Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale

World Organisation for Animal Health

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Shanghai, P.R. China, 16 - 20 November 2009

FINAL REPORT

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List of Abbreviations

AAHSC:	Aquatic Animal Health Standard Commission
AIV:	Avian Influenza Virus
AQSIQ:	General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection & Quarantine
ASEAN:	Association of South-East Asian Nations
ASF:	African Swine Fever
AusAID:	Australian Agency for International Development
BSE:	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
BTSF:	Better Training for Safer Food
CSF:	Classical Swine Fever
CVO:	Chief Veterinary Officer
DG:	Director General
DGs:	General Directorates
EC:	European Commission
ECTAD:	Emerging Centre for Transboundary Diseases
EDFZ:	Equine Disease Free Zones
EIA:	Equine Infectious Anemia
EID:	Emerging Infectious Diseases
EIF:	Enhanced Integrated Framework
EP:	Equine Piroplasmosis
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMD:	Foot and Mouth Disease
GF-TADs:	Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal
GRAI:	Global Response to Avian Influenza
GREP:	Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme
HPAI:	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
HPAIV:	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus
HPED:	Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases
HQs:	Headquarters
IPR:	Independent Project Review
JE:	Japanese Encephalitis
LPAI:	Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza
LPNAI:	Low Pathogenic Notifiable Avian Influenza
MAFF:	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MOA:	Ministry of Agriculture
NACA:	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
NV:	Nipah Virus Disease

OFFLU:	Joint OIE-FAO Network of Expertise on Influenza
AAC:	Aquatic Animal Commission
OWOH:	One World – One Health
PCR:	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PPR:	Peste des Petits Ruminants
PPRV:	Peste des Petits Ruminants Virus
PRC:	People's Republic of China
PRRS:	Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome
PSVS:	OIE/AusAID Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services
PVS:	OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services
QAP:	Quality Assurance Plan
RAP:	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
RAWCG:	Regional Animal Welfare Coordination Group
RAWS:	Regional Animal Welfare Strategy
RAWSIP:	RAWS Implementation Plan
RT-PCR:	Reverse Transcription -Polymerase Chain Reaction
SAARC:	South Asian Association for Regional Co-Operation
SCAD:	Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
SE:	South East
SEAFDEC:	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SEAFMD:	South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease
SEDEP:	Sri Lanka Exotic Disease Emergency Plan
SPC:	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPF:	Specific Pathogen Free
SPR:	Specific Pathogen Resistant
SPS:	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
TAHSC:	Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
US CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
USDA:	United States Department of Agriculture
VS:	Veterinary Services
WAHID:	World Animal Health Information Database
WAHIS:	World Animal Health Information System of the OIE
WHO:	World Health Organization
WSD	White Spot Disease
WSPA:	World Society for the Protection of Animals
WSSV:	White Spot Syndrome Virus
WTD:	White Tail Disease

Introduction

1. Following the invitation of the Government of P. R. China, the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania was held in Shanghai from 16 to 20 November 2009.

2. A total of 112 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 27 Members and senior officers from 9 regional and international organisations attended the conference as well as 6 observers. In addition, representatives of the private sector were present. Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, Dr Carlos Correa, President of the OIE, Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, OIE Delegate of the host country, Professor Toshiro Kawashima, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, Dr Gastón Funes, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, Dr Mara Gonzalez, Deputy Head OIE Regional Activities Department, Dr Alain Dehove, Coordinator of the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub Regional Representative for South East Asia and Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department also participated in the Conference. The speakers of Technical Items I and II, namely Professor Hiroshi Kida and Dr Gardner Murray honoured the Conference by their presence.

Tuesday 17 November 2009

Opening Ceremony

3. Her Excellency Ms Uyunqimg, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress addressed the audience expressing her happiness for being present in such an important event as the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

4. She commented on how significant this Conference is in the promotion of agriculture to fight against poverty and to ensure food safety and public health.

5. Ms Uyunqimg remarked the importance of the region as a key part on the global role on animal health.

6. She mentioned that more attention should be paid to the improvement of the animal health situation.

7. Ms Uyunqimg emphasized how much this conference would develop the collaboration among OIE Members on the strengthening of their ability to achieve their challenges on animal diseases control and food safety. P. R China gave great importance on the development of veterinary services and since in recent years it has adopted major commitments including legislation and technical revisions to improve its veterinary working system and the veterinary legislation, to increase the investment in veterinary infrastructure, to enhance veterinary scientific research, to promote the improvement of animal husbandry in order to increase the animal disease control and safety of animal products.

8. To conclude Her Excellency, Ms Uyunqimg underlined the fact that China pays especial attention to the international cooperation. This Conference is an example of it and it would promote the increase of the collaboration between China and the OIE Members to work together in pushing forward the development of Veterinary Public Health in the World.

9. His Excellency, Mr Gao Hongbin, Vice Minister of Agriculture of Peoples' Republic of China stated that this conference is a big event in the region and even to the world in the field of animal health. It is also a signal that China is promoting the strengthening of the collaboration between OIE Members.

10. He commented that in recent years the emerging and re-emerging animal diseases have been seriously affecting animal production and public health in terms of control of animal diseases and the assurance of animal products safety and public health.

11. The Vice Minister underlined that the OIE has been engaged in promoting the collaboration of OIE Members to strengthen animal disease control and to promote the safe trade of animal products. He said that its excellent work makes a great contribution to improvement of global animal health.

12. He explained that in this conference, discussions would focus on the study of the major animal health problems in the region and the exchange of experiences on animal diseases control and animal products safety management. It would promote animal heath in the region and in the world.

13. He also mentioned that since 2004 China has experienced some outbreaks of HPAI, FMD and PRRS and on that sense Chinese government stipulates the control principally with the compromise of adopting vaccination. Progressive results have been achieved on this regard.

14. The Vice Minister also referred to the great work of the Veterinary Services, which play a key role in the development of agriculture making a huge contribution to the development of animal production in related industry and also in promoting the increase of the income of farmers.

15. He pointed out that nowadays, all Members are facing challenges on major animal diseases and food safety, therefore this Conference would enhance the cooperation and adjust the challenges in the common interest of the Members of the region.

16. To conclude, the Vice minister pointed out that the Chinese government would continue to assume its responsibility to closely collaborate with OIE and OIE Members to contribute to the development of animal health and veterinary public health.

17. He expressed his best wishes to all participants and great success for the conference.

18. Dr Toshiro Kawashima expressed his honour of being in such a very important event as the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which is held every two years and in which OIE delegates discuss various issues and challenges surrounding animal health to address future activities.

19. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government of People's Republic of China for hosting the Conference and welcomed the recent China's active participation to the OIE Activities after China became a full member of OIE in 2007.

20. He commented on the importance of the Region in terms of both livestock production and animal health.

21. He also remarked that the region has been continuously facing serious threats caused by various emerging and re-emerging diseases. HPAI with sub-type H5N1 is still posing risks to both humans and poultry in the region and also the epidemic of Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2009 in humans is now present.

22. With globalization of the movement of humans, animals and commodities, highly contagious and highly pathogenic animal infectious diseases such as foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever and rabies are also circulating and spreading in the region.

23. Dr Kawashima pointed out the new challenges around the Region as perception of international society and technology related to veterinary activities and information have evolved and developed, new issues such as animal welfare, food safety including antimicrobial resistance, aquatic animal diseases, wildlife diseases and communication have been arising as new challenges to be properly addressed. As OIE has already taken the initiative in these areas, he stressed that the region needs to be more actively involved in these fields than ever before.

24. He encouraged all participants to have candid discussions and exchange of views as there was a wide range of important agenda items including two Technical Items.

25. To conclude, Dr Kawashima reminded all participants that risks related animal and public health are increasing, in particular in the region, therefore it was expected to play a key role and fulfill its mission to further achieve food security, food safety and improve animal and public health. He wished strong and practical recommendations emerge from the Conference.

26. Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, expressed his appreciation to the Governments of China, as well as to the Municipality of Shanghai, for their generosity to host the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far-East and Oceania as well as the OIE Regional Seminar on Good Governance of Veterinary Services conducted the day before.

27. Dr. Fujita recalled that even in the Region of Asia, the Far East and Oceania, the livestock sector has been developed and is expected to be more expanded in future, based on the increasing demand by consumers on high quality of animal protein. There are still being, however, some constraints and problems against the livestock development, due to animal diseases, in particular Emerging and Transboundary Animal Diseases, including zoonoses.

28. Additionally Dr. Fujita emphasized the impact to animal health due to the increase of transportation of humans and animals and animal products as a result of globalization and due to other environmental changes such as climate change, causing Emerging and Transboundary animal diseases, among others.

29. The Regional Representative underlined the extremely importance of the Conference not only for the Region of Asia, the Far East and Oceania and but also for the whole world, because of major topics addressed closely related to agriculture/livestock development regionally and globally, including two Technical Items of (a) Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1 and (b) the Development of disease-free zones for equine disease, including the example of China, as well as other important topics comprising Animal Health Situation of the OIE Members of the Region; the 5th OIE Strategic Plan and the OIE Global Programme of Strengthening Veterinary Services.

30. Dr. Fujita evoked the importance of strengthening National Veterinary Services as a public good, to guarantee the effective and efficient management of animal health, as a crucial key factor, for the agricultural/livestock development and for reduction of human and animal health risks, food security, socio-economic stability and better human livelihoods.

31. Finally Dr. Fujita confirmed the commitment of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific to continue closely working for OIE Members in the Region and with relevant partners to meet the said requirements, through building capacity of National Veterinary Services.

32. Her Excellency, Ms Yang Dinghua Vice Director of Shanghai People's Congress, on behalf of Shanghai municipally government congratulated the opening ceremony of the conference and welcomed all the delegations.

33. She thanked OIE, MOA and the provinces for the support given to Shanghai in the field of animal health.

34. Ms Yang Dinghua expressed that Shanghai would do its best to warrantee the logistic of the Conference and in this regards has already organised the related services.

35. She manifested that with close collaboration between MOA, Shanghai, OIE, China and the different persons involved in the organisation of the Conference this event would be successful and fruitful for everybody.

36. To conclude Ms Yang Dinghua commented that the Conference gives a good opportunity to Shanghai and would help to further improve the control of animal diseases and the safety of animal products. She invited all participants to give suggestions on animal health related works in shanghai and wished a success to the Conference.

37. During his opening remarks, Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, thanked the government of the People's Republic of China for hosting this 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia the Far East and Oceania and acknowledged its importance for the Region.

38. Dr Correa Messuti suggested that the Conference should help to reach better understanding between OIE Members, addressing regional needs and interests as well as to learn from discussions and accurate opinions from participants facilitating interchange of experiences.

39. He reminded the relevance of Regional Commission conferences which facilitate the meeting of key policy and decision makers, to reach compromises for improving animal health and welfare among OIE Members worldwide. He stressed that the compromise of all OIE Members is essential for the success of the horizontal OIE work.

40. The OIE President noted that the Agenda of the Conference included several relevant issues among which were the two important technical items: “Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1” and “The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases”.

41. In this regard, Dr. Correa Messuti encouraged the adoption of Recommendations during the Conference which would enable implementation and follow up of relevant initiatives and activities within the Region.

42. He also underlined item IV of the Agenda: “Fifth OIE Strategic Plan and OIE Global Programme of Strengthening Veterinary Services (including PVS, Gap Analysis, legislation, communication and management support in the Region)”. This being a key year since the Fifth Strategic Plan 2011 - 2015 that would set out the guidelines of OIE work for the forthcoming years would need to be elaborated. Previous experiences evidence the importance of these Plans as a mean to consolidate the priorities and objectives of the Organisation. It was extremely important that Delegates, submitted their comments regarding priorities and work areas for the next years.

43. Dr Correa Messuti highlighted that national Veterinary Services were a key element for the OIE. As they are an International Public Good, it is necessary to consolidate policies to provide support to the good governance of the Veterinary Services in the world.

44. He also commented on the global and regular use of the PVS tool which he would promote during his term. He stated that it is essential to continue developing evaluation mechanisms of the Veterinary Services and to persist in the use of the next steps: the GAP analysis, follow up and veterinary legislation missions.

45. Dr Correa Messuti explained that the current time is characterized by changing and dynamic demands. He the therefore proposed to promote the concept of "One World, One Health" which is necessary to improve the mechanisms of good governance on health protection at a global, regional and national level as the only way to face this increasingly challenge.

46. He noted that the projected increasing world demand for animal proteins up to 50% by 2020, would require the veterinary profession to play a key role in supporting animal production and food processing.

47. Dr Correa Messuti concluded that the current actions of the OIE respond to these challenges. Besides the items already included in regular agendas, OIE tryes to be prepared to provide quick and effective answers to the specific issues that may come up; for instance, the role played by the OIE during the pandemic influenza H1N1 or in the Avian Influenza crisis.

48. Moreover, the OIE has decided to support Members in order to improve the basic pillars that comprehensively support the effective systems of veterinary control. Among them, veterinary education and legislation are of great importance. The OIE has planned concrete actions to contribute to their strengthening at a global level.

49. He made reference to the World Conference “Evolving Veterinary Education for a Safer World” which was held in Paris in October 2009. This was done to improve veterinary education. The results were successful, among the adopted resolutions, the following stand out: agree on a minimum curriculum for all veterinarians and design and recommend mechanisms to help improve the content and quality of training.

50. Dr Correa Messuti briefly reviewed the guidelines developed by the OIE on the essential elements to be covered by veterinary legislation which provide the basis for conducting veterinary legislation mission in interested OIE Memebers.. The First Conference on Veterinary Legislation is to be held in Tunisia in December 2010. This Conference aims basically at assisting developing countries to modernize and update their legislation so as to be well prepared to comply with the OIE rules and face the zoosanitary challenges of the future.

51. He made special remarks on the expansion of the OIE recognition of free regions for other diseases apart from the ones that are currently declared and the impact of the Private Standards on animals and animal products trade.

52. Dr Correa Messuti commented on the worldwide leadership that the OIE has gained working in animal welfare standards within different production systems, starting with meat livestock and broilers.

53. He also informed on the task of setting international standards regarding animal production food safety, in coordination with FAO, WHO and its subsidiary organism: The Codex Alimentarius Commission.

54. Finally Dr Correa Messuti mentioned that with its current 175 Members, the value of the OIE lies in the fact it is an organisation with a varied membership, with strong commitment to work together,. He pointed out that the high level of expertise that supports the work of the specialists and experts is not only a pride but also a security for the international community.

55. To conclude Dr Correa Messuti recognized the actions of de Director General Dr. Bernard Vallat whose strong leadership has given a great opportunity to reach the goals of the OIE and who contributed with his team to achieve the successful organization of this Conference. He also recognized the past President Dr Barry O'Neil for his outstanding work done during the last three years of his presidency. He also mentionned the good job done by the OIE Regional Representative, Dr Teruhide Fujita, as well as the OIE Delegate from the People's Republic of China Dr Zhang Zhongqiu.

56. He wished a successful and enriching work and stay in P.R. China.

57. Dr Vallat, Director General of the OIE, started by thanking the Government of Peoples' Republic of China and local authorities from Shanghai for accepting to host the Regional Conference. He welcomed all participants on the occasion of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and manifested his gratefulness and honour of being in the wonderful city of Shanghai meeting all participants to discuss one more time all relevant animal health matters of the region.

58. He underlined his gratitude for the friendly welcome extended to all participants since their arrival to this great country.

59. He remarked the deep involvement and commitment from PR China with OIE activities, which since 2007 has been actively participating in OIE work, including the organisation of a National Seminar held in Beijing in February 2008, with the participation of more than 150 people both from the Federal or Provincial levels, including national high level Authorities participation.

60. Dr Vallat emphasised how much the OIE pays great importance to Good Governance of Veterinary Services, being convinced of the benefits that their actions bring for the whole society. He mentioned the Regional Seminar on Good Governance of Animal Health Systems held the day before where fruitful discussions took place and will surely serve as inputs for the Regional Conference.

61. He pointed out that the OIE Global Programme for strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the OIE-PVS Tool for the evaluation of performance of Veterinary Services, has significantly advanced, having reached the symbolic number of 100 OIE Members engaged within the process. He recalled that there are still 75 Members that are also welcome to enter in the Programme before its end.

62. He informed participants that in the Region there are 16 Members that have already carried out or requested the first PVS Evaluation, and 6 that have already requested the PVS-Gap Analysis process, aimed to identify and to make effective national priority investments supporting Veterinary Services to comply with OIE Global Standards on Quality of Veterinary Services.

63. He also commented that the OIE is currently supporting three Members of the Region as a pilot programme to update their Veterinary Legislation, as the basis for Good Governance of Veterinary Services.

64. He commented on the last meeting of the GF TADs Regional Steering Committee, held in Tokyo in July 2009 where important definitions and future actions were discussed. Sub-regional coordination and strategies for tackling trans-boundary diseases in SAARC, SPC and ASEAN were envisaged. The Regional GF-TADs Steering Committee will also serve as coordinating mechanism to follow up the implementation of a new programme for the region aiming to control Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases (HPED), which would be fully active very soon thanks to the strong support and financing from the European Commission. This programme includes also three components related to OIE, FAO and WHO respectively. He thanked the EC and other key donors such as Japan and Australia for its permanent support to OIE objectives.

65. He underlined that among the sensitive matters to be discussed during this important Conference, one of the Technical Items is related both to animal and public health, namely "Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1". This falls within the new concept "One World, One Health", that highlights the link between animal diseases and public health and environment. This important matter is one of the new elements of the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan, especially within the inter-agency cooperative Framework for Reducing Risks of Infectious Diseases at the Animal-Human-Ecosystem Interface.

66. He remarked that the OIE strongly recommends better cooperation between Veterinary Services and public health services in certain fields, but is opposed to any radical institutional reorganisation that would result in Veterinary Services losing their scientific and operational independence, taking into account that it has been clearly demonstrated that the most effective strategy to control zoonoses is to tackle diseases at their source at the animal population, using veterinary skills.

67. He observed that among the different transboundary diseases, foot and mouth disease (FMD) continues causing serious problems in animal production and food security within the region. A suitable Regional or Sub-Regional Strategies should be further developed and implemented, following the recommendations from the FMD Global Conference held last June in Paraguay.

68. He highlighted the successful story of the SEAFMD Programme in ASEAN countries, stressing the importance of the incorporation of China to such a Programme, which would bring important benefits to its objectives. He made reference on the discussions between OIE and FAO regarding the coordination for the Global FMD Control strategy and the common approach to organise an FMD Global pledging conference in the Region in the next year or early 2011.

69. He also commented on the OIE 5th Strategic Plan (2011-2015) and informed that discussions and preparation are well advanced. The Fifth Strategic Plan may be mainly considered as a consolidation of the achievements of the Fourth Strategic Plan. However, there are important new elements in the Fifth Plan that will be incorporated into its overall structure, such as more contribution of animal health policies to food security. Animal disease impact reduces animal production worldwide by 20%. Therefore, fighting against animal diseases would help to feed the population of the planet and would contribute to the alleviation of poverty.

70. He also mentioned that another major consideration for the planning period will be the contribution of climate and environmental changes to the occurrence and geographical spread of diseases and disease vectors and to animal production. Dr Vallat informed that an Ad Hoc Group on this topic will be convened next year with the objective of providing sound science-based elements that will guide the OIE work and approach.

71. Other new item regarding the new Plan and which is relevant for the region refers to the OIE official recognition of relevant equine diseases. The OIE will start working for two equine diseases, namely African horse sickness and glanders. He remarked that specific discussions on this issue will take place in the Conference and also on the technical approach for Members to make self-declaration for the establishment of Equine Disease Free Zones, for relevant specific events, such as Equestrian Olympic Games, or other similar event (Asian games).

72. He emphasized how much the delivery of the Fifth Strategic Plan and achievement of its objectives will depend on the commitment of the OIE Members in providing an adequate budget to respond to the annual work programmes developed under the plan, and voluntary contributions, including those through the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund. Almost equally important will be the support provided by governments and donors through joint programmes and projects to support national Veterinary Services.

73. He underlined the fact that the ambitious objectives of the Fifth Strategic Plan will oblige the OIE to increase its activities and budget.

74. He thanked all donors which contribute to the OIE work within the region, mainly through the OIE World Fund, including those supporting activities related to Global Programmes such, among others, World Bank Canada Japan, France and United Kingdom as well as those funding specific projects for the region or sub-regions such Australia, EC, Japan and New Zealand.

75. Dr Vallat also underlined the work the OIE is doing in relation to the Veterinary Education, which is also considered by the OIE as a global public good, eligible for public and private funding everywhere in the world. This was demonstrated through the successful outcomes of the recent OIE Global Conference for Deans of Veterinary Schools, held in Paris two weeks ago.

76. He mentioned that the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in Tokyo and Bangkok intend to focus on several issues for the next years. In order to help OIE Delegates on their work and responsibilities to the OIE, the OIE has currently established National Focal Points for six specific issues: Animal Disease Notification (WAHIS); Aquatic Animals; Wildlife; Animal Welfare; Animal Production Food Safety; and Veterinary Medicinal Products.

77. He informed the OIE has established a permanent training programme for OIE new Delegates and National Focal Points. This programme is under implementation in all regions with all OIE Regional and Sub Regional Representations, under the technical coordination of the OIE Headquarters, during the next two years, and is covering all Focal Points mentioned. This programme is one of the important activities of the regional and Sub regional Representations.

78. He concluded by stressing the importance of sound governance of Veterinary Services, which will always be in the frontline to combat animal diseases including those transmissible to man. The collaboration between the OIE and all Members, as well as with other relevant international organisations (such as FAO) and donors is a key factor to succeed.

79. Finally he wished all participants a successful conference and that fruitful outcomes come at the end of the week.

Election of the Conference Committee

80. Participants elected the following Conference Committee:

Chairperson:	Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (P. R China)
Vice-Chairperson:	Dr Herath Mudiyanselage Swarnalatha (Sri Lanka)
Rapporteur General:	Dr Andy Carrol (Australia)

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

81. The Provisional Agenda and Timetable were adopted.

Election of Session Chairpersons and Rapporteurs for Technical Items and Animal Health Situation

82. The Conference Committee was elected as follows:

Item I: Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan), Chairperson
Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia), Rapporteur

Item II: Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand), Chairperson
Dr Davino Catbagan (Philippines), Rapporteur

Animal health situation:
Dr Tenzin Dhendup (Bhutan), Chairperson
Dr Aung Gyi (Myanmar), Rapporteur

Animal health situation in Asia, the Far East and Oceania in 2008 and the first half of 2009

83. The Session Chairman, Dr Tenzin Dhendup, Delegate of Bhutan, invited Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, to present the animal health situation of Members in the region in 2008 and the first half of 2009.

84. This report is based on information extracted from national reports provided by OIE Members in the region for the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania. Where necessary, this has been supplemented by relevant information extracted from immediate notifications and follow-up reports submitted by Members and other official data gathered as part of the OIE's World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).

85. In preparation for the 26th Conference, the OIE requested each of the Members concerned to submit a Report on the Animal Health Situation for the first half of 2009. The following 22 Members provided a report: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu and Vietnam. These Members represent 63% of the 35 Members in the region. This compares favourably with the 46% of Members that provided a report for the regional conference held in New Zealand in 2007.

86. After a summary of the livestock population in the region and a review of the immediate notifications received in 2009, the animal health situation in 2008 and the first half of 2009 will be presented for the following eight important diseases in the region: foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, peste des petits ruminants, sheep pox and goat pox, highly pathogenic avian influenza, the 2009 pandemic strain of influenza H1N1, white spot disease and white tail disease. The report concludes with a summary of existing contingency plans and simulation exercises carried out in the region as well as the situation regarding six-monthly reporting in WAHIS by Members of the region for 2009.

Livestock population in Asia, the Far East and Oceania in 2009

Table 1. Livestock population in the region in 2009
(where necessary, figures for previous years indicated in WAHID have been used)

MEMBER	CATTLE	SHEEP & GOATS	SWINE	EQUIDAE	POULTRY
AFGHANISTAN	3 700 000*	16 100 000*	…	1 740 000*	21 720 000*
AUSTRALIA	28 000 000	79 000 000	2 200 000	…	84 000 000
BANGLADESH	22 870 000	23 420 000	…	…	245 970 000
BHUTAN	371 403*	40 715*	26 966*	26 306*	200 629*
BRUNEI	962*	3 653*	…	303*	27 199 302*
CAMBODIA	3 325 810	…	2 215 641*	…	14 880 547
CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF ~)	150 221 000*	508 523 000*	1 073 079 000*	4 252 700**	15 503 531 000*
CHINESE TAIPEI	137 795*	235 062*	6 443 311*	1 166*	111 730 510*
FIJI	…	…	…	…	…
INDIA	185 180 000	185 830 000	13 519 000*	1 577 000*	489 010 000
INDONESIA	12 276 926*	16 119 354*	7 568 538*	411 464*	1 526 818 569*
IRAN	8 000 000	77 000 000	…	1 480 150	960 000 000*
IRAQ	1 450 842	19 519 113	…	15 234*	21 158 611*
JAPAN	4 423 290*	24 436*	9 744 890*	21 923*	181 628 000*
KOREA (DEM. PEOPLE'S REP. OF ~)	576 000**	2 940 000**	3 251 000**	…	26 162 000**
KOREA (REP. OF ~)	3 038 000	374 247*	9 044 000	24 951*	169 483 000
LAOS	…	…	…	…	…
MALAYSIA	772 323*	495 425*	1 441 036*	3 468*	324 250 362*
MALDIVES	…	497	…	…	35 250
MICRONESIA (FED. STATES OF ~)	…	…	…	…	…
MONGOLIA	2 503 400*	38 331 700*	…	2 186 900*	…
MYANMAR	12 900 000	3 100 000	7 600 000	…	135 540 000
NEPAL	7 090 000	8 940 000	1 010 000	…	25 180 000
NEW CALEDONIA	80 000*	10 300**	32 000*	8 500*	385 000*
NEW ZEALAND	10 255 928	39 235 571	369 197	104 933	23 752 317
PAKISTAN	31 800 000	83 800 000	…	6 370 000	
PAPUA NEW GUINEA (INDEPENDENT STATE OF~)	…	…	…	…	…
PHILIPPINES	2 505 116*	4 186 729*	13 596 399*	…	169 246 072*
RUSSIA	…	…	…	…	…
SINGAPORE	300	850	…	1 454	1 840 658
SRI LANKA	1 195 610	398 940	89 420	…	14 330 000
THAILAND	9 582 030*	417 757*	7 740 575*	3 779*	286 230 996*
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	94 491 000*	8 817 000*	65 110 000*	4 312 633*	1 816 742 016*
VANUATU	214 000**	21 000**	83 000**	…	420 000**
VIETNAM	6 337 700	483 500	26 701 600	121 100	247 320 000
TOTAL	**>603 299 435**	**>1 117 368 849**	**>1 250 865 573**	**>22 663 964**	**>22 428 764 839**

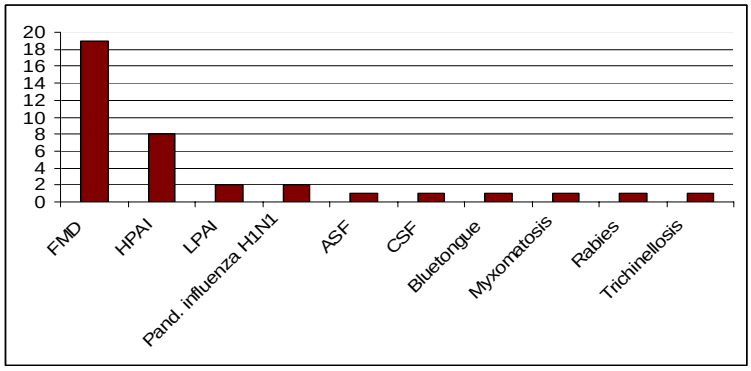
(*) Data completed with WAHID reports for 2008
(**) Data completed with WAHID reports for 2007
(…) No data available
> More than

87. Table 1 gives a quantitative overview of livestock populations in Asia, the Far East and Oceania. Compared to the figures presented at the OIE Regional Conference in 2007, the overall animal numbers in 2009 show a significant increase. More OIE Members provided data on their animal population.

Immediate notifications received in 2009

88. Figure 1 gives an overview of exceptional disease events notified by Members of the region between 1 January and 23 October 2009. Foot and mouth disease (FMD) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) were the most frequently notified diseases with a total of 27 immediate notifications. Pandemic H1N1 2009 and low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) were reported twice each while there was a single immediate notification for each of the following diseases: African swine fever (ASF), bluetongue, classical swine fever (CSF), myxomatosis, rabies and trichinellosis. Five immediate notifications pertaining to the continental part of the United States of America are not included in the figure.

Figure 1. Number of immediate notifications submitted to the OIE from Asia, the Far East and Oceania between 1 January and 23 October 2009, by disease



Foot and mouth disease

89. Of the seven FMD serotypes, three (A, O and Asia 1) have been reported in Asia, the Far East and Oceania in 2009. For 2008 alone, 1491 new FMD outbreaks were reported in the region. Serotype O continues to be widespread while serotype A is moving north-eastwards, affecting China. Asia 1 continues to be reported in central Asia. Figure 2 shows the distribution of FMD in the region in 2008 and 2009 and Figure 3 shows the vaccination coverage in the region for cattle, swine, sheep and goats.

Figure 2. Distribution of FMD in Asia, the Far East and Oceania in 2008 and 2009

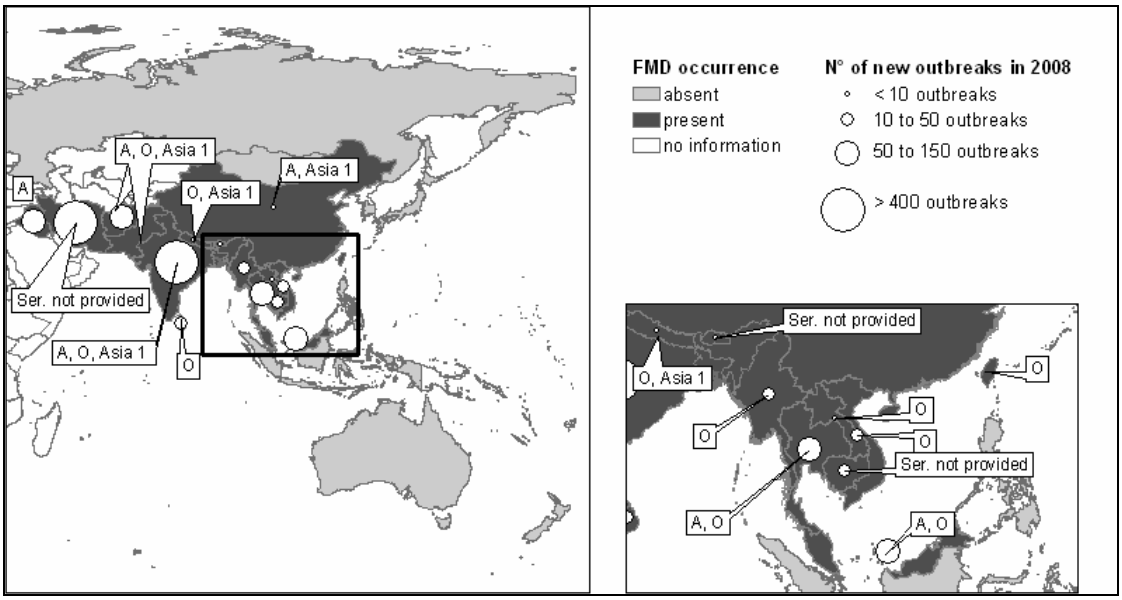
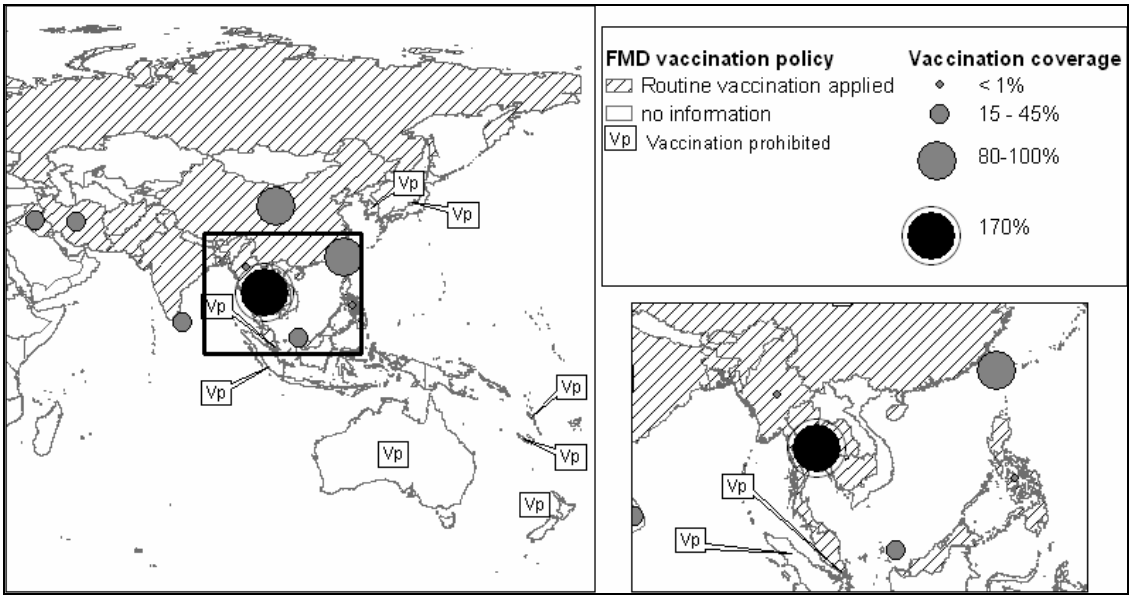


Figure 3. FMD vaccination policy and coverage in Asia, the Far East and Oceania in 2008



90. China (People's Rep. of) reported several FMD outbreaks due to serotype Asia 1 between November 2008 and April 2009 in the regions of Gansu, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hunan, Inner Mongolia, Sichuan, Shaanxi, and Xinjiang. The Chinese Veterinary Authorities think that these outbreaks are not epidemiologically related and constitute different events. In China, serotype A has also been reported in Hubei region (outbreak that started in January 2009), in Shanghai region (February 2009) in Guangxi region (April 2009), in Jiangsu region (April 2009), in Guizhou region (May 2009) and in Shandong region (June 2009). All these outbreaks are now resolved.

91. Chinese Taipei reported the reoccurrence of FMD in February 2009, with two outbreaks due to serotype O. These were the first occurrences of the disease in Chinese Taipei since February 2001. A further six outbreaks, all due to the same serotype, occurred between March and September 2009. The outbreaks involved non vaccinated pigs, some of them used as sentinel animals within the framework of the FMD eradication plan. These outbreaks are now resolved.

92. During the first six months of 2009, Iraq identified the circulation of FMD virus serotype A Iran 2005 BAR 08 in livestock, with a total of 9069 sheep and 11 165 cattle becoming infected. A Iran 05 virus was isolated from 11 provinces, with a total of 987 outbreaks.

93. An outbreak due to serotype O took place in Laos in Luangnamtha region; cattle involved in the outbreak are known to have been purchased from Bokeo province which borders Thailand and Myanmar (both of which have reported FMD due to serotype O). The outbreak started in October 2008 and was resolved the following month.

94. FMD continues to be a major transboundary livestock disease in Nepal. During the first semester of 2009 a total of 174 outbreaks of FMD were reported throughout the country, involving serotypes O and Asia 1. The majority of the outbreaks were concentrated in the Hill and Terai districts. All outbreaks were associated with the uncontrolled movement of animals inside the country and across the international borders. All outbreaks were controlled by ring vaccination using imported trivalent vaccine (serotype O, A and Asia 1).

95. In Pakistan serotypes O, A and Asia 1 are reported (type O being prevalent). Mortality due to FMD is reported to be non-significant. Animal immunisation and zoosanitary measures are the key to controlling the disease in affected areas. Farmers are recommended to vaccinate their animals twice a year.

96. The Philippines informed the OIE that an order has been issued by Veterinary Services in June 2009 to completely stop vaccination in all the regions.

97. In Sri Lanka, FMD is endemic in the dry zone comprising mainly the Eastern and North-Central Provinces. During the first half of 2009 there were five outbreaks, resulting in 98 cases (including two deaths) among the bovine population and 31 cases in buffaloes. O is the only serotype present in the country. The main disease control activities are vaccination and movement control.

98. In February 2008, Vietnam submitted a final report stating that, following the event that started in 2007 due to FMD serotype Asia 1, the disease was now considered to be endemic. However, the Veterinary Authorities are currently gathering evidence to prove the absence of this serotype throughout the country.

99. In May 2009, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates adopted Resolution No. 19 Recognition of the FMD Status of Members, which presents lists of OIE Members that have been officially recognised as free from FMD, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

Table 2. Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania with an officially recognised FMD free status

Members recognised as FMD free where vaccination is not practised	Members having an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised
• Australia • Brunei • Indonesia • Japan • Korea (Rep. of) • New Caledonia • New Zealand • Singapore • United States of America • Vanuatu	• Malaysia • Philippines

100. The OIE encourages a coordinated approach for the control of FMD that takes into account ongoing national plans and the regional coordination activities of SEAFMD where Members are located within the relevant past of the region linked with SEAFMD activities. Control strategies should take into account adequate financial resources for vaccination campaigns in order to achieve higher vaccination coverage and compensation mechanisms as well as the situation of the disease in wildlife reservoirs.

Classical swine fever

101. CSF is present in central and eastern Asia, with 12 Members having reported it. Almost 1500 new outbreaks were reported in 2008, with the majority being shared equally by China (People's Rep. of) and Vietnam. Figure 4 shows the distribution of the disease in the region in 2008 and 2009 and the number of reported new outbreaks in 2008. Figure 5 shows the vaccination policy in the region as well as vaccination coverage, where details have been provided, in 2008.

Figure 4. Distribution of CSF in Asia, the Far East and Oceania in 2008 and 2009

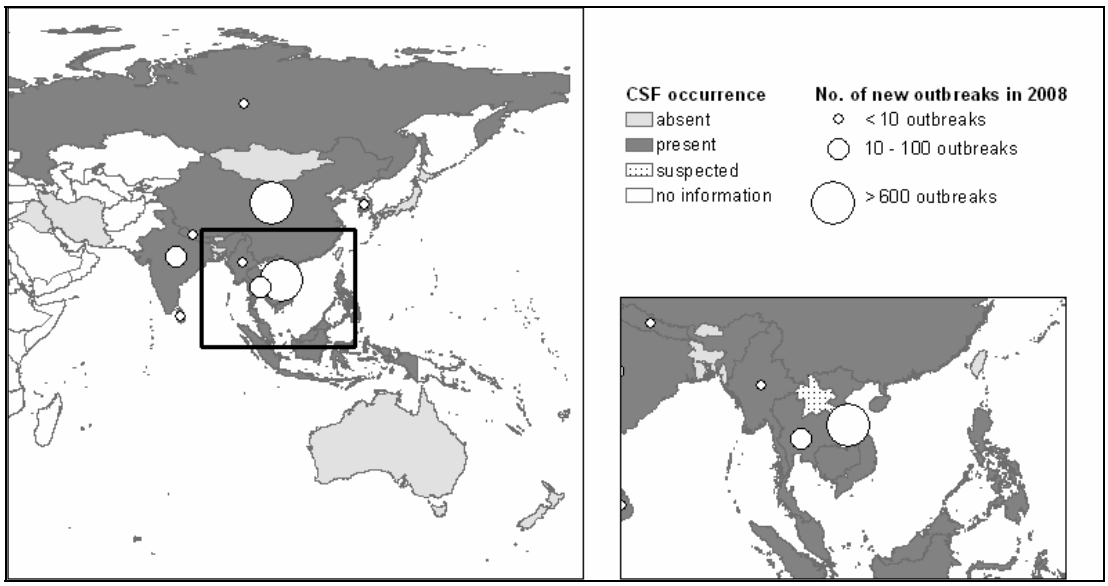
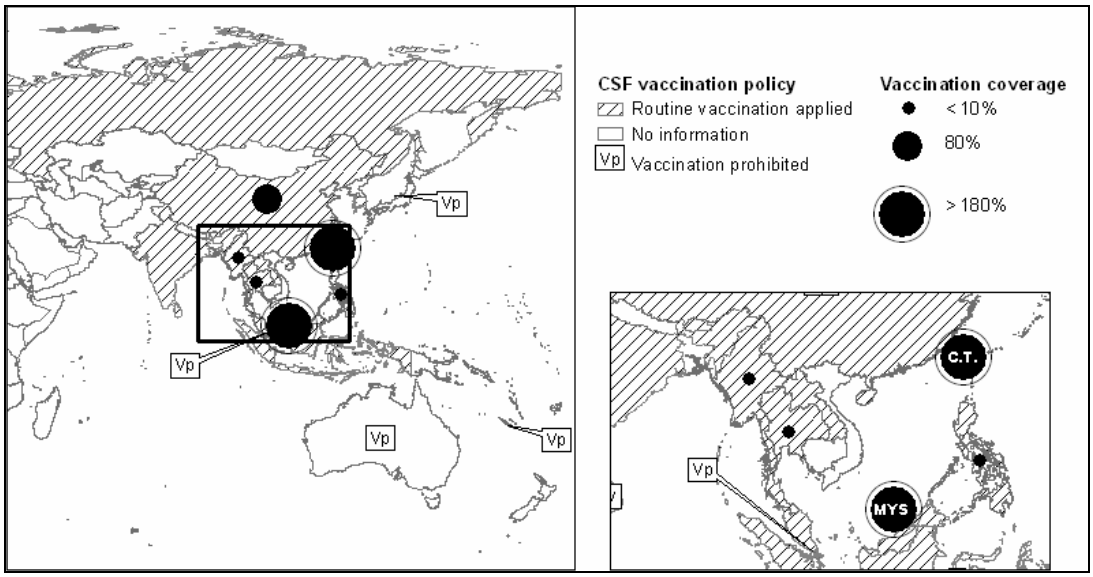


Figure 5. CSF vaccination policy and coverage in Asia, the Far East and Oceania in 2008



102. Russia reported an outbreak in the Volgogradskaya Oblast (bordering Kazakhstan) that was detected in July 2009, involving a wild boar found dead. This finding indicates that the CSF virus is circulating among the wild boar population in the region.

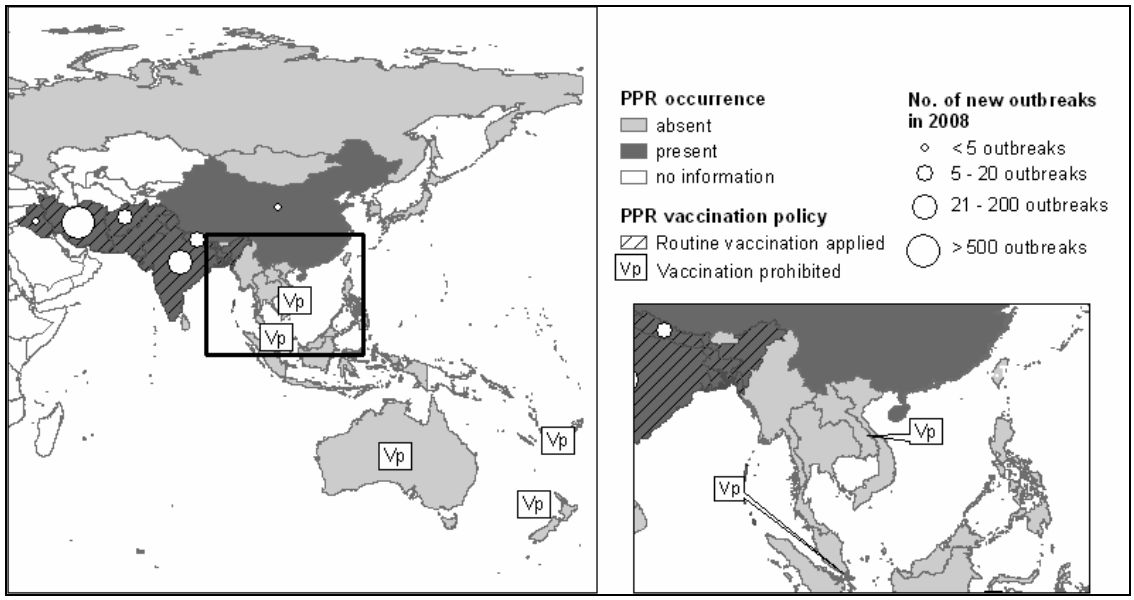
103. During the first half of 2009, two farms in Kyongsangnam-do and Chollabuk-do were confirmed with CSF in Korea (Rep. of). The Veterinary Services promptly implemented control measures, including movement restrictions, cleaning and disinfection, which were successful in containing the disease. Vaccination has been carried out nationwide, with the exception of the island province of Jeju.

Peste des petits ruminants

104. Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) is an acute contagious viral disease of goats and sheep and has a high mortality rate. During the past decade we have witnessed an extension of the geographical distribution of PPR in Africa and Asia. In Asia, the disease affects goats more than sheep, whereas the opposite is true in Africa. Among the four known lineages of PPR virus (PPRV), lineage IV is present in Asia, while lineages I, II and III are present in sub-Saharan Africa.

105. In the region, eight Members reported the presence of PPR, with a combined total of more than 750 reported new outbreaks in 2008; however, this is likely to underestimate the true number of outbreaks. Figure 6 shows the distribution of the disease in 2008 and 2009, the number of new outbreaks in 2008 as well as the vaccination policy in the region in 2008.

Figure 6. PPR distribution and vaccination policy in Asia, the Far East and Oceania in 2008 and 2009



106. Almost all recent viruses from south-west Asia and the Middle East belong to PPRV lineage IV. The virus that circulated in Tibet was of the same lineage and was closely related to an isolate from India (2005) and an isolate from Tajikistan (2004). PPR infection has been recognised in many Asian Members bordering south-western China, including India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

107. China (People's Rep. of) notified its first occurrence of PPR with four outbreaks being notified in goats in Tibet in July 2007; another outbreak in goats occurred in the same region in June 2008. Vaccination was applied in response to the outbreaks and all five outbreaks were resolved by December 2008. From the information gathered in the wildlife questionnaire 2008 provided by China (People's Rep. of), a total of 49 cases of PPR occurred in February 2008, of which 10 were in Procapra picticaudata and 39 in Pseudois nayaur, both belonging to the subfamily Antilopinae of the family Bovidae.

108. During the first semester of 2009, a total of 50 outbreaks of PPR were reported by Nepal, with the highest incidence in the Terai districts. All outbreaks were controlled by ring vaccination and by vaccinating animals in areas with frequent animal movements due to trade. Nepal acknowledges the difficulties faced in fighting the disease and recommends that a regional approach be taken to control PPR.

109. Pakistan has reported the presence of PPR, with goats usually being affected. The disease has been reported in few areas. Control measures include vaccination and strict biosecurity measures.

110. Iraq has reported that its sheep and goat population is around 20 million, with a PPR prevalence of 14%. In 2009, 20 000 animals have already been vaccinated.

111. Due to the high mortality rate of PPR and the fact that it affects sheep and goats, this disease has a major economic impact due to the losses incurred as a result of reduced agricultural production and international trade restrictions. Few Members have a clear vaccination policy based on their animal health status (see Table 3).

Table 3. Vaccination policy in Asia, the Far East and Oceania, according to PPR status

PPR present and vaccination performed	PPR absent and vaccination prohibited	No information on vaccination policy
Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Iraq Nepal Pakistan	Australia New Caledonia New Zealand Singapore United States of America Vietnam	Bhutan Brunei Cambodia China (People's Rep. of) Chinese Taipei Fiji Indonesia Japan Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of) Korea (Rep. of) Laos Malaysia Maldives Micronesia (Fed. States of) Mongolia Myanmar Papua New Guinea Philippines Russia Sri Lanka Thailand Vanuatu

Sheep pox and goat pox

112. Sheep pox and goat pox are viral diseases of sheep and goats. Both diseases are caused by strains of capripoxvirus, all of which can infect sheep and goats; in naïve populations the disease can cause up to 100% morbidity and mortality.

113. Several Members in the region have reported sheep and goat pox in the past 10 years: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, India, Iran, Iraq, Korea (Rep. of), Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka and recently Vietnam (first occurrence in January 2005). Figure 7 shows the distribution of new outbreaks in the region between 1996 and 2008. Figure 8 shows the monthly distribution of new outbreaks that occurred in the region during the period 1996 to 2008. During the years 2005 to 2007 the incidence of these diseases was higher (these 3 years account for 53% of the total new outbreaks reported in this 13-year timeframe).

114. The monthly distribution of outbreaks (Figure 8) suggests a seasonal pattern of disease spread, with a decrease in incidence during the period June to September. This pattern is discernable throughout the 13-year timeframe.

Figure 7. Distribution of new outbreaks of sheep pox and goat pox in Asia, the Far East and Oceania between 1996 and 2008

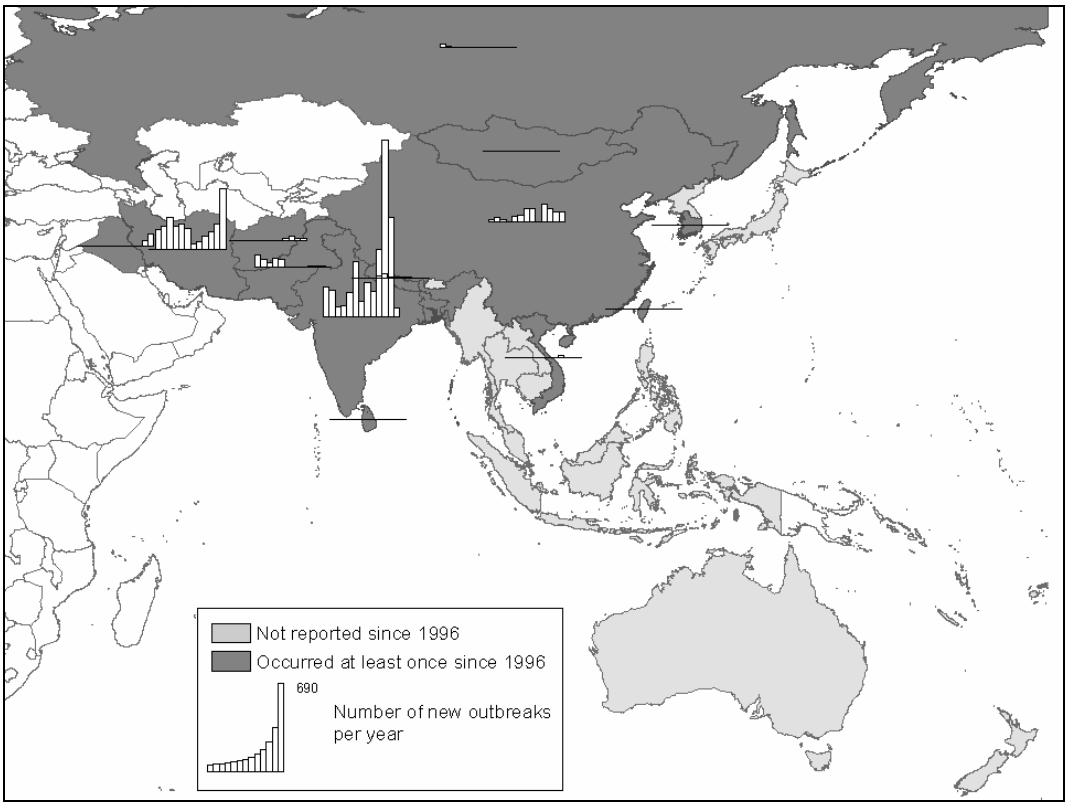
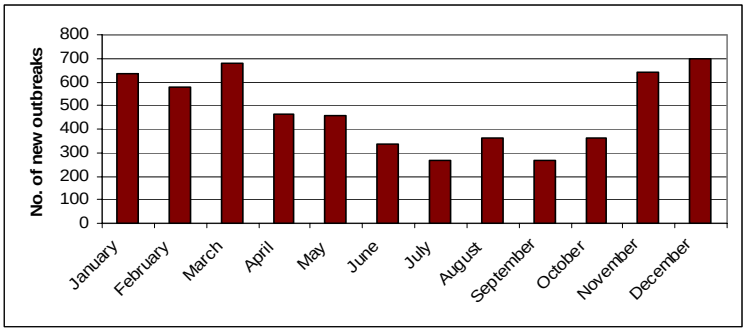
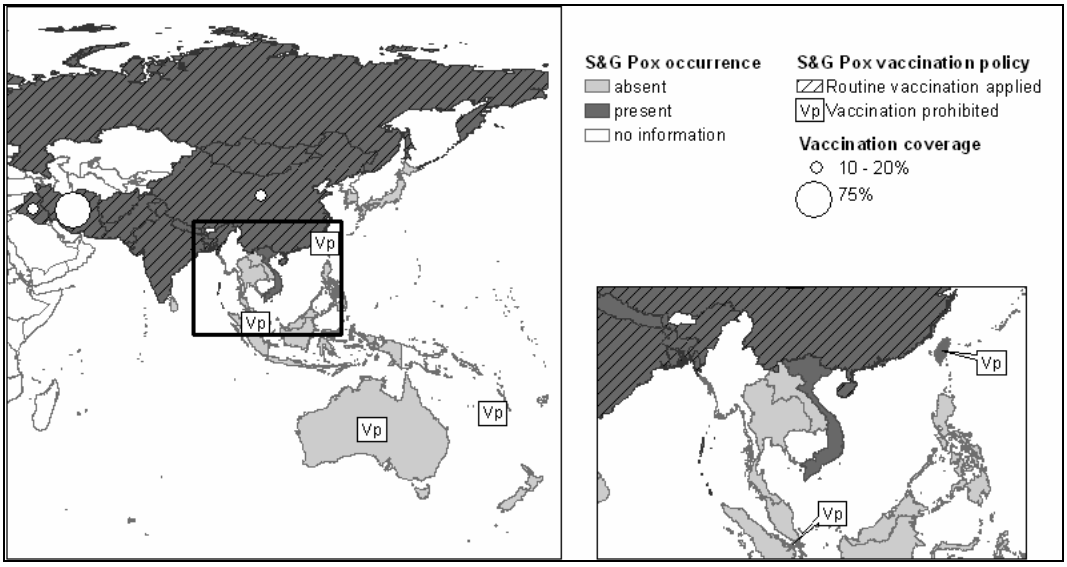


Figure 8. Sheep pox and goat pox: monthly distribution of new outbreaks in Asia, the Far East and Oceania between 1996 and 2008



115. Figure 9 provides an overview of disease occurrence and vaccination policy in 2008. In 2008, 12 Members reported the occurrence of sheep pox and goat pox, with a total of 740 new outbreaks. Two Members, Chinese Taipei and Russia, have reported the absence of sheep and goat pox in the first half of 2009.

Figure 9. Sheep and goat pox distribution and vaccination policy in Asia, the Far East and Oceania in 2008



116. Vietnam declared sheep pox and goat pox endemic in 2008

117. Mongolia reported two outbreaks, involving goats, in the eastern part of the country that occurred in October 2008 and March 2009. Vaccination in response to the outbreaks was applied and both outbreaks were considered resolved in August 2009.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza due to serotype H5N1

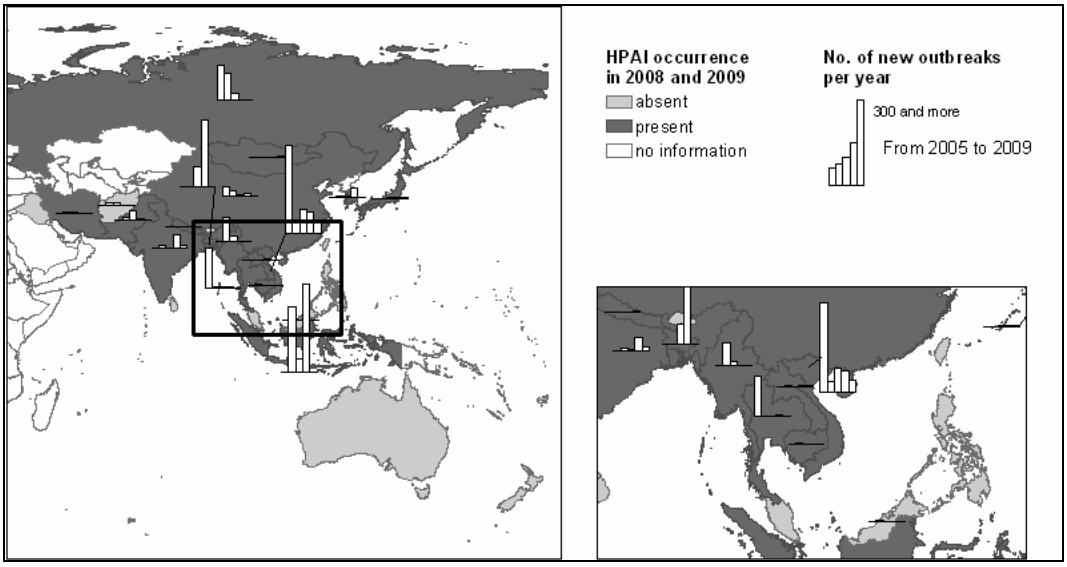
118. In late 2003 and in 2004 HPAI due to serotype H5N1 was restricted to south-East Asia but in 2005 it spread to Central Asia and Europe. In 2006, it reached the African continent and the Middle East for the first time.

119. The disease has been intermittently present in several Members of the region since 2003. Members that have continued to notify the occurrence of new outbreaks of the disease in 2009 are as follows: Bangladesh, China (People's Rep. of), India, Indonesia, Russia and Vietnam. Nepal reported the first occurrence of HPAI due to serotype H5N1 in 2009. Mongolia has also reported HPAI H5N1 in 2009, the first recurrence of the disease in this country since 2006.

120. The following Members reported the occurrence of HPAI in 2008, managed to control it and reported the absence of the disease in 2009: Iran, Pakistan, Thailand, Korea (Rep. of) and Myanmar. Figure 10 summarises changes in the distribution of HPAI due to serotype H5N1 in the region between 2005 and 2009, indicating the number of new outbreaks per year in each country.

121. HPAI H5N1 is zoonotic; it affected 36 people (with 29 fatalities) in 2008. The majority of human cases were reported in Indonesia.

Figure 10. Distribution of new outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in Asia, the Far East and Oceania between 2005 and 2009



122. Bangladesh reported a total of 32 outbreaks in the first semester of 2009, which compares very favourably with the 218 outbreaks reported during the same period in 2008.

123. With respect to the first semester of 2009, China (People's Rep. of) reported two outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in mainland China, in which 2830 poultry were affected, 2019 poultry died and 15 000 poultry were culled. In May 2009, there were two H5N1 subtype outbreaks in migratory birds in Hainan prefecture of Qinghai province; these two outbreaks are still unresolved.

124. Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China) reported several dead birds (both domestic and wild) found on the shore; tests identified the presence of H5N1.

125. Between November 2008 and May 2009 India reported 28 outbreaks of HPAI due to H5N1 in the states of Assam, Sikkim and West Bengal. A total of 3779 cases were reported and 669 073 birds were culled; the event is now resolved.

126. Laos reported an outbreak in free-range poultry in January 2009 in the region of Phongsaly (on the border with the People's Republic of China and Vietnam). The outbreak is linked with the illegal movement of animals. Stamping out was applied and the event was resolved in April 2009.

127. Mongolia reported two outbreaks due to H5N1 in the central part of the country, which started in May and August 2009. Both events involved wild species and are now resolved.

128. Nepal has reported the first occurrence of HPAI due to H5N1, with two outbreaks that occurred in January and February 2009 in the eastern part of the country adjacent to West Bengal State of India. Both outbreaks were controlled by stamping out coupled with a compensation policy. This event is now resolved.

129. Russia reported an outbreak in June 2009 due to H5N1 in wild species in the Respublika Tyva (bordering Mongolia). Fifty-eight wild birds were found dead. On 26 October 2009 a new event started, involving a wild bird (a rock dove, Columba livia) found in an urban area in Moskovskaya Oblast that tested positive for H5N1.

130. National post-vaccination monitoring in Vietnam showed that over 62% of the birds tested had protective immunity against avian influenza H5N1. Activities conducted to detect virus circulation in high-risk areas have demonstrated that H5N1 viruses are still present in the country, albeit with a low prevalence, ranging from 0.15 to 2%. The number of HPAI outbreaks has decreased significantly in 2009, the overall picture being one of occasional reports of sporadic outbreaks. However, the wide geographical distribution of the outbreaks suggests that the pathogen persists in several parts of the country, and the risk of disease reoccurrence therefore remains high. Standard disease control measures such as improved detection and early response, movement control and improved biosecurity have been implemented.

131. The OIE considers early detection and warning as the keys for effectively dealing with avian influenza; they need to cover both domestic and wild species given the importance of wildlife reservoirs. This approach needs to be coupled with rapid confirmation of suspected cases and laboratory diagnosis of avian influenza. Another available tool is vaccination which can be effective as an emergency measure in response to outbreaks or as a routine measure in an endemic area. Careful consideration must be given prior to implementing a vaccination policy, however, and it needs to be tailored to the epidemiological situation in the country. OIE vaccination policy must include and exit strategy.

Pandemic influenza A/H1N1 (2009)

132. Although it is not an OIE listed disease, pandemic influenza A/H1N1 (2009) has been notified to the OIE as an emerging disease, in accordance with the notification requirements laid down in Article 1.1.3. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

133. Outbreaks of pandemic H1N1 (2009) influenza virus in pigs in commercial piggeries have occurred in Australia (western New South Wales, northern Victoria and south-east Queensland). In all cases the clinical signs observed were mild and the pigs recovered quickly. The source of the infection was infected humans. In each case, the affected property was placed under quarantine controls, and animals were only permitted to move off the farm once they were healthy.

134. Japan reported an outbreak of pandemic influenza H1N1 (2009) in the Osaka region in October 2009. The infection was detected through surveillance conducted in pigs without clinical signs. The outbreak was closed 21 days later when further sampling returned only negative results for influenza A subtype H1.

135. Chinese Taipei reported an outbreak on 19 October 2009 due to pandemic A/H1N1 (2009) influenza virus. Clinical signs were observed in pigs in the affected farm and testing of samples confirmed the presence of the virus. The event is ongoing and several surrounding farms (within a 3-km radius of the index farm) are currently under surveillance.

136. Indonesia informed the OIE that samples were collected from pigs in the context of a surveillance plan. The results will be communicated to the OIE shortly.

137. Reports of the occurrence of pandemic H1N1 2009 in animals are to be expected since the virus is circulating among the human population. Since the beginning of the identification of the novel influenza A/H1N1 virus in humans, the OIE has encouraged all its Members to intensify their surveillance for potential influenza virus infections in swine or other influenza susceptible animals, particularly in cases there might be some relationship between illness in animals and illness in humans. The three reports submitted by Australia, Japan and Chinese Taipei in the region, indicate that the OIE's recommendations are being followed and show the transparency of the affected Members in this situation.

White spot disease

138. White spot disease (WSD) is due to infection with white spot syndrome virus (WSSV). It can affect an extremely wide host range of aquatic crustaceans including marine, brackish and freshwater penaeids, crabs and crayfish. Naïve populations of penaeid shrimps can show a high morbidity and mortality.

139. The disease was reported by 15 Members in the region in the period 2008-2009: Bangladesh, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America and Vietnam. In the case of Japan, WSD was reported to be absent in the first semester of 2009. Unfortunately, not all Members have provided the OIE with information on WSD; therefore, information from the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) has been used to complete the picture.

140. The main problem with WSD lies in the use of shrimp postlarvae carrying WSSV or the existence of WSSV contaminated crustaceans in the environment. A number of husbandry practices have been used successfully to manage WSD, use of specific pathogen free (SPF) or use of specific pathogen resistant (SPR) stock or testing of new stock, and use of biosecure water and culture systems.

White tail disease

141. White tail disease (WTD) is a viral infection caused by Macrobrachium rosenbergii nodavirus. It causes a milky whitish appearance in larvae/postlarvae/early juveniles and is responsible for large-scale mortalities in the freshwater prawn M. rosenbergii. It can therefore have serious economic consequences. WTD was included in the OIE list of diseases since it matches the criteria for an emerging disease. It has been notifiable to the OIE since 2008.

142. Unfortunately, only nine OIE Members in the region have reported on their WTD status. Australia and Thailand reported the presence of the disease and China (People's Rep. of) reported a suspicion of the presence of WTD. As in the case of WSD, information from NACA has been used to complete the data.

143. Also in this case, proper preventive measures, such as screening of brood stock and postlarvae and good management practices may help to prevent WTD in culture systems. As the life cycle of susceptible prawns is completed under controlled conditions, specific pathogen free (SPF) brood stock and postlarvae can be used.

144. A large majority of OIE Members have provided no information on WTD. This could be due to a lack of technical knowledge or because there has not yet been sufficient time to integrate this newly listed disease into national surveillance and notification procedures. To assist its Members with diagnostic problems, the OIE has published a chapter on WTD in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals 2009 and has designated an OIE Reference Laboratory for this disease. Considering the relevance of aquaculture production in Asia, it is important that all OIE Members keep up with the evolving notification requirements and provide the OIE with information on all OIE listed diseases (including those affecting aquatic animals).

Contingency plans and simulation exercises

145. Since 1 January 2008 the OIE has received a total of 36 notifications of simulation exercises performed by OIE Members worldwide, details of which have been circulated to interested parties via the OIE distribution list. Of these 36 notifications, nine were submitted by OIE Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania; they are summarised in Table 4.

Table 4. Simulation exercises performed in Asia, the Far East and Oceania in 2008 and 2009

OIE Member	Scope of the exercise	Dates
Australia	Foot and mouth disease	31 July to 12 November 2009
United States of America	Foot and mouth disease and anthrax	18 to 24 June 2009
United States of America-Canada	Foot and mouth disease	16 to 19 June 2009
United States of America	Rift Valley fever	18 to 20 November 2008
Australia	Classical swine fever	18 to 20 November 2008
Australia	Avian influenza	11 and 12 November 2008
Australia	Foot and mouth disease	29 and 30 October 2008
Australia	Swine disease	21 and 22 October 2008
Singapore	Highly pathogenic avian influenza	10 January 2008

146. In its report for this Regional Conference, Bhutan informed the OIE of national simulation exercises for an HPAI outbreak (table top exercise and field simulation). Details of the simulation exercises could not be distributed through the OIE distribution list since they were not received at the OIE Headquarters in time. To inform the OIE of a forthcoming simulation exercise, OIE Delegates are requested to send details by email to the OIE Animal Health Information Department (information.dept@oie.int). This will ensure that there is sufficient time to retransmit the information via the OIE distribution list.

147. The OIE has also asked all Members to share their contingency plans by posting them on the OIE Web site. The OIE renews its request to Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania to send their new contingency plans to the OIE if they are in one of the OIE's official languages.

148. Bhutan has prepared a National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan, updated in October 2008, which includes training of trainers and of field staff, simulation exercises, and preparation of standard operating procedures for HPAI outbreaks.

149. The China State Council has formulated a "Regulation on Major Animal Diseases Emergency Response" and a "National Contingency Plan for Major Animal Disease Outbreaks".

150. India indicates that contingency plans are developed from time to time to tackle diseases which are emerging or exotic. The Government of India developed a contingency plan on 'Preparedness, Control & Containment of Avian Influenza in India' in 2005, which was subsequently revised in 2006 and is again under revision on the basis of the experience gained in tackling outbreaks in backyard poultry.

151. Iraq has a contingency plan for rinderpest disease, which was included with the application submitted to the OIE for recognition of freedom from the disease, and a contingency plan for avian influenza prepared by the Department of Epidemiology. The latter plan is currently being implemented and updates are made as and when necessary.

152. The Government of Maldives has developed a national contingency plan for HPAI. A National Committee on Bird Flu Prevention and Control was constituted and has been operational since September 2005. The contingency plan is reviewed whenever new guidelines become available and now forms the basis for H1N1 influenza preparedness.

153. A contingency plan for the control of HPAI in Myanmar was published in 2005 before the country's first outbreak of HPAI. This contingency plan was revised in 2007 and 2008 to meet the update requirements. The plan covers several topics, such as international policies and cooperation on HPAI, the occurrence of avian influenza in Asia and Pacific, climatic conditions, inspection teams for the control of avian influenza, control measures, surveillance and diagnostic capabilities, vaccination, public awareness and financial assistance.

154. Nepal has a National Contingency Plan for the control of HPAI which covers the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, definition of the provisional infected zone, confinement of suspect birds/flocks, definition of the infected zone, definition of the surveillance zone and active surveillance throughout the country.

155. New Zealand has implemented a single system to respond to all organisms or goods that pose a biosecurity risk. In the past reporting period the following technical response policies were developed: novel H1N1 in pigs response policy and equine influenza response policy. Moreover, New Zealand has developed a new Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy that sets the direction for the country's future surveillance activities for animals, plants, marine life, forestry, and the environment.

156. In Pakistan contingency planning exists for transboundary animal diseases, including rinderpest, FMD, PPR and HPAI. The salient features are as follows: strict zoosanitary and biosecurity measures; restriction on the movement of animals from affected areas; establishment of a 10- to 25-km-radius surveillance zone; stamping out/test and slaughter policy, if required (for poultry only); ring vaccination in the affected population/area; mass vaccination, if required; establishment of a committee for disease assessment; mobilisation of resources (technical/manpower/financial); and institution of a committee to permanently monitor and review the situation.

157. Singapore is in a high state of readiness for HPAI. The Veterinary Services have prepared contingency plans and stockpiled essential equipment, disinfectant and vaccine to respond to an outbreak. In the event of an outbreak, the contingency plans to eradicate the disease will be activated.

158. In Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka Exotic Disease Emergency Plan (SEDEP) has been introduced for veterinary professionals and other stakeholders in accordance with the guidelines issued by the OIE in 2006 and relevant activities have been carried out accordingly. The salient features are island-wide awareness programmes and disease surveillance. A disease reporting system from the source to the relevant competent authorities has been established. District Emergency Teams and Destruction and Depopulation Teams have been identified at the district level and divisional level and are ready to go into action immediately in the event of an outbreak. National Laboratories and Veterinary Investigation Centres have been strengthened to enable them to respond immediately.

159. Vietnam plans to review and update the National Avian Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan in late 2009 or early 2010.

Submission of the first six-monthly report for 2009

160. OIE Members are required to provide the OIE with immediate notifications and follow-up reports whenever appropriate, as well as six-monthly reports and annual reports documenting the evolution of their sanitary status. These reports are part of the OIE notification system WAHIS. The following Members have provided the first six-monthly report for 2009: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, India, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. Of), Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. However, of these Members only the following covered both terrestrial and aquatic animals in their reports: Bhutan, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. Of), Maldives, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines and Singapore. This demonstrates that there is room for improvement in submission of reports to the OIE and in reporting of the aquatic animal health situation, especially in view of the importance of aquaculture production in the region.

Discussions

161. A representative of Hong Kong SAR, PRC, advised that even though Hong Kong had submitted its Aquatic and Terrestrial Animal Health Reports, this information did not appear in the presentation. He further advised that he could resend this information as well as the responses to the questionnaire relating to the sanitary situation which had been sent to all Members. Dr Vallat clarified that the questionnaire regarding the sanitary situation for the Regional Conference had been submitted by Delegates and P.R. China had submitted its report. The matter will be discussed later with OIE Headquarters and the Delegate of China.

162. The Delegate of Nepal commented that several OIE Members had submitted information on simulation exercises they had conducted and asked whether the details of those exercises could be made accessible to Members. He also asked if there was an OIE standard format for preparation of contingency plans. Dr Berlingieri advised the OIE process for distributing information on simulation exercises, and commented that some Members published their contingency plans on the OIE website. These plans could be used as a model however there was not yet OIE standard format for this.

163. A representative of P.R. China suggested adding “vaccination coverage” to the Code glossary in order to avoid having vaccination coverage higher than 100%. Dr. Berlingieri advised that percentages above 100 in the presentation resulted from individual animals being vaccinated more than once in a given year as the system takes into account the number of doses applied and susceptible population.

164. The Delegate of Pakistan advised that even though his country had sent its first six-monthly report, it appeared that OIE Information Department had not received it. Dr Berlingieri commented that the OIE information systems had been upgraded to allow the differentiation between information on domesticated animals and wildlife. This upgrade required Members that had already entered their first six-monthly report data for 2009 into WAHIS to verify their entries and to add the relevant data for wildlife. Dr Berlingieri advised that the OIE had sent a message to Members at the beginning of the year asking them to delay sending their six-monthly report until the system had been upgraded; once the upgrade performed, OIE Members were requested to submit the first six-monthly report. He further advised that when users had difficulties using the web connection, paper report forms are acceptable and the OIE Information Department will enter the information into WAHIS.

165. The representative of Hong Kong asked why the United States of America was included in the report as a Member of the Region as this inclusion inflates the figures within the report. Dr Vallat explained that the criteria for defining Regional Commission Members included geographical considerations, and that the United States of America had territories (islands) in the Pacific.

166. The Delegate of New Zealand raised two issues. He recalled that at the last Conference of the Regional Commission in New Zealand two years ago concerns were raised about porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) in the Region. He noted that this disease was not included within the report at this Conference and sought clarification on the current situation of PRRS. He then expressed his concerns regarding the constant progress of PPR in Asia and Africa and asked what the OIE plans were in this matter. He also asked whether the OIE could provide some guidance on the spread of PPR and on its control. Dr Berlingieri explained that PRRS had been addressed in detail during the 2009 OIE General Session and that there had been no particular events occurred nor was there substantial additional information received since May 2009. He indicated that the OIE acknowledged the importance of PPR and was monitoring its expansion both in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. He noted that substantial work was also being carried out on tracking non-official information regarding this disease. Dr Vallat pointed out that, following the detailed discussions of the OIE General Session on PRRS, some specific recommendations on this disease were published on the OIE

website under the section 'Focus On'. He concluded by agreeing on the worrying spread of PPR and on the recommendation to use PPR vaccines and the possibility of considering the creation of regional or national vaccine banks.

167. Dr Huang Jie, member of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission expressed his appreciation that aquatic animal diseases had been addressed and he sought clarification on the information in the report regarding the origin of the recommendations for WSD. Dr Berlingieri clarified that these recommendations are included in the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals 2009.

168. A representative of India reported that FMD serotypes O, A and Asia 1 were circulating in his country. Dr Berlingieri replied that this would be reflected in the animal health report of this Regional Conference and that the 2009 WAHIS report already submitted would be updated in order to include this information.

169. Finally, the Chairman reminded Members of the important role played by their OIE Focal Points on Animal Health Information, and encouraged all Members of the Region to nominate their respective OIE Focal Points. He congratulated the work done by the OIE Animal Health Information Department.

Technical Item I
Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1

170. Prof Hiroshi Kida, form the Research Center for Zoonosis Control and Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan, presented the Technical Item 1 on "Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1".

171. He started his talk by reminding that since late 2003, the H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAIV) has seriously affected poultry in Asia. Well over 500 million birds have died from infection or been killed for the control purposes.

172. He explained that HPAIV is generated when a nonpathogenic virus brought in by migratory birds from nesting lakes in the north is transmitted to chickens via domestic ducks, geese, quails, turkeys, etc. and acquires pathogenicity for chickens with repeated multiple infections in the chicken population. This pathogenicity does not mean for other species of birds and mammals, nor does it for humans.

173. He referred to the 442 people who have been infected with the H5N1 virus, 60% of whom died in Asia, the Middle East and Africa since 2004. Against this backdrop, it is assumed that the H5N1 virus would acquire the ability to transmit among humans and wreak havoc as a new virus.

174. He stated that the WHO has warned for the past decade that this avian influenza virus is in the final stages of acquiring the ability to infect humans. In response, some of the nations have formulated emergency plans, including measures such as stocking an inactivated H5N1 vaccine for humans.

175. Then he made reference to the H1N1 influenza virus spread in humans, which started in April 2009, causing influenza pandemic. Now, the H5N1 HPAIV seems to have been forgotten although the epidemiological situation is not changed.

176. Dr Kida noted that on the basis of our knowledge of the ecology and evolution of influenza viruses such as the natural reservoir, perpetuation in nature, host range, interspecies transmission, antigenic and genetic variation of influenza viruses, and mechanisms of the emergence of pandemic strains in humans and HPAIV strains in domestic poultry, along with the answers to the questionnaire sent to OIE Members, the following discussion for the recommendation should be made;

1. Why have the H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza virus strain persisted in the world for 12 years and been antigenic variant viruses selected?
2. Do the H5N1 HPAIV strains perpetuate in the lakes where migratory birds nest?
3. What is the best measure for the control of avian influenza?
4. Vaccination of poultry should not be applied "instead of" but "in addition to" the basic and standard control measures of HPAI such as stamping out, movement controls of poultry and bio-security.
5. Preparedness for pandemic influenza should be based on the measures how to control the seasonal influenza.
6. Strengthening Veterinary Services to comply with OIE international standards on quality must be the way to prevent occurrence and spread of Animal Influenza viruses, as well as other relevant pathogens.

177. Finally, Dr Kida presented the summary of answers from OIE Members to the Questionnaire on Technical Item 1: "Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1", as follows:

178. 23 Members, out of 34 Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania answered to the questionnaire. on Technical Item I: "Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1"

179. Only Indonesia informed on detection of HPAI virus infection in pigs, or pandemic H1N1 2009 virus infection in pigs or birds detected virologically or serologically in the country during the past 5 years. 11 Members informed on initial location highly pathogenic avian influenza and/or low pathogenic avian influenza virus outbreaks in the country in each year since 2003.

180. Typical signs were informed regarding the initial suspicion of the disease: High morbidity and mortality, remarkable egg drop, production losses, respiratory clinical signs and other symptoms. The diagnostic was made by: Clinical signs, virological findings and serological findings (HI, Real-time RT-PCR, virus isolation), and pathological findings.

181. Laboratory tests were carried out at Local and National laboratories, and some at International reference laboratories.

182. In 6 Members (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Vietnam) the HPAI H5N1 impacted on public health,

183. In five Members (Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Vietnam) a link between animal and human infection was established.

184. Control measures which were taken included: stamping-out, or partial stamping-out with compensation, movement control, closure of live bird markets (during the outbreak period), vaccination and communication.

185. China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Vietnam also applied subsequent vaccination as a complementary control measure.

186. 8 Member have developed respective economic studies to estimate the losses caused by the disease, ranging from 1,4 to 4,3 millions US$.

187. 13 Members have reported that HPAI or LPNAI have been encountered in their country, all of them notified to the OIE, most of them having occurrence of HPAI H5N1 outbreaks every year since early 2004, affecting different avian species. Most of affected Members have notified that the disease is now under control or eradicated. Some of them informed that there are few sporadic outbreaks, occurring in different provinces.

188. Mortality rate observed: from around 65-80%

189. Morbidity rate observed: from 90-100%

190. Initial control measures: Movement restrictions first, then followed by immediate culling.

191. 19 Members have compensation mechanisms for livestock owners in case of stamping out.

192. From responding Members the following ranking of importance should be given to best management practice to control the disease or to prevent its spread:

(1) Culling of infected flocks of birds (stamping out)
(2) National movement controls
(3) Sanitary/bio-security measures on farms or at markets
(4) Closing of markets/bird gatherings
(5) International movement controls
(6) Vaccination
(7) Other culling policies: Selective culling is suitable for Cambodian environment since compensation policy is not applied.

193. Different hypothesis which could explain the entry of HPAI virus to the affected Members included:

- Legal import of live poultry,
- Illegal import of live poultry,
- Illegal import of other birds,
- wild birds,

194. 4 Members have informed the application of vaccination as a subsequent control measure:

- China: H5N1 reverse genetics inactivated vaccines and recombinant NDV vaccine; Vaccination is applied instead of stamping-out.
- Indonesia: H5N1, H5N2, H5N9 and recombinant H5N1 inactivated vaccines. Vaccination is applied instead of stamping-out.
- Pakistan: H5N1, H5N2, H5N9, H5N3 inactivated with aluminum hydroxide, or mineral oil adjuvants. Vaccination is applied in addition to stamping-out
- Vietnam: H5N2 inactivated vaccines for commercial industrial breeding farms and H5N1 adjuvant inactivated vaccines for national vaccination campaigns. Vaccination is applied instead of stamping-out

195. Vaccination exit strategy varies as follows:

Indonesia: Vaccination in sector 3 and 4 (backyard)
Pakistan; Withdrawal of vaccination after 3 consecutive years on non reporting of AIV prevalence
China and Viet Nam: no vaccination exit strategy.

196. Surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring:
    - China: Evaluation of antibody titers induced by vaccination and virological examination by RT-PCR and virus isolation from swab samples.
    - Indonesia: Collecting samples
    - Pakistan: Through an established national surveillance network comprising of 40 surveillance units, 66 rapid response units, 10 regional laboratories and 1 national reference laboratory.
    - Viet Nam: Conducting biannual serological surveys to measure HI titer. Monthly swab sampling of birds (focused on farmed waterfowls such as ducks and Muscovy ducks) from farms and live bird markets. Using sentinel birds in the vaccinated poultry population.

197. China, Pakistan, Viet Nam use RT-PCR and virus isolation as diagnostic methods for the detection of virus antigen.

198. Responding Members informed that they notify OIE listed diseases to the OIE regularly

199. 19 Members notify other diseases to the OIE and/or to other regional or international organizations

200. 20 Members answered being aware of objectives and functioning of OFFLU, while Maldives, Vanuatu and Cambodia had no information on OFFLU

201. Members are willing that the OIE continue and further develop standards on Animal Influenza surveillance, prevention and control. Vietnam has also proposed that the OIE develop a technical guidance on surveillance for HPAI under vaccination circumstance.

Discussion

202. Dr Vallat advised that the OIE had produced a new document on Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2009 and this had been distributed to Regional Delegates. He further advised that this document was also available on the OIE web site.

203. Dr Subash Morzaria, FAO representative, stated that the incidence of H1N1 in pigs is increasing and some countries were carrying out surveillance for this virus in their pig populations. He asked what would be recommended if the virus was detected during active surveillance and whether increasing surveillance in animals would be advisable.

204. Dr Kida responded that it should be reported but no further action should be taken on the animal population as this was a human influenza virus which can be easily transmitted to pigs. He added that active surveillance in pigs should also be carried out to identify any possible change in the virus. However, he indicated that rather than focusing on H1N1 in pigs, it would be useful to focus on H5N1 in poultry as this virus had persisted.

205. The Delegate of New Zealand asked Prof Kida to clarify his statements on the correlation between virus antigenic variations and the misuse of vaccines. Then he asked whether, since previous human influenza pandemics had originated from pigs, additional precautionary measures should be taken for protecting pig populations from infected humans.

206. Dr Kida stated that without vaccination, chickens infected with H5N1 die, while the occurrence of influenza virus in vaccinated animals would allow the virus to persist. Then he referred to the use of different influenza-susceptible species for predicting potential pandemics and that intensive global surveillance should be envisaged. Dr Kida stressed that greater attention should be given to seasonal influenza viruses which had adapted to the human host, rather than pandemic influenza viruses.

207. A representative of the Japanese Delegation commented that vaccination against influenza should not be recommended, and remarked that this should be reflected within the recommendations of the Conference.

208. Dr Kida responded by clarifying that he was not against the use of vaccines, but it was important to know how to use them, insisting that stamping out should be the basis of the strategy. He noted that, while from the scientific perspective H5N1 could be controlled by vaccination, this had often proven to be impractical. By way of example he mentioned the difficulties of a massive and simultaneous vaccination of poultry populations in countries with a complicated zoo-technical context such as Indonesia.

209. A representative of Hong Kong noted that they had successfully controlled HPAI by using a DIVA vaccination strategy, surveillance and stamping out. He said that the latest outbreaks were caused by a virus that was antigenically slightly different, but the strategy of updating vaccine strains to match the evolution of current strains was not easy. He stated that Hong Kong used sentinel birds.

210. Dr Kida noted that it was difficult to evaluate the efficacy of vaccines. Vaccination should be used for prevention, not for control of a pandemic.

211. The Delegate of Nepal asked what a country should do where there were ongoing detections of H5N1 seropositives but no antigens were detected.

212. Dr Kida advised that this did not mean that virulent disease was currently present. Such seropositivity could be caused by infection with low pathogenic avian influenza or previous infection. He asked the OIE whether this kind of detection should be notified to the OIE or not.

213. Dr Bonbon, Vice-President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, clarified the requirements of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code for avian influenza. He indicated that there was no need to perform stamping out if only antibodies were detected in birds but a thorough epidemiologic investigation should be conducted to rule out infection. He indicated that any finding of virus or viral RNA of low pathogenic avian influenza type H5 and H7 needs to be notified to the OIE.

214. A member of the Delegation of P.R. China sought clarification on when vaccination can be used to recover the animal health status.

215. Dr Kida clarified that stamping out should be the basis for controlling the disease. Where complementary vaccination was used, sentinel animals were important to identify sub-clinical virus circulation. This would verify that infection has been eradicated even though antibodies from vaccination may be present.

216. Dr Vallat clarified that this issue had previously been discussed at Regional level and in several Conferences and that members of the region always got strong consensus on this topic. The crisis began in 2004, affecting in total 64 countries worldwide, and today only six countries did not eradicate the disease. Vaccination as their control strategy for avian influenza. The decision to use vaccination needed to be carefully considered and an exit strategy was always essential. He underlined that early detection and rapid response (by stamping out without vaccination) were the best way to address avian influenza occurrence. However, he concluded that any strategy needed to be tailored to the situation and needs of the affected country. Compensation mechanisms were another key issue, but these can be very difficult to implement for poorer countries.

217. A member of the Indian Delegation contributed to the discussion by sharing India's experiences responding to the avian influenza crisis. He stressed the need to establish surveillance zones and that the presence of seropositive animals implied the previous presence of the virus.

218. Dr Kida stated that the presence of seropositive animals meant that the virus was no longer present in the sampled animals. However, he felt that findings of seropositive animals for highly and low pathogenic avian influenza needed to be notified.

219. A member of the Nepalese Delegation asked whether interaction between H5N1 and H9N2 was possible considering that they have detected antibodies against both. They had also tried to isolate both viruses but without success.

220. Dr Kida confirmed that both viruses could be present in the same animal and that there was a risk of reassortment.

OIE Strategic Plan and OIE Global Programme of Strengthening Veterinary Services (including PVS, GAP Analysis, legislation, communication and management support in the Region)

221. The Session Chairperson, Dr Herath Swarnalatha, invited Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General to present the Fifth OIE Strategic Plan and OIE Global Programme of Strengthening Veterinary Services.

222. Dr Vallat presented important key messages which will guide the new OIE Strategic Plan 2011-2015, as well as concepts and tools to be used by the OIE during this period.

223. He commented that a draft of new strategic plan 2010-2015, which is the result of the dialog with OIE Members and with the OIE Council will be presented to the OIE World Assembly of Delegates for its adoption in the next OIE General Session in May 2010.

224. He started by showing trends on the growth of the population worldwide as well as demands for animal protein, indicating that the consumption would increase by 50% for 2020.

225. The Director General referred to the increased risks of disease spread worldwide due to the globalisation, the rapid movement of animals and products as well as climate changes.

226. He stressed that food security and food safety are key public health concerns considering the need for supply of safe food, and the valuable role that Veterinarians have to play on protecting the society, not only in disease control, but also in using new scientific advances to increase production, helping to ensure access to animal proteins.

227. Dr Vallat noted the growing importance of Veterinary Public health due to the Zoonotic potential of animal pathogens, taking into account that 60% of human pathogens (infectious diseases) are zoonotic, 75% of emerging diseases are zoonotic and 80% of agents having a potential bioterrorist use are zoonotic pathogens.

228. When referring to new concepts to be used for promoting protection of countries and regions from current and emerging threats for animals and humans, he started by highlighting the Global Public Good Concept. Global Public Goods are those which benefits extend to all countries, people and generations. Animal Health Systems are Global Public Goods, considering that controlling and eradicating animal infectious diseases, including zoonoses bring broad national, international and inter-generational benefits.

229. Each country plays a key role. Inadequate action by a single country can jeopardize others, making the system fail, not only within the country, but also at regional and at global level.

230. Dr Vallat remarked that Good Governance of Veterinary Services can be achieved through minimal requirements that should be reached by all Members, including:

- Appropriate Veterinary legislation, as well as adequate and enough human and financial resources,
- Efficient epidemio-surveillance networks and territorial meshing in the entire national territory, allowing early detection, transparent notification and rapid response,
- Responsibility of Governments, for which deeply awareness of policy makers on the objectives and importance of VS is crucial.
- Public-private partnership through formal protocols under the monitoring of the Veterinary Authority.
- Concept and standards of "Quality of Services" , democratically adopted by all OIE Members,
- Bio-security measures,
- Compensation of animal owners in case of stamping out,
- Initial and continuous veterinary education and research.

231. He explained the concept of "One World – One Health" (OWOH) which refers to a global strategy for managing risks at the animal-human interface. The OIE is engaged at global level in this concept in coordination with its partners such FAO, WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank. The key role of Veterinary Services by controlling animal diseases at their source was highlighted by the Director General, referring to the reduction of public health risks when dealing with zoonoses. He also stressed that some non zoonotic diseases must be also considered as priorities in regards to their impact to food security as a matter of public health concern.

232. Dr Vallat stated that the OIE will also continue the reinforcement of the Regional Representations in order to better assist Members through capacity building activities, and will give priority in its 5th Strategic Plan, announcing that the OIE accounts now 175 Members.

233. He commented on some tools and mechanisms that the OIE will continue to promote and support in its new Strategic Plan, such its World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and the web linked database WAHID. He stressed the importance of transparency on the animal health situation and the obligation from Members to timely notify the occurrence of animal diseases using this new system, which has to be considered as the main source for Early Warning Disease reports.

234. Dr Vallat highlighted that OIE National specialist focal points (namely Aquatic animal diseases; Wildlife; Animal health information system; Veterinary medicinal products; Animal welfare; and Animal production food safety) play a key role by assisting the OIE Delegate in specific issues for accomplishing his/her obligations to the OIE. He also commented on the OIE training programme for all regions for new Delegates and Focal points, stating that all OIE National Focal Points will receive at least one training session in the next two years.

235. Dr Vallat reminded the reference role of the OIE as the International Standard Setting Organisation for Animal Health issues in relation to the SPS WTO Agreement. He also commented on other important mechanism that the OIE provides to its Members, such its informal mediation procedure, which on a voluntary basis seeks to resolve their differences by using an approach that is based on science and the OIE's recommendations for safe international trade in animals and animal products.

236. He referred to OIE Reference Laboratories & Collaborating Centres stressing their role on assisting OIE Members to comply with OIE international standards, as well as to better participate in the standard setting process. He also commented on the OIE Twinning concept which aims to assist Members and regions in order to have a broad and more balanced availability of expertise worldwide that helps developing Members, as well as reinforcing the Veterinary Scientific Community in developing countries.

237. Dr Vallat showed the on going OIE Twinning Projects worldwide, highlighting that three projects are being implemented in two Members of the region, namely Egypt and Turkey. He encouraged Members to identify other potential laboratory candidates to enter in twinning projects, based on regional needs.

238. Dr Vallat reminded the global programme of strengthening VS that the OIE is currently carrying out, based on the use of its Tool for evaluation of Performance of VS (OIE-PVS Tool) to help Members to comply with OIE standards on quality as well as strengthening the OIE influence on global, regional and national policies regarding Good Governance on animal health. The programme is funded by the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund which is financed by several donors and was created to support and implement OIE capacity building activities.

239. He briefly described the Tool as well as the evaluation process, explaining that the first PVS evaluation, called "the diagnostic" is followed by the PVS Gap Analysis process, called "the proposed treatment", for which the OIE is working with its partners (mainly with FAO in developing countries) and donors for the preparation of priority investment activities which could be financed through national Governments or international donors. This second step prioritise needs as determined by the own countries concerned.

240. Dr Vallat pointed out a special PVS Gap Analysis project focused mainly to the Animal-Human interface, which will be applied in few selected Members aimed to identifying and strengthening links and collaboration for animal and human health services response. This project will be developed in collaboration with US CDC.

241. Dr Vallat showed the current status of the OIE PVS Programme, both at Global and regional level, including OIE PVS Evaluations and PVS Gap Analysis missions. From a total of 175 OIE Members, 100 of them have already requested the PVS evaluation, from which 90 missions were already completed, and 49 final reports were released their confidential status.

242. 40 Members have requested the PVS Gap Analysis process globally, from which 14 missions were already carried out.

243. Specifically referring to the Asia, the far East and Oceania Region it was stressed that 16 Members requested the PVS evaluation. Dr Vallat incited the Members of the region that have not yet requested to the OIE the PVS Evaluation to do so before the end of the PVS Programme.

244. Regarding Gap Analysis, 6 Members requested the OIE such a process in the region. The Director General insisted on the benefits for the other Members to apply also for this step.

245. Dr Vallat mentioned the importance for all Members to up-date their veterinary legislation, and commented that the OIE has developed a generic basic model which could be used as a guide for Members to be more in compliance with OIE Standards; He also commented that specific missions are being carried out to assist Members on Legislation matters, and some pilot Members were identified to further develop a Convention Agreement with the OIE to assist them and follow up on their evolution on the implementation of an appropriate Veterinary Legislation framework.

246. Finally Dr Vallat concluded by commenting on the success of the OIE Global Conference for Deans of Veterinary Schools which took place in Paris one month ago. Recommendations from such Conference will be the starting point to effectively promote Veterinary education and respect for the Veterinary diploma worldwide. The objective from the OIE is to include within the curricula of Veterinary Faculties, key issues related to Veterinary Services and to global society needs. He commented that Delegates should further reinforce their work with the Veterinary Schools of their respective countries on this matter.

Discussions

247. Delegate of Nepal advised that he had received a letter from Dr Vallat concerning the confidentiality of PVS reports. He sought clarification on this issue in relation to the report on Nepal. Dr Vallat reiterated the OIE policy on the confidentiality of PVS reports. Members can make one of the following choices: a) maintain full confidentiality, in which case the OIE would fully respect the report's confidentiality; b) allow full transparency, in which case the report will be placed on the OIE website; or c) allow the OIE to release the report to OIE partners - such as the FAO and other international donors for supporting purposes only in which case they would maintain confidentiality of the report.

248. With respect to animal welfare, the Delegate of Pakistan raised the issue of animal cruelty and animal housing and asked for OIE advice.

249. Dr Vallat gave an update on OIE activities on animal welfare: he mentioned the consensus and recommendations originating from the two OIE Global Conferences on Animal Welfare already conducted. He highlighted the key recommendation relating to the adoption and implementation by OIE Members of animal welfare legislation based on OIE international standards. These OIE standards cover, among other issues, stamping out policies, animal transport, and animal slaughter.

250. Considering the constantly increasing animal production for human food supply and the consequences that this trend has on animals, a representative of the International Fund for Animal Welfare asked about the responsibilities and the role of veterinarians in animal welfare in this regard.

251. Dr Vallat advised that this was discussed during the OIE Global Conferences on Animal Welfare and there was consensus that animal welfare legislation is essential as a first step in all Members and that veterinarians must address both animal welfare and production issues.

252. The Delegate of Iran asked if there could be model animal health export certificates to assist in further harmonizing and facilitating international trade in animal products.

253. Dr Vallat advised that the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes already provide such certificates. Nevertheless, he recognized that more work was needed to provide models dealing with different situations as the current model certificates were generic. This has been included in the next OIE Strategic Plan.

254. Dr Huang Jie, Member of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, asked how the OIE approach to One World One Health could be reflected in the OIE strategy for trade in aquatic animals.

255. Dr Vallat acknowledged the importance of aquacultural production to food security. Furthermore, the terms of reference of the Aquatic Animals Commission had already been amended in May 2008 to include food safety including antimicrobial resistance. The OIE was willing to organise a Global Conference that would bring together both aquatic animal diseases and aquatic animal production in relation to food security because it is important to highlight that loses of productions due to animal diseases can exceed 20% globally.

256. A representative of China asked if the OIE would conduct official recognition of compartments.

257. Dr Vallat advised that the current mandate of the OIE was to deal with official recognition of country or zone status for four animal diseases: foot-and-mouth disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia. He further advised that earlier in this Regional Conference it was stated that the OIE would be considering providing official recognition for African horse sickness and glanders. He commented that recognition of compartments was not feasible due to the likelihood of large numbers of applications, from many of the 175 OIE Members, needing to be assessed and the significant workload that would result, for which huge additional resources would be necessary. Therefore, the current OIE approach for compartmentalization was provided in the current international standards which obliged a Member to consider requests of proposals to evaluate compartments made by exporting Members within the context of trade negotiations.

258. Dr Vallat made reference to two questions received from the Delegate of Pakistan. The first point referred to avian influenza surveillance. He clarified that the OIE recommends that Veterinary Services need to have the necessary resources to perform surveillance also in backyard poultry as well as in industrial poultry farms. In case of test positive results stamping out is recommended. The second point referred to the inclusion of control of zoonoses into veterinary education. He stated that the OIE considers zoonoses as an important part of veterinary education. The OIE addressed the issue of veterinary curriculum through the recent OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education held in October in Paris; Dr Vallat encouraged all OIE Members to take into account the recommendations of this conference, which are placed on the OIE Web page, to update the national veterinary training programmes. Copies of such recommendations were later distributed to the participants of the Regional Conference.

Activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

259. Dr Toshiro Kawashima commented on the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania. He informed that Executive Members of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania were elected at the 77th OIE General Assembly held in Paris in May 2009: Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan) as President, Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (P.R. China) and Dr Davino Catbagan (Philippines) as Vice-Presidents and Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia) as Secretary General.

260. During the past half year the President of the Commission attended and led regional meetings with the aim of generic aspects in animal health for the Region, namely:
- Third FAO/OIE Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, Tokyo, 23-24 July 2009, as Chair;
- Second OIE Regional Meeting on Strengthening Animal Health Information Networking for HPAI Control in Asia, in Tokyo, 7-8 September and Kyoto, 9-10 September 2009;
- OIE Regional Workshop on Communication, Singapore, 26-27 October 2009; and
- Twenty-sixth Conference of OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, as President.

261. The DRAFT 5th OIE Strategic Plan which was discussed at the OIE Council in September/October 2009 for submission to the OIE World Assembly for its adoption at the next General Session in May 2010. It had been distributed by the OIE Headquarters to the participants of the 77th General Session held in Paris in May 2009 for comments from OIE Members by the end of June 2009.

262. The President of the OIE Regional Commission and the OIE Regional Representative for OIE Asia-Pacific, sent a joint message to the OIE Members in the Region to encourage the Delegates to positively submit their comments on the Draft to the OIE Headquarters for further consideration.

263. A Working Group meeting of the Executive Members with selected Delegates from the Members would be considered, after adoption of the new 5th Strategic Plan by the General Assembly, in Paris, 2010, for the development of regional strategies in line with the Strategic Plan and also for the follow-up of Recommendations by the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held in Shanghai, P. R. China, in November 2009, and other adopted in the Region, together with OIE Regional Reprewsentation where appropriate.

Discussions

264. The Delegate of Australia commended Dr Kawashima for his presentation and especially for his idea of progressing the Region's interests by setting up a small working group, and advised that Australia supported this suggestion. He stated that this Region was the largest in terms of both the number of people and the number of animals as well as being a 'hot spot' for the occurrence of emerging infectious diseases. He commented that Members of the Region could work for the benefit of the OIE, and improve outcomes for the Region as well. The Region should also work cooperatively to gain greater representation on Specialist Commissions, Ad hoc Groups, and Working Groups. He concluded by remarking that the Region could also work towards agreeing on common positions on relevant issues prior to OIE General Sessions.

265. The Delegate of New Zealand also supported the proposal from Dr Kawashima. He commented from his perspective as the previous OIE President that, despite this Region being the largest in terms of human population and of livestock, it was not as active as other Regions and sub-regions in commenting on the establishment of OIE Standards. He encouraged Members to be more active and to coordinate joint positions so the Region could speak with a unified voice during OIE General Sessions giving more weight to our position and making it more likely to succeed.

266. The Delegate of Bhutan agreed with the views expressed by Australia and New Zealand supporting the suggestion by the President of the Regional Commission and considered that this was a timely and good opportunity. He remarked that Sub-Regional Offices, such as the one in Bangkok, were established to be closer to and to better assist Members.

267. The Chair of the Conference Session of the Regional Commission, and Delegate of P.R. China also agreed with the proposal for the Region to be more active while participating in the establishment of OIE standards.

268. The Delegate of Sri Lanka also expressed her support, highlighting the importance of the OIE Program for Strengthening Veterinary Services, as well as the benefits for OIE Members. She also expressed her wish that a PVS Gap Analysis of her country be organised and carried out as soon as possible.

Activities of the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

269. Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific informed that the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (OIE Asia-Pacific) has put priorities of regional activities on Animal health improvement, Strengthening Veterinary Services, Compliance with International Standards for animal health, Capacity building of Veterinary Services for animal health including Legislation, Diagnosis and Surveillance and the Regional Alliance, through organizing meetings, Seminars, Hands-on Workshops, Experts visits, among others.

270. He also noted that, in 2009, activities for capacity building were performed by organizing the OIE Regional Workshop for newly assigned OIE Delegates, Phuket, Thailand, Regional Seminar on Good Governance of Veterinary Services, Shanghai, PR China, and Meetings for Strengthening Information Networking including Legislation for animal disease control and prevention, Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan.

271. Regional meetings were held for regional information and communication activities through the 2nd Regional Workshop on Communication, Singapore, for transboundary animal disease control through the 3rd Regional Steering Committee Meeting on GF-TADs in Tokyo, Japan, together with Sub-Regional Meetings in Kathmandu, Nepal and Nadi, Fiji, as well as for Brucellosis through a meeting in Khon Khaen, Thailand.

272. He highlighted that more intensive efforts have been made for HPAI control in Asia through various meetings in Tokyo, Japan and other countries, and Field surveillance of Avian Influenza in Wild birds as well as domestic animals along the migratory flyways; in Hong Kong, SAR, Vietnam and Mongolia, together with the molecular analysis of the collected samples and viruses at the OIE Reference Laboratory.

273. He mentioned that for 2010, OIE Asia-Pacific plans further regional activities will include the OIE Delegates Workshop, Focal Points Training Workshops on Wildlife and on Animal welfare, together with many other regional meetings/workshops planned for the control of HPAI, Brucellosis, FMD, Prion diseases, Blue tongue, Feed safety; toward animal disease control and so on, for strengthening National Veterinary Services and for regional alliance.

274. To conclude Dr Fujita remarked that, OIE Asia-Pacific will continue working closely with its partners including International Organizations such as FAO, WHO, WTO and Regional Organizations such as ASEAN, SAARC, SPC and NACA, together with other stakeholders including donor governments and agencies.

Summary of the OIE Regional Workshop on Communication; the way forward (Singapore, 26-27 October 2009)

275. Inmidiately after his presentation Dr Fujita made a short comment on the 1st Regional Seminar on Communication which was organized in Bangkok, Thailand, in October 2008, with participants of OIE Members from the Region including Veterinary authorities, the private sector, Media, FAO and OIE. The OIE/AusAID Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services (PSVS) Workshop on Animal Health Communications for ASEAN countries was held in Cambodia, March 2009.

276. The OIE Regional Workshop held in Singapore on 26-27 October 2009, was the follow-up of the Bangkok Meeting, with the main objectives of considering the Recommendations of the Bangkok Meeting and their implications for the Region, of identifying strengths and weakness including delivery of and policies on communication for animal health at a national level.

277. The Singapore Workshop well reflected outcomes of the PSVS Communication Workshop for ASEAN countries in Cambodia, and produced two major papers on DRAFT Strategy for Animal Health Communication with 5 Goals, and DRAFT Conclusions and Recommendations which include recognition of the increasing importance of communication strategies for animal disease control and prevention, and actions to be taken for such strategies.

Discussions

278. Dr Huang Jie, Member of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, was appreciative of the work done by the Regional Representation. He reminded that NACA had a very good experience on the coordination of aquatic animal health, surveillance, reporting and prevention in Asia and Pacific Region, regarding the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code and Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals.

279. Dr Fujita replied that the good cooperation with NACA is ongoing. He would personally attend, two weeks after this meeting, an Advisory Group meeting on aquatic animals diseases to be organized by NACA to ensure the good cooperation with the OIE.

280. The draft Conclusions and Recommendations of the Singapore meeting on Communication was endorsed by the Regional Commission.

Activities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia

281. Dr Ronello Abila started his presentation mentioning that the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South East Asia based in Bangkok continues to implement two projects – the South East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign and the Project on Strengthening Veterinary Services (PSVS) in South East Asia to combat Avian Influenza and other transboundary animal diseases.

282. He described the two projects as follows:

SEAFMD

283. The highlights of the SEAFMD Campaign in 2009 were the holding of the 15th Meeting of the OIE Sub-commission in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia from 9 to 13 March 2009, the publication of the SEAFMD Manual on Outbreak Investigation, the conduct of the outbreak investigation trainings, the successful meetings of the Malaysia-Thailand- Myanmar (MTM) Tri-Sate Commission, the Upper and Lower Mekong Working Groups on Zoning and Animal Movement management, the SEAFMD Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks and the National Coordinators .

284. Through the technical advice given by the RCU, the members continue to develop better approaches to control FMD. The Regional Coordinator and staff carried out missions to members. Missions to engage the Ministers and high ranking government officials led to better recognition of FMD control as priority program by the national government.

285. The OIE received funding from AusAID in April 2009 to support the SEAFMD program until June 2011. A substantial donation was also received from New Zealand MAFF in June 2008 to support SEAFMD operations.

286. The RCU continues to monitor outbreaks of FMD in the region and regularly disseminate this information to members. The most common serotypes identified this year were serotype O of SE Asia topotype with some pockets of serotype A. It was observed that serotypes Asia 1, Cathay and Pan-Asia topotypes of serotype O which had been causing some outbreaks in the previous years, were not reported this year.

PSVS

287. The highlights of activities of OIE/AusAID PSVS during this year were, holding of the 4th Steering Group meeting, organizing of the 1st Sub-Regional Workshop on Animal Health Communication, 2nd Regional Workshop on Veterinary Legislation and Governance, 2nd Regional Workshop on Emergency Preparedness and Response, co-organized with FAO the sub-regional Workshop to Strengthen Laboratory Network for South East Asia, participation in the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Gap analysis training at OIE headquarters in Paris and the evaluation of Veterinary Services in the Philippines using the PVS Tool.

288. A new Program Coordinator , Dr John Stratton, was hired in April 2009 to manage the project until it finishes next year.

289. One of the major highlight this year is the evaluation of the project by an Independent Project Review (IPR) team contracted by AusAID. Among those that was closely examined was the project goals and its component objectives. This project is aimed at helping countries in Southeast Asia to initially improve their current capacities in terms of veterinary legislation, emergency preparedness and risk communication. The project also aims to bring the VS into line with OIE international standards in terms of governance, organisation and programmes including active partnerships with the private sector as well as providing technical support for evaluation of the VS, primarily based on the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the PVS Tool.

290. Among the findings of the IPR team is the unique features of PSVS which has been the focus on systems development compared to the more typical donor engagement in technical issues and capacity building in technical areas. PSVS, through its work on improving the legislative environment for improved animal health systems, has either stimulated some early activity in legislation, or has been a catalyst for increasing momentum in countries where some preliminary work had begun.

291. The key recommendation of the IPR Team is to refocus the PSVS on enabling national governments to attract resources from industry, government, and donors to support and implement a coherent, costed, national plan to improve veterinary services. The aim of the project at the national level then becomes to increase the uptake of the PVS tool, and motivate engagement of a wide range of stakeholders in the development of this plan.

292. The draft Conclusions and Recommendations of the Cambodia meeting on Communication was endorsed by the Regional Commission.

Wednesday 18 November 2009

Technical Item II
The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases, including the example of China

293. Dr Gardner Murray started his presentation by referring to the OIE official freedom recognition procedures for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and Rinderpest.

294. He explained that for all other diseases freedom is based on self-declaration if the country can provide sufficient evidence as provided in the relevant Code Chapter to substantiate its claims.

295. He referred to the Zoning and Compartmentalization concepts as stated also in the OIE Code, stressing the complexity of both approaches, as well as the importance is the effectiveness of veterinary services, political support, engagement of industry and key stakeholders, and the provision of adequate resources for their implementation.

296. Dr Murray commented that the OIE, through the Scientific Commission is starting considerations to add some specific equine diseases to the OIE official procedure for recognition of freedom status, starting by African Horse sickness and glanders. OIE has not, as yet, sought to develop the concept of official regional freedom for a suite of diseases.

297. He commented on an OIE Expert Mission to assist the People's Republic of China (PRC) prepare for the 2008 Beijing Olympics Equestrian Events; in 2008 to provide technical advice on proposals to establish specific Equine Disease Free Zones (EDFZ) in Guangzhou and Nanjing, which is used in as a case example to describe the development of an EDFZ., including planning approaches for an EDFZ in preparation for the Asian Games equestrian events scheduled to be held in November 2010.

298. He described the methodology used for this case study, which included, among other issues, the preparation of a questionnaire sent to Chinese Veterinary Authorities; Studies of the geography of the area, visits to sites, laboratories and the like; and meetings with Governmental and nongovernmental interested sectors.

299. The set of equine diseases was defined as follows:

    Diseases considered important in the context of the construction proposal: African Horse Sickness; Equine Infectious Anaemia; Glanders; Japanese Encephalitis (JE); Equine Piroplasmosis; Equine Viral Arteritis; Dourine; Surra (Trypanosoma evansi); Equine Influenza; Vesicular Stomatitis (VS); Nipah Virus Disease (NV); West Nile Virus Disease and Hendra Virus Disease.

    Susceptibly of other species to some of these diseases (such pigs, cattle and goats).

300. Dr Murray explained that the EDFZ includes different zones, comprising a core and a surveillance zone, with restrictions in reference to animal population permanency as well as their movements, through the application of biosecurity measures, including quarantine requirements. Surrounding the EDFZ is a Protection zone that includes the surrounding districts of Guangzhou City.

301. He also described the epidemiosurveillance developed within the EDFZ and protection zone, consisting mainly in serum sampling and testing for most of diseases, and PCR for VS. Few horses which resukted positive to EIA and EVSA were destroyed, while few horses which resulted positive to EP were isolated and treated.

302. Specific surveillance for certain diseases in pigs and cattle was also carried out.

303. He noted that based on risk, optimal surveillance programs can be designed taking into account the diseases known to occur in the wider region and the requirements of countries sending horses to the EDFZ.

304. He also reported that Chinese Authorities had commenced a wildlife and vector study which would be reported on during 2009.

305. He remarked the relevance of establishing emergency disease plans in case of occurrence of health problems.

306. He described the laboratory network established to be involved in surveillance and import testing, highlighting the necessity of test methods which should be those as prescribed by the OIE, as well as standardized reagents used and obtained from or exchanged with OIE Reference Laboratories.

307. Dr Murray stated that the generic Model passport for international movement of competition horses, as established within the Chapter 5.12 of the OIE Terrestrial Code should be the reference to establishing import and re export protocols including certification for competition horses between PRC Authorities and officials from the countries of origin. High level quarantine capabilities are seen as essential.

308. A basic and critical element for allowing the establishment of EDFZ is Veterinary Infrastructure and Standard Operating Procedures. This also needs policy and program support at the political and industry level with the provision of adequate resources. Legislation and support systems to ensure that diseases of equines are subject to official controls and to support disease reporting from the local level is also crucial.

309. The need for an overall Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) supported by Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). was also remarked.

310. Main conclusions from the Mission supported the construction scheme and made a number of recommendations for the consideration of the PRC and OIE to enhance activities in areas such as surveillance, laboratory systems, protocol and certification arrangements, training and staff development and the need for strong monitoring and evaluation.

311. Dr Murray summarised key elements of the approach as follows:

1. Highly effective partnership arrangements between key government organizations and horse industries
2. A strong business planning approach with clear timelines for completion of Project activities
3. Political support and adequate resources
4. High level coordination
5. Strong governance and legislative processes
6. High effective and professional technical services
7. Effective international negotiation skills to develop sound, safe and practical protocols and health certification requirements
8. Sound training proposals for technical and related staff

312. Dr Murray highlighted important developments made by PR China to facilitate international movement of horses to the EDFZ, including among others, traceability system for horses, and the participation of Chinese officers in PVS activities, such the OIE PVS Gap Analysis training seminar held in OIE HQs in April 2009.

313. He stated that although the initial purpose of the proposal of EDFZ is to support a specialized event, such as the Asian Games, the facilities will be developed as an International Equestrian Centre. This will likely mean the need for ongoing EDFZ status as horses, people and equipment are likely to continue to move to and from the Zone. This experience, as well as previous similar events would indicate there are a series of guiding principles that can apply to the development of EDFZs for specific events.

314. Finally Dr Gardner expressed that such principles, if documented in as a publication such as the OIE Technical and Scientific Review series for example, would serve as useful reference material and provide scope for country self declaration procedures in the growing competition and equestrian event arena. It is necessary to ensure the use of up-to-date OIE terminology and ensure full adherence to OIE principles and practices. Given the complexity of the subject however, OIE should offer to send expert Missions to advise on EDFZs should Members so request. Funding could be provided by the country, industry and other interested donors.

315. He ended by stressing that key to the integrity of an EDFZ and animal health arrangements are sound Veterinary Services, strong veterinary leadership and an effective chain of command, and he encouraged all Members to enter the OIE PVS Process.

Discussion

316. Dr Barry O'Neil thanked the speaker for his excellent presentation and he invited the Chinese Government to give their perspective on this work.

317. A representative of China gave complementary information regarding the Establishment of the Equine Disease-free Zone (EDFZ) for the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou

318. He detailed two main topics regarding the establishment of the EDFZ as follows:

I. Investigation and Surveillance for Susceptible Wild Animals and Insect Vectors

319. Entrusted by the Guangzhou Animal Health Supervision Institute, the Guangdong Insect Research Institute conducted an investigation on susceptible wild animals and insect vectors in the EDFZ between November 2008 and July 2009. It was discovered that the main wild animals in the region are wild boars, wild birds and bats. Then, 189 samples were collected from wild birds for test of Japanese Encephalitis and West Nile Virus Disease; 203 samples were collected from bats to carry out test for Nipah Virus Disease and Hendra Virus Disease. In addition, 1557 mosquito were sampled for test of Japanese Encephalitis, Vesicular Stomatitis and West Nile Virus Disease. The surveillance results showed that no relevant pathogens were detected.

II. Official Evaluation on the EDFZ by the Ministry of Agriculture of P.R.China (MOA)

320. The MOA has established a comprehensive and systematic system for the evaluation of Disease-free Zones in P.R.China. In January 2007, the Minister of the MOA issued a decree the Administrative Measures for Evaluation of Disease-free Zones, which stipulated the principles of zoning control and risk assessment for the evalution of Disease-free Zones; the institution that shall be charged with evaluation tasks namely the National Committee on Animal Health Risk Assessment; the procedures from application for evaluation to publication of evaluation results; and the methodology used in the process of evaluation including documentation evaluation and on-site inspection.

321. Moreover, the Technical Criteria for Management of Disease-free Zones that was composed of 63 technical files, was published by the MOA in January 2007, which recommended the routine management measures for Disease-free Zones so as to help Disease-free Zones operate smoothly. In order to facilitate the establishment of the EDFZ in P.R.China, the MOA published 16 standards with respect to the relevant equine disease-free zones in 2009, covering all the targeted equine diseases such as African Horse Sickness, Glanders, Equine Viral Arteritis, Equine Piroplasmosis, Surra etc. In addition, a working form, the Site Assessment Form for Evalution of Disease-free Zones, was established to help evaluation experts to conduct evaluation.

322. The MOA entrusted the National Committee on Animal Health Risk Assessment to carry out an official evaluation on the EDFZ in Guangzhou from 12 to 20 Oct. 2009, with the conclusion that the EDFZ in Guangzhou has reached the relevant standards concerning the related equine disease-free zones, which marked that the first EDFZ of P.R.China has been established successfully.

323. Dr Murray commented that this clearly demonstrated the high level of commitment of the Chinese Government to the creation of EDFZ.

324. Dr O'Neil opened the floor for discussion and said that it would be important to address two aspects of Dr Murray's presentation: issues related to the forthcoming Asian Games to be held in China in 2010 and practical issues related to the establishment of EDFZ.

325. A member of the delegation of Iran asked the speaker to clarify the differences between the core and surveillance zones. He also asked whether the OIE would officially recognise such EDFZs.

326. Dr Murray advised that the 5 km radius core zone included the competition site which was surrounded by a perimeter fence. The core zone is surrounded by a surveillance zone which is a large horse-free area but other animals may be present. The core zone and surveillance zone covered 2009 sq km. The surrounding protection zone had small registered horse, cattle, pig and goat populations with all horses electronically identified. He stressed that one of the critical points was the management measures implemented within and between each zone. He clarified that the OIE did not provide official recognition for EDFZs but instead the OIE provides international standards which allowed its Members to make self declarations of free zones, based on the OIE standards.

327. The Delegate of Pakistan sought clarification on what would happen to horses that had to be removed in the establishment of the surveillance zone.

328. A representative of the Chinese Government indicated that in the surveillance zone, all horses were removed compulsorily and compensation was provided to owners. So no horses would be present during the 2010 games.

329. A representative of the Delegation of India noted that positive cases of equine viral arteritis and equine infection anaemia were detected during the original surveillance and asked for confirmation that the health risks from these diseases would be addressed for the Asian Games 2010.

330. Dr Murray replied that the risks would be minimal because no horses would be present in the surveillance zone. In addition he stressed the solid basis for future surveillance by national authorities.

331. A representative of the Chinese Government confirmed that surveillance was in place and that it would continue even beyond the 2010 games since the EDFZ would be maintained. He remarked on the joint work which was being done and the collaboration with the horse industry and other key stakeholders.

332. The Delegate of Nepal asked whether there was specific legislation for the creation of the EDFZ and how long it took to make this legislation.

333. Dr Murray commented on the importance of analysing all potential risks and to modify and improve relevant legislation as necessary.

334. A member of the Chinese Delegation advised that the evaluation of the EDFZ had been completed and that a public announcement would soon be made. Ongoing surveillance and other activities and measures will ensure the safety of the zone. The MOA would ensure the sustainability of the EDFZ in accordance with the following laws and regulations, namely, the Animal Epidemic Prevention Law of the P.R. China; Law of P. R. China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine; Regulation on Handing Major Animal Epidemic Emergencies of the State Council; Notice of Guangdong Provincial People's Government on implementation of Regional Management of the Guangzhou Asian Games Equine Disease Control Zone; and Notice of the People's Government City on Construction of the Specific EDFZ.

335. A representative from Hong Kong noted that the Veterinary Authority of Hong Kong supported the approach which had been taken and that this was suitable for the region. He stated that a joint task force between officials and the horse industry was crucial for success in the implementation and also for sensitising policy makers. He asked how the OIE could facilitate international movements of horses after competitions, mainly for horses returning to the European Union. He also asked how the OIE PVS could be applied for ongoing assessment of EDFZ maintenance.

336. Dr Murray replied that the best way to address border control is by management of borders, movements of animals will always be necessary. The OIE's objective was to facilitate animal movements while minimising disease spread. Regarding the application of the OIE PVS Tool, Dr Murray clarified that the PVS process, including Gap Analysis, aimed to reinforce the whole Veterinary Service and this would, in turn, impact very positively on the improvement and maintenance of the EDFZs. He noted that independent external evaluations are always useful.

337. Dr O'Neil stressed the importance of transparency regarding both the animal health situation as well as all other relevant information. This would create confidence between trading partners.

338. The Delegate of the Philippines recalled that the purpose of this presentation should be to harmonise the process for establishing EDFZs. He suggested the development and establishment of a specific protocol for this for the region (including testing and quarantine requirements).

339. Dr Gardner Murray clarified that protocols have been already used for the Hong Kong Olympic Games and that these provided a model to cover the issue raised by the Philippines.

340. Dr O'Neil noted that IEF was actively supporting P.R. China on the establishment of the EDFZ based on OIE international standards.

341. A representative of AQSIQ China commented that equine events were being organised more and more within the Region. He remarked on the importance of the approach taken of establishing EDFZs. He suggested that the OIE develop specific guidelines for establishing EDFZs and to consider the possibility of the OIE officially recognizing EDFZs.

342. Dr O'Neil advised that the OIE was very active in facilitating safe trade between its Members. The OIE Code also includes a Veterinary Certificate model for movements of equines for competition. Moreover, the OIE provides expert advice by consulting with world experts. This certificate was developed with the collaboration of EIF. Dr O'Neil stated that it would be very difficult at this time for the OIE to officially recognise EDFZs.

343. The OIE Director General clarified that for the moment the OIE does not recognise official free status for horse diseases. Nevertheless, after requests from some Members and from EIF, the SCAD is considering recognition of free status for African horse sickness and for glanders. Other equine diseases could probably be included later on. Dr Vallat commented that, as this process was highly time consuming, this would require additional resources at OIE HQs. The process was complex, requiring specific groups of scientists to analyse the applications for specific diseases which would arrive from Members. The reports from these scientific groups needed to be submitted to SCAD (which Members are elected by the World Assembly of Delegates) for the final analysis and approval. Final official recognition is achieved through the adoption by vote of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates during the General Session. Dr Vallat stressed that the procedure is complex but has a strong scientific and democratic basis. Therefore, he believed that it would be difficult at this time to initiate such a process for official recognition using this model for EDFZs.

344. Dr Vallat noted that for specific and relevant events, the OIE could support its Members by sending a team of international experts to the zone to provide recommendations and technical advice for the establishment of an EDFZ. Later on the team would prepare a report that would constitute the basis for the OIE's recommendations to be sent officially to the Delegate that had asked for assistance. This would give Members a strong scientific basis for negotiating sanitary requirements with countries wishing to send competition horses.

345. Dr Vallat finally stated that probably, in the future, if all conditions allow it, the OIE could support officially EDFZs concept. The OIE could do more on this, and will continue to further support Members on this, if requested, but time is necessary.

GF-TADs for Asia

346. The presentation of this topic was shared by Dr Itsuo Shimohira; OIE Regional Representation and Dr Toshiro Kawashima, President of the Regional Commission.

347. Dr Itsuo Shimohira started his presentation commenting on the Sub-Regional Meetings for SAARC and SPC Regions that were organized in Kathmandu, Nepal and Nadi, Fiji, respectively in June 2009, to follow up the Recommendations of the 2nd Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs held in Bangkok, in July 2007. The Sub-Regional Meeting for ASEAN which had initially been planned in Indonesia, in July 2009, was postponed, due to the unexpected incidence in Jakarta. It will be organized in Jakarta, Indonesia on 7-8 December 2009.

348. He mentioned that taking into consideration that the vision of GF-TADs is to assist countries in the control of TADs by strengthening the capacity of their Veterinary Services, the Sub-Regional Meetings of GF-TADs discussed the setting up and strengthening of key instruments at the sub-regional level to coordinate in fighting against TADs and promote early warning and early response.

349. Dr Shimohira described the major recommendations of two Sub Regional meetings as follows.

(SAARC)

- To develop more specific strategies and roadmaps for each of the priority TADs (FMD, PPR and HPAI).
- To establish the RSU and all associated units and networks in the SAARC region.

(SPC)

- To enhance the preparedness for exotic diseases, such as HPAI, Newcastle Disease, CSF, FMD, Bluetongue, PPR and Rabies.
- To address immediate Zoonotic endemic diseases including Brucellosis, Leptospirosis, and Bovine Tuberculosis.

350. Dr Toshiro Kawashima presented the Third Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs which was convened in Tokyo, Japan on 23-24 July 2009. The Meeting recognized the GF-TADs as a unique coordinating mechanism which is adding the significant value to global and regional approaches to TADs and Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) control. Several important recommendations have emerged from the Meeting which will serve as the guidelines for further improvement of TADs control in the Region.

351. To finalise he explained that the Generic and Regional Recommendations and Special issues raised during the Meeting as follows:

(Generic recommendations)

- To continue addressing cross cutting issues including capacity development: strengthening veterinary services to comply with international standards on quality of veterinary services, good governance and legislation, veterinary education, and improved diagnostic laboratory services.

(Regional recommendations)

- To support the strengthening of diagnostic laboratory services, biosecurity, improved management of animal movement, epidemiology and laboratory networks, information systems and communication.
- To organize the GF-TADs Sub-Regional meetings and to discuss specific sub-regional issues including socio-economic aspects related to disease control and prevention.

(Special Issues)

- To encourage the OIE PVS Evaluation, PVS Gap Analysis and to update legislations related to animal health in the Region.
- To use the existing disease control mechanism such as the road map for SEAFMD, GREP and veterinary capacity building by PSVS as models, for control of other TADs in the Region.

Discussions

352. The Delegate of Pakistan commented that Newcastle disease constitutes a considerable problem for the region and that it should be included in the GF-TAD program.

353. Dr Kawashima acknowledged the problem and proposed to discuss this issue at the next meeting of the GF-TADs Regional or Sub Regional (SAARC) steering committee.

Regional Animal Welfare Strategy. Implementation plan

354. Dr. Gardney Murray, OIE adviser, made a comprehensive presentation of the environment around the implementation of the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS), which was discussed at the OIE Regional Commission in May 2009, where it was agreed to be addressed for endorsement during the Regional Commission Conference in Shanghai. He recalled the key policy issue arising out of the OIE 2nd Global Conference on Animal Welfare in Cairo, in October 2008, in terms of the need to drive implementation of OIE's welfare standards and approaches.

355. As the RAWS in general terms is viewed very positively by the OIE Members of the Region and as a potential model for other OIE Regions, Dr. Murray highlighted that an important factor in the progress and success of the development of the Strategy and the associated implementation plan in the Region, is the close involvement of OIE Members, the international animal welfare movement, industry organisations and veterinary associations. In this sense he also mentioned that Australia supported a working group to develop the RAWS Implementation Plan (RAWSIP) to help move forward the Strategy as well a to provide an Interim Secretariat to support the establishment of a Regional Animal Welfare Coordination Group (RAWCG). Dr. Murray mentioned that the RAWS and RAWSIP articulate an overall strategic approach to facilitate the objective of the key policy of the Conference on Animal Welfare in Cairo.

356. Dr. Murray informed that the Interim Secretariat developed and circulated an update newsletter on the RAWS for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, and some other initiatives including the translation of the RAWS into Indonesian, Malay, Thai and Tagalog available in print-ready and web versions.

357. In other issues Dr. Murray commented that OIE has developed a network of Animal Welfare Focal Points responsible for supporting the OIE National Delegate in meeting the obligations of OIE membership and these OIE focal points will receive training on 2010 on the OIE standards, policies and procedures, to help them to fulfil their role.

358. Dr. Murray presented to the plenary the following Recommendations for endorsement:

359. It is recommended that the Regional Commission:

i. **Notes** the OIE's support for the Regional Strategy Implementation Plan, and the view that the strategy and plan can serve as a model for other OIE Regions.
ii. **Endorses** the draft Implementation Plan for the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy.
iii. **Supports** holding a Training Course for OIE Animal Welfare Focal points back to back with a Workshop to consider issues arising from the Regional Animal Welfare Implementation Plan in Bangkok in the first half of 2010.

iv. **Notes** the Training Course will be organised by the OIE. The RAWS Workshop will be organised and funded by Australia. The logistical support for both events will be provided by the OIE Sub Regional Representation in Bangkok.

360. The OIE Members expressed contentment to see the finalisation, and approval, of the strategy and preparation of the implementation plan supporting its endorsement and a recommendation to establish a RAWCG, as well as to hold a regional animal welfare Workshop to further consider how best implementation can be effected by OIE Members of the Region, and the most practical arrangements for coordination of implementation of the overall strategy.

361. Additionally the OIE Members thank and commend the Australian Government for the support provided for this important regional initiative in terms of both the meetings held, to date, and the commitment to provide interim secretariat support for the proposed RAWCG.

Discussions

362. The Delegate of New Zealand, welcomed the efforts made in the Region on animal welfare and asked all the participants to this Regional Conference to continue their support. He commented that it is not sufficient to only participate in workshops, but that it was necessary for a strong commitment at national level to apply the regional strategy. He asked Dr Murray whether he had identified any specific problems at national level for the implementation of the regional animal welfare strategy and how the OIE and donors could better collaborate with Members to apply the strategy.

363. Dr Murray responded that he had identified 'the allocation of resources' as the main problem for implementing the welfare strategy. He stated that allocation of resources would depend on the priorities set at a national level.

364. Dr Bonbon, representative of the European Commission, recalled that the European Union was very active in Animal Welfare issues and supported the OIE on this matter. He briefed the participants on some activities that had been developed and on the policy to support other regions in developing animal welfare strategies.

365. A representative of the International Fund for Animal Welfare in China asked whether the OIE could provide additional support on animal welfare in addition to the guidelines and its regional strategy. She asked whether the OIE could provide legal advice or to facilitate discussions and negotiations between different sectors in China.

366. Dr Murray recalled that it is up to each Member to seek specific support on legislation from the OIE.

367. The OIE Director General remarked that legislation is crucial and is a priority to address and to improve Animal Welfare. Such legislation must be first based on prevention of cruelty and then of the use of OIE standards for specific topics such as animal transport, slaughter and sanitary slaughter. During different workshops, OIE Delegates had shared their own experiences. He recalled the need for support on legislation on animal welfare in most developing countries, some of them starting from zero before the OIE Global Conferences.

368. Dr Vallat stated that it is not possible to have a universal legislation or a unique strategy for animal welfare. Regional specificities had to always be considered. Therefore, the OIE supports the development and implementation of regional strategies.

369. A member of the Delegation of WSPA welcomed Australia for supporting the regional workshop and considered that this initiative needed to be encouraged. He made reference to the trade agreement between Korea and the European Union that had been signed recently which included animal welfare aspects. He indicated that this agreement should be used as an example for future bilateral agreements.

370. Dr Murray made reference to the support from some donors, such as the EC, to implement the regional strategy. He commented that there are different approaches to animal welfare that needed to be tailored depending on the Members, and that OIE Focal Points played a key role. He further commented that the design of a regional animal welfare approach was an ongoing process that would need continuing involvement over time.

371. A representative of the Delegation of India made reference to the recommendations coming out from the workshop and asked which recommendations would need to be implemented. He then asked what region Members should do to support this initiative.

372. Dr Murray indicated that the Regional Commission could endorse these recommendations. He stated that the aim of these recommendations was to allow for flexibility by establishing guidelines which allowed for each Member to mach their needs. The recommendations could evolve if required by Members.

373. Finally, the Commission endorsed the presentation made by Dr Murray.

Updated information on aquatic animal health activities by the OIE

374. Dr Jie Huang, Member of the Aquatic Animal Health Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), gave an update on the aquatic animal health activities of the OIE. He started by giving the new composition of the Aquatic Animals Commission following the recent elections of May 2009. Then he underlined the growing importance of aquaculture production in the world and in Asia. Aquaculture accounts now for almost 50% of the global food fish. It contributes to 16% of total animals' human protein intake. He stressed the growing relevance of trade in aquatic products and share of Asian exports in this sector.

375. He presented the main changes and amendments to the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code chapters adopted in May 2009:
    - 4 crustacean diseases de-listed: tetrahedral baculovirosis, spherical baculovirosis, hepatopancreatic parvovirus disease and mourilyan virus disease
    - Addition of new chapters to the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code
    - Quality of Competent Authorities (Ch 3.1)
    - Criteria to assess safety of aquatic animal commodities (Ch 5.3)
    - Welfare of farmed fish during transport (Ch 7.2.)
    - Model certificates (Ch 5.10) – major revision
    - Restructuring to align with Terrestrial Code
    - New Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals was adopted

376. He pointed out that the mandate of the Aquatic Animals Commission had recently been expanded to include aquatic animal production food safety and aquatic animal welfare.

377. He summarised the meetings held by the Aquatic Animals Commission and related Ad Hoc Groups in 2009 and encouraged OIE Members to actively take part in the development of the OIE's international standards by submitting comments. The September 2009 meeting of the Aquatic Animals Commission proposed to Members some amendments to the current Aquatic Code as well as some new texts; all Members are invited to address them.

378. He presented the future work planned by the Aquatic Animals Commission: the future Ad Hoc Groups and forthcoming publication of the Guide for Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance.

379. He reiterated the OIE request to all OIE Members to designate aquatic national focal points and to cooperate, where necessary, with their national counterparts dealing with aquatic animal health, gave good results. The OIE is organising training courses for focal points.

380. He welcomed the good cooperation in the field of aquatic animal health between the OIE and both FAO and NACA.

381. He concluded by presenting the OIE Proposed for a 2nd OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health to be held in 2011 in Asia.

Updated information on the OIE Terrestrial Code Commission

382. Dr Stuart MacDiarmid made a brief presentation to the audience on the role of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (TAHSC) in the international standards setting activities of the OIE. The presentation outlined the processes by which the TAHSC updates OIE standards through its twice-yearly meetings and circulation to the OIE membership of proposed revisions to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The 51 new or revised chapters circulated after the September 2009 meeting of the TAHSC are listed, and commentary is offered on significant changes or developments relevant to several of these. He concluded with advice to Members on the most effective manner in which to make comments on revised texts so that the TAHSC can understand precisely what changes Members want to see in Code chapters.

Discussion

383. The Representative of Hong Kong asked whether the OIE is considering translating the Code Commission in Chinese taking into account that could be better used.

384. Dr Vallat informed that the Code was already translated into Chinese two years ago and recommended to ask Chinese Delegate to give a copy to him.

385. A representative of the Chinese Delegation expressed that China can finance the translation into Chinese of relevant OIE documents. He remarked the relevance of the OIE Code as reference document for animal health in China, and the necessity to translate it into Chinese, as well as into other national languages, considering that English is not the first language in many members of the region.

386. Dr Huan Jie, member of the AAHSC, commented the possibility that part of the funds, provided by the Chinese Government, for his participation in the AAC, could be used for the translation of the OIE reports and working documents of the OIE AAC which should be distributed to some Chinese scientifics and officers for comments.

387. Nevertheless Dr. Vallat informed that even the OIE encourages translation of OIE standards into national languages, OIE can not be responsible of the quality of those translations due to quality control concerns and suggested that members of the OIE respective specialized Commissions could help on this control. As an example he mentioned the case of a Russian member of the Code Commission, whose took care of the quality control of the Terrestrial Code in Russian. These translations are not officially recognized by OIE.

388. The Delegate of Iran suggested that each OIE Member should have a person specifically for translating into local languages OIE standards. He asked why there are no standards within the OIE Code for importing osein and gelatin, in regards to the risks for BSE. He also requested clarifications on regards of the different animal health risks when referring to frozen and fresh meat.

389. Dr. Mac Diarmid informed that the safety of gelatin regarding BSE is already recognized with enough scientific evidence, therefore it is recognized a safe product irrespective of the sanitary status of the zone of origin. Osein could be also safe, but there is not enough scientific evidence for the moment.

390. Concerning freezing of the meat he confirmed that there is no evidence of risk reduction for BSE, but it is demonstrated its efficacy to prevent infestation with Trichinella or other parasites.

391. The Delegate of Bangladesh expressed the problems related to fraudulent certification of origin of meat and bone meal.

392. In this respect Dr Vallat highlighted the importance of trusting Veterinary Authority of exporting Members as final responsible of credibility of export certificates including attestations of origin of commodities. He stated that the certifying veterinarian is responsible for knowing and ensuring the origin of the products and that the CVO is the person responsible for the official certification from his country.

393. A Representative of the Delegation of India asked how his country could be involved in Code Commission activities and how this Commission follows up country comments; besides that he also wondered why animal welfare was already addressed for systems of animal production but not for dog population control.

394. In regard to the first query Dr. Mac Diarmid recommended sending country comments on time for Code Commission consideration respecting deadlines established for OIE standard setting procedure and recommended OIE Members not to send their comments in track-changes mode for easier follow up.

395. On the second inquiry Dr Vallat commented the long list of matters posed by Members to be addressed by the Code Commission in the field of animal welfare and informed that the priority assigned to each issue depends on the number of Members commenting on each topic. In this regard he recalled the weight that regional proposals have for assigning priorities.

396. He commented that if various Members send requests to the OIE to develop standards on egg production or other livestock production system, the OIE could consider it.

397. Standards for stray dog population control have been adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates in May 2009 and already published.

398. Dr Mac Diarmid asked Members to send their comments to the OIE soon to be considered in the next meeting of the Code Commission.

399. A Representative of China suggested including provisions in the Code regarding vaccination coverage, including definition within the glossary. Criteria should be established to explain vaccination coverage over 100 per cent.

400. Dr Gideon Bruckner, President of SCAD, added that this topic was already discussed and is reflected in the report of the SCAD meeting of September 2009. The differences in livestock management practices make prescriptive guidelines for ideal vaccine coverage very difficult. The SCAD concluded that the ideal would be to ensure at least the establishment of an 80% immune status in the specific species vaccinated in a given period. Taking this approach would prevent the calculation of vaccination coverage on numbers vaccinated in one or more rounds of vaccination as such calculations are confusing and misleading if measured against the recorded animal statistics for the given species

401. Dr Vallat recognized the need to propose OIE international standards related on minimal vaccination coverage. He reminded that vaccination coverage higher than 100% within annual reports are due to the fact that for some animal populations and for specific diseases vaccination campaigns could be repeated twice a year.

402. The representative of China commented that some solution should be sought. He suggested that one possibility could be to inform “vaccinated animals”.

Presentations by international and regional organisations

European Commission (EC)

403. Dr Alain VANDERSMISSEN, Coordinator Influenza, « One Health », Emerging Diseases, DG External Relations, European Commission, delivered his presentation on: From the Global Response to Avian Influenza,through Pandemic A/H1N1, towards « One Health » -State of Play and Perspectives-

404. He started by reminding the involvement of the Commission in strengthening veterinary services in Asia since 1989 and supporting public health since 1996. He underlined the evolution of the last five years, based on the response to the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza crisis, through the current A/H1N1 pandemic, towards the "One Health" approach addressing health risks at the interface between animals, humans and ecosystems.

405. Dr Vandersmissen reminded the three major steps of the unprecedented global response to HPAI, the determinants of the Commission response, including the main political principles: "EU as a major actor in crisis prevention and response" and "linking crisis prevention and response to long-term capacity building and poverty alleviation. He outlined the main characteristics of the EU regional strategy for Asia 2007-2013, insisting on the fact that the 48 million euros attributed to the component "Cross-border cooperation in animal and human health" have been, at the end of 2009, almost fully committed, 30 months only after the first conversations on the possibility of such a cooperation, at the occasion of an OIE SEAFMD sub-commission meeting in Cambodia (Siem Reap March 2007).

406. Dr Vandersmissen announced the launching of the regional programme Highly Pathogenic Emerging or re-emerging Diseases in Asia (20 million euros over 4 years) to be implemented through agreements with OIE, FAO and WHO. He encouraged members to make use of this programme and outlined its contents. He listed recent important evaluations of the Global Response to Avian Influenza (GRAI), that have been conducted in 2009, including the first ever outcomes and impact assessment of the GRAI, conducted in 4 Asian and 3 African countries. As "prime time information", he listed the main conclusions of the mission that are largely positive about the many significant impacts of the GRAI. Some weaknesses of GRAI have been identified by the evaluators, namely the slowness of development banks and the little impact of the communication process at field level.

407. Dr Vandersmissen indicated how the current A/H1N1 pandemic was addressed at European Commission level, as regards support to third countries, in total continuity with the efforts of the Commission on HPAI, since they were conceived from the beginning to address risks beyond the sole H5N1. He stressed the need for a new "management of uncertainty" in a world biologically globalized. While reminding the audience about the vision of the Commission on "One Health", he explained how the various DGs of the Commission (External Relations, Health, Development, Cooperation, Research,…) were joining forces on this now broadly acknowledged concept. Perspectives for the period 2011-2013 were briefly presented, with the Cross-border cooperation on animal and human health being updated to "One Health" that addresses risks at the interface animals, humans and ecosystems and cross sectorality of health.

408. Finally Dr Alain Vandersmissen congratulated Vietnam for hosting the next Ministerial conference on Influenza and "One Health", recommending that the conference look forward to the developments of this approach. He also presented the financial support offered by the European Commission to participants from various countries and encouraged them to act quickly through the delegations of the Commission in their country, to secure this assistance.

Discussions

409. Dr Bernard Vallat acknowledged the points raised in the presentation and expressed his gratitude to the EC, underlying the personal involvement of Dr Vandersmissen, for supporting OIE programmes within the region. He noted that the concept of "One World One Health" is very important but provisions should be taken in order to ensure that funds from donors be properly shared between both the Veterinary and the Public Health sectors.

410. He outlined the importance of the next conference to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in April 2010, and thanked Dr Vandersmissen for indicating that the EC could support the participation of some Delegates from developing OIE Members. He addressed the OIE Delegate of Vietnam, and thanked him for accepting to host such important meeting. He requested that, for the organisation of this event, Vietnam considered giving enough visibility and time for discussions on the Veterinary Sector for allowing to present in an appropriate manner the different veterinary programmes.

411. A representative of WSPA welcomed the initiative of the EC to include animal wlfare in their trade negotiations and he asked whether EC programmes in the region would take into account the fact that developing countries would have difficulties to cope with animal welfare issues.

412. Dr Vandersmissen informed on the EC programme on Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) that the EC is carrying out to assist developing countries in up-grading their food safety level. He remarked that all EC programmes in relation to Animal Health include training activities.

413. Dr Gardner Murray made reference to assistance programmes and the necessity of good coordination among donors while developing such programmes in the region. He wondered on the feasibility for donors to improve coordination in order to avoid duplication of activities and resources. He also referred to the necessity to implement evaluation and follow up of assistance programmes.

414. Dr Vandersmissen answered by noting that such coordination is feasible. For this a high political level engagement is required, as it was stated in the Declaration of Paris, as well as a cooperation on the ground level. He referred to success stories that show that this necessary coordination among different donors is absolutely feasible, such the case of Vietnam and Morocco where several assistance programmes work very well in a complementary approach. He stressed the importance of the local government (of the recipient Member) in coordinating the efforts of donors.

415. Dr Robert Tanaka, the representative of USDA commented on his experiences by outlining that is mainly up to the recipient country to coordinate activities and programmes received from donors. This coordination usually works very well. He also highlighted that different international organisations can have a relevant role in coordinating the efforts of the donors.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

416. Dr. Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager of FAO ECTAD RAP based in Bangkok, presented a report of the key activities conducted in the region by FAO. These activities included extensive work on HPAI being carried out on a regional basis as well as in 11 countries in Asia and the Pacific region. FAO ECTAD-RAP is in the process of revising and updating the regional strategy for HPAI which takes onto account the endemic zones of HPAI in Indonesia, the Greater Mekong Sub-region and the Indo-Gangetic Plain, and also the emergence of new and existing transboundary diseases in the region. The key regional thrusts are cross border studies to better define poultry market chains, productions systems, the socio-economic background. These studies are supplemented by structured epidemiological studies to monitor evolution of H5N1 HPAI viruses in the region. ECTAD RAP has also supported a number of missions to address the crises related to emerging diseases such as ERS, rabies, PRRS, FMD and brucellosis in Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Fiji, respectively. In

addition, two projects were recently launched. One on determining the impact of immunization against FMD in Upper Mekong disease control zone supported by the Asian Development Bank and implemented under the umbrella of GF-TADs in collaboration with OIE. A regional project on surveillance of H1N1 in pigs has also been launched to support ASEAN countries in harmonizing surveillance framework and diagnostic protocols. FAO works with a number of partners that include most of the members in the region, regional organizations (ASEAN, SAARC, SPC), international organizations (OIE, WHO, UNICEF), and bilateral and milti-lateral donors.

World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)

417. WSPA recognises training and education as key components of its global work for improving animal welfare standards. Training and education improves understanding of animal welfare and increases the capacity of trainees to work with animals in better and more humane ways for the benefit of both people and animals.

418. The key WSPA education and training programmes in Asia focusing on the welfare of farm animals are: tertiary animal welfare education in Asia and a humane slaughter training programme in China.

419. Tertiary animal welfare education is aiming to improve the knowledge of veterinarians in the science of animal welfare to create the positive attitudes necessary for treating animals and for giving advice on welfare.

420. The aim is achieved through various activities including the following:

- Providing resources for teaching animal welfare courses in universities
- Running workshops aiming to increase the capacity of lecturers/universities to teach animal welfare
- Encouraging the incorporation of animal welfare either as a stand- alone subject or into existing curricula

421. The tertiary animal welfare education workshops have been run for several years in many Asian countries including China, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and South Korea.

422. The humane slaughter training programme focuses on changing attitudes and behaviour towards animals at-pre slaughter and slaughter and covers a variety of stakeholders such as veterinary inspectors, technical managers in slaughterhouses and slaughtermen working in the food industry.

423. The programme is focusing on providing training to food industry managers and workers responsible for pre-slaughter handling and slaughtering of animals. Other pillars of the programme are focusing on advising on training undergraduate veterinarians and future inspectors and providing advice on relevant legislation and guidelines relating to the slaughter of animals.

424. The programme has been successfully running in China for two years, and dozens of training workshops for almost 3,000 participants have been carried out so far in 13 provinces of China.

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

425. The main activities of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) were presented by Dr Celia R. Lavilla-Pitogo. She reminded that SEAFDEC is an autonomous intergovernmental organisation established in 1967 to promote sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia, comprising activities in 11 Members: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

426. Dr Lavilla-Pitogo stated that SEAFDEC conducts research on fisheries issues; generates appropriate fisheries technologies; trains researchers, technicians, fishermen and aqua-farmers, and managers; disseminates information on fisheries scientific aspects and technologies; and recommends policies pertaining to the fishery sector.

427. The Representative of SEAFDEC gave an overview of research infrastructure and facilities which include: laboratories, hatchery and nursery facilities, brood-stocking tanks and cages, training facilities, offices and housing complex.

428. Dr Lavilla-Pitogo also presented the 2010-2014 planned activities under the Trust Fund comprising: effective dissemination of technology and information and capacity building in fish health management. She mentioned training activities provided by SEAFDEC to upgrade capabilities in aquaculture technologies through traditional training in fish health and "Aqua-Health Online".

429. Finally Dr Lavilla-Pitogo presented a number of publications on important aquatic diseases and aquaculture topics which are available at www.seafdec.org.ph .

Discussions of Recommendations N° 1 and 2

430. Draft Recommendations Nos. 1 and 2 on the two Technical Items of the Conference were presented to the participants and tabled for discussions. A few amendments were called for in both recommendations, to be presented for final adoption on Friday.

Thursday 19 November 2009

Professional and cultural guided visit

431. The Government of P. R China organised a professional and cultural visit to:

- Shanghai Veterinary Research Institute
- Yuyuan Garden
- Old City God Temple
- Zhujiajiao Town
- Huangpu River Cruise

432. Participants found the visit organised for the day by the host country to be of great interest. Sincere thanks to the organisers for their kind hospitality were presented.

Friday 20 November 2009

Date, venue and agenda items for the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

433. The President of the Conference asked Delegates present if any of them wished to host the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania. The Representative of Iran expressed the wish of his country to host the Conference. This proposal was unanimously accepted.

434. The exact dates of the meeting, which should be in the end of November 2011, will be decided at the meeting of the Regional Commission held back to back with the OIE General Session in May 2010.

435. Regarding the technical Item I with questionnaire, it will be decided during the meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania during the General Session in May 2010. The Second Technical Item (without questionnaire) will be decided in the meeting of the Regional Commission in May 2011.

Adoption of the draft Final Report and Recommendations

436. Dr Vallat explained the procedures to adopt the report of the Conference and the recommendations. Delegates are allowed to comment or make suggestions which are taken into account on the spot but additional comments on the report, received by 15 December 2009 at the OIE Headquarters, will also be considered. However, the recommendations need to be adopted during the session and cannot be changed later on.

437. The report was adopted with a few minor amendments.

438. The two recommendations were adopted.

439. The traditional motion of thanks for the host country was read by Dr Prabhakar Pathak, Delegate of Nepal.

Closing ceremony

440. The President of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, Professor Toshiro Kawashima, thanked the government of P.R. China, all participants including speakers and the OIE Secretariat for a most fruitful conference. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the Secretariat of the host country and of the OIE for the excellent work carried out to ensure the success of the Conference. He thought that the Conference agenda was relevant to the region and the social programme most enjoyable. He conveyed the gratitude of the Commission to the Government of P.R. China for supporting such an important Conference.

441. Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General stated that the Conference provided a good opportunity for Members of the region to raise issues of mutual interest but also those of concern. He noted that the technical presentations were of a very high level. He expressed his appreciation to the Conference Secretariat and the OIE staff from the Headquarters for their active and fruitful participation. He remarked the excellent organisation and coordination of the Conference He invited all participants to be present in the next Regional Commission Conference. Dr Vallat thanked Dr Zhang Zhongqiu and his staff as well as the Government of P.R China for their contribution in making the Conference a success.

442. Dr Zhang Zhongqiu officially declared the Conference closed at 11.30 a.m.

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Appendix I

26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Shanghai, People's Republic of China, 16-20 November 2009

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Appendix II

26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Shanghai, People's Republic of China, 16-20 November 2009

Agenda

I. **Technical Item I:** Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1 (with questionnaire)

II. **Technical Item II:** The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases, including the example of China (without questionnaire)

III. Animal health situation of Members in the first half of 2009

IV. Fifth OIE Strategic Plan and OIE Global Programme of Strengthening Veterinary Services (including PVS, GAP Analysis, legislation, communication and management support in the Region).

V. Activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian

VI. Updated information on aquatic animal health activities by the OIE

VII. Updated information on the OIE Terrestrial Code Commission

VIII. Regional Animal Welfare Strategy. Implementation plan

IX. GF-TADs for Asia

X. Presentations by international and regional organisations

XI. Other matters:

- Selection of the Technical Items for the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
- Date, venue and agenda for the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
- Miscellaneous

Appendix III

26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Shanghai, People's Republic of China, 16-20 November 2009

Timetable

Monday 16 November 2009*

5.30 pm	Registration and distribution of documents

Tuesday 17 November 2009

8.30 am	Registration and distribution of documents (Cont)
9.00 am	Opening Ceremony
	Welcome speeches from authorities of the Host country and the OIE
10.00 am	Break
10.30 am	Election of the Conference Committee (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and rapporteur General)
	Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
	Election of Session Chairpersons and Rapporteurs for Technical Items and Animal Health Situation
11.00 am	**Animal health situation of the OIE Members of the Region during the first semester of 2009** (*Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head, OIE Animal Health Information Department)*
12.00 pm	Discussions
12.30 pm	Lunch

* An OIE Regional Seminar on Good Governance of Veterinary Services will be held on Monday 16 from 9:00 to 17:00

2.00 pm **Technical Item I:** Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1 *(Dr Hiroshi Kida, Hokkaido University, Japan)*

3.30 pm Break
(Preparation of recommendation for Item I by designated small group)

4.00 pm **Fifth OIE Strategic Plan and OIE Global Programme of Strengthening Veterinary Services (including PVS, GAP Analysis, legislation, communication and management support in the Region).** (*Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General*)

5.00 pm Discussions

5.30 pm Activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (*Dr Toshiro Kawashima, OIE Delegate of Japan and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania*)

5.50 pm Activities of the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (*Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative*)

6.10 pm Activities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian (*Dr. Ronello Abila, OIE Sub Regional representative*)

6.30 pm End of the session

7.30 pm Reception given by the Government of People's Republic of China

Wednesday 18 November 2009

9.00 am **Technical Item II**: "The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases, including the example of China"(*Dr Gardner Murray, OIE consultant*)

10.30 am Break
(Preparation of recommendation for Item II by designated small group)

11.00 am GF-TADs for Asia (*Dr Toshiro Kawashima, OIE Delegate of Japan and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania /Dr Teruhide Fujita OIE Regional Representative*)

11.30 am Regional Animal Welfare Strategy. Implementation plan (*Dr Gardner Murray, OIE consultant)*

12.15 pm Updated information on aquatic animal health activities by the OIE
(*Dr Huan Jie, Member OIE Aquatic Animals Commission*)

12.45 pm Lunch

2.00 pm Updated information on the OIE Terrestrial Code Commission (*Dr Stuart MacDiarmid, Member OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission)*

2.30 pm Presentations by international and regional organisations

4.00 pm Break

4.30 pm Discussions of Recommendations N° 1 and 2

5.00 pm Date, venue and agenda items for the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

7.00 pm	Reception given by the OIE

Thursday 19 November 2009

8.00 am	Professional and guided cultural visit

Friday 20 November 2009

9.00 am	Adoption of the draft Final Report and Recommendations
10.30 am	Break
11.00 am	Closing Ceremony

Appendix IV

26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the far East and Oceania

Shanghai (PR China) 16-20 November 2009

Recommendation Technical Item 1

Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Zoonotic animal diseases, including Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1, remain a serious threat for food security and public health, social and economic progress and especially for Members where capacity is inadequate to apply appropriate prevention and control measures;

2. HPAI H5N1 virus strains have persisted in domestic poultry for 12 years and antigenic variants have been generated**;**

3. Most Members in the region have instituted a compensation mechanism in the event where a stamping-out policy was applied. This mechanism encourages timely notification of the occurrence of disease outbreaks and/or detection of infection;

4. It is necessary to understand the local and regional differences in animal husbandry practices, social customs, infrastructure, and the epidemiological pattern of the disease for OIE Members of Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region to better address risks of occurrence and spread of influenza viruses within the region;

5. The exchanging of relevant epidemiological information through effective regional surveillance networks is important;

6. Vaccination against HPAI H5N1, using vaccines complying with OIE Standards, and in accordance with the guidelines for the application of a vaccination strategy developed jointly by the OIE and FAO, is a relevant complementary measure in specific situations to prevent and control the disease. In these cases vaccination should be used in addition to, not instead of stamping out;

7. Vaccines directed to HPAI H5N1 are being used by several Members in Asia;

8. There is a need for a vaccination exit strategy to be included within the national policies on control of HPAI H5N1, based on appropriate risk evaluation, surveillance and the promotion of early detection and rapid response capacity of the country;

9. The OIE alone and jointly with FAO, WHO and WTO has issued clear statements, in regard to the pandemic H1N1 A/Influenza;

10. An FAO-OIE document "A *Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza*" has been developed promoting multisectoral approach to controlling zoonosis, including HPAI, and targeting disease source;

11. A multiagency FAO-OIE-WHO-UNICEF document supported by UNSIC and World Bank has been published: "*Contributing to "One World, One Health" A Strategic Framework for Reducing Risks of Infectious Diseases at the Animal-Human-Ecosystems Interface"*;

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12. FAO-OIE GF-TADs support a regional approach to control transboundary animal diseases (TAD) including zoonoses such as HPAI;

13. Effective collaboration between animal health and public health sectors in the spirit of the "One World, One Health" concept (OWOH), both at national and regional levels, is an important factor for succeeding in controlling zoonoses, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 while controlling the disease at its animal source remains under the full responsibility of the Veterinary Services ;

14. Good governance of Veterinary Services complying with global standards on quality allows effective early detection and control of HPAI H5N1 at it's source in the animal population and thereby minimizing exposure to the human population;

15. The OIE developed different tools such as OIE-PVS evaluation, OIE-PVS Gap analysis, OIE-PVS follow up missions, laboratory twinning, modernisation of legislation and capacity building of national focal points to help Members to improve veterinary governance;

16. There exist some ongoing or planned projects within the region, funded by several Members and donors, aimed to strengthen Veterinary Services and preventing, controlling or eradicating emerging diseases;

17. Compliance with OIE Standards in respect of the quality of antigens, reagents and tests used for surveillance and diagnostic purposes, is a key factor to achieve the objectives of any animal disease control or eradication Program;

18. The OIE has developed a document endorsed by FAO and other major partners such as key donors *on "Ensuring Good Governance to Address Emerging and Re-emerging Animal Disease Threats: Supporting the Veterinary Service of Developing Countries to Meet International Standards on Quality"*;

19. Comprehensive and sustainable surveillance networks and diagnostic capacity are crucial for achieving an effective prevention and control of the disease;

20. It is important to use appropriate information and reporting systems in support of the effective implementation of a long-term control strategy;

21. The joint OIE and FAO world scientific network for the control of animal influenza, (OFFLU), provides technical assistance and expertise to support OIE Members in the diagnosis, surveillance and control of animal influenza;

22. The OIE has developed the Laboratory Twinning concept aimed to improve diagnostic capacity and to promote the excellence of veterinary scientific community on a Regional basis;

23. The OIE has recently published a Scientific and Technical Review dedicated entirely to Avian Influenza;

24. The Members in the region have responded on a questionnaire developed by the rapporteur to reflect on the current situation of development of influenza, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1 to guide the formulation of these recommendations.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The OIE continue its support to Members for the strengthening of their Veterinary Services through the use of the OIE-PVS Tool for the evaluation of Veterinary Services, the OIE-PVS Gap Analysis and follow up as well as their complementary supporting projects such as legislation update, the laboratory twining programme and capacity building of national focal points, for improving the control of animal influenzas, and other animal diseases and promoting Veterinary public health;

2. Members review their Veterinary Services policies where necessary to implement adequate strategies to prevent the occurrence and spread of animal influenzas particularly HPAI H5N1, including, when relevant, a stamping-out policy complemented in specific situations by vaccination of susceptible species, using vaccines which comply with OIE standards and adopting an exit strategy. Such strategies should be in compliance with the OIE/FAO *Global Strategy for Prevention and Control of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza*, as developed jointly. Vaccination should always be used in addition to, and not instead of stamping out;

3. Any national strategy to prevent, control and eradicate HPAI H5N1, should consider the establishment of a proper surveillance system, including the coverage of the whole territory at risk by well trained veterinarians and para-professionals working under the control of veterinarians, and the use of laboratory diagnostic tests complying with OIE international standards;

4. OIE Members continue to improve their disease reporting system to accomplish their obligation in notifying the occurrence of avian influenza to the OIE through WAHIS;

5. Additional candidate laboratories be identified within the region to enter where relevant, into twinning projects for avian influenza with existing OIE Reference Laboratories to enlarge the availability of and access to expertise in the region;

6. Governments be encouraged and sensitised by the OIE to support animal influenza surveillance programmes, and when relevant, prevention and control activities in pigs and other relevant species, by allocating necessary resources (financial, structural and human) which will allow proper implementation of relevant preventive and control measures;

7. Donors continue to further support programmes including vaccine banks and support to Good Veterinary Governance within the region to prevent the occurrence and spread of emerging diseases in developing countries;

8. OIE Members make full and timely use for the prevention, control and mitigation of influenza and other emerging or re-emerging diseases, of the cooperation programmes made available to them by donors, in particular the new Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases Programme for Asia that will run from January 2010 to end 2013, and other similar Programmes;

9. OIE Members who benefitted from grants under the World Bank-administered multidonor trust fund Avian and Human Influenza Facility, accelerate disbursement of the resources offered by this instrument;

10. The joint OIE and FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of animal influenza, (OFFLU), as well as other relevant research organisations, conduct further research and investigations to improve the tools and strategies as well as develop certain standards and guidelines for preventing and controlling animal influenza. Surveillance of influenza in swine is important in the Members where H5N1 influenza virus is still circulating;

11. The OIE continue its work and further develop and up-date standards for prevention and control of animal influenzas;

12. In the H1N1 2009 pandemic context the statements made by the OIE including the document "Questions and answers", and the other statements made jointly with FAO, WHO and WTO be used by Veterinary Services of the region as key communication tools with policy makers and the public;

13. With the support of relevant global and regional organisations, OIE Members establish at both regional and national levels, adequate cooperation mechanisms between the animal health, public health and other relevant sectors, to improve the management of the biological risks at the animal-human interface by focusing on pathogen control at the animal source using veterinary skills and the multiagency document *"Contributing to One World, One Health* A Strategic Framework for Reducing Risks of Infectious Diseases at the Animal–Human–Ecosystems Interface" as* a reference guiding document.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 20 November 2009)

Appendix V

26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the far East and Oceania

Shanghai (PR China) 16-20 November 2009

Recommendation Technical Item 2

The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases, including the example of China

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Competition, race and show equestrian events are of major and significant social and economic importance;

2. Large numbers of equine animals are moved both internationally and within countries for these specific events;

3. There is a need to ensure that horses movement does not pose a health risk within or between OIE Members;

4. OIE only has official disease status recognition procedures for foot and mouth disease, rinderpest , bovine spongiform encephalopathy and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, and the OIE is looking for developing conditions for official recognition for freedom of specific equine diseases starting with African horse sickness and glanders;

5. OIE Members can self-declare freedom from specific diseases if they meet the relevant requirements of the OIE Terrestrial Code, and there are not yet Terrestrial Code provisions for self freedom declaration for a group of several equine diseases that are listed by OIE;

6. It is feasible to develop equine diseases free zones and self declaration procedures for specific events based on experiences such as the Equestrian Olympics and Para-olympics and Asian Games;

7. Certification with strategic testing for infectious equine diseases (for example, testing for equine influenza) is a key management tool to support safe horse movements;

8. Diagnostic testing and vaccination when relevant should be in line with methods described by the OIE Manual for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines;

9. Effective Veterinary Services are essential to support and guarantee animal health within and between countries.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA RECOMMENDS TO:

1. Encourage host OIE Members to self declare zonal freedom from relevant equine diseases for specific situations such as the Olympics and Asian games and, where relevant, in accordance with the disease specific provisions of the Terrestrial Code;

2. Agree that rigor needs to apply to such situation and that host OIE Members need to ensure a high degree of compliance by both veterinary services and the private sector with OIE standards including zoning and compartmentalization;

3. The OIE to provide Expert Missions to support Members in establishing equine disease free zones (EDFZ) upon the request and financial support of host Members;

4. The OIE to support the development of a high quality document/publication to provide technical advice and assistance to Members proposing to establish EDFZs;

5. To note that the generic Model Passport for International Movements of Competition Horses as established within the Chapter 5.12 of the OIE Terrestrial Code provides a most useful reference document; and to support its revision in due course and in the light of experience;

6. Reinforce the need for OIE Members' participation in the OIE PVS Programme and related schemes;

7. Encourage Members involved in equestrian events to monitor and survey the health of their equine population.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 20 November 2009)

Appendix VI

26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific

OIE will support Members establish free zones for certain equine diseases

Shanghai, 20 November 2009 – The OIE will support Members in establishing free zones for certain equine diseases in Asia and the Pacific countries, representatives of the organisation's Headquarters announced in the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia.

The Conference held in Shanghai, China from 16 to 20 November 2009 notably produced groundbreaking recommendations for the OIE to frame the elaboration of equine disease free zones (EDFZs) for specific events such as global or regional horse competitions (Olympics on Asian Games), as well as develop a health certification for horses.

"The impact of equine diseases is often underestimated while they actually can cause significant disruption, especially when related to specific horse competition events where the animals are moved internationally", OIE Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat explained.

Today, the OIE already has official freedom recognition procedures in place but mainly for cattle diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and Rinderpest. The procedures for official recognition can be found on the OIE website at: http://www.oie.int/eng/info/en_procedures.htm?eld6.

Pounding on the value of PVS evaluations for Members

In order to realise ambitions on the official recognition of animal diseases, including of certain equine disease free zones OIE Members will keep strengthening governance of their animal health systems using the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS).

"The use of the OIE PVS tool facilitates Members' disease freedom self-declaration as well as OIE official recognition and will allow EDFZs recognition for specific horse competition events in the near future", Dr Vallat commented, "It provides with a fully-integrated capacity building programme and supports the upgrading of evaluated national Veterinary Services, including laboratory and veterinary education components", he added.

Specifically, scientific support brought to Members by the OIE Twinning Initiative in laboratory capacity improvement was recognised as successful. This twinning programme allows direct exchanges of scientists from twinned laboratories and facilitates building and reinforcing the Veterinary Scientific Community in Asian and Pacific countries.

Several animal health improvement programmes in Asia will be part of OIE's involvement in the Regional Cooperation Program on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases in Asia (HPED) currently under negotiation with the European Commission. The programme – which foresees a strong OIE/FAO/WHO partnership - aims at the prevention of highly pathogenic and other diseases – focusing on foot and mouth disease and rabies - in a framework of regional integration and inter-sectoral collaboration among the three organisations and other appropriate regional and national entities.

The Conference was opened by Her Excellency Ms Uyunqimg, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress: "I express gratitude to the support provided by the OIE to its Members. Our country strongly supports OIE's actions to promote the control of animal diseases and zoonoses worldwide and in the Region." she said.

Participants in the Conference included high level animal health and production government officials of OIE Members and of regional and global organisations.

The Conference was kindly hosted by the Government of China. It was chaired by Dr Zhang Zhongqiu Delegate of China to the OIE with the support of the OIE Headquarters, the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific and the OIE sub Regional Representation based in Bangkok.

All participants welcomed the conference as a great success.

Appendix VII

MOTION OF THANKS

The President and the Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, the Director General of the OIE, the President of the OIE, members of delegations, Members representatives, representatives of international and regional organisations and observers, wish to express their gratitude to the Government of P. R China, the Host Country of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, held from 16 to 20 November 2009 for the excellent welcome extended to the participants and for all facilities made available to them during their stay in Shanghai.

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania congratulates Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, OIE Delegate of P.R China and acknowledges and welcomes the involvement and commitment of P.R China in OIE activities.