### ***1.1 The background of the project***

The project: “Vietnam Avian and Human Influenza Control and Preparedness Project” is co-financed by the Government of Vietnam, AHI Facility Trust Fund, PHRD Grant of Japan and IDA Credit with a total project cost of around US\$38.0 million. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and Ministry of Health (MOH) in 11 selected provinces, namely Lang Son, Ha Tay, Thai Binh, Thanh Hoa, Ha Tinh, Thua Thien Hue, Binh Dinh, Tay Ninh, Long An, Dong Thap, and Tien Giang for a 4-year period from 2007 to 2010.

The project’s development objective is to increase the effectiveness of Government services in reducing the health risk to poultry and humans from avian influenza in eleven high priority provinces and thus contribute to addressing highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) at the national level by controlling the disease at source in domestic poultry, by early detection and response to poultry and human cases, and by preparing for the medical consequences of a human pandemic. This is in line with and supports the implementation of Vietnam’s plans for the medium to long-term control of avian and human influenza as outlined in the OPI (Integrated National Operational Program for the Avian and Human Influenza 2006 – 2010, The Green Book), and is fully consistent with the approach envisaged under the Global Program for Avian Influenza and Human Pandemic Preparedness and Response (GPAI).

The Project comprises three components: Component A - HPAI Control and Eradication in the Agricultural Sector; Component B - Influenza Prevention and Pandemic Preparedness in the Health Sector; and Component C - Integration and OPI Coordination, Results Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), and Project Management. Through implementation of these components, the project would help consolidate the gains made under the Avian Influenza Emergency Recovery Project (AIERP) and under various human health projects by (a) further strengthening veterinary and human health services, (b) improving the quality and scope of disease control and surveillance and public awareness, and (c) supporting integration of animal and human health activities and OPI coordination.

## ***1.2 Background to the assignment***

The *Vietnam Integrated National Operational Programme for Avian Influenza (OPI)*, 2006-2010 (commonly referred to as the *Green Book*) was adopted by the the Government of Vietnam (GoV) and its international ODA partners in June 2006. The overall objective of the OPI is to reduce the health risk to humans from avian influenza by controlling the disease at source in domestic poultry, by detecting and responding promptly to human cases, and by preparing for the medical consequences of a human pandemic.

The *Green Book* identifies an integrated programme of activities to address Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) control and pandemic preparedness during the period until 2010. The Agriculture and Human Health Sectors are identified as the key sectors in the implementation of the *Green Book* and related activities on avian influenza and pandemic preparedness at national and sub-national levels.

A range of formal and informal reviews conducted by national authorities and international partners have identified the desirability of enhanced mechanisms for coordination, information sharing and joint response between the agriculture and health sectors at all levels within the country.

With financing support under Subcomponent C1: OPI Integration and Coordination of the *Vietnam Avian and Human Influenza Control and Preparedness Project (VAHIP)*, the Partnership for Avian and Human Influenza (PAHI) Secretariat Office located within the International Cooperation Department (ICD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) plans to carry out a study of existing practices and mechanisms for coordination and information sharing between the two sectors, and to identify concrete and feasible recommendations for enhanced coordination mechanisms between the two sectors at different levels.

## **2. Responsibilities of the Consultant**

The Cross-Sectoral Coordination Expert will prepare a report on cross-sectoral coordination between the two sectors including an overview of current coordination activities and mechanisms, identification of challenges and potential or actual gaps, and formulation of recommendations to enhance or develop relevant coordination mechanisms between the two sectors.

Specifically, the Cross-Sectoral Coordination Expert will:

- Identify and analyze relevant official decisions and meet with key officials within each sector to gather facts, opinions and recommendations on cross-sector coordination
- Describe the basic organization of existing cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms, information-sharing and collaboration at national and provincial levels within the national response to avian influenza and pandemic preparedness, including:
  - o the roles of relevant steering committees at national and provincial levels
  - o regulations and practices for information-sharing
  - o identification of the key dependencies and linkages between the two sectors in relation to avian influenza and pandemic preparedness

- description of the experience of joint activities related to surveillance, response, control measures and investigation of suspected avian and human cases
- laboratory coordination and collaboration
- Identification of the main gaps or challenges based on the experience of officials from each sector as well as objective analysis of regulations and practices in inter-sectoral collaboration
- Formulation of recommendations for sustainable enhancements to cross-sectoral coordination, collaboration and information-sharing including consideration of the need for a joint circular or decision to enhance coordination between the two sectors including the proposed scope and draft contents for such a circular

### **3. Methodology**

The Cross-Sectoral Coordination Expert will report to the Director-General of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, who is the Director of the Secretariat for the Partnership for Avian and Human Influenza (PAHI Secretariat). The Cross-Sectoral Coordination Expert will work under the operational supervision of the Manager of the PAHI Secretariat, supported by the existing Partnerships and Coordination Specialist.

### **4. Qualifications**

- The Cross-Sectoral Coordination Expert will have a medical, public health, veterinary degree or equivalent qualifications related to public administration from a recognized national or international university and a minimum of 10 years of proven experience in public health or agriculture programme planning and management
- Preferably, post-graduate qualifications in public administration management, institutional development, epidemiology or disciplines related to human and animal disease surveillance and control including zoonoses
- Sound knowledge of avian influenza control measures and pandemic preparedness
- Experience working with the Government of Vietnam, preferably in the Health and/or Agriculture Sectors
- Experience with cross-sectoral coordination, institutional development and formulation recommendations taking into account feasibility in terms of political, economic, human resource capacity, cultural and other factors.
- Capacity to work with a wide range of stakeholders with a participatory approach
- Fluent in spoken and written English

### **5. Facilities to be provided by the Project**

The Project will support the Consultant by providing office support and facilities, supervision and advice, documents and materials and by facilitating access to relevant information and materials, enabling travel to the project provinces, markets, laboratories

**6. Duty station**

The Cross-Sectoral Coordination Expert will be stationed in Vietnam, attached to the PAHI Secretariat Office located within MARD.

**7. Timeframe**

The position will be offered with a three and a half months between February to May, 2009.