



## **Dr Monique Eloit's Opening Message**

**26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease**

**in South-East Asia, China and Mongolia**

**(16 to 18 March 2022)**

Mr. President,

Dear SEACFMD Members, dear representatives of Reference Laboratories, dear partners, dear participants,

I am sorry not to be available for attending the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for foot and mouth disease in South East Asia, China and Mongolia; the famous SEACFMD Sub-Commission!

I am unfortunately not available because – at the same time you are listen to my remarks – I am attending the Executive Committee of the Tripartite with Dr Tedros WHO DG and Mr. Qu FAO DG. At a time when the One Health approach is being promoted, our discussion on a Joint Plan of Action is critical because we are at the starting point of the negotiations of an international Treaty on Pandemics. The role played by the Veterinary Services must be well recognized as they are often at the frontline for the detection and the prevention of many adverse events.

Today, you are meeting to share information on your respective situation on FMD, as well as to analyze the key challenges affecting the implementation of the SEACFMD campaign, so that research institutions and experts help us to identify ideas and instrumental actions to further strengthen FMD prevention and control in the region. Because, unfortunately, FMD is still a major concern for many livestock holders and trade partners.

However, I would like to take advantage of my remarks for thanking you as SEACFMD Members, development partners, representatives of academic institutions, without forgetting my OIE colleagues, all of you who are committed to the campaign progress.

Thanks to you, several achievements deserve to be highlighted despite the additional constraints due to the COVID pandemic

- The Progression along the FMD PCP stages by several members or the maintenance of the free status for some others;
- No report of Asia 1 from SEACFMD region since 2017
- The Step by step rolling out of the SEACFMD Roadmap 2021-2025 and the monitoring of its implementation thanks to the M&E framework.

- The Capacity building programmes which are so valuable for important issues such as outbreak response, transborder value chain studies, etc....
- While numerous studies and surveys have been coordinated by the OIE Bangkok office with our research partners to addresses the critical knowledge gaps to enhance FMD prevention and control in your countries.

Talking about past actions, their successes or constraints, is necessary to better design tomorrow's actions. What will thus be the future directions for the SEACFMD campaign.

My duty is of course not to anticipate your discussions and decisions but I am convinced that the outcomes of the ongoing evaluation of the SEACFMD campaign from 1997 to 2020 will be extremely valuable to more forward and enhance the implementation of the sixth phase of the campaign and beyond. This regional evaluation is useful as global level too, as it is complementary to the evaluation of the global FMD control strategy.

To fuel your discussions, I would however like to share with you some thoughts.

- I do think that the SEACFMD campaign model could be used for the coordination of other emerging infectious diseases such as ASF and LSD; in a spirit of synergy between FMD and other TADs control for an optimal and efficient utilisation of resources

I also would like to urge Members to strengthen your FMD control programs through early detection and response to FMD outbreaks, effective surveillance, vaccination campaigns and animal movement control, and align it with relevant OIE standards and guidelines.

Dear Members- you are the owners of the SEACFMD campaign. Be sure that the OIE remains committed to provide technical support to countries as per the priority needs and gaps, and to encourage the collaborative work to control FMD at regional level.

I wish you fruitful discussions, and hope to have an opportunity for meeting you again, face-to-face, in a near future.

Thank you for your attention.