

[Print this Page](#)[Close Window](#)**Poultry farming must be re-examined: WHO - Summary**

Posted on : 2007-08-23 | Author : DPA

News Category : Health

Geneva - The nature of poultry farming needed to be re-examined the head of the World Health Organization, WHO, said Thursday. WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan said more and more diseases were emerging at the historically unprecedented rate of one per year, and more and more were spread from animals.

Dr Chan, who spoke at the launch of the World Health Report 2007 in Geneva, said scientific advances were the reason in identifying disease to an extent, but changes in farming methods gave cause for concern.

"The intensity of poultry farming is such that we really need to look at how the human animal interface is managed. It should not come as a surprise that we are seeing more and more disease outbreaks coming from the animal sector."

The majority of the 40 new pathogens identified since 1967 could be sourced to animals in this way including the deadly H5N1 strain of avian flu linked to farmed poultry and wild birds.

Dr Chan believed the world could mitigate the effects of a pandemic outbreak from avian flu. There have been 195 deaths from avian flu since 2003, the largest number in Indonesia, according to WHO statistics, but fears of a pandemic outbreak continue.

Dr Chan said compared to previous pandemics, nature had been generous in giving the world more time.

"Two years ago, 50 countries had pandemic preparedness plans. Now of the 193 members of WHO, the majority have plans," she said.

The WHO report, entitled A Safer Future, said avian flu numbered among the new diseases that also included HIV, Ebola haemorrhagic fever, Marburg fever and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, SARS.

Centuries-old threats such as pandemic influenza, malaria and tuberculosis continued to pose a danger.

Dr Chan said today's increasingly interconnected and globalized world meant disease could cross borders rapidly and spread. Airlines carried more than 2 billion passengers a year and globalized marketing and distribution all facilitated the spread of disease which could destabilize economies.

Only a global response could overcome today's challenges to world health security, she added.

Print this Page

Close Window

Print Source :

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/97274.html>

© 2007 earthtimes.org. All Rights Reserved.

This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.