



International Federation of  
Biosafety Associations

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## ASEAN Women's Network for Biosafety and Biosecurity

17<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Biosafety Association Conference  
Pre-conference Workshop, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Manila, Philippines

At its 37<sup>th</sup> Summit in November 2020, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States, recognising the indispensable role women played in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, reaffirmed their strong commitment to mainstreaming gender equality. Developed collaboratively by the ASEAN Secretariat and UN Women, the [“Policy Brief: Enhancing Gender-Responsive Approaches in the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework”](#) advocates for a more inclusive, empowering and sustainable approach for women's meaningful participation and leadership in health security.

To address this need, and in partnership with Global Affairs Canada, the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA) is facilitating the establishment of an **ASEAN Women's Network for Biosafety and Biosecurity** to promote gender equity in the region by engaging local women champions as critical contributors to sustainable health security. Development of the Network will draw on lessons learned from the Global Partnership's recently launched [Women's Network to Mitigate Biological Threats in Africa](#).

Hosted during the upcoming [17<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Biosafety Association \(A-PBA\) Conference](#) to be held in Manila, Philippines, this half-day workshop will define the Network's governance structure, operational framework and priority activities. Recognizing that engagement of both men and women is important for the Network's success, local women and men biosafety & biosecurity champions from the ASEAN region will be invited by the IFBA to participate. Following the workshop, Network members are expected to lead implementation of identified priority action items and carry out the network's objectives over the long term through the establishment of self-sustaining working groups.

Collaboration with similar networks in the African, Latin America & Caribbean regions, will be facilitated by the IFBA including participation at the IFBA's international conference *“Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Global Biosafety”* to be held in January 2025 under Canada's Presidency of the G7 Global Partnership.

For more information on the ASEAN Women's Network for Biosafety and Biosecurity and related events and initiatives, please contact Stephanie Norlock, IFBA Senior Program Officer, directly at [s.norlock@internationalbiosafety.org](mailto:s.norlock@internationalbiosafety.org)

