

Session 7: Emergency Response

Facilitator: Diana Chee, Yuko Hood

Group Exercise

Instructions:

Participants were divided into 4 groups and given 20 mins to discuss their priorities based on list of activities listed in Future Work and What to work on now (screenshot below from Diana Chee's presentation, 7.1).

Regional Workshop for WOAHA Focal Points for Aquatic Animals July 7 – 9, 2026 Tokyo, Japan			
Gaps Identified	Key Lessons Learnt	Future Work	What to work on now
- Limited aquatic animal health workforce and specialist expertise. - Coordination & Governance Insufficient contingency planning and simulation exercises. - Transboundary risks from shared water bodies and aquatic trade. - Variable laboratory and diagnostic capacities. - Weak incentives for disease reporting. - Lack of sustainable emergency response and recovery funding.	- Preparedness before crisis – contingency plans, simulation exercises, recovery planning - Regional integration and links are needed. - Farmers and industry are critical partners for early detection and reporting. - Communication and trust are essential	1. Be prepared - Develop and test aquatic animal disease contingency plans. 2. Build up workforce and technical capability, through development and specialist training. 3. Enhance laboratory networks and proficiency testing. 4. Improve risk communication and industry engagement. 5. Establish compensation and emergency funding mechanisms. 6. Expand regional collaboration and information sharing.	1. Regional emergency preparedness framework. 2. Simulation exercises for aquatic disease outbreaks 3. Regional laboratory network for aquatic diseases. 4. Guidance on zoning/compartmentalisation and outbreak management. 5. Sharing of recovery experiences and best practices. 6. Build Trust: Strengthen public-private partnerships and farmer engagement.

Group distribution

Regional Workshop for WOAHA Focal Points for Aquatic Animals July 7 – 9, 2026 Tokyo, Japan			
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Australia – Dr Yuko Hood	Chinese Taipei – Dr Tai-Thing Chen	Bangladesh – Ms Syeda Sadia Nuria	Bhutan – Mr Tshering Dorji
Cambodia – Mr Chan Dara Khan	Japan – Mr Shu Katano	Fiji – Mr Isikeli Odrovakavula	Indonesia – Dr Christina Retna Handayani
Laos – Mr Akhane Phomsouvanh	Malaysia – Dr Azila Abdullah	ROK – Dr Yu Jinha	ROK – Dr Kim Jae-Ok
Maldives – Ms Fathimath Shazra Mueen	Mongolia – Mr Munkhduuren Shatar	Japan – Dr Yohei Fukui	Bangladesh – Mr Habib Forhad Alam
Philippines – Dr Joselito R. Somga	PNG – Ms Elaine Kagen	New Caledonia – Ms Stéphanie Sourget	New Zealand – Ms Rissa Williams
Thailand – Dr Baoprasertkul Puttharat	Sri Lanka – Dr Dulip Kasagala	Singapore – Dr Diana Chee	Singapore – Dr Jing Chen
ROK – Dr Seongdo Lee	ROK – Dr Kim Min-Jae	Timor-Leste – Mr Alberto Viegas Soares	Vanuatu – Mr Walter Temakon
Kiribati – Mr El-jay Neneia	Cook Islands – Ms Heiarii Tia-Marie Syme	SAARC – Dr Md. Shariful Islam	Chulalongkorn University – A.Prof Dr Channarong Rodkhum
JICA – Mr Hiroyuki Tanaka	Tonga – Ms Mele Toli Faanunu		

Summary of outputs

- Future work:
 - Be prepared - Develop and test aquatic animal disease contingency plans.
 - Expand regional collaboration and information sharing.
- What to work on now:
 - Regional emergency preparedness framework.
 - Simulation exercises for aquatic disease outbreaks.
 - Regional laboratory network for aquatic diseases.

Beyond the rankings, the plenary discussion highlighted that **contingency plans** are a significant immediate gap for many Members. It was noted that if a country does not know what triggers an emergency response or who to contact to implement it, the rest of the framework cannot function effectively.

- Other new proposals:
 - To address unique challenges faced by **small-scale farm biosecurity**
 - To establish **proficiency testing and accreditation** for aquatic veterinarians and animal health professionals across the region

Detailed outputs

Group 1

Priority	Future work	What to work on now
1	1.Be prepared - Develop and test aquatic animal disease contingency plans	1.Regional emergency preparedness framework
2	-	2.Simulation exercises for aquatic disease outbreaks
3	-	3.Regional laboratory network for aquatic diseases

Group 2

Priority	Future work	What to work on now
1	6. Expand regional collaboration and information sharing	2.Simulation exercises for aquatic disease outbreaks Remarks: Emphasized that simulation exercises are critical for providing a "hands-on" feeling, ensuring staff are not facing a crisis for the first time
2	4. Improve risk communication and industry engagement	1.Regional emergency preparedness framework Remarks: while some Members like Sri Lanka are islands, most share water bodies, making a

		Regional Emergency Preparedness Framework essential to manage diseases appearing at different borders
3	5. Establish compensation and emergency funding mechanisms	3.Regional laboratory network for aquatic diseases
4	3. Enhance laboratory networks and proficiency	5.Sharing of recovery experiences and best practices
5	-	6.Build Trust: Strengthen public-private partnerships and farmer engagement. Remarks: Building trust is a fundamental precursor to action. Public-private partnership and the farmer engagement are important. Compensation schemes are needed to "reduce the agitation of the community"
6	-	-

Group 3

Priority	Future work	What to work on now
1	1.Be prepared - Develop and test aquatic animal disease contingency plans	2.Simulation exercises for aquatic disease outbreaks
2	2. Build up workforce and technical capability, through development and specialist training Remarks: Building technical capability by training the existing terrestrial animal health workforce, noting that "a vet can treat more than one type of animal" and can be a valuable resource for aquatic emergencies	3.Regional laboratory network for aquatic diseases
3	6. Expand regional collaboration and information sharing	6.Build Trust: Strengthen public-private partnerships and farmer engagement

Group 4

Priority	Future work	What to work on now
1	6. Expand regional collaboration and information sharing	1.Regional emergency preparedness framework
2	4. Improve risk communication and industry engagement	3. Regional laboratory network for aquatic diseases
3	1. Be prepared - Develop and test aquatic animal disease contingency plans	6.Build Trust: Strengthen public-private partnerships and farmer engagement

New proposals:

- To address unique challenges faced by **small-scale farm biosecurity**
- To establish **proficiency testing and accreditation** for aquatic veterinarians and animal health professionals across the region