

## 3rd OIE Regional Meeting for OIE Reference Centres in Asia and the Pacific

24-25, February 2021, Virtual meeting

Summary of Day 1 discussion

### Logistics

Participants were divided into 10 groups using the zoom breakout room function, with around 10 people per room. They were pre-assigned based on the information from registrations. 10 facilitators were selected and given the guidance before the meeting and asked to assign a note taker and moderate the group discussion. Discussion outline in ppt format was shared via OneDrive link so that all participants including notetakers and facilitators can access the file. During the group discussion, note takers were requested to fill the tables in the ppt file online, then RRAP collected 10 files from the OneDrive after the meeting.

### Discussion topics

1. How to improve the online information platform: Establishment of the online information sharing platform was highly prioritized in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RCs meeting. Accordingly, RRAP created it in the [regional website](#). In order to identify the challenges of the current platform and to make it more active, participants were asked to point out the challenges, possible solutions and how they would like to utilise the platform.
2. How do you establish & improve networking, communication, collaboration with other RCs-Members (Share ideas): Strengthening the connection and collaboration between RCs, and between RCs and members is always recognised as an important issue for RCs effective and meaningful work, but at the same time, it is very difficult. In this regard, participants were asked to share their ideas and experiences on how they establish and improve networks.
3. New priorities, which can be added to the meeting recommendation: OIE RCs activities should adjust to the latest global situation, especially this year, considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. New topics which should be addressed in the next 2 years were shared, which were reflected in the meeting recommendation.

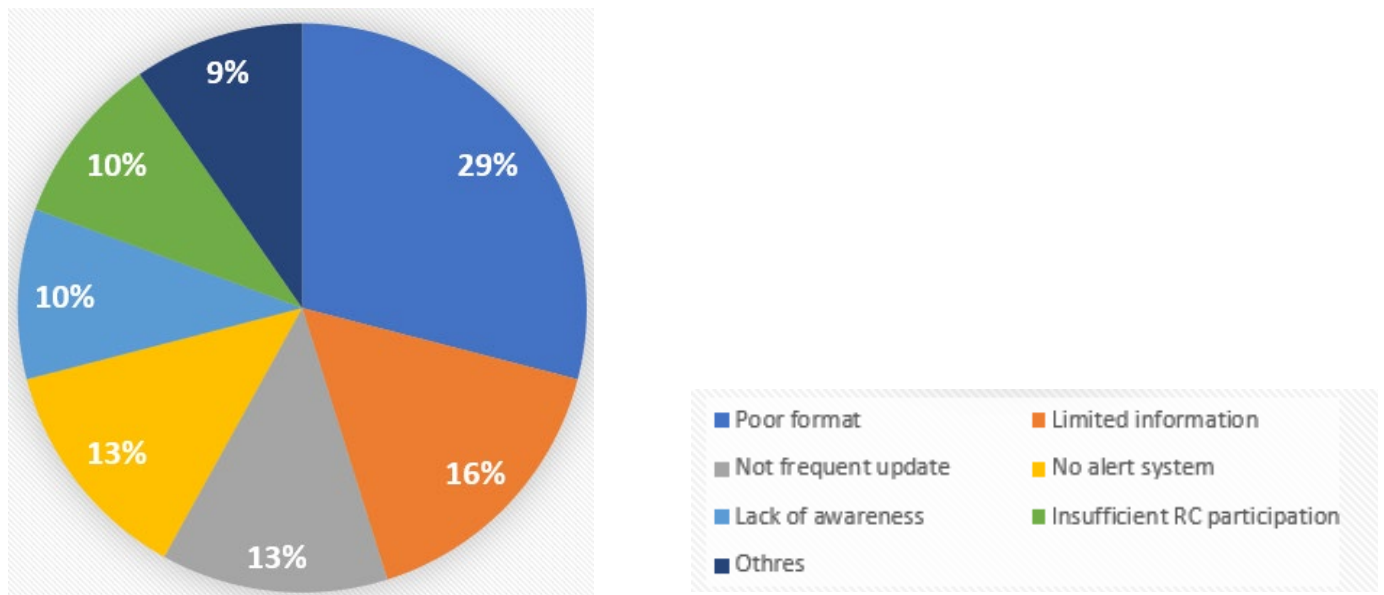
### Results

1. For challenges existing in the current platform (Figure Graphic A), around 30 % of the opinions pointed out the poor format of the platform, most of which suggested the inconvenience of the excel and PDF format. Limited information (16%) and infrequent updates of the information (13%) followed. 13% proposed that alert system should be equipped to let people notice when new information is added. Lack of awareness of the platform (10%) and insufficient RC activation in sharing information (10%) were also indicated. Various proposals as possible solutions were provided, comprising adding notification system and search system, collecting more useful information and resources and etc.

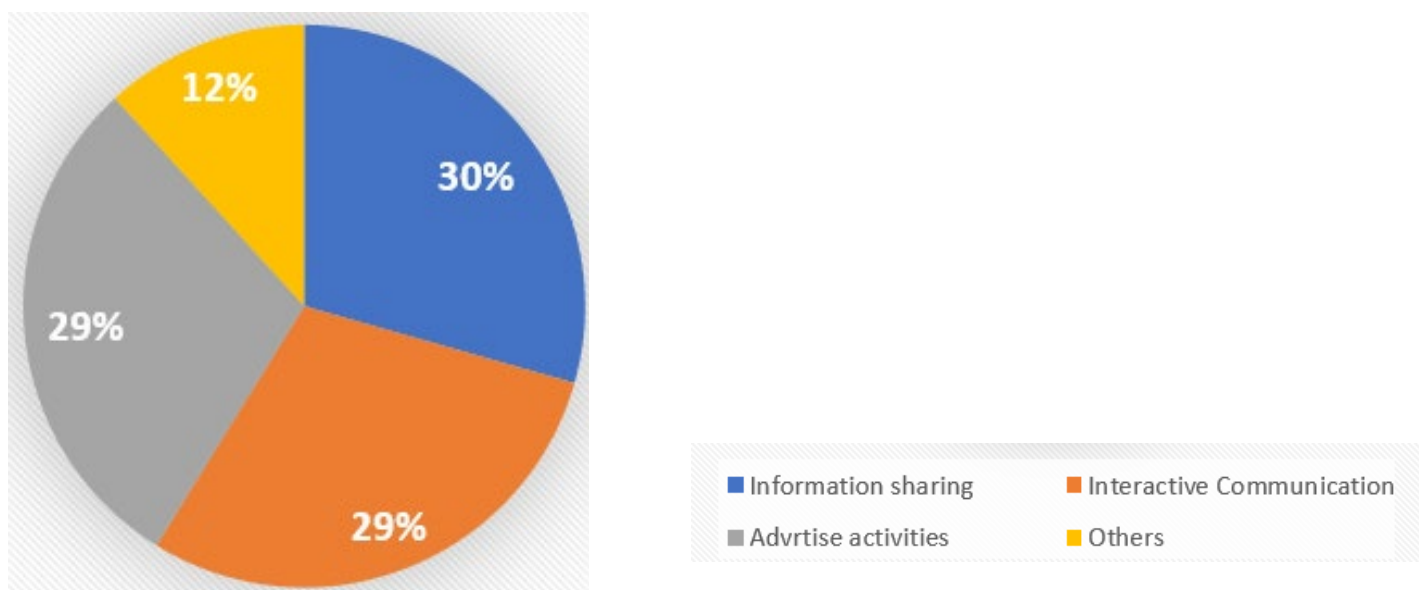
Regarding the utilization of the platform (Figure B), around 30% of the opinions showed their interests to use it for 1) Information sharing, 2) Interactive communication among RC, members and relevant parties, 3) Announcement of their activities including scientific events.

2. In the second topic, shared ideas and experiences were categorised into 4 topics, 1) Establishing more OIE regional networks for regionally important issues. Some groups suggested networks should include non-RC experts and stakeholders, and indicated the necessity to know other RCs interests. 2) Frequent opportunities to meet other RCs experts. More frequent workshops, meetings and communication were asserted. 3) Sharing information including protocols, publications and other materials in timely matter. 4) Collaborative research.
3. As the coming 2 years priorities, top 5 keywords participants listed were New & Emerging diseases, AMR, One Health, New Technology and Zoonotic Diseases.

(Figure A)



(Figure B)





## Questions and posted answers

### **1. How we can strengthen diagnostic/response capacity for emerging diseases in the region.**

We received 121 responses from 65 respondents. 58 responses mentioned trainings, 33 for proficiency testing (PT) programme, 17 for network and collaboration, 14 for twinning. Others included EQA (external quality assessment) programmes, information sharing, Focal Points supports, sharing reference materials, etc. Regarding specific pathogens or topics, African Swine Fever, Avian Influenza, Next Generation Sequencing, bioinformatics and epidemiology were often mentioned transversally. As a good practice of PT programme, Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness shared information on their PT programme, explaining their programmes were conducted closely with FAO and OIE across various targeted pathogens in combination with related activities such as EQA and training for National Laboratories to become a provider of PT.

### **2. (a) [to FP] Specific requests for support on lab quality assurance/lab sustainable development programme.**

We received 35 responses from 26 respondents. Funding supports and access to reference materials were the 2 most common answers with 7 responses, followed by training with 6 and PT with 5. Other responses composed laboratory calibration and maintenance, human resources, support for testing, providing opportunities for non-RCs labs to work with other labs, etc. Emerging diseases were referred both in training and support for diagnoses. Regarding funding support, though OIE is not in the position to directly fund members, the possibilities to provide them with support to develop a business plan so that they can get funding from their national governments and private sector were mentioned by QIE HQ through the PVS Sustainable Laboratories Mission. Twinning Projects could be one solution to involve non-RCs labs to work with RCs.

### **(b) [to RCs] How RCs could support OIE members and/or contribute to the OIE sustainable lab development programme**

We received 58 responses from 33 respondents. Most commonly posted idea was to provide trainings with 22 responses. Importance of hands-on training, online courses, trainings on emerging diseases and diagnosis were specified. Sharing reference materials followed with 12 responses. Other responses included providing confirmation testing, collaborative projects/research, consultation to give technical advices, etc. Sharing online learning materials, if RCs already have, was welcomed by the moderator. As OIE is developing programmes to reinforce good laboratory leadership and management, [PVS Sustainable Labs missions](#) and the [Global Laboratory Leadership Programme\(GLLP\)](#) were introduced by OIE HQ. The PVS Sustainable Labs mission aims to promote laboratory sustainability concepts by supporting Members on challenges related to human resources, strategic planning, budgetary planning, sustainability, and investment arguments. GLLP is under development and is to nurture emerging leaders for improved lab sustainability.

### **3. (a) How FPs can facilitate to establish or strengthen of lab network inside country/territory**

We received 29 responses from 22 respondents. Frequent communication for information sharing such as common interest and challenges they face, was the most seen answer with 8 responses. Some of them

referred to communication among RCs, while others found it important to have communication between RCs and non-RCs labs. 5 responses pointed out coordination with other FPs in the region, RCs inside country and Delegates. Others touched on supporting auditing and testing, sharing information and materials, and identifying and linking specialists in the region.

**(b) How RCs can support the activities of FPs.**

We received 31 responses from 20 respondents. 11 responses indicated sharing information such as RCs activities, disease situations and research findings could support FPs activities. 7 answers were about training, which include training for FPs and Delegates, online trainings, seminars, and training of trainers. Other opinions shared were collaborative activities, regular communication with FPs, support networking. 2 responses proposed all RCs should know who the FPs in their countries are. The importance of providing comments in the OIE standards was proposed and emphasized by the moderator.

The session ended with HQ's comments expressing their gratitude of having a lot of opinions from FPs, Delegates and RCs as they are helpful for OIE's future planning especially when supports should be very targeted due to the online form of interaction. HQ is developing a project which aims to assist laboratories get necessary budget from the governments and private sectors with pertinent plans, to improve not only lab capacity but also lab sustainability by listening to FPs for lab as well as larger groups at regional level.