



**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, AND THE WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION (WHO)**



Tests on Kampot Province woman confirmed to be positive for avian influenza

05 February 2005

Phnom Penh – The Ministry of Health of Cambodia has confirmed that a 25-year-old woman from Kampot Province who died of respiratory illness in Viet Nam on 30 January 2005 was infected with avian influenza. This is the first human case of avian influenza in Cambodia.

The woman's 14-year-old brother also experienced respiratory symptoms and is suspected to have been infected with avian influenza. However, no diagnostic samples were collected before his death on 24 January 2005.

Tests on samples from the woman were undertaken at the Pasteur Institute, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on 1 February 2005. They were positive for influenza A/H5, providing clear evidence that she had been infected with an influenza strain of avian origin. If successful, further laboratory tests might provide useful information on the relationship between the avian influenza strain present in Cambodia and strains circulating in Viet Nam and Thailand.

In order to clarify how the woman became infected, additional laboratory and epidemiological investigations are ongoing in collaboration with the Pasteur Institute, Phnom Penh, the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). At this stage, there is no evidence of human-to-human transmission. Household members of the confirmed and suspected case have been tested for avian influenza and preliminary results are all negative.

Epidemiological surveillance for influenza-like illnesses has been reinforced in Kampot province and health care workers are being trained in the management of suspected avian influenza cases.

For further information, please contact:

Ministry of Health:

Dr Sok Touch tel +855 (0)12 856 848 or Dr Ly Sovann tel +855 (0)12 825 424

WHO:

Dr Jim Tulloch tel +855 (0)12 976 976 or Dr Megge Miller +855 (0)12 443 877