



11th meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of GFTADs for Asia and the Pacific Summary and Conclusions

Considering that:

- An external evaluation of the GFTADs was completed in 2018 and the findings of this evaluation have been considered by FAO and OIE at global and regional levels. An updated strategy and action plan for GFTADs and related programs is being developed, recognizing the advantages of a strong coordination mechanism and taking into consideration recommendations from the external evaluation.
- At the regional level for Asia and the Pacific, the 10th meeting of the RSC for Asia in the Pacific was held in 2018 where the preliminary results of the external review was discussed along with other regional issues such as the high risk of African swine fever entering the region.
- African swine fever was detected in China in August 2019 and a standing group of experts on African swine fever for Asia was established under the GFTADs mechanism.
- In 2019 sub-regional GFTADs meetings were held in the 4 sub-regions - East Asia, South East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific.
- Many coordinated regional activities have been carried out under the GF-TADs label. In addition to the establishment of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever for Asia, workshops, meetings and training for specific TADs, emergency preparedness and regular network meetings have been organised.
- 2019 – 2020 has seen emergence of diseases such as lumpy skin disease and African horse sickness in Asia as well as the global pandemic from SARS-COV2 virus.

Summary

With the huge impact to the world from the COVID-19 pandemic, coordination and information sharing at the regional level facilitated through the FAO/OIE GFTADs platform has become increasingly recognised to be of high importance to members and partners in the region. The 11th meeting of the RSC of GFTADs for Asia and the Pacific was organised as a video meeting and gave an opportunity for key representatives from the 4 subregions as well as partners to share information and discuss on transboundary animal diseases and other topics relating to animal health from national, subregional, regional and global level.



Significant progress had been made to improve the coordination under GFTADs based on the recommendations of the 3rd external evaluation and plans for more progress are still under way.

For Asia and the Pacific, the terms of reference for the regional steering committee had never been finalised. An updated proposal for terms of reference were discussed and finally adopted by the region.

The regional strategy for Asia Pacific has officially ended in 2016 so a new regional strategy should be developed. Representatives from each subregion and additional volunteers from the regional strategy formed a drafting group to provide input into a new regional strategy to start from 2021. It was agreed some time would be needed to better understand the developing situation and potential longer-term impacts of COVID-19 before making decisions about the next regional strategy.

The drafting group agreed to provide written feedback on the questions posed to begin the process of developing the next regional.

The meeting agreed to hold a 3rd part of the meeting later in the year after further discussions at the global level.