

ASEAN shares experience in avian influenza combat

HÀ NỘI— ASEAN Regional Forum members shared their experience in mobilising military forces and civil institutions to combat infectious diseases like SARS and avian influenza.

Officials from 26 countries of the forum discussed regional, and then world-wide, bird flu issues at the two-day seminar titled The Role of Military and Civil Co-operation in Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Such as SARS and Avian Influenza, which began yesterday.

The participants — mostly military, foreign affairs and health care officials and scientists — also learned about varying prevention mechanisms and training activities to help stifle the epidemic.

They also shared rapid response models and warning systems in case of outbreaks.

Việt Nam is presenting its experience in co-ordination, planning and training military forces and civil organisations to counteract widespread infection. The country successfully extinguished several previous outbreaks including

the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak in 2003 and bird flu in 2004 and 2005.

The ultimate goal of the seminar, chaired by assistant foreign minister Nguyễn Trung Thành and Commander Robyn Walker of the Australian Defense Force, is enhancing co-operation between ARF members to combat non-traditional security challenges. The seminar was approved by ARF's foreign ministers in July. ARF is a forum comprising 10 ASEAN members and 16 other countries in the region including Australia. — VNS

Talktime

Disabled children with

