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Message from Representatives

[OIE Regional and Sub-regional Representations](#) are committed to providing regionally adapted services to OIE Members. In recent years, Asia and the Pacific region has experienced introduction of African swine fever and African horse sickness and emergence of SARS-CoV-2. Updates on the regional situation were presented during [the virtual meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania](#). As we respond to these incidences as well as working towards elimination of endemic diseases, we are reminded of the importance of transparency and international solidarity. To share key updates on our activities in the region and to facilitate information exchange among Members and Reference Centres, we are launching “**OIE Regional Newsletter for Asia and the Pacific**,” which will be released several times a year. In this first edition, we highlight the renovation of [our regional website](#). The website provides information that is relevant for Members in the region complementing the OIE global website. As the website and the newsletter are still evolving to better serve your interests, we look forward to getting your feedback. We thank you for your partnership and sincerely hope the information contained in the newsletter serves your needs and further strengthen our collaboration in the region.



Hirofumi Kugita
OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific



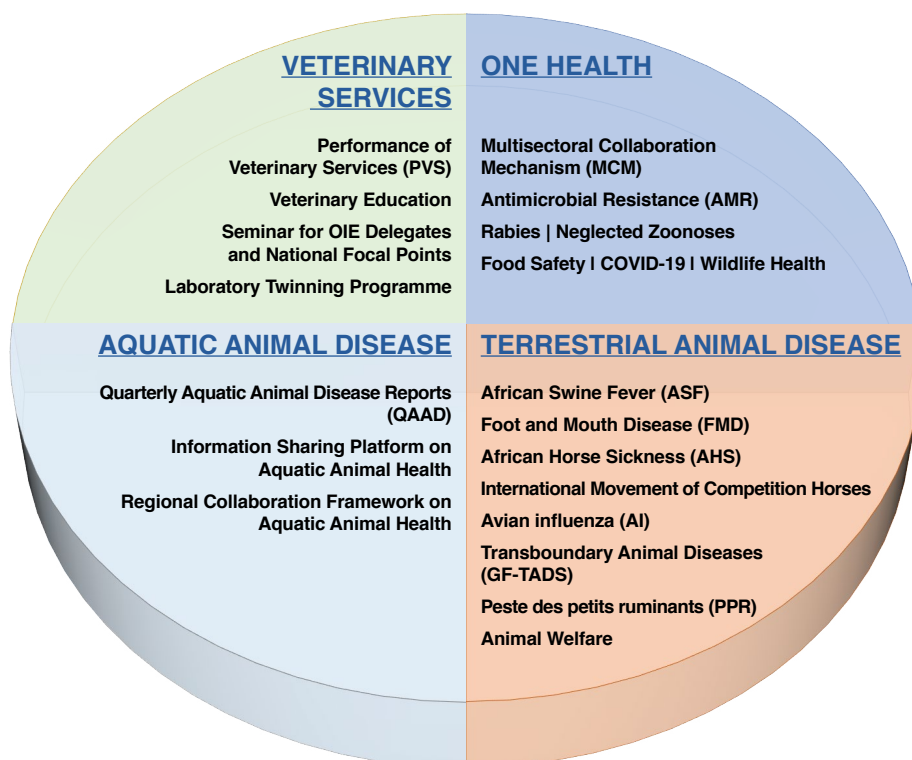
Ronello Abila
OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South East Asia

Featured activity: Renovation of OIE Regional Website

New OIE Regional Websites were launched in November 2019. The website for Asia and the Pacific Region can be accessed at: <https://rr-asia.oie.int/en/>. Since the launch, the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific and Sub-Regional Representation for South East Asia have introduced many new contents to the website. To highlight some:

- **Delegates and Focal Points:** [Organisation charts of OIE delegate and focal points of Members](#)
- **Reference Centres:** Information on [activities of the OIE Reference Centres in Asia and the Pacific](#) focusing on provision of services offered to Members
- **Twinning:** Stories and reports on completed and on-going OIE twinning projects - [Laboratory](#), [Veterinary Education](#), and [Veterinary Statutory Body](#)
- **Resources:** OIE regional resources (sorted [by disease/topic](#) and [content type](#)) and [global](#) resources as well as [FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite resources](#), including communication materials, Members' national plans on priority disease and more.

As before, you can find information on **regional activities conducted by our offices**, such as events and published materials, on the website. In the new website, they are listed by the following topics:



Note: Regional activities pages such as PVS and ASF can also be directly accessed from "Regional Activities" tab at the top of the home page.

Past (since 2017) and forthcoming events are listed by year ([2020/2019/2018/2017](#)) and the past events are searchable using keywords from the [events](#) page.

Our thanks and request to Members and Reference Centres: We thank the Members, reference centres, and partners who contributed to the enrichment of the website. If you would like to share any stories or materials (e.g., awareness raising materials, action plans, videos) on the OIE Regional website that may be useful for Members in the region, please [contact us](#). We value your feedback and welcome any comments, ideas or suggestions you may have for improvement of the website.

Highlighting some already published items:

[“How rapid actions can curb the spread of ASF: The experience of Republic of Korea”](#)

[“OIE Twinning Project on wildlife between the U.S.A. and Thailand”](#)

Updates on One Health activities

One Health activities revolve around topics relating to the human-animal-environment interface. Several **physical meetings** were successfully conducted at the start of 2020, including: [a regional seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products](#), in-country seminars on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) for veterinary education establishments and workshops on antimicrobial usage (AMU) in Indonesia, [Malaysia](#) and [Pakistan](#).

Following restrictions on travel due to COVID-19 pandemic many activities were converted to **virtual meetings**, including a webinar series on [antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals](#). OIE led a Regional Tripartite (FAO, OIE and WHO) webinar series on [rabies for SAARC countries](#) and co-organised a webinar to celebrate [World Food Safety Day](#).

The existing web pages on the **regional website** were updated and new pages on [COVID-19](#), [Food Safety](#) and [Wildlife Health](#) added.

Upcoming virtual meetings include a webinar on rabies for ASEAN region and COVID-19 for Veterinary Services. A Regional Training on the AMU Database is tentatively scheduled for January 2021.

Moving forward, we are planning a number of **large-scale projects on AMR** with partners. These include Multi-Partner Trust Fund projects in Cambodia and Indonesia, and an EU-funded project covering nine countries in the region. More details on these projects as they progress!

Updates on terrestrial animal health activities

There are many important animal diseases in Asia and the Pacific region that require **regular coordination** between Members for prevention and control strategies to be successful.

The OIE regional and sub-regional offices organise regular workshops on a range of different diseases and topics utilising existing global networks and working with [OIE Reference Laboratories](#) and other international and regional experts. This allows Members to exchange knowledge and disease information with each other and keep up to date with the latest scientific understanding of specific diseases and control strategies.

With many endemic diseases and risks from exotic or emerging diseases, there is a need to **prioritise certain animal diseases**. The OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific is the Secretariat of the Regional Steering Committee of the joint FAO/OIE [Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases \(GF-TADs\)](#) and through this high priority TADs for the Asia and the Pacific region are agreed and include: [avian influenza \(AI\)](#), [foot and mouth disease \(FMD\)](#), [peste des petits ruminants \(PPR\)](#), and several high impact swine diseases such as classical swine fever (CSF), [African swine fever \(ASF\)](#), porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), and porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED).

Since the travel restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic, many planned workshops have been either postponed or modified to **virtual meetings**, such as meetings of [standing group of experts on ASF \(SGE-ASF\)](#) and [SEACFMD National Coordinators meetings](#). This will need to continue until travel is possible again, but we will ensure latest information about events are available on the [website](#). In response to the introduction of [African horse sickness \(AHS\)](#) to Thailand earlier this year, the OIE developed a dedicated webpage and held [technical webinars](#) on this disease. Other activities to strengthen the regional capacity in preventing and controlling AHS are in the pipeline, such as the development of a practical guideline on AHS emergency vaccination. We also plan to have some technical webinars to update on other diseases such as avian influenza and lumpy skin disease.

Updates on aquatic animal health activities

Asia and the Pacific region has dominated global aquaculture production, both in quantity and value. However, the rapid growth of this sector brings with it risks, which are compounded by the increasingly globalised trade in live aquatic animals and their products. Keeping aquatic animal disease information transparency is the key to improving aquatic animal health and trade in the region. OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific in collaboration with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and Pacific Region (NACA) disseminate [Quarterly Aquatic Animal disease Report \(QAAD Report\)](#), which serves as an early warning system for some emerging diseases of worldwide significance and facilitates the establishment of national and regional aquatic animal health surveillance system.

In order to better utilize existing OIE scientific network composed by [OIE Reference Laboratories on aquatic animal disease in the region](#), a [Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health \(the Framework\)](#) was proposed to be established in collaboration with FAO, NACA and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). Ad hoc steering committee of the Framework agreed the following activities as the focus area for 2020-2021:

- 1) Collection and evaluation of existing guidelines and awareness materials on aquaculture biosecurity for small-scale farms in the Asia-Pacific region;
- 2) Evaluation of Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND) test method; and
- 3) Method of utilising OIE scientific networks.

On the OIE regional website, pages that provide access to a range of useful information on [OIE activities and multimedia resources](#) and [Regional Information Sharing Platform](#) that provide scientific information and training materials on aquatic animal health were also added or updated.

Upcoming events

Title of events	Dates	Organised by
OIE briefing to Delegates on COVID-19 activities	7 July	OIE HQ
SEACFMD National Coordinators' Virtual Meeting (Session 2)	7 July	OIE SRR SEA
SEACFMD National Coordinators' Virtual Meeting (Session 3)	8 July	OIE SRR SEA
East Asia AMR virtual meeting	8 July	OIE RRAP
Virtual meeting of Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs (Part 2)	21 July	OIE RRAP & FAO RAP
OIE-WAHIS training (East Asia and South Asia)	21 & 28 July	OIE HQ and RRAP
OIE-WAHIS training (Southeast Asia)	23 & 30 July	OIE HQ and RRAP
OIE-WAHIS training (Pacific)	24 & 31 July	OIE HQ and RRAP

Event lists are regularly updated on the [regional website](#).

Contact information OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific: rr.asiapacific@oie.int
OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia: srr.seasia@oie.int