

OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Regional Work Plan Framework 2011-2015

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Introduction

The Regional Work Plan provides a framework of action for regional activities over the period 2011-2015. It is consistent with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Fifth Strategic Plan, 2011-2015, and should be read in conjunction with this Document. The OIE Fifth Strategic Plan stresses the importance of the regional dimension of OIE's work including Regional Commissions, as well as the promotion of activities to support the implementation of OIE policies and strategies. The Regional Workplan is a 'living document' and will be reviewed by the Regional Commission on a regular basis to examine progress and adjust as necessary in the light of any new developments.

Regional Objectives 2011-2015

1. Communicate timely and accurate animal disease information, including information on zoonoses, by making the best use of scientific data modeling, modern information technologies, and non-official information and tracking systems.
2. Propose to update OIE standards and guidelines on all matters concerning: animal and veterinary public health; animal welfare; diagnosis and control of diseases; assessment of the animal health situation; sanitary safety in animal production and international trade; with particular reference being given to the needs of the Region; and encourage Members to make appropriate use of these standards and guidelines.
3. Provide scientifically-based recommendations on measures for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases including zoonoses, taking into account the economic, social and environmental impacts of such measures on the Region.
4. Ensure scientific excellence and the timeliness of information and advice available to national Veterinary Services and other interested parties in all areas covered by the OIE's mandate.
5. Strengthen the capacities of national Veterinary Services to help achieve improvements in animal, veterinary public health and animal welfare while, at the same time, improving their abilities to participate in the development of international standards and guidelines and apply OIE standards and guidelines.
6. Strengthen cooperation with partner agencies in the implementation of the "One Health" framework to reduce animal and public health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interface.

Regional Work Plan Framework 2011-2015

Chapter 1.– Regional Directions

1.1. Background

- The Regional Commission comprises 36 Members across Asia and the Pacific (the list of Members is attached).
- It is a culturally, geographically, politically, socially, linguistically and economically extremely diverse region.
- Of all the OIE regions, it has the largest human and animal, populations and animal protein resources.
- There have been outbreaks of important animal infectious diseases including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease, Foot and Mouth Disease, Classical Swine Fever, Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), Peste des Petits Ruminants and Rabies.
- The OIE developed the 5th OIE Strategic Plan which was unanimously adopted at the 78th OIE General Session in May 2010.
- At the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held in Shanghai, China in 2009, the President of the Regional Commission proposed to develop the Regional Strategic Plan 2011–2015 for Asia and the Pacific. This proposal was approved by Members in the Region.
- Under guidance of the OIE Headquarters, it has been agreed to develop a Regional Work Plan Framework 2011-2015 instead of a Strategic Plan. The Regional Work Plan Framework has been elaborated in the context of the 5th OIE Strategic Plan and Shanghai recommendation.

1.2. Mission and Terms of Reference

- The terms of reference of the Regional Commission are to:
 - propose adaptations to OIE decisions, programmes, strategies, policies and activities to the conditions and needs of the Region;
 - contribute to strengthening the capacities of the Veterinary Services of the Members of the Region;

- increase the contribution of livestock to national economies and participate in poverty alleviation through international trade;
 - give an advisory opinion on the headquarters of the Regional Representation and on the work programmes of the Regional Representation.
- The Regional Commission assists its Members to participate fully and effectively in the OIE activities.
 - The Regional Commission assists in adapting OIE recommendations and programmes to the specific conditions and needs of the Region and its Members.
 - The Regional Commission provides continuity and general orientation on OIE policies on animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare at the regional level.

1.3. Vision

- The Regional Commission will be recognized by its Members and by OIE Headquarters as a keystone of expert knowledge on regional matters to inform OIE deliberations and provide advice on the implementation of OIE policies within the region.
- The Regional Commission will stand side-by-side with the other OIE Regional Commissions as an equal partner in the work of OIE, and will work closely with the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific in the provision of regionally-adapted services to Members.

Chapter 2.- Work Plan Components

2.1. Communicating International Animal Diseases and Zoonoses Information in the Region

Objective: Communicate timely and accurate animal disease information, including information on zoonoses, by making the best use of scientific data modelling, modern information technologies, and non-official information and tracking systems.

- The Regional Commission will continue to advocate for improvements to disease notification in the Region, including diseases of wildlife, so that the first indications of significant disease events in the territory of a Member can be made immediately to the OIE.
- The Regional Commission will advocate for enhancing international capacity in disease intelligence and analysis of disease emergence, horizon scanning, modeling and forecasting in the Region.

2.2. Contribution to and Implementation of Scientifically-Based Standards and Guidelines

Objective: Propose to update OIE standards and guidelines on all matters concerning: animal and veterinary public health; animal welfare; diagnosis and control of diseases; assessment of the animal health situation; sanitary safety in animal production and international trade; with particular reference being given to the needs of the Region; and encourage Members to make appropriate use of these standards and guidelines

- The Regional Commission will provide advice to the OIE on the list of diseases for which the OIE provides official country status recognition, so that changes reflect the conditions and needs of the Region.
- The Regional Commission will provide advice on the specific conditions and needs of the Region so that the OIE can revise as appropriate the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* to them.
- The Regional Commission will encourage the application of OIE standards by Members in the Region and, to this end, develop recommendations on updating Veterinary Legislation for the improvement of governance and the ability to meet the standards and guidelines contained in the relevant OIE *Codes* and *Manuals*.

- The Regional Commission will encourage the regional activities to facilitate the introduction of the agreed Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Implementation Plan, and will review the progress against agreed plan objectives.

2.3. Prevention, Control and Eradication of Animal Diseases including Zoonoses

***Objective:** Provide scientifically-based recommendations on measures for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases including zoonoses, taking into account the economic, social and environmental impacts of such measures on the Region.*

- The Regional Commission will promote and support regional coordination and cooperation activities required to control animal diseases.
- The Regional Commission will strengthen the regional initiatives to control transboundary animal diseases in the context of the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), and continue to work towards the regional eradication or control diseases adversely affecting animal and veterinary public health, food security or trade, or with negative impacts on poverty, and in particular towards the regional control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Foot and Mouth Disease, Classical Swine Fever, Peste des Petits Ruminants and Rabies.
- The Regional Commission will provide key proposals to the OIE to coordinate specific actions of the OIE aiming at improving the animal health status of Members with initiatives launched by Members in the Region.
- The Regional Commission will develop, in the context of the GF-TADs, common strategies for the control of transboundary animal diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Foot and Mouth Disease, Classical Swine Fever, Peste des Petits Ruminants and Rabies and assist its Members implement them.
- The Regional Commission will strengthen cooperation and information exchange in relation to border control in the Region.

2.4. Ensuring the Scientific Excellence of Information and Advice

***Objective:** Ensure the scientific excellence and timeliness of information and advice available to national Veterinary Services and other interested parties in all area covered by the OIE's mandate.*

- The Regional Commission will strengthen the regional network of OIE Reference Centres in the Region by encouraging “Twinning” Agreements between them and candidate Centres.
- The Regional Commission will actively recommend experts in the Region as members of OIE Scientific Commissions, Working Groups and Ad hoc Groups.
- The Regional Commission will encourage research into local and regional marketing systems including the transportation and the dynamics of pathogens along market chains.

2.5. Capacity Building for National Veterinary Services

***Objective:** Strengthen the capacities of national Veterinary Services to help achieve improvements in animal, veterinary public health and animal welfare while, at the same time, improving their abilities to participate in the development of international standards and guidelines and apply OIE standards and guidelines.*

The Regional Commission will encourage its Members to improve their Veterinary Services through the use of the OIE PVS Pathway including the tool for the evaluation of Veterinary Services, the PVS Gap Analysis and PVS follow up.

2.6. Cooperation with partner agencies in the pursuit of “One Health” concept

***Objective:** Strengthen cooperation with partner agencies in the implementation of the “One Health” framework to reduce animal and public health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interface.*

The Regional Commission will work and exchange information exchange with partner agencies and organisations in the development of interdisciplinary approaches to support efficient animal production and protect animal and public health.

Chapter 3.– Activities for Achievement of Regional Objectives

Core values

The core values underpinning this plan include collegial and cooperative approaches such as the sharing of information to the extent this is possible and appropriate in areas of scientific decision making and risk-based approaches; and an appreciation of Veterinary Services as a global public good.

Specific activities

- The Regional Commission will enhance communication and coordination between the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and Members in the Region, and to this end establish a regional core group consisting of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary General of the Regional Commission with a few Regional Delegates and organised by the Regional Representation.
- The Regional Commission will hold a meeting of the regional core group prior to each General Session to help determine Regional Commission positions on key issues.
- The Regional Commission will ask RR and RsR to circulate comments on OIE documents (e.g. country comments on the Reports of the Code Commission) within the Region.
- The Regional Commission will send representatives to meetings of other OIE Regional Commissions.
- The Regional Commission will undertake the following activities in cooperation with the Regional Representation:
 - Establish an e-mail network through which Members could share information about OIE matters;
 - Work more closely with ASEAN Secretariats, SAARC Secretariats and SPC Secretariats;
 - Review compliance with recommendations of meetings held in the Region;
 - Develop a list of experts who might be suitable for nomination to OIE Specialist Commissions, Working Groups or Ad hoc Groups.
- The Regional Commission will undertake and coordinate with relevant partner agencies the following activities in the context of the GF-TADs:

- Develop regional strategies and road maps for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Foot and Mouth Disease, Classical Swine Fever and Peste des Petits Ruminants.
- Advocate specific activities aiming at controlling Rabies in the Region;
- Strengthen the regional network of veterinary educational institutions consistent with OIE policies and taking into account the difficulty of securing veterinarians in some Members in the Region;
- Continue to participate in workshops on border control of animals in the Region;
- Work with non-members in the Region, making them aware of the advantage of OIE membership and encouraging them to join.

Stakeholders

The stakeholders affected by this plan include:

- Regional Commission Members
- OIE Headquarters
- OIE Regional Representation
- OIE Sub-regional Office(s)
- Regional community
- Global community

Resources

A strong collective effort will be required to implement the Regional Commission Regional Work Plan Framework, and resources will need to be sourced from those with capacity amongst the following:

- Delegates
- Delegates' offices
- Regional Representation
- Sub-regional Office
- OIE Headquarters Regional Activities Department