

Regional Workshop for WOAHA Focal Points for Aquatic Animals July 7– 9, 2026 | Tokyo, Japan

Introduction to Agenda

This regional workshop brings together WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Focal Points (AAH FPs), Collaborating Centres, Reference Laboratories, and partners to continue WOAHA's ongoing programme on strengthening Focal Point (FP) roles and national capacities in aquatic animal health. Building on the previous regional training held in Busan in 2023, this workshop supports FPs in understanding and fulfilling their responsibilities within WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Strategy, including the implementation of WOAHA aquatic standards, effective use of disease reporting systems, and engagement with regional scientific networks. Through technical sessions, case studies, interactive group discussions, and partner engagement, participants will deepen their knowledge of WOAHA tools and contribute to advancing coordinated regional efforts under the Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health in Asia and the Pacific.

Objectives

1. To strengthen AAH FPs capacity to implement WOAHA aquatic standards, meet disease reporting obligations, and support national coordination mechanisms for aquatic animal health.
2. To promote peer learning and enhance regional networking among FPs Reference Centres (RCs), and partners to support sustained information sharing and coordinated regional action
3. To advance regional collaboration on biosecurity, emergency response, laboratory support, and AMU/AMR through sharing innovations, Member experiences, and partner initiatives.
4. Strengthen engagement with WOAHA capacity-building programmes including the PVS Pathway, PVS Information System, and WOAHA eLearning Platform to support national analysis, planning, and advocacy for aquatic animal health systems.
5. To develop consensus-based regional priorities and recommendations from FPs to guide WOAHA RRAP planning and activities under the Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health in Asia and the Pacific or Asia-Pacific Aquatic Animal Health Network (AP-AquaNet).

Outcomes

1. Enhanced technical capacity among FPs to implement WOAHA aquatic standards and meet disease reporting obligations with greater accuracy and confidence, including improved understanding and submission to WAHIS and the Regional Aquatic Animal Disease Reporting approach, strengthened transparency and timeliness of reporting, and improved ability to support national coordination mechanisms.
2. Strengthened regional networks and sustained peer-to-peer exchange among FPs, RCs, Collaborating Centres, and partners for continued information sharing, bilateral support (e.g., confirmatory testing, reagents, training), and collaboration beyond the workshop.
3. Improved readiness and collaboration across biosecurity, emergency response, laboratory capacity, AMU/AMR, supported by expert insights, Member experiences, scenario-based exercises, and practical demonstrations.
4. Greater engagement with WOAHA capacity-building programmes such as the PVS Pathway, PVS Information System, and the WOAHA eLearning Platform, enabling participants to better analyse national gaps, plan improvements, and advocate for strengthened aquatic animal health systems.
5. Consensus-based regional priorities and recommendations from Focal Points that reflect regional challenges, needs, and opportunities for collaboration, providing clear guidance for WOAHA RRAP planning and the AP-AquaNet activities.

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Pre-Workshop Phase

Registered participants were enrolled in the WOAHA eLearning Platform and received access to technical e-modules upon nomination three weeks before the workshop. This pre-workshop learning package which takes approximately two hours to complete, includes introductory topics such as the WOAHA standard-setting process, WAHIS, status recognition, and an overview of WOAHA. Participants will also be invited to complete the new technical aquatic animal health e-modules, requiring approximately eight hours of self-paced learning, once they are launched. Transcripts will be available for all modules.

Participants were strongly encouraged to complete the online modules and assessments prior to the in-person workshop to ensure a harmonised baseline of knowledge, particularly for new FPs. For experienced FPs, the modules served as a refresher and can be shared with relevant colleagues to support national capacity building. Access link: [WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Training](#)

Workshop Agenda

*All scheduled times are based on Japan Standard Time (JST)

Tuesday, 7 July 2026 - Day 1		
08:30– 09:00	Registration and networking	
Session 1: Opening and workshop framing		
09:00 – 09:15	Opening remarks - WOAH Delegate for Japan - Dr Masatsugu Okita - WOAH Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific – Dr Tomoko Ishibashi - President of Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT) - Dr. Toshio Iseki (speech will be given by Prof Dr M. Sano)	
09:15 – 09:25	Introduction, objectives, and expected outcomes of the workshop	Dr C.S.B Yong, WOAHRRAP
09:25 – 09:35	e-Learning Phase Evaluation (Quiz)	Dr M.I. Alguerno, WOAHCBD
09:35 – 09:45	Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion	Dr M. Urabe, WOAHRRAP
09:45 – 10:00	Icebreaker & Self-introduction Group photo	Dr G. Kawai, WOAHRRAP
Session 2: Standards and real-world implementation challenges		
Objectives addressed: O1, O2		
Goals:		
- Understand the WOAHS Standards available to support aquatic animal health and updates - Recognise the importance of being involved in standard-setting and how to do so - Describe Member context and challenges in implementation of WOAHS Standards		
10:00 – 10:10	Standard setting process and the Role of FPs	Dr A.R.S. Silva, WOAHS Standards

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10:10 – 10:35	Updates of WOAHA Aquatic Code and Manuals	AAHSC (Dr S. Tavoranpanich, Dr Hong Liu, Dr I. Ernst)
10:35 – 10:50	Coffee break	
10:50 – 11:30	Case studies: When standards meet reality • Australia – Demonstrating WSSV zone freedom from outbreaks (using Article 9.9.6) • Korea – Self-declaration of freedom • India – National Surveillance Program and Reporting Experience and Impact • Japan - Application of Standards on import quarantine measures Discussion (15mins)	Dr Y. Hood Dr J. O. Kim Dr P.K. Pradhan Dr Y. Fukui
11:30 – 12:00	Mentimeter: Strengthening engagement in WOAHA Standards development	Dr A.R.S. Silva, WOAHA Standards
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break	
Session 3: Mapping regional challenges Objectives addressed: O1, O2, O3 Goals: • To map Member-level and regional issues across themes • To promote peer learning of local and regional contexts • To reveal cross-cutting patterns, systemic bottlenecks and emerging issues • To generate a consolidated set of challenges for Session 4's synthesis and prioritisation		
13:00 – 13:50	World-café: Mapping regional challenges	Facilitators & participants
13:40 – 14:25	World-café – Refinement	Facilitators & participants
Spotlight 1: Collaborating Centre		
14:25 – 14:40	WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Reference Materials of Molecular Diagnostic Techniques in Aquatic and Terrestrial Animal Diseases, Korea : Novel strategy to minimise diagnostic errors in aquatic animal diseases using reference material for conventional and real-time PCR	Dr H. Kim, National Institute of Fisheries Science
14:40 – 15:00	Coffee break	
Spotlight 2: Pacific spotlight		
15:00 – 15:35	Aquaculture Initiatives in Non-WOAHA PICTs and Pacific PVS • Sub-regional situation and initiatives • Non-WOAHA PICT and Aquatic PVS – Tonga • Non-WOAHA PICT – Kiribati • Aquatic PVS – Fiji	Dr K. Ellard E.J. Neneia M.T. Faanunu I. Odro
Spotlight 3: TUMSAT spotlight		
15:35 – 15:45	Introduction to TUMSAT	Prof Dr G. Kato, TUMSAT
15:45 – 15:55	DNA vaccines for poxvirus infections in koi and ayu	Prof Dr M. Sano, TUMSAT

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Spotlight 4: Partners spotlight (1)		
15:55 – 16:05	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)	Dr E. Leaño, NACA
16:05 – 16:15	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Mr H. Tanaka, JICA
16:15 – 16:25	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)	Mr Md. Shariful Islam, SAARC
Session 4: Synthesis and priority setting of regional challenges Objectives addressed: O1, O2, O3 Goals: To consolidate the mapped challenges, collect questions that requires expert input, and collectively prioritise the issues that require immediate attention and longer-term regional action		
16:25 – 16:40	World-café synthesis	Facilitators
16:40 – 16:50	Prioritising regional challenges - voting	Facilitators & participants
16:50 – 17:00	Wrap-up Day 1	Dr. C.S.B Yong WOAHA RRAP
17:00 – 17:15	Poster viewing	
18:00 – 20:00	Reception dinner at ANA Holiday Inn Tokyo Bay, Ocean Bloom Room	All participants

*RRAP - Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific; *OHGF – One Health and Global frameworks department; *AAHSC - Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission; TBC: To be confirmed

Wednesday, 8 July 2026 - Day 2		
09:00 – 09:15	Recap of Day 1	Selected participant Dr C.S.B Yong, WOAHA RRAP
	Overview of Day 2	
Session 5: Regional collaboration – Biosecurity (1) Objectives addressed: O1, O2, O3 Goals: - To introduce and provide updates on how framework supports coordinated action, information sharing and alignment of regional aquatic health priorities - To present updates on biosecurity assessment project - To showcase Member experience in applying tool		
09:15 – 09:25	Introduction and updates on the Regional Collaboration Framework / Asia-Pacific Aquatic Animal Health Network (AP-AquaNet)	Dr. C.S.B Yong WOAHA RRAP
09:25 – 09:35	AP-AquaNet Flagship 2: Assessment of on-farm biosecurity in aquaculture	Dr. C.S.B Yong WOAHA RRAP
09:35 – 09:45	AP-AquaNet Flagship 2: Member presentation	Dr J.R. Somga
Session 6: Technical spotlight and reference centre exchange Objectives addressed: O1, O2, O3 Goals: - Highlight recent innovations, diagnostic tools and research progress through flash presentations - Increase visibility and accessibility of RC services (diagnostics, confirmatory tests, reagents, training opportunities) - Facilitate direct dialogue between Members and RCs - Capture Member questions and concerns with a Panel Q&A to address selected questions from Day 1		
09:45 – 10:10	Flash presentations from WOAHA RCs	Dr H. Liu (virtual)

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	1) Reference Laboratory for IHN and SVC, China 2) Reference Laboratory for EUS, ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, India 3) Reference Laboratory for EHN, AbHV, ranavirus, YHD, CSIRO, Australia 4) Reference Laboratory for RSIVD and KHV, National Research Institute of Aquaculture, Japan 5) Reference Laboratory for VHS, National Institute of Fisheries Science, Korea	Dr P. K. Pradhan Dr N. Moody Dr Yasuhiko Kawato & Dr Tomo Kurobe Dr H. Kim
10:10 – 10:25	Coffee break and poster viewing	
10:25 – 10:45	6) Reference Laboratory for White Spot Disease (WSD) and Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease (AHPND), International Center for the Scientific Development of Shrimp Aquaculture, Chinese Taipei 7) Reference Laboratory for White Tail Disease (WTD), C. Abdul Hakeem College, India 8) Member sharing: Australia – Proficiency Testing program	Dr H.C.Wang Dr A.Sait Sahul Hameed Dr Y. Hood
10:45 – 11:15	Poster walk around – marketplace exchange	RCs experts and Participants
11:15 – 11:25	Mentimeter: Post-marketplace exchange – Top 3 insights	Facilitators & Participants
11:25 – 12:00	Panel Q&A Moderator: Dr E. Leañó Panel: Dr J. O. Kim, Dr N. Moody, Dr S. Tavornpanich, Dr A.R.S. Silva	Panel: RCs, AAHSC, WOAHP Standards
Spotlight 5: Partners spotlight (2)		
12:00 – 12:10	The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)	Dr L. de la Peña, SEAFDEC
12:10 – 13:10	Lunch break	
Session 7: Regional collaboration – Emergency response (2) Objectives addressed: O1, O2, O3 Goals: • Consolidate key cross-cutting gaps and strengths identified from the previous baseline exercises • Identify and agree on a small number of priority regional actions to strengthen preparedness and response • Translate regional priorities into practical actions that can be implemented within their own countries		
13:00 – 13:15	AP-AquaNet Flagship 1: Emergency Response exercise to examine regional coordination and response to emerging disease -	Dr I. Ernst (virtual)
13:15 – 14:45	Recap from 2024's workshop	Dr D. Chee (NParks, Singapore)

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13:40 – 14:30	Group exercise: Prioritising actions in the region and identify Member-level actions	Dr D. Chee (NParks, Singapore), Dr Y. Hood (DAFF, Australia), Facilitators
14:30 – 14:45	Plenary: consolidation and agreement	Dr D. Chee (NParks, Singapore), Dr Y. Hood (DAFF, Australia), Facilitators
14:45 – 15:00	Coffee break	
Session 8: Regional collaboration – Disease reporting (3) Objectives addressed: O1, O2, O3 Goals: - To ensure Members understand WAHIS, reporting expectations and how it aligns with regional reporting - To assess early implementation of the new Regional AAD Reporting system, identify barriers - To share insights from WOAHA regional review on disease notification - To improve technical confidence in the new regional AAD reporting (listed and non-listed diseases) through guided demonstration		
15:00 – 15:10	WAHIS – Introduction, what is new, what support is available, what is next	Ms A. Popova, WOAHA RRAP
15:10 – 15:15	Aquatic animal disease situation in the region and reporting trends	Ms A. Popova, WOAHA RRAP
15:15 – 15:25	AP-AquaNet Flagship 3: Improving Aquatic Animal Diseases Reporting in Asia and the Pacific	Dr C.S.B. Yong WOAHA RRAP, Dr E. Leaña, NACA
15:25 – 16:00	Demonstration: common scenarios and complications	Ms A. Popova, WOAHA RRAP
Session 9: AMU/AMR in aquaculture & field data collection Objectives addressed: O1, O2, O3 Goals: - To share the current status of antimicrobial use (AMU) in aquaculture across the Region - To introduce and strengthen understanding of AMU field data collection guidelines - To share the White Paper on Alternatives to Antimicrobials (ATAs) in Aquaculture - To share Member experiences and lessons learned through the Japan country presentation - Encourage discussion, collaboration, and knowledge sharing during the Q&A session to support responsible antimicrobial stewardship in aquaculture		
16:00 – 16:10	Introduction to AMU/AMR in aquaculture	Dr P. Suwanthada, WOAHA RRAP
16:10 – 16:35	Understanding AMU in aquaculture	Dr S. Hilaire, City University of Hong Kong
16:35 – 16:50	Updates on AMU data collection and guidelines for AMU monitoring in aquaculture at field-level	Dr D. Mateo, WOAHA HQ
16:50 – 17:00	Alternatives to Antimicrobials towards mitigation of AMR in aquaculture	Dr E. Leaña, NACA
17:00 – 17:10	Member sharing: Current status of AMU/AMR monitoring and surveillance in Japan	Dr S. Katano, Japan

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17:10 – 17:20	Q&A	Dr P. Suwanthada, WOAH RRAP
17:20 – 17:30	Wrap-up Day 2	Dr C.S.B Yong, WOAHA RRAP

Thursday, 9 July 2026 – Day 3		
09:00 – 09:05	Recap of Day 2 Overview of Day 3	Saputra Anugerah, TUMSAT Dr C.S.B Yong, WOAHA RRAP
Session 10: Strengthening aquatic health systems through WOAHA capacity building Objectives addressed: O1, O2, O3, O4 Goals: - To enhance participants' understanding and practical use of WOAHA capacity building tools, particularly the PVS Pathway and laboratory support mechanisms to strengthen national/territory aquatic animal health systems - To highlight practical impacts through panel discussion - To showcase laboratory support program outcomes - To encourage participants to reflect on how WOAHA tools and support programs can be applied or requested to address national/territory gaps		
09:05 – 09:15	WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Strategy 2021 – 2025 and What's next?	Dr M.I. Alguerno, WOAHA CBD
09:15 – 09:30	Introduction to WOAHA capacity building system	Dr M.I. Alguerno, WOAHA CBD
09:30 – 09:40	WOAHA PVS Pathway: Aquatic Benefits, use of PVSIS, data analysis	Dr M.I. Alguerno, WOAHA CBD
09:40 – 10:00	PVS: Member experience and impact - Malaysia - Sri Lanka - Timor-Leste - Philippines	Dr A. Abdullah Dr D. Kasagala Dr A. Viegas Dr J.R. Somga
10:00 – 10:15	Sustainable laboratories support program - Indonesia – lab twinning experience and impact - Crustacean diseases: USA – Indonesia (2015-2018) - Koi herpesvirus: Japan – Indonesia (2014-2017) - IHHN and WSD: China – Indonesia (2019-2021)	Dr C.R. Handayani

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Session 11: Regional priority actions for aquatic animal health Objectives addressed: O2, O3, O5 Goals: - To review previously mapped challenges - To identify capacity needs and actionable solutions through a consensus process - To prioritise key actions to inform WOAHA RRAP planning and AP-AquaNet flagship activities		
10:15 – 10:30	Framing the landscape – Review	Dr S. Castro, Dr. C.S.B Yong WOAHA RRAP
10:30 – 10:55	World café: Identifying solutions	Facilitators & participants
10:55 – 11:10	Coffee break	
11:10 – 11:50	World café: Refinement – Rotation	Facilitators Participants
11:50 – 12:00	World café synthesis – Report back	Facilitators
12:00 – 12:10	Prioritisation of capacity needs and solutions - voting	Participants
12:10 – 12:15	Synthesis of session	Dr S. Castro, Dr. C.S.B Yong WOAHA RRAP
Session 12: Closing session		
12:15 – 12:25	Workshop evaluation	Dr. C.S.B Yong WOAHA RRAP
12:25 – 12:35	Closing remark - Representative of Delegate for Japan – Dr Yohei Fukui - WOAHA Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific – Dr Tomoko Ishibashi - Vice President of Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT) - Prof Dr Masashi Maita	
12:40 – 12:45	Acknowledgement	Dr. C.S.B Yong WOAHA RRAP
12:40 – 13:30	Lunch break	
13:40 – 15:30	TUMSAT Campus visit (Museum of Marine Science, Laboratories, etc)	TUMSAT
15:30	End of workshop	