ICAO CAPSCA

H7N9 Preparedness

Hong Kong International Airport

Experience Sharing

Manila, Philippines

22-25 April 2013
H7N9 preparedness

Lessons Learned from:
- SARS of 2003
- Human Swine Influenza (HSI) of 2009

Definite need for public health BCPs
Importance for communication & coordination
Engaging appropriate stakeholders
Present & future challenges
Need for pandemic BCP

- Lessons from SARS & HSI:
  - Pandemics have global impacts
  - No place is totally isolated and immune
- HKG government & people expect continued airport operation if at all possible
BCP’s

- Lessons from SARS & HSI:
  - Impacts on all fabrics of society
  - BCPs need to address public health as well economical and other societal issues

- Public health sector:
  - Understood will be restrictions & constraints to daily life from health protection measures

- Economics sector:
  - Daily lives, needless to say, must go on as aviation & tourism account for 7% of HKG GDP & 8% of its employment
HKIA preparedness

Ensure plans are in compliance to:

- ICAO Annex 9 (amendment 22)
- Latest WHO directives
- Latest HKG Department of Health/Port Health directives
- Existing HKIA corporate business continuity management system
Preparedness: coordination & communication

- Critical lessons learned from SARS & HSI
- Need for quick identification of key stakeholders
  - Constraint is high staff turnover rate
    - From staff redeployment, promotion, rotation, attrition, retirement, etc.
- Need for prompt coordination kick-off meetings
Preparedness : fast responses

Lessons learned indicate need for fast & efficient response to emerging epidemiological “threats”

Need for:
- Multiple scenario planning e.g.
  - Best case
  - Worst case
  - Most probable case

Stockpiling of:
- Port Health information leaflets, health declaration forms, etc.
- Equipment (storage rooms for 100k’s of leaflets & forms, writing tables, pens, tensor barriers, etc.)
Fast responses: need

- Facilities redeployment to enable:
  - Distribution of health declaration forms, if & when required
  - Pens & writing surfaces for form completion
  - Form collection & inspection
  - Storage areas for completed forms
  - Medical examination areas for suspected cases

- Training for all involved staff
Other challenges: different priorities

- Many are similar challenges from SARS, HSI, etc.
- Integrating different organizations’ priorities & needs e.g.
  - Inflight announcements
    - When to broadcast
    - What languages to use
    - Recorded versus live PA from crew
    - Public health messages versus airline’s operational & commercial PA requirements
Other challenges: logistics

- Information leaflets & health declaration forms (if & when required)
  - Delivery to Airside
  - Stockpiling
  - Distribution to passengers
  - To airlines for forwarding to their outstations
- Averaged 150,000 forms/day with HSI (now > 250k/day?)
- Logistical problems seem never ending
Future Challenges

➔ Public health & business continuity planning needs to be maintained
➔ Also need to be proactive to new & emerging health threats
➔ Most importantly, need to have the greatest communication, coordination & cooperation at all levels; commercial, operational, communal, national & global
Thank-you.