

Laboratory capacity building activities in the region

Mark Ford, CSIRO ACDP, Australia

ACDP, as a WOAHP collaborating centre for laboratory capacity building and new & emerging diseases supports WOAHP members, especially in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen diagnostic capacity. Early detection and confirmation of diseases is an essential component for effective emergency response. Confidence in diagnostic test results supports decision making, especially in the early stages of disease outbreaks.

Some examples of the support ACDP is providing to WOAHP members includes:

Regional Emerging Disease Support project



ACDP-International Program are partnering with the Indonesian national reference laboratories for LSD (DIC Wates) and FMD (PUSVETMA) to develop targeted external quality assurance programs for the Indonesian veterinary laboratory network (IVLN).

- DIC Wates and PUSVETMA have developed quality assured positive controls, for ELISA and PCR, and distributed these to the IVLN.
- The national reference laboratories are currently planning national proficiency testing programs for LSD and FMD to be implemented in late 2024.

Rabies training in Timor-Leste

With the spread of rabies close to the Timor-Leste border, as part of a joint effort with Australia DAFF, ACDP provided training in Timor-Leste to strengthen their preparedness for rabies. Training was provided on safe brain sampling techniques, use of lateral flow rapid tests and packaging for sending samples to a laboratory. This training ensured that Timor-Leste staff were prepared and could rapidly confirm the first suspected case of rabies in a way that ensured the safety of veterinary staff, decisions could be made and appropriate actions taken.



LabCapPNG

Working with the NAHFTL lab on improving their ability to conduct diagnostic tests for ASF. This is the theoretical understanding of why and how to do the test, the technical skills to conduct the test and how to interpret the results. This also includes the systems and processes behind the diagnostic capability.



WIViREIDS

The Wildlife Interface Viromic EID Surveillance (WIViREIDS) project is building laboratory capacity for EIDs by strengthening field-to-laboratory pipelines. Throughout the project, samples are being collected from wildlife interfaces at high risk for zoonotic spillover events such as markets and wetlands. These samples are then used to develop sequencing capability within laboratories to facilitate rapid diagnosis during a disease event associated with wildlife.

