

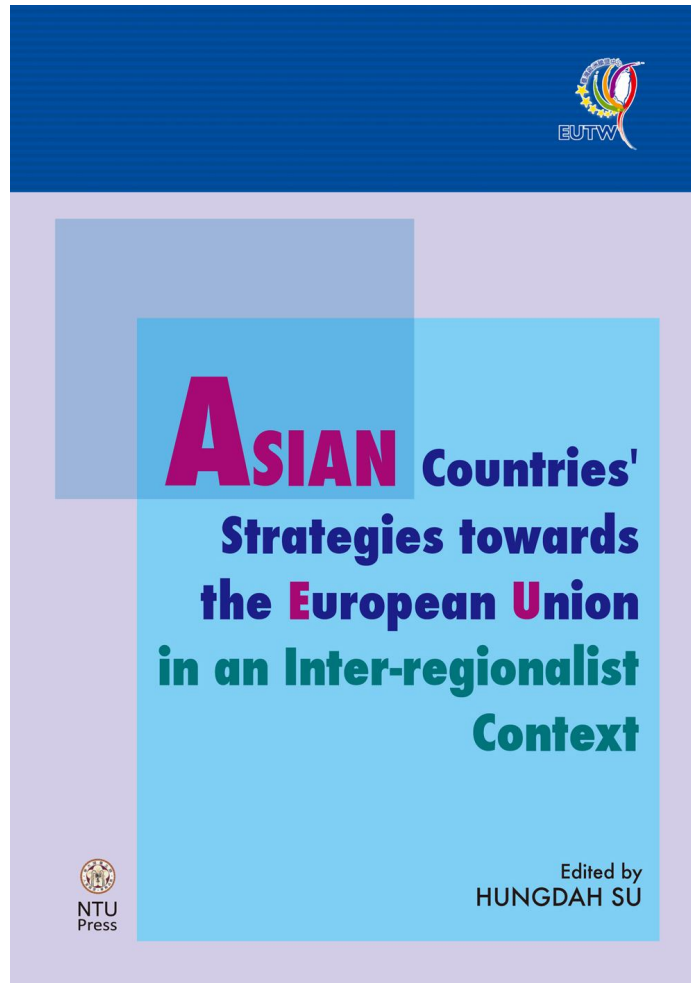
11. The EU as a Health Actor in Asia: EU-Asian Interregional Response to Highly Pathogenic and (Re)emerging Diseases¹

VINCENT ROLLET

Highly pathogenic and (re)emerging diseases (HPEDs)² cause serious crises, affect livelihoods and could potentially undermine economy as well as societal stability. In the last three decades, over 30 new pathogens have been detected, 75% of which have originated from animals. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or pandemic influenza (H5N1) has been the most significant of these during the last five years. These new pathogens – or zoonosis – remain unpredictable and continue to emerge and spread across countries, and many of them have deeply affected countries in Asia. In that region and in Europe, governments as well as regional organizations, such as the European Union (EU), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) have made significant efforts to provide a response to these challenges of global health with mixed results. Since 2006, Asia and Europe have been involved in several Asia-Europe interregional initiatives aiming to respond notably to the pandemic influenza threat.

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² HPEDs include highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) caused by the influenza virus A, subtype H5N1, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), hanta virus, the highly pathogenic nipah virus, rabies and leptospirosis.



ASIAN Countries' Strategies towards the European Union in an Inter-regionalist Context

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