

About APEC EINet



FLASH! VIRTUAL PREPAREDNESS SYMPOSIUM

APEC/EINET will host a virtual preparedness summit in fall of 2006 using access grid technologies. The symposium will share best practices from the Asia Pacific region and lessons learned in pandemic preparedness.

APEC EINet's role in the APEC Community

APEC Emerging Infections Network (EINet), founded in 1996, is an APEC-approved project based at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, USA. APEC EINet is dedicated to providing timely information via the Internet on issues of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases to promote better collaboration and communication between policy makers, health officials and commerce officials throughout the Pacific Rim.

APEC EINet's specific aims are to provide:

- The latest news, updates, journal articles, and notifications for emerging infections affecting the APEC member economies through the EINet News Briefs, our electronic biweekly newsletter (with past newsletters archived), as suggested in the Leaders' Statement on Health Security, October 2003.
- A means of increasing collaboration between academicians, policy makers and commercial interests concerned with emerging infections in APEC member economies. EINet's controlled-access email list is intended to foster online international discussions and information-sharing.
- News and updates of collaborative efforts and significant meetings among member economies, especially in the field of bio-preparedness. Examples include the 2002 Network of Networks meeting and the more recent video conferences utilizing Access Grid Node technology.
- Online learning tools, such as free online distance-learning courses —“Emerging Infections of International Public Health Importance”.
- Access to online medical and public health library search tutorials and tools, including topical emerging infectious diseases in the Asia Pacific.
- Quick access to individual APEC member economies, the APEC Secretariat, the APEC ISTWG, and other relevant links.
- Access to publications and presentations by the EINet faculty at the University of Washington.

The threat of emerging infections in the APEC community

Both the pace and geographic range of emerging and re-emerging infections are increasing in the Pacific Rim. Prime examples of such infections include Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Dengue, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Cholera, HIV and enterotoxigenic E Coli. Emerging infections include diseases that are new (e.g. SARS, HIV/AIDS), diseases that are old but re-emerging as health threats (e.g. Tuberculosis), and diseases that are changing their resistance to treatment (e.g. Malaria). They are important to our APEC community because:

- They cause preventable illness and death
- They drain our economies through the direct costs of treatment and hospitalization
- They generate indirect costs from time lost from work and reduced purchasing power
- They lead to unfounded trade sanctions that hinder economic activity

APEC EINet: Preparedness and our destination

APEC EINet applies advanced networking communications technologies to facilitate communication and partnering among leading research universities, governments, and other advanced networking entities within APEC economies. By facilitating cooperation among public health sectors of the member economies, and integrating existing systems of computing and communication into this collaboration, the entire Asia Pacific region can reduce the biological and economic threat posed by emerging infections. APEC EINet strives to:

- Improve public health emergency preparedness in APEC member economies.
- Reduce economic risk in these economies through enhanced collaboration across sectors in preparing for epidemic disease.
- Use advanced high-quality network technologies and applications for secure communication, collaboration and visualization.
- Continue to provide timely, reliable, and accurate disease alerts and updated distance learning materials as core activities of APEC EINet.
- Strengthen working relationships among sectors within and across economies .

