

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

16 May 2022

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met by videoconference on 16 May 2022, at 7:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 61 participants, including Delegates from 25 Members of the Commission, 1 observer, and representatives from 8 International and Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bangladesh, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Observer: Hong Kong SAR

International/regional organisations: FAO¹, ICFAW², ISAH³, NACA⁴, SEAFDEC⁵, ADB⁶, SPC⁷ and WHO⁸

The meeting was chaired by Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of China (PR of), accompanied by Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Outcomes of the 32nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held on 15 and 16 September 2021

Dr Wacharapon Chotiyaputta, representative from Thailand, who hosted (virtually) the 32nd conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, recapped the main topics presented during the conference. The report of the regional conference can be accessed via the link <https://rr-asia.oie.int/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/final-report-32-regional-conference-afeo.pdf>.

¹ FAO: Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations

² ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare

³ ISAH: International Society for Animal Hygiene

⁴ NACA: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

⁵ SEAFDEC: Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre

⁶ ADB: Asian Development Bank

⁷ SPC: Pacific Community

⁸ WHO: World Health Organization

3. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 33rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in September 2023

Mr Atul Chaturvedi, OIE Delegate from India, reiterated his country's offer to host the 33rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania in September 2023 in New Delhi. Exact dates will be defined at a later stage in consultation with the OIE Director General.

4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 33rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (with questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 33rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

“Zoonosis Prevention: Enhance capacity for prevention, control and rapid diagnostic testing of zoonoses, boost research on rapid and accurate diagnostic techniques, refine awareness campaign, and promote research on vector-borne zoonoses”.

5. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (*Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting*)

The Regional Commission proposed the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means:

- TADs/One Health/Wildlife – Generalised discussion on emerging animal diseases, including ASF and LSD Contingency plan with vaccine development, monitoring and control mechanism.
- Trade/Border Control – Digitalisation of import/export control: eSanitary certification: Opportunities and challenges of eSanitary certification and remote assessment/evaluation: How can Members be best supported to realise the efficiency and integrity benefits of eSanitary certification digitalisation?
- R&D/Reference Centres – Enhance capacity for prevention, control and rapid diagnostic testing of zoonoses, boost researchers on rapid and accurate diagnostic techniques, refine awareness campaign, and promote research on vector-borne zoonoses.

6. The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training

Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity Building Department, introduced the evolution of the OIE capacity-building system, the needs it intends to satisfy, and the reasons that are driving this transformative process.

She reminded the participants that a number of factors have changed our lives and influenced our ways to deliver services. Technologies have helped us to overcome last years' challenges, however they cannot replace the value of human relationships.

She informed that the OIE has reflected on its capacity-building system and defined new approaches to better satisfy its Members' needs and provide more impactful services through the PVS Pathway Programme and the Platform for the Training of the Veterinary Services. New methodologies and support programmes, remote and blended options, and digitalisation are the three pillars on which the OIE capacity-building system intends to move from the new normality of the post COVID-19 era to a new future in which flexible and blended approaches are possible, thus optimising the use of human, technical, and financial resources.

Ms Alessandrini concluded by highlighting that a dialogue with Members and partners interested in understanding the new opportunities offered by the PVS programme and the OIE Training Platform and in exploiting these customised opportunities has to be established, to build scalable approaches for a collaborative growth of the Veterinary Services. This is particularly important in the light of the request for more resilient Veterinary Services, recognised by national and regional health systems, to play their role in protecting One Health.

7. Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Programme Manager of the OIE Observatory, shared the first findings of a recent survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals. The objectives were to identify barriers preventing OIE Members from: i) implementing OIE standards on aquatic animal health and welfare, ii) notifying aquatic animal diseases, and iii) using the PVS Pathway for the aquatic animal health services. She thanked the Delegates of Asia, Far East and Oceania for their participation. She pointed out the most important barriers identified in the survey, such as the fact that aquatic animal health is not prioritised by government agencies, which was seen by 54% of the respondents globally, as a blocking barrier for the notification to the OIE. She also highlighted that only 9% of the respondents indicated that Chapter 4.1. of the Aquatic Code, which was adopted at the 88th General Session in 2021, is being fully implemented by them.

Dr Weber-Vintzel concluded by indicating that the report presenting the detailed results of this survey would be available during the second semester of 2022.

8. Discussion on regional positions for the OIE General Session

Dr Masatsugu Okita, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of Japan facilitated the discussion.

The new Regional Delegates platform for sharing positions and other information was highlighted to Members and all Members were encouraged to regularly visit the site and share their comments on the OIE texts.

Dr Okita introduced an outcome of the discussion at a pre-Commission meeting where the regional common position on revised BSE standards for adoption in the forthcoming General Session was discussed based on proposals from some Members in the Region following a previous Regional Core Group meeting.

There was an extensive discussion amongst the Delegates on the proposals, however none were unanimously agreed on by the Regional Commission to be put forward at the plenary of the 89th General Session on behalf of the OIE Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Dr Okita thanked all regional Delegates for their active participation in the coordination procedure and noted that albeit no regional common position had been agreed upon for the BSE standards, more than one Member can jointly propose a position and encourage relevant Members to work on it after the meeting. He also expressed the hope that the Region would continue to work to strengthen regional coordination and collaboration in order to develop regional positions on key issues. Delegates were also encouraged to consult the FAQ document on BSE available in the Delegates webpages and General Session webpages along with all relevant document for the 89th General Session.

9. Adoption of the 3rd Regional Work Plan Framework 2021-2025

Dr Tony Zohrab, Delegate of New Zealand and Vice-President of the Regional Commission, presented the 3rd Regional Work Plan Framework. The work done by the drafting group was acknowledged and commended and the Framework was unanimously adopted by the Regional Commission.

10. Report of the RAWS Consultation and proposal of the revised management of RAWS Advisory Group for adoption

Dr Ye Tun Win, Delegate of Myanmar and Secretary General of the Regional Commission, summarised the history and activities of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy and the Advisory Group in the Region (RAWS AG) before introducing the current chair of the RAWS AG, Dr Kate Littin, animal welfare focal point of New Zealand.

Dr Kate Littin presented the activities of the RAWS AG over the past 2 years highlighting the limited ability to implement activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. An updated terms of reference and *modus operandi* were presented for consideration and adoption by the Regional Commission. These comprised a more flexible approach designed to increase the ability to engage with different regional stakeholders, build the connection between the regional and global platforms, and take advantage of the digital and virtual communication which is widely used since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The updated ToR and *modus operandi* were unanimously adopted by the Regional Commission. A call for interest to update membership of the RAWS AG will be launched with a 1-month deadline, with a final list of members to be endorsed by the President of the Regional Commission.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11. Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation

In order to better inform Delegates about the OIE rebranding to be presented during the General Session, a special session was held during which Mr Basilio Valdehuesa, Regional Communication officer, introduced the new OIE brand and provided details on the logo, acronym and the rationale of the rebranding.

The World Organisation for Animal Health undertook this branding change after 18 years since the current logo came out in 2003. The objectives of the rebranding were for the Organisation`s purpose and scope to be more clearly understood by audiences worldwide, and to place animal health and welfare as a high priority for decision-makers, and for standards and services to be recognised and adopted. Furthermore, for the wider audiences to understand the contribution of animal health and welfare. Consultation with stakeholders was carried out at all levels including members of the public.

The new brand does not change the core mission or mandate of the Organisation which will remain dedicated as ever to promoting global animal health and welfare.

In conclusion, the new brand will give more visibility to the Organisation, and clarity on its mission to the Veterinary Services, policymakers and wider global audiences, thereby helping the Organisation to achieve its goals. It will bring, among others, more fruitful and strong partnerships with current and potential future partners, attractiveness on the Organisation`s mission from professionals other than veterinarians as well as clearer understanding worldwide of its key role in the veterinary and public health sectors.

Mr Gerrit Beger, Head of the OIE Communication Department, responded to several comments from Members who, while supporting the rebranding proposal, asked questions about the pronunciation of the acronym in English in order to avoid unpleasantries, others expressed disappointment that the OIE had consulted only some Delegates and not all. Some Delegates requested for clarification regarding the cost of this project as well as the rationale behind the decision to change the brand at this juncture. Mr Berger thanked the Delegates for their comments and informed them that the item will be presented during the administrative session of the 89th General Session.

12. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 10:24 a.m. CEST.

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**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

16 May 2022

Agenda

- 6:45 a.m. - 7:10 a.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 7:10 a.m. - 7:15 a.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of China, PR)
- 7:15 a.m. - 7:25 a.m. Outcomes of the 32nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held on 15 and 16 September 2021 (Dr Wacharapon Chotiyaputta, representative from Thailand, Host Member of the 32nd Conference).
- 7:25 a.m. – 7:35 a.m. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 33rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in September 2023 (Dr Atul Chaturvedi, Delegate of India, Host Member of the 33rd Conference)
- 7:35 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 33rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Ye Tun Win, Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of Myanmar)
- 7:45 a.m. - 7:55 a.m. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (*Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting*) (Dr Masatsugu Okita, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of Japan)
- 7:55 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training (Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head OIE Capacity Building Department)
- 8:15 a.m. - 8:35 a.m. Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals (Drs Laure Weber-Vintzel, Paula Caceres, Lina Awada, Barbara Alessandrini, and Stian Johnsen)
- 8:35 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Discussion on regional positions for the OIE General Session (Dr Masatsugu Okita)
- 9:15 a.m. - 9:25 a.m. Adoption of the 3rd Regional Work Plan Framework 2021-2025 (Dr Tony Zohrab, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of New Zealand)
- 9:25 a.m. - 9:40 a.m. Report of the RAWs Consultation and proposal of the revised management of RAWs Advisory Group for adoption (Dr Ye Tun Win)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

9:40 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation (Mr Basilio Valdehuesa, Regional Communication officer)

9:40 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. Closing