

ASEAN HEALTH COOPERATION CONCEPT NOTE

1. Project Title

The Virtual Training Course on Health Impact Assessment for ASEAN Member States

2. Background information

It is widely accepted that the health of a population is determined by a range of factors. Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has been recognized as a tool to identify and judge the potential health effects of a policy, programme or project on a population, particularly on vulnerable groups (WHO, 2022). HIA can provide recommendations to increase positive health outcomes and minimize adverse health outcomes.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as a community facing challenges in the dynamics of economic growth and modern globalization, needs the HIA as an appropriate and effective mechanism to raise awareness of the impact of public policy and economic integration on health and to support decision-making before that proposal is implemented by policymakers to address health impacts and inequalities. In addition, the training need assessment report provided by Malaysia indicated the need for ASEAN Member States (AMS) to enhance capacity on useful tools such as health impact assessment and the challenging issue of climate change and health.

To conform with the training needed, the Work Programme 2021–2025 of ASEAN Health Cluster 2 on responding to all hazards and emerging threats provides for strengthening the capacity of health and relevant sectors on health impact assessment and climate change adaptation in health under Health Priority 12 on Environmental Health, Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Health Impact of Climate Change, and as a part of project activity 35, the continuation of ‘Strengthening Environmental Health Network and Empowering Health Impact Assessment’ that contributes to advancing a good understanding of the principles of HIA will be helpful in ensuring the health and well-being of ASEAN people.

The Virtual Training Course on Health Impact Assessment is designed to strengthen human resources in public health for ASEAN Member States. The training course will offer a conceptual and practical approaches among public health practitioners with context of the country and facilitate them to understand how to conduct health impact assessment effectively.

3. Objectives

1. To build capacity of the public health practitioners with HIA knowledge and skills in promoting and conducting of HIA.
2. To provide an opportunity for sharing knowledge and discussion regarding to HIA practice.
3. To facilitate HIA networking among participants to expand HIA activities across ASEAN.

4. Expected outputs

1. This training course is conducted to enhance the capacity of public health practitioners to use HIA to support and help ensure that planning projects, plans, programs, and policies contribute to the health of the community and do not have negative impacts on health.
2. The dissemination plan will be collaboratively developed by participants from ASEAN Member State to ensure that the knowledge and skills acquired during the training are effectively shared and applied at the national and local levels.