



**Joint Press Release**

## **Synergizing Public and Military Health Services for Public Health Emergencies**

*Indonesian Armed Forces hosted an international conference and table top exercise on global health security.*

**Jakarta, 23 October 2017.** Indonesia, in collaboration with WHO, holds a meeting on “Managing Future Global Health Risk by Strengthening Civilian and Military Health Services” in Jakarta, on 24 to 26 October 2017. Attended by military and civilian health personnel from more than 50 countries, the meeting galvanizes collaborative work towards a formal platform to prevent, detect, and response to public health emergencies.

“Military and public health authority have been working hand in hand during emergencies, such as natural disasters. Currently, we see more and more a wide range of infectious and non-infectious hazards, triggering public health emergencies that could be caused by emerging and new emerging diseases, also by chemical, biology, radiation and nuclear, naturally, by technical failures, or deliberate,” said Chief of Military Health Service, Mayor General Dr Ben Jura Rimba. “Multisectoral collaboration is crucial to mitigate future national, regional and global public health threats.”

National Health Security System is a part of national health system to protect public health. Mitigation and response to public health emergencies require health and security interface. Established health and security preparedness and response mechanisms, with clear command and control, utilizing both sectors’ resources and technology allow countries to take optimum and consistent actions.

“Close collaboration between public health and relevant non-health sectors such as agriculture, transport, education and security including military health services, should start from identifying a shared vision for health security,” said Dr. Elizabeth Jane Soepardi, MPH, Dsc, Director of Surveillance and Health Quarantine, representing the Ministry of Health. She also emphasized that better countries’ preparedness to public health risks contributes to global health security, and vice versa.

For global multisectoral coordination, the World Health Organization has established the Strategic Partnership Portal (SPP) where countries, donors, partners, international agencies, and other relevant health security stakeholders can share information, best practices, and enhance multisectoral collaborations that contribute to the acceleration of IHR (2005). The meeting in Jakarta is initiated by Government of Indonesia through the support of WHO Strategic Partnership for Health Security of the SPP.

At the national level, WHO as a sole custodian of the IHR, supports countries to meet IHR (2005) capacity, collaborating the development of a framework with specified mechanism, such as clear structure of command and mutual capability, access to specialized human and operational resources to execute future health response, and the ability to visualize and share validated surveillance data in real-time.

In Indonesia, the civil-military collaboration in humanitarian disasters could be seen in villabes (Babinsa) and military health post. Additional to being deployed for response, Indonesian military (TNI) also supports detection and prevention, explained Mayor General Dr dr Terawan Agus Putranto Sp R (K), the chief of organizing committee and Director of Army Presidential Hospital Gatot Subroto.

Recently, in September 2017, Indonesia conducted a full-scale exercise for pandemic management, using the whole-society approach. The World Health Organization also supported the military to develop a Standard Operating Procedure for the army's field hospital to be able to support the response for diseases outbreak and other public health emergencies.

Supporting the current meeting, the WHO facilitated a Discussion-Based Exercise between public health and military health services as well as with other key relevant stakeholders. The overall purpose of the exercise is to improve the understanding and identify areas for collaboration between the public health sector and the military health services to jointly prepare for and respond to public health emergencies. Countries and partners collaborate to enable an effective whole of government integration and system wide approach of all facilities (including clinical, veterinary, plants, and environmental), as proposed under the One Health concept.

The shared commitment fostered by this meeting will synergize public health and military health services to ensure national stakeholders can effectively manage public health risks and events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern in accordance with the IHR 2005. The commitment is expressed through Jakarta Call for Actions on

Strengthening Collaboration between Civilian and Military Health Services, which contributes to global health security and acceleration of IHR implementation.

Combined with the result of the country's Joint External Evaluation - a component of the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework - the result of the meeting would enrich the references for developing the country's National Action Plan for Health Security, and the Global Health Security, facilitated by WHO leadership.

#### Speakers on the Press Briefing

Dr. Elizabeth Jane Soepardi, MPH, Dsc  
Director, Surveillance and Health Quarantine, Ministry of Health

Mayor General TNI Dr. Ben Jura Rimba, MARS (Surgeon General)  
Chief of Surgen, Head of Armed Forces Health Service, Indonesian Armed Forces

Mayor General TNI Dr.dr.Terawan Agus Putranto, Sp.Rad (K)  
Chief, Gatot Subroto Armed Forces Hospital

Brigadier General TNI Dr Alexander K Ginting, Sp.P, FAACP  
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