



**Regional Animal Welfare Strategy
Coordination Group Meeting 6
26 August 2013
Meeting Report**



Photo: RAWS Coordination Group and observers

**Best Western Premier Gangnam Hotel
Seoul, Republic of Korea**

MEETING SUMMARY

On 26 August 2013 the sixth meeting of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy – Asia, the Far East and Oceania Coordination Group (RAWS CG) was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

The RAWS CG includes representatives from the Kingdom of Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Thailand, the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Thai industry, and the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group. The RAWS CG is chaired by Dr Gardner Murray and the secretariat is provided by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The list of meeting attendees, including additional observers, is at **Attachment 1**.

Key objectives of the meeting were to:

- Assess progress since meeting 5, including project proposals;
- Review the revised Action Plan;
- Provide updates on national/organisation activities;
- Discuss input to the OIE Regional Commission meeting in Cebu, Philippines, in November 2013; and
- Discuss communication with national focal points for animal welfare.

The meeting agenda is at **Attachment 2**.

The group discussed and made recommendations relating to country/organisation progress and regulatory developments, the endorsement and publication of RAWS (edition 2), revisions to the RAWS Action Plan, the preparation of a draft paper for the Regional Commission meeting in November 2013, the status of existing projects and scope for new projects, and the interaction between the RAWS CG and national focal points for animal welfare.

RECOMMENDATIONS

During the meeting the following recommendations were developed and agreed.

To the RAWS CG:

Activities of OIE Paris

NOTED that the current priorities of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) are (a) working animal welfare, (b) management of animals in disasters, and (c) continuing work on production animal welfare.

RECOMMENDED that the International Standards Organization (ISO) process be continually monitored in terms of how ISO technical specifications will meet OIE standards.

NOTED that Mr Jim Paradice is a member of ISO TC34/WG16 and will report to the RAWS CG on developments.

Country/organisation updates and activities

NOTED the progress and activities reported on by RAWS CG members and observers.

RECOMMENDED that the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group and Code Commission review the stunning requirements for poultry in chapter 7.5 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, taking account of the different stunning systems used in different regions.

RAWS Action Plan

ENDORSED revisions made to the Action Plan following meeting 5.

RECOMMENDED that RAWS CG review the Action Plan as revised after meeting 6 and provide timely comments on the plan to the secretariat for incorporation.

RAWS CG Projects

AGREED to continue to progress the development of a RAWS website with the agreement of OIE Paris.

NOTED that the RAWS CG would be provided with links to documents from WSPA and the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy on training and education activities.

Secretariat responsibilities

NOTED the allocation of funds for the Australian Government to continue to provide secretariat services through to December 2014, with limited funding being available for another country to assume secretariat responsibilities should it wish.

Future meetings/training

NOTED that a European Commission (EC) training workshop will be held in March/April 2014 alongside a RAWS CG meeting, with further details to be developed in consultation with OIE and EC.

AGREED that an enriched focal point and RAWS CG meeting will be hosted in Australia in October/November 2014 under the IAWP, and that consideration will be given to extending invitations to OIE delegates.

Communications

NOTED the circulation of the June 2013 edition of the RAWS newsletter.

RECOMMENDED that members continue to provide information and updates for the RAWS newsletter.

Focal Points and RAWS

RECOMMENDED highlighting with OIE delegates at the Regional Commission meeting in November 2013 the need for focal points to report to RAWS CG prior to each meeting on member country activities.

Recommendations of meeting 5

NOTED the completion of a number of recommendations from RAWS CG meeting 5.

NOTED progress made on a number of recommendations from meeting 5, with the next steps for their completion being reflected in the recommendations of meeting 6.

To the secretariat:

AGREED that the secretariat would detail secretariat functions and resource requirements for consideration by countries interested in taking up the role of secretariat.

AGREED that the secretariat would work with the OIE and EC to finalise the nature and scope of the proposed EC meeting and training in March/April 2014.

AGREED to restructure the Action Plan to reflect responsibilities of OIE Headquarters, OIE Regional Commission, National Focal Points, RAWS CG members and secretariat.

AGREED that the secretariat would continue to prepare the paper for the Regional Commission meeting in November 2013, including sections on communications, secretariat functions and resource requirements, and the Action Plan. The secretariat will provide a paper abstract by end of October with the detailed paper to follow.

AGREED that the secretariat would organise the translation and publication of RAWS (edition 2) into regional languages for distribution at the Regional Commission meeting in November 2013.

AGREED that the secretariat, working with the OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare and WSPA, will research and develop a concept plan for conducting a stocktake of training and education courses, the development of a searchable database, and potential resource requirements. Secretariat to report to RAWS CG at the next meeting.

AGREE that secretariat would continue collaborate with WSPA on future training on managing animals in disasters, and developing a timeframe and resource/funding requirements.

To the national focal points for animal welfare:

ENCOURAGED focal point members to review all proposed amendments to the OIE Codes, in particular the dairy cattle chapter, and engage in the preparation of their country's responses to the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission reports.

RECOMMENDED that focal points be more engaged in reviewing the RAWS Action Plan

MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and introduction

Dr Gardner Murray, Chair of the RAWS CG

Dr Murray welcomed participants to the sixth RAWS CG meeting and noted apologies. Dr Murray suggested a minor adjustment to the agenda; moving the agenda item on focal points/RAWS CG to follow after the agenda item discussing RAWS projects.

Dr Murray outlined the purpose of the meeting, being to: assess progress since RAWS CG Meeting 5, including project proposals; review the revised RAWS CG Action Plan; provide updates on activities; consider input to Regional Commission meeting in November 2013; and discuss RAWS CG interactions with national animal welfare focal points.

Agenda Item 2: Report of OIE Headquarters

Dr Mariela Varas, OIE International Trade Department

The OIE Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) met in June 2013 to discuss priorities. The main agreed priorities are: working animal welfare, beginning with developing a standard on equids and then expanding to other species; disaster management, by including a new article in Chapter 7(1) of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and making cross references across the code; and continuing work on production animal welfare, with the dairy cattle chapter progressing and work to be done on the pig chapter. The AWWG is scoping the possible content of a draft Global OIE Animal Welfare Strategy

for consideration by the OIE. Dr Varas clarified the role of the OIE as an observer in the International Standards Organization's Technical Specifications process, and provided an overview of recent and upcoming Improved Animal Welfare Program (IAWP) training.

Agenda Item 3: Recommendations and progress since RAWS CG meeting 5

Mr Jim Paradise, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia

Mr Paradise outlined the progress that has been made on the recommendations of the fifth RAWS CG meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 26 and 27 March 2013.

Key achievements and progress of recommendations since March 2013 include:

- The final version of RAWS Edition 2 was endorsed by Regional Commission in May 2013 and published in English.
- A draft paper for the Regional Commission meeting in Cebu, Philippines, is being prepared (noting that more work is required based on outcomes of this meeting).
- Consideration has been given to RAWS CG meetings being held in other countries in the region, with Republic of Korea hosting meeting 6 and Australia to host a meeting in 2014.
- Planning of a back-to-back RAWS CG meeting and EU training in March/April 2014 is underway, with EU providing in principle support but details to be developed.
- A RAWS presentation was delivered at the focal point meeting in Seoul on 28 August 2013.
- The development of national animal welfare strategies continues to be endorsed by RAWS CG.
- The secretariat has amended the Action Plan to make it more user-friendly and to reflect the outcomes of meeting 5.
- Improvements have been made to communications and awareness of the RAWS in countries in the region, with the development of a RAWS website being progressed, the development and distribution of the RAWS newsletter, and the preparation of a communications section in the paper to the Regional Commission meeting in the Philippines.
- The Australian Government will continue to provide funding and secretariat support the RAWS CG under the current agreement to the end of 2014.

The RAWS CG discussed recommendations that remain in progress and agreed on recommendations to progress them, listed in the above section of the report.

Mr Paradise outlined the revisions made to the Action Plan, including refining the layout, the inclusion of a new annex and the removal of completed items. Mr Paradise flagged with the RAWS CG that a number of items require the assistance of focal points and/or RAWS CG members to progress, and welcomed suggestions of the RAWS CG for further improvements to the document. Recommendations were made to further improve the layout, to be actioned by the secretariat.

Agenda Item 4: Country/ organisation presentations— updates on key activities

Dr Pennapa Matayompong, Department of Livestock Development, Thailand

Dr Matayompong outlined activities and progress in Thailand since March 2013. These include: the status of a Department of Livestock Development (DLD) request for technical assistance from the EU relating to commercial poultry welfare and stunning; upcoming OIE training of trainers on pig welfare in pre-slaughter and slaughter for DLD officers; an application of the Thai Poultry Veterinary Association to Poultec (the training provider for UK Poultry Passport scheme) to be a training provider in Thailand, and the associated need for harmonisation between OIE standards and private standards, presentation on the field study of unconsciousness monitoring in poultry after stunning using real-time EEG interpretation method in the international conference; and animal welfare training activities in Thailand. The RAWs CG discussed need for scientific research on poultry animal welfare and stunning to be considered by the AWWG and the Code Commission. The full country report of Thailand is at **Attachment 3**.

Dr Kinley Dorji, Department of Livestock, Kingdom of Bhutan

Dr Dorji outlined activities and progress in the Kingdom of Bhutan since March 2013. A taskforce has been formed to review the Livestock Act of 2001, which includes a chapter on livestock animal welfare. A review found that the existing legislation is heavily focused on animal production, so three teams have been established within the taskforce to balance coverage between animal health, production and welfare. Guidelines have been developed on saving the lives of animals. Several organisations in Bhutan work to save the lives of animals by purchasing animals prior to slaughter. The guidelines seek to prevent animals being brought across the border into Bhutan to save them, as this has created animal health and disease issues. The second phase (2013-2015) of a national dog rabies vaccination project, funded by Humane Society International, has commenced. A subject on animal welfare is to be introduced in the College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan, so that animal welfare is studied more formally.

Ms Joanna Tuckwell, WSPA Asia-Pacific (representing Dr Ian Dacre)

Ms Tuckwell outlined activities and progress of WSPA since March 2013. WSPA has made progress working with the Australian Government and the Government of India on disaster management and the development of a standard code of practice for the humane and sustainable management of animals in India. WSPA has also made progress in education, training and certification activities in India, Thailand, China and with respect to the region more broadly. WSPA is progressing activities for humane rabies control in dogs in Vietnam, China, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Indonesia. A pilot humane slaughter training program in Indonesia is being developed. On the 26th July 2013, WSPA was re-classified to general consultative status at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, being the only international animal welfare organisation with this status. The full WSPA organisation report is at **Attachment 4**.

Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Ahassan Nizam, Department of Veterinary Services, Malaysia

Dr Nizam outlined progress and activities in Malaysia since March 2013. The main achievement has been Malaysia's National Animal Welfare Strategy, discussed in further detail at the following agenda item. A Centre for Excellence on Animal Welfare has been established as a reference centre on animal welfare and to improve animal welfare standards through scientific research and evidence, underpinned by Ehsan (compassionate) values.

On 2 July 2013, the 2nd Colloquium on animal welfare from an Islamic perspective was held. 150 delegates from across Malaysia attended, drawing together religious authorities, academia, government, industry, veterinarians and NGOs. Topics presented covered commercial livestock practices, the use of stunning in Halal slaughter, and animal research and testing. A number of resolutions were made as an outcome.

Amendments to *Animal Act 1953* came into effect on 1 August 2013, increasing the penalty for animal cruelty. Rules and regulations are being drafted relating to licensing and registration of premises, compoundable offences, improvement notices and animal welfare officers. Final codes of practice have been developed for pet premises, breeding premises for pets, pet shops and the care and use of animals for teaching and research. Draft codes of practice are being prepared for animal training providers and centers, animal shelters and pounds, disposal of retired working animals, control of strays, riding and spelling establishments, private quarantine, and destroying diseased animals.

An animal welfare training program involving the OIE, University of Queensland, and University Putra Malaysia and countries in the region is being finalised and scheduled to commence in 2014. Animal welfare training of trainers for poultry white meat was held in August 2013.

Dr Ira Firgorita, Directorate General Livestock Services, Indonesia

Dr Firgorita outlined activities and progress in Indonesia since March 2013. The Indonesian National Animal Welfare Strategy is expected to be drafted by October 2013. Dr Ira outlined legislative developments, including revising regulations relating to veterinary establishment certification to include animal welfare and biosecurity aspects, revising regulations regarding the slaughter of cattle, handling of meat and meat by-products to restrict the use of mechanical stunning on cattle, and revisions to regulations concerning handling and slaughtering during Moslem holiday (Ied Qurban) and penalties for violations of animal welfare regulations. Recent government initiatives in Indonesia include establishing a taskforce to improve handling and facilities for the transport of cattle, and activities under the Improved Animal Welfare Program such as the completion of phase one of an animal welfare legislation scoping study and training and accreditation for Indonesian veterinarians. An OIE master training course on humane slaughter according to OIE Standard for slaughterhouse officers took place in West Java. The full country report of Indonesia is at **Attachment 5**.

Dr Grahame Coleman, OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare

Dr Coleman provided an overview of the role and priorities of the OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare. Two projects are presently under consideration; a twinning project with Malaysia and a pilot animal welfare training program. Both projects are under development and Dr Coleman will present in further detail at the seminar for national focal points of animal welfare meeting on 27 August 2013.

Dr Kate Littin, National Animal Welfare Focal Point for New Zealand

Dr Littin outlined activities and progress in New Zealand since March 2013. Dr Littin outlined New Zealand's recently released Animal Welfare Strategy, discussed in further detail at the agenda item below. New Zealand Government, industry, and veterinary associations continue to progress a shared initiative aimed at improving compliance with animal welfare law and encouraging implementation of standards. The National Animal Welfare Emergency Management group (NAWEM) supported the development of *Planning for Companion Animal Welfare in an Emergency: Director's Guideline for Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups*, which is expected to be published later in 2013. The Animal Welfare Amendment Bill, seeking to amend the *Animal Welfare Act 1999*, was delayed but is about to be introduced to the New Zealand House of Representatives. Dr Littin also outlined developments in live animal export regulation, codes of welfare, new legislation for psychoactive substances and animal testing, international animal welfare involvement, industry initiatives and other activities. The full country report of New Zealand is at **Attachment 6**.

Mr Jim Paradise, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry for Australia

Mr Jim Paradise outlined activities and progress in Australia since March 2013. The 7th Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) National Workshop was held on July 30 and 31, 2013. Over 125 delegates from around Australia participated in the workshop. AAWS members gave presentations on their projects and activities and charted a roadmap for ongoing improvements in animal welfare. In July 2013 the Minister announced the creation of a new position of Independent Inspector-General for Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports. The Inspector-General will review and audit the live animal export regulator across the supply chain, including investigation and compliance procedures. The Australian Commonwealth Government is working with Australian state and territory governments, other stakeholders and industry representatives to progressively replace the current model codes for animal welfare with nationally agreed and legislated standards and guidelines for the transport of livestock. The Australian Government is reviewing the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) and the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group (LESAG). After long consultations with stakeholders, the Steering Committee has prepared a final report and draft new standards for consideration. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is working to incorporate farm animal welfare into ISO Technical Specifications based on the OIE animal welfare principles and guidelines. The full country report of Australia is at **Attachment 7**.

Education and Training Stocktake and Development of Database

During this agenda item, the RAWs CG discussed the need for better coordination of the diverse array of animal welfare training and education within the region. The secretariat, working with the OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare and WSPA, will research and develop a concept plan for conducting a stocktake of training and education courses, developing of a searchable database, and potential resource requirements. Some preliminary work on this has been done by under the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and by WSPA, which will be provided to members.

Agenda Item 5: Presentations/discussions on specific initiatives

Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Ahassan Nizam, Department of Veterinary Services, Malaysia

Malaysia as a country with a vision of attaining a developed nation status by the year 2020 needs to instill and inculcate a culture of care and concern for animal welfare. Thus the Malaysian Animal Welfare Strategic Plan was prepared to put the country on a firm pathway in achieving higher animal welfare standards. The plan is comprehensive to meet the needs of the country until 2020. In drawing up the plan, the Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia consulted various stakeholders.

The plan outlines the vision, mission, policy statement, objectives, strategic approaches, outputs and activities. In addition, the implementation schedule, costing, responsibilities and evaluation were also stated.

The vision is stated as “Malaysia A Developed Nation With A Caring Society Concerned For The Welfare of Animals” while the mission statement is the “Aspiration to execute international animal welfare standards, reinforced by universal human values”. Meanwhile the policy is for the inculcation of animal welfare in Malaysia, continuously enhanced, underpinned with the participation of all stakeholders, upheld by legislation, and fostered into the society.

The Malaysian Animal Welfare Strategic Plan aims to (a) establish a national animal welfare framework for each sector; animal, people, nation and international relations (b) ensure that a comprehensive and consistent approach to various aspects of animal welfare be implemented in an integrated manner (c) determine that the animal welfare needs are met by those responsible for it based on science, societal culture and religious obligations (d) ensure that transparent and impartial information on animal welfare is accessible and sufficient to make decision in an issue and (e) ensure that the governance of national animal welfare is carried out efficiently and effectively.

The strategic approaches outline the need to (a) strengthen the governance of animal welfare institution (b) empower and harness the involvement of all stakeholders in animal welfare and animal well-being and (c) spearhead the concept of animal ehsan at the international arena through Center of Excellence for animal welfare.

There are 43 activities listed in the plan which will be undertaken through 3 phases from 2012-2020 with an estimated cost of USD 25.4 million. Some of the activities are already ongoing and the full implementation of the plan will result in higher animal welfare standards in Malaysia. The strategy is being translated into English, expected to be finalised by the end of the year and provided to members at the next meeting.

Dr Kate Littin, National Animal Welfare Focal Point for New Zealand, New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries

Dr Littin provided an overview of New Zealand's recently released Animal Welfare Strategy. The key message of the strategy to stakeholders is that animal welfare matters because it matters to the animal and to New Zealand as a country seeking to maintaining acceptable animal welfare standards. The approach of the strategy is that animal welfare is a shared responsibility of everyone, not just government, with decisions and implementation occurring on this basis. The Strategy is not a detailed action plan, although it does give some initial priorities for the government. It sets out a high level framework for how New Zealanders treat animals and provides a formal foundation for New Zealand's animal welfare legislation and policy. Members were provided with an electronic copy of the strategy.

Agenda Item 6: RAWS CG report to the Regional Commission meeting in the Philippines, November 2013

Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific

The RAWS and IAWP have an agenda item at the Regional Commission meeting in the Philippines, November 2013. The RAWS CG supports the agenda item and views it as an opportunity to promote the work of the group and the publication of RAWS (edition 2). Preparation of the paper and presentation is underway. Members discussed the content of the paper, and agreed that it will include information and attachments on a communications strategy, the RAWS Action Plan, and secretariat functions and resource requirements. Members agreed to include the following recommendations in the paper: to agree to the RAWS Action Plan; to agree that national focal points will work with delegates to report on animal welfare improvements; and to consider future secretariat arrangements. The secretariat will arrange for translation and printing of copies of the new edition of RAWS into regional languages ahead of the Regional Commission meeting, and has committed to providing a report abstract in October 2013 with a more detailed report to follow.

Agenda Item 7: Progress of RAWS CG projects

Mr Jim Paradise, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Draft project proposals have been developed as a result of projects identified in the workshop at the fifth RAWS CG meeting. The main current project priorities are:

- **RAWS website:** work is underway in scoping and developing a RAWS website, which has some budget allocation. This project will need further development and consideration of issues such as ongoing maintenance and ownership, and will require OIE agreement.
- **WSPA training on animals in disasters:** Work on developing training for managing animals in disasters with WSPA is under development, with more work to be done on cost/resources and timeframes. Consider outcomes of upcoming meeting in Fiji in determining further details.
- **Education and training stocktake and database:** members identified and discussed a new project, being the development of a concept plan for a stocktake

of animal welfare training and education, and the development of a searchable database.

In addition, the following projects were discussed:

- **Sensitisation of religious leaders:** the previously recommended project on the sensitisation of religious leaders through a workshop is not being progressed, as this project may be better addressed through other mechanisms such as the AWWG/OIE Paris.
- **EC training:** an EC training course will be held next March/April, with the details still to be worked out.
- **Animal welfare training pilot course:** a draft project proposal has been developed to support regional attendance at an animal welfare training program pilot course to be conducted by the OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare. The course is still being developed and details of the project are still under development.

Agenda Item 8: Discussion of RAWS CG with national animal welfare focal points

Dr Gardner Murray, Chair

Members discussed their experiences of focal points and RAWS interactions, and opportunities for improvements. Comments are summarised below:

- Focal points drive the implementation of the strategy developed by the RAWS CG
- OIE focal point training is a good opportunity for further discussions and encouraging focal point engagement in RAWS
- Suggestion of focal point access to information on future RAWS website
- Issues of continuity and workload of focal points – suggestion of more permanent desk officer to assist focal point
- Focal points need to prioritise their workloads, so the delegate must be closely involved and supportive.
- Importance of effective two-way communication
- Comment that directed OIE communication to delegates on animal welfare has been helpful
- Opportunity for focal points to take more active role in reviewing the Action Plan to identify actions relevant to their country

Agenda Item 9: Presentation on the paper submitted to OIE Scientific and Technical Review, Vol. 33(1), April 2014

A draft paper for submission to the OIE Scientific and Technical Review, Vol 33(1) has been prepared on drivers for improvements in animal welfare in the region. Members discussed the paper as an opportunity highlight the role of the RAWS CG, OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare, and the IAWP. Members were provided with a hard copy of the draft paper, and will be provided with an electronic copy once finalised.

Agenda Item 10: Other business

Dr Gardner Murray, Chair of the RAWS CG

The next formal meeting of the RAWS CG will be in March/April 2014 with the arrangements to be worked out by the secretariat.

Agenda Item 11: Conclusions and recommendations

Dr Gardner Murray, Chair of the RAWS CG

The RAWS CG discussed and agreed to recommendations from this meeting, which are listed above in the report. Dr Murray thanked all participants for their contributions and engagement and thanked OIE Regional and Sub Regional Representation, OIE Headquarters, RAWS secretariat and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for planning, organising and funding a successful meeting.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – RAWS CG meeting 6 participant list

Attachment 2 – RAWS CG meeting 6 agenda

Attachment 3 – Country update report of Thailand, August 2013

Attachment 4 – Update report of WSPA, August 2013

Attachment 5 – Country update report of Indonesia, August 2013

Attachment 6 – Country update report and update of New Zealand, August 2013

Attachment 7- Country update report and update of Australia, August 2013

Attachment 1

Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group Meeting 6 Participant List

RAWS Coordination Group Members

- Chair: Dr Gardner Murray
- Ms Joanna Tuckwell, WSPA Asia-Pacific (representing Dr Ian Dacre)
- Dr Pennapa Matayompong, Department of Livestock Development, Thailand
- Dr Kinley Dorji, Department of Livestock, Kingdom of Bhutan
- Dr Ira Firgorita, Directorate General Livestock Services, Indonesia
- Mr Jim Paradise, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (Secretariat)
- Dr. Quaza Nizamuddin A.Hassan Nizam, Department of Veterinary Services, Malaysia

Secretariat

- Ms Lucy King, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry

OIE Representatives

- Dr Mariela Varas, OIE International Trade Department
- Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
- Dr Karan Kukreja, OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (OIE Assistance)

Focal Point Observers

- Dr Kate Littin, National Animal Welfare Focal Point for New Zealand

Observers

- Dr Grahame Coleman, OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare and Animal Welfare Science Centre, University of Melbourne
- Dr Agnes Poirier, OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia
- Ms So Yoon Lee, Seoul National University
- Ms Yoon Jung Jang, Seoul National University

Apologies

- Dr Lee Hwang, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of Korea
- Dr Weihua Li, Ministry of Agriculture, China
- Dr Sira Abdul Rahman, Chair, OIE Animal Welfare Working Group
- Dr Payungsak S.tanagul, Thailand Broiler Processing Exporter Association

Attachment 2

| Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group Meeting 6 Seoul – 26 August 2013 | | | |
|---|---------------|--|--|
| Time | Item | Subject | Chair / Speaker |
| 8.30 | | Registration of participants | |
| 8.45 | 1 | Opening ceremony welcome - Introduction and purpose. | Dr Gardner Murray |
| 9.00 | 2 | Report of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) - Key OIE and related developments since last meeting - Distribution of the RAWS (Edition 2) | Dr Mariela Varas |
| 9.20 | 3 | Recommendations and progress since meeting 5 in Bangkok - Secretariat Report o progress on action items o communications o update of the Action Plan | Mr Jim Paradice |
| 10.10 | 4 | Key activity reports — country/industry/NGO/AWWG presentations | Members/Observers |
| 11.30 | 5 | Presentation / discussion on specific initiatives - Malaysia's National Animal Welfare Strategy - New Zealand's Animal Welfare Strategy and regulation | Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Ahassan Nizam Dr Kate Littin |
| 12.00 | 6 | RAWS report to the Regional Commission meeting in the Philippines, November 2014 | Dr Tomoko Ishibashi |
| 12.30 | Lunch | | |
| 14.00 | 7 | Progress against the RAWS projects: - RAWS website - Joint WSPA/RAWS training - Agree on the next steps for the RAWS projects | Ms Joanna Tuckwell/ Mr Jim Paradice |
| 15.00 | 8 | Presentation on the paper submitted to OIE Scientific and Technical Review, Vol. 33 (1), April 2014 | Jim Paradice |
| | 9 | Discussion on RAWS CG with animal welfare focal points | Dr Gardner Murray |
| 15.20 | 10 | Other business | Dr Gardner Murray |
| 15.45 | 11 | Conclusions and recommendations | Dr Gardner Murray |
| 16.00 | Meeting Close | | |



OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group Secretariat

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RAWS CG Meeting 6 – Country Report of Thailand

Dr. Pennapa Matayompong

Government Initiatives

Technical assistance from the EU: As a consequence of the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) request for the EU research collaboration on the welfare of commercial poultry in Thailand and the feasibility study conducted by the EU expert last year; the project meanwhile is in the process of EU calling for tender. It is expected to get the outcome by mid-September this year. The research aims to reduce the percentage of death on arrival (DOA) in broiler transportation and to determine the appropriate electrical parameters for poultry stunning particularly for wet poultry to achieve the animal welfare and Halal requirements with acceptable meat quality. The project is regarded as a sustained training on animal welfare.

Technical assistance from the OIE: Following to the DLD request to the OIE for a provision of an OIE expert to conduct a training of trainers on pig welfare in pre-slaughter and slaughter for the DLD officers in Thailand. The training will be conducted from 30 August – 6 September 2013 and it will promote the capacity building on pig pre-slaughter and slaughter best practices.

Industry initiatives

The UK importers require the Thai poultry meat exporters to have their personnel who handle poultry at farms train and register for Poultry Passport according to the Red Tractor Farm Assurance Poultry Scheme of the UK. The Poultec, UK is the training provider for this scheme. As the Poultec's training fee is so expensive (£1,200 for 10 attendees), the Thai Poultry Veterinary Association (TPVA) therefore has applied to the Poultec to be a training provider in Thailand. The TPVA normally coordinates with the DLD and the veterinary faculty in organizing training courses for poultry welfare officers at farms. The minimal charges for application include registration fee (£400 per year), document audit fee (£250 per course) and audit fee (£250-450 for 1-5 courses). The audit will be conducted every 3 years. The trained personnel then register for Poultry Passport (£20 per year).

The poultry farms in Thailand are certified for GAP by the DLD which are required to comply with the DLD Regulations on the Protection of Poultry at Farms B.E. 2554 (2011). The private requirements as such cause the higher production costs which result in the higher food price. Harmonization of the OIE standards and the private standards on animal welfare to be the unique ones would promote the recognition of every sector and facilitate trade of food of animal origin.

Conference

The topic of “Field study of unconsciousness monitoring in poultry after stunning using real-time EEG interpretation method” was presented by the Thai researcher in the 35th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, Japan, 3-7 July 2013. The shift of electroencephalogram (EEG) frequency bands is used to monitor poultry unconsciousness after electrical waterbath stunning in commercial

slaughterhouses. With a proposed frequency-based algorithm, the trends of the EEG shifted from lower to higher frequencies indicate the poultry are being recovery. This method is used because the pre-stunning EEG which is the baseline for automatic detection of the unconscious stage according to the EEG suppression cannot be practically measured in slaughterhouses.

Training

The training activities on animal welfare during April-August 2013 include:

- the training on Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) for the DLD and the DDPM (Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation) officers (25 persons)
- the annual training for poultry farm veterinarians (100 persons)
- the training for Halal supervisors (30 persons)
- the annual seminar for DLD veterinary meat inspectors, Halal supervisors, CICOT (Central Islamic Council of Thailand) inspectors and food business operators (200 persons)

RAWS CG meeting 6 - WSPA update

Government Initiatives

1. Australia

WSPA in partnership with DAFF (the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)/Australian Animal Welfare Strategy have established the interim National Advisory Committee for Animals in Emergencies. This committee brings together many leading stakeholders and experts who are working towards integrating animals into disaster management planning and bringing animals to the forefront of government thinking on this issue. With the committee, WSPA has drawn up 'National Planning Principles' which has been endorsed by all key government stakeholders responsible for animal welfare at national and state levels across the country. These principles are major step toward integrating animals into state emergency planning, helping to save animals' lives and ensure recovery from disasters. WSPA and DAFF/AAWS will be co-hosting the 'Building Capability in Communities: A National Approach to Animals in Disasters' workshop in September. The workshop is an opportunity for stakeholders to come together to reflect on progress, to share expertise and to collaborate towards improved outcomes for animals and communities in disasters

2. India

Following the conference on Animal Disaster Management, co-hosted by WSPA and the India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), WSPA is working closely with the NDMA to deliver the next steps of this work which includes specialist training for India's National Disaster Response Forum (NDRF), the roll-out of WSPA's Veterinary Emergency Response Unit (VERU) model and customised training at state level for the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).

In another positive step toward protecting animal welfare, the Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WSPA. In collaboration with the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), WSPA will develop a standard code of practice for the humane and sustainable management of animals that will safeguard the welfare of millions of animals commissioned to a lifetime of suffering due to poor management and unacceptable animal husbandry practices. These standards will be the recommended code of practices from the Indian Council for Agricultural Research.

Training

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)

Work continues with LEGS to help improve the welfare of animals in disasters. WSPA will have supported at least 6 LEGS trainings in Vietnam and Thailand and Fiji at the time the RAWS CG meeting takes place. LEGS has also been translated into Vietnamese and Thai and both versions are now available online at www.livestock-emergency.net. WSPA's next LEGS training will be in Nadi in Fiji in September.

Participatory Impact Assessment (PIA) Workshop

The workshop provided by LEGS Project was conducted for WSPA Disaster Management Asia Pacific team in May. It outlines the concept of participatory impact assessment and different

methods used for emergency livestock projects. The workshop will result in a better assessment to learn the actual animal welfare and livelihoods impact of any future WSPA's disaster interventions.

Earth Fire and Rain Australian and New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference

At the event in May, WSPA was able to highlight and raise awareness on animals in disasters in the emergency management community by speaking on WSPA's disasters work and the importance of planning for animals in disasters. The conference attracted a wide range of stakeholders and interest, and focused on the changing nature of disasters with a broadening of the emergency services approach, including the protection of animals.

First Concepts in Animal Welfare (FCAW)

Teachers from the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) participating in WSPA's FCAW programme in New Delhi, India have successfully been certified as animal welfare teachers in a graduation ceremony in April. In addition to training the teachers, the programme allows for the FCAW resources to be integrated into the current curriculum and helps to build the capacity of the SDMC to ensure animal welfare is taught effectively in their schools. Together with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), WSPA launched the 2013-2014 FCAW teaching course late last month. It is expected that over the course of the year teachers from 52 schools across Bangkok will be taking part in the training. Over the first part of the year, observations of classes of Vietnamese teachers that graduated from WSPA's animal welfare education (AWE) programme showed that many are successfully integrating animal welfare into their teaching and that their lessons are having a positive impact on their students.

Advanced Concepts in Animal Welfare (ACAW)

The 3rd edition of the Concepts in Animal Welfare (CAW) syllabus has been endorsed by the Federation of Asian Veterinary Association (FAVA) and The South East Asia Veterinary School Association (SEAVSA). The teaching resource will be available later this year in several Asian languages such as Thai and Chinese. Earlier this year WSPA launched current edition of CAW syllabus in Vietnamese at a fruitful workshop in Hanoi, focusing on the welfare of livestock and animal welfare education.

Our China in team recently jointly hosted the workshop with the Chinese Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), signalling a solid step forward in our cooperation program, China Veterinary Animal Welfare Education Program (CVAWEP), signed with the CVMA in October last year. Officials from the CVMA and the China Animal Disease Control Centre (CADCC) and professors from a dozen veterinary schools joined the workshop to discuss the framework, principles and content of the animal welfare teaching materials. These materials are expected to play a significant role in popularising and elevating animal welfare principles in Chinese veterinary education syllabus

Ending Inhumane Culling of Dogs

We are preparing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Vietnam Government's Ministries of Health (MOH) and Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to work collaboratively on a humane rabies control solution prevent the unnecessary deaths of millions dogs due to the fear of rabies while also protecting people. As Vietnam is ASEAN's lead country for rabies control with the goal of rabies eradication by 2020, this is an exceptional

opportunity to work with member states to adopt and implement policies of mass dog vaccination for humane, effective and sustainable rabies control.

Working with our partner, the China Animal Disease Control Centre (CADC), WSPA is preparing to commence a pilot rabies vaccination project in three provinces, to demonstrate the effectiveness of mass vaccination without mass culling of dogs, and to build a compelling business case to support the Chinese Government to adopt this approach nationally.

With our partner the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), we have recently supported a mass dog vaccination project in the Cainta Municipality of the Philippines, vaccinating up to 15,000 dogs against rabies. More than 70% of the local dog population were vaccinated, meaning that a natural immunity can begin to be formed against this disease, protecting the dog population in Cainta and the people who care for them.

In Bangladesh WSPA is supporting the Government of Bangladesh to deliver a National Action Rabies Plan and move towards countrywide mass dog vaccinations right across the country, where over 2,000 people die of rabies each year. Our dedicated team, supporting the government and training local people, assisted with vaccinations of 49,000 dogs across the northern half of Bangladesh in late 2012, helping to build capacity for carrying out a full mass dog vaccination programme.

WSPA has recently signed a landmark agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) to support a new rabies control project on the island of Flores in Indonesia. We will collaborate with FAO in supporting local authorities and communities to deliver a humane rabies control solution to protect the dogs and people of Flores. We are also looking at contributing technical advice and guidance on animal welfare and protection to the Indonesian Government's national rabies control planning process.

Humane Slaughter in Indonesia

Following receipt of a letter of support from the Indonesian Government's Veterinary Public Health (VPH) Department we are progressing with the planning of the pilot humane slaughter training program that will begin in Eastern Java in the coming months. This work began with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indonesian Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA) in October last year to help improve the welfare of domestic Indonesian cattle. The humane slaughter programme will support the IVMA's efforts to implement changes in slaughter houses to guarantee better welfare for Indonesian cattle during pre-slaughter and slaughter.

Other

On the 26th July, WSPA was re-classified to general consultative status at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. WSPA is the only international animal welfare organisation with this status.

Attachment 5

RAWS CG meeting 6 – Country report of Indonesia

Legislative Developments

- Revision of Minister of Agriculture regulation No. 381/2005 regarding Veterinary Establishment Certification; Minister of Agriculture regulation No. 381/2005 regarding Veterinary Establishment Certification contain regulation for slaughterhouse and food processing unit certification. The main aspect of this regulation is on food safety. In the revision draft the regulation shall also contain biosecurity and animal welfare aspect;
- Revision of Minister of Agriculture Regulation No. 413/1992 regarding about Cattle Slaughtering and Meat and By Product Handling. This Regulation will contain restriction on use of the mekhanical stunning method in cattle slaughtering.
- Draft of Minister of Agriculture regulation regarding Animal welfare standard for handling and slaughtering animal during Moslem holiday (Ied Qurban); and
- Draft of Minister of Agriculture regulation regarding penalty for violation of animal welfare.

Government Initiatives

Task Force Team for the transportation of Cattle that meet animal welfare standards.

The Ministry of Agriculture work with the Ministry of Transportation to revive special train/coach for cattle, began to fix the mode of transport of cattle distribution. Ministry of Transportation will support the facilities in order to have a better distribution of livestock.

Activities under Improved Animal Welfare Program

1. Animal Welfare Legislation Scoping Study

- On 29 April – 3 May 2013, a consultant from Animal Health and Welfare System completed the first stage of a scoping study mission in Indonesia. The scoping study aims to assess current challenges faced by the Government of Indonesia in implementing legislation, related to animal welfare, at the provincial, local and regional levels. The scoping study would also investigate possible strategies to support the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in strengthening the legislation for improved implementation at the provincial, local and regional levels.
- The scoping study is planned to be conducted in three stages to ensure correct assessment of the current situation, with second stage scheduled to be conducted in the near future.

2. Certificate III Meat Processing (Meat Safety) Course

- On 12 May – 6 July 2013, five veterinarians from Indonesia's Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agriculture/Livestock Services in DKI Jakarta, East Java and West Java provinces undertook an accredited Certificate III Meat Processing (Meat Safety) course delivered by Adelaide TAFE over a two-month period in Adelaide, South Australia.
- The veterinarians highlighted benefits of the course in improving their skill and knowledge in handling and welfare of animals for slaughter, hygienic processing

of meat and food safety in accordance with international standard, and included integration of HACCP and quality assurance principles in meat processing.

2. **DGLAHS Auditor Refresher Training Course**

- On 10 – 12 June 2013, 19 veterinarians from Indonesia's Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Provincial Agriculture/Livestock Services, undertook a refresher auditor training course organised by the MoA's Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health Services (DGLAHS). The training course was delivered by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) over a two-day period in Kuta, Bali.
- This project was delivered upon a request from MoA for NATA to be the speaker/presenter at their course.

Training

Trial Training on Humane Slaughtering according to OIE Standard for Slaughter house officers in West Java by OIE Master Training.

Other

Improved Animal Welfare for Local Cattle Program

Collaboration program between WSPA, IVMA and DGLAHS to improve the application of animal welfare in local cattle in government slaughterhouses in Java and Sumatra. Preliminary studies have been conducted by WSPA's Team, support by DGLAHS and IVMA. Seminar / workshop to discuss with Slaughterhouses management, Local Government and DGLAHS about their needs and strategy to improve animal welfare at their establishments has been conducted and the next step is to conduct workshop/training of trainer for

- National Seminar Principles in Livestock Mode of Transportation System Held by Indonesia Farm Animal Welfare Society (INDOFAST) / MKTI
- (Collaboration : Indonesia Veterinary Medical Association/ IVMA, Indonesia Society for Animal Science/ISAS, Veterinary and Animal Scientists in Higher Education Institutes and Livestock Business Stakeholder)
- Establishment of 5 Slaughter points Model for Ied Qurban with implementation of animal welfare. (Ongoing activities)
- Communication, Information and Education and Establishment of Dog Managed Zone and dog population control program in 2 Provinces, East Sumatera and Riau Islands Province. (Ongoing activities)



Update on animal welfare activities and initiatives – New Zealand 2012-2013

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Government update / key initiatives

National Animal Welfare Strategy

New Zealand's Minister for Primary Industries, Nathan Guy, released a New Zealand Animal Welfare Strategy on 2 May. The Strategy is not a detailed action plan, although it does give some initial priorities for the government. It sets out a high level framework for how New Zealanders treat animals and provides a formal foundation for New Zealand's animal welfare legislation and policy. See <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity-animal-welfare/animal-welfare/new-zealand-animal-welfare-strategy>

Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation compliance programme

This is a shared initiative between the Ministry for Primary Industries and primary sector and veterinary associations to improve compliance with animal welfare law and encourage implementation of New Zealand's animal welfare standards. The Programme produces educational material and supports research on selected priority issues each year. Key accomplishments over the past year have been:

- Guidance for veterinarians - Dealing with cases of suspected or actual animal abuse and family violence
- Toolkit for New Zealand farmer representatives involved in animal welfare investigations – for people within the farming community who are asked to support a farmer to improve animal welfare conditions or address a legal investigation.

The key focuses for this year are fitness for transport and the provision of shelter on farms.

Emergency management

The National Animal Welfare Emergency Management group (NAWEM) is a coordinating and information-sharing body that also advocates for animal welfare emergency management education and provides advice to educators and educational institutions. NAWEM has supported the development of *Planning for Companion Animal Welfare in an Emergency: Director's Guideline for Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups*, which is expected to be published later in 2013.

Welfare Pulse magazine

This magazine continues to be published online at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/pubs/welfare-pulse>, with the next issue expected in September. Contributions from others are welcomed.

New Zealand Three Rs Programme

This is an initiative between government and the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching, established in 2005. Its aim is to encourage practitioners to implement the Three Rs beyond the minimum legal requirements. The Programme's work plan is being updated. The key focus for this year is an online, educational series of case studies of the Three Rs put into practice.

Legislative update / key developments

Review of the Animal Welfare Act 1999

An Animal Welfare Amendment Bill is waiting for its first 'reading' to the House of Representatives – the first step towards eventual issue. The reading is currently delayed.

Live animal exports

The Customs Export Prohibition (Livestock for Slaughter) Order prohibiting the export of cattle, deer, goats, and sheep for slaughter without an exemption from MPI's Director-General, is currently being extended. It was to have been revoked by an amendment to the Animal Welfare Act, but as the Animal Welfare Bill is being delayed, the Order needs to be renewed for another period in order to maintain the prohibition.

The standards regulating cattle welfare during transport by sea or air freight have been reviewed. The new *MPI Guidance Material for the Transport of Cattle by Sea* was issued to all live cattle exporters in June 2013. The guidance was jointly developed with the Livestock and Animal Germplasm Trade Association (LAGTA) and provides exporters with a comprehensive set of technical specifications, as well as a step-by-step process to follow in order to obtain an animal welfare export certificate (AWEC). It is expected to be implemented by November 2013. The technical guidance material and processes for the application, assessment, and issue of animal welfare export certificates (AWECs) for horses are still under review.

Codes of welfare

Codes of welfare have been issued in 2013-13 for farmed goats, meat chickens, layer hens (phasing out conventional cages but allowing colony cages), llamas and alpacas. The code of welfare for rodeos is expected for issue in 2013, followed by dairy cattle housing and horses and donkeys in 2014. Codes for saleyards (markets) and fish farming are under development. See <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/stds/codes>.

The Psychoactive Substances Bill 2013

A Psychoactive Substances Bill has recently been passed with overwhelming support across political parties (119 members in favour, one against). The new law will require regulatory testing of psychoactive substances such as synthetic cannabis, and restrict the availability and accessibility of so-called 'legal highs' in communities around New Zealand. The Ministry for Primary Industries is working with the Ministry of Health to ensure that

the testing regime to be developed is consistent with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. The Bill saw significant nationwide protests against animal testing, but was not itself amended to prevent the use of animals. Instead, the protection of animals in this testing, as with any other research, testing and teaching in New Zealand, is under the direct authority of animal ethics committees acting under the Animal Welfare Act.

Other issues

The Department of Conservation is working on legislation relating to helicopter-assisted commercial hunting, plus the management of game animals on public land for recreational hunting. Animal welfare considerations are part of both activities.

The New Zealand Veterinary Association, together with the SPCA and the Companion Animal Council launched a campaign on 12 June to ban the practice of tail docking dogs for non-therapeutic reasons.

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee has been asked to provide advice to the Minister for Primary Industries (and Racing) on the use of greyhounds for racing. This is in response to a report from an anti-racing lobby, which was followed up by an internal review by the New Zealand Greyhound Racing Association.

International update

New Zealand is involved in the EU project on zoonoses and companion animals, "CALLISTO" (Companion Animals Multisectorial Interprofessional and Interdisciplinary Strategic Think Tank on Zoonoses). Nicki Cross is part of the Policy Actions Group focusing on how technical knowledge about pathogens and diseases can be translated into effective policy actions.

Following a joint EU FVO/SANCO fact-finding mission to New Zealand to gather information on animal welfare standards in approved EU slaughter premises, it has been confirmed that New Zealand legislation is at least equivalent to Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009.

New Zealand continues to support active collaboration between the International Society for Applied Ethology – a professional body for animal welfare scientists – and the OIE at a regional level. In particular, the Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis has invited the regional secretary to be an observer, and the two groups are holding back-to-back meetings in October 2013.

Industry Initiatives

Most of the key New Zealand industry and professional bodies have developed national strategy documents for animal welfare, or that refer to animal welfare. There is also further development of industry welfare assurance schemes, including for pigs and livestock transport by road.



Attachment 7

RAWS CG meeting 6 - Australia update

**Regional Animal Welfare Strategy
Country Report Template**

Please use this template when writing your Country Animal Welfare Update and return to the Secretariat via email at Animal.Welfare@daff.gov.au.

Please note that you are not required to complete every field, nor to fill the spaces provided. It is to be used as a guide only and you should feel free to provide as little or as much detail as you see necessary.

Legislative Developments

N/A

Government Initiatives

Developments under the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS)

The 7th AAWS National Workshop was held on July 30 and 31, 2013. The workshop brought together over 125 delegates from around Australia, representing animal production, pets and companion animal organisations, animal welfare advocacy groups, research organisations, sport and entertainment groups, the education sector, veterinarians, and Commonwealth, State and local governments. AAWS members gave presentations on their projects and activities and chartered a roadmap for ongoing improvements in animal welfare. The Federal Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, and the Chair of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group, Dr Abdul Rahman, delivered presentations on the future delivery of animal welfare standards. A communiqué has been released outlining the outcomes of the workshop and is available at <http://australiananimalwelfare.com.au/news-m/aaws-7th-national-workshop-communique>.

Inspector General of Animal Welfare

In July 2013 the Minister announced the creation of a new position of Independent Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports. The Inspector-General will review and audit the live animal export regulator across the supply chain, including investigation and compliance procedures, to add a layer of independence to the regulatory system to ensure that it delivers animal welfare outcomes.

The Inspector-General will also review the progress of the Australian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and the national Animal Welfare Committee against their work plans. The independent, statutory office holder will report directly to the Minister.

Australian national standards for the transport of livestock.

The Australian Commonwealth Government is working with Australian state and territory governments, other stakeholders and industry to progressively replace the current model codes for animal welfare with nationally agreed and legislated standards and guidelines. The codes, standards and guidelines are developed and agreed to by state and territory governments, and the commonwealth government in consultation with relevant industries, service providers, and animal welfare groups.

All states and territories are now working to implement the first of these, the Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals — Land Transport of Livestock. Five jurisdictions have already implemented the standards. The remaining three jurisdictions have implementation target dates by the end of 2013.

National Cattle and Sheep Standards and Guidelines

Public consultation on draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep and draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines, and associated regulation impact statements, for Cattle ran from 7 March 2013 through to 5 August 2013. All submissions will be considered.

Australia's Livestock Exports

Animal welfare in Australia has continued to attract media attention in 2013, particularly for the live animal export trade. A number of reforms are being implemented following the *Independent Review of Australia's Livestock Export Trade* by Mr Bill Farmer AO.

The Australian Government is reviewing the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) and the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group (LESAG). After broad consultation with industry, state and territory governments, the veterinary professional and animal welfare groups, the ASEL and LESAG Review Steering Committee prepared a final report and draft new standards for consideration.

From 1 January 2013, the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) has been effective in all markets that receive Australian Livestock. Under the ESCAS system, the exporter must demonstrate that they have control of the movement of livestock up until the point of slaughter and that animals will be handled in accordance with the OIE guidelines for animal welfare.

Improved Animal Welfare Program (IAWP)

The Australian Government continues to support Official Development Assistance eligible countries which import Australia's livestock for slaughter through the Improved Animal Welfare Program. Countries eligible to receive assistance include Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey and Mauritius.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Specifications

The ISO is working to incorporate farm animal welfare into ISO Technical Specifications based on the OIE animal welfare principles and guidelines. To this end, Australia is participating in a Drafting Group and a Technical Working Group established by ISO, which first met in October 2012 in Paris and most recently on 24 June 2013. The Technical Working Group participates in the ISO process and is responsible for developing technical specifications to underpin OIE animal welfare standards. Standards Australia is the Australian member of ISO and has established an Australian 'mirror group' that is involved in providing input to the Technical Specification development process.

Industry Initiatives

N/A

Training

N/A

Other (please specify)

N/A