

East Asia Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) Forum Meeting and Sub-regional Workshop on Controlling Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) in East Asia

22 – 23 July 2025 Tokyo, Japan

Rationale

In recognition of the importance of ensuring continuing regular communication among the Delegates and Chief Veterinary Officers (CVO), including the sharing of information on disease events, the World Organisation for Animal Health Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (WOAH RRAP) conducted the East Asia CVO Forum Meeting and Sub-Regional Workshop on Controlling Transboundary Animal Diseases in East Asia from 22 to 23 July 2025.

Given the crucial importance of strengthening cooperation in East Asia to enhance regional preparedness and resilience against TADs, China P.R., Japan, Korea R.O., Mongolia, Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong SAR established the East Asia CVO Forum in 2016, and since then conducted several relevant activities under the Forum. East Asia CVO Forum is also recognised as one of sub-regions in the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs.

This meeting sought to provide an update on the animal health situation of East Asia Forum Members, review past activities and priority topics, and develop future activities for the East Asia CVO Forum.

Meeting Summary

- Participants highlighted the importance of the East Asia CVO Forum as a venue to share the latest TADs situation among East Asia CVO Forum Members, including the epidemiology of priority TADs and the experiences and activities in disease prevention and control.
- Participants of the East Asia CVO Forum Meeting recognised the risks of TADs and are working to strengthen surveillance control systems, despite variations in occurrences and disease situations in the sub-region.
- Common challenges among Members include:
 - Lack of biosecurity practices in backyard and small-scale farms, management of illegally imported animal products, risks from travelers, climate change, and the need for rapid notification systems and establishment of compensation schemes.
 - Infections transmitting between wildlife and livestock, and vector-borne pathogens. These are emerging as challenges that cannot be addressed by traditional livestock management alone, requiring ecological approaches and collaboration with the wildlife sector.

- Vaccine strategies differ significantly among members, with flexible policies adopted based on disease and situation. Shared issues include challenges related to monitoring, vaccine efficacy and DIVA (Differentiating Infected from Vaccinated Animals).
 - The need to identify and explore opportunities for harmonised strategies, collaboration and coordinated actions for prevention and control of priority TADs in the sub-region.
 - The need to strengthen networking and collaboration mechanisms among East Asia CVO Forum Members.
- The meeting noted that the sub-region has a significant number of existing WOAHP Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centers including newly designated ones and pending applications for designation.
 - The meeting highlighted the importance of adopting animal disease prevention and control strategies as well as action plans to address public health threats such as antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to the current global trends in trade and disease epidemiology and recognising the role of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in the implementation of such.
 - The meeting also recognised the importance of information sharing and timely disease notification within the sub-region.
 - The Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway is acknowledged by members as a vital capacity building tool for development of their veterinary services.
 - The Members reconfirmed that the East Asia CVO forum will continue to operate based on the agreement endorsed at the CVO meeting in 2023 in Qingdao, China (**Annex**) and agreed that Mongolia will represent the East Asia sub-region in the next Regional Steering Committee of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF TADs).
 - The meeting identified potential areas for future sub-regional collaboration include information-sharing on vaccines and diagnostics, standardising risk assessment methods, establishing SOPs for outbreak response, and enhancing international cooperation.

Recommendations to the East Asia CVO Forum Members

- Continue to strengthen initiatives on biosecurity and surveillance, including aspects of vector surveillance for particular diseases, and incorporating post-vaccination monitoring in surveillance systems
- The East Asia CVO Forum encourages Members to strengthen early disease reporting and enhance timely information sharing about epidemiological disease situations in their territories, including both livestock and wildlife.

- Continue to document and share best practices on animal health communication, community and stakeholder engagement, and risk and crisis communication protocols developed for animal disease situations.
- Establish, with member initiatives, a Technical Working Group on the use of vaccines and vaccination (in general) as a strategy for animal disease control and prevention to have more in depth discussions on vaccine availability, vaccine access and demand, development of vaccination strategies.
- Strengthen collaboration of WOA Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centers in the sub-region to improve delivery of services to members including proficiency testing, with technical and logistic support from WOA.
- Continue to explore modalities and improve networking of border control agencies to address animal movement and quarantine concerns.
- Continue to engage in PVS Pathway activities including veterinary workforce assessment and development.
- Continue to implement and proactively adapt their National Action Plans in line with the Global Action Plan on AMR.
- Enhance communication, collaboration, coordination and capacity building between sectors and disciplines utilising the One Health approach to address zoonoses, AMR and other cross-sectoral health issues.
- Hold the East Asia CVO Forum Meeting bi-annually (Korea R.O. has expressed interest in hosting the next meeting 2027).

The meeting thanks the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of Republic of Korea for their financial contributions, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan for hosting this meeting.

(Annex)

Operation of the East Asia CVOs Forum

- East Asia CVOs Forum meets at least every 2 years to update and set priorities for the next 2 years. Meetings may be held virtually or back-to-back with other meetings.
- East Asia Contact Persons meet at least once a year (in person or virtually) and are responsible for the ongoing coordination and report to their CVO (or equivalent).
- FAO RAP and WOAHH RRAP continues to support the East Asia CVOs Forum and its technical activities.
- The representative of East Asia sub-region to the RSC of GFTADs for Asia and the Pacific should rotate every 2 years alphabetically amongst those who are members of both FAO & WOAHH and other than the President of Regional Commission.

(cf: PR China - Japan – (DPRK) - RO Korea - Mongolia, RO Korea represented in 2023.)

- WOAHH RRAP serves as a secretariat for the East Asia CVOs Forum

(Endorsed at the CVO meeting in 2023 in Qingdao, China.)