

RAPPORT DE MISSION/ MISSION REPORT

Dr Bernard Vallat, Directeur général

Buenos-Aires (Argentine) : 14-15 avril 2005

Washington (Etats-Unis) : 19 avril 2005

Mexico City (Mexique) : 21-22 avril 2005

MISSION A BUENOS AIRES (ARGENTINE)

Objet de la mission / aim of the meeting:

- Participation à la réunion constitutive du Comité de pilotage du GF-TADs pour les Amériques.

Autres participants / Other participants:

- Représentation régionale de l'OIE pour les Amériques
 - Dr Luis Barcos, Représentant régional,

Résumé et conclusion / Summary and conclusion:

La réunion a été organisée avec l'appui du Ministère argentin de l'Agriculture (salle de réunion, logistique) et elle s'est déroulée dans de bonnes conditions.

La participation a été très bonne, tant de la part des institutions que des représentants du secteur privé. La participation des donateurs a été plus modeste [Japon et Banque Interaméricaine de Développement (BID)] mais les représentants présents du secteur privé ont manifesté leur intérêt pour appuyer financièrement l'initiative.

Le Dr Peter Fernandez, Délégué des Etats-Unis auprès de l'OIE a été élu Président du Comité de pilotage, les deux Vice-Présidents élus étant les représentants de l'OPS et de l'OIRSA (le compte rendu de la réunion figure en annexe).

La principale décision a été de lancer la réalisation d'un document de vision à moyen-long terme pour l'éradication des maladies prioritaires dans les Amériques et sur les outils appropriés pour cela, notamment l'organisation des Services Vétérinaires. Une fois ce document approuvé par le Comité, un plan de travail comportant un budget d'exécution sera élaboré. La durée totale de cette étude a été fixée à un an. Les fonds nécessaires vont être demandés à l'aide japonaise et à la BID, avec un soutien possible de la FAO. L'étude pourrait être confiée à l'IICA avec l'appui technique (mise à disposition d'un expert) de la FAO.

La FAO organisera par ailleurs 2 consultations sous-régionales : l'une pour les pays de la communauté andine, l'autre pour les pays des Caraïbes (CARICOM).

Personnalités rencontrées / Key person(s) met:

- Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Agriculture argentin,
- Membres du Comité, ainsi que J. Domenech et J. Lubroth, représentant la FAO.

Suites à donner / Follow-up:

- Suivi de la réalisation des documents stratégiques par Luis Barcos appuyé par le Directeur général notamment pour :
 - l'obtention des fonds,
 - le choix des prestataires,
 - le suivi de la prestation.

MISSION A WASHINGTON (ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE)

Objet de la mission / aim of the meeting:

- Rencontre Banque Mondiale-OIE.

Autres participants / Other participants:

- Dr Alex Thiermann, Président du Code
- Luis Barcos, Représentant régional de l'OIE pour les Amériques.

Résumé et conclusion / Summary and conclusion:

L'objectif de cette mission était de convaincre les hauts dirigeants de la Banque Mondiale du bien fondé d'engager leur institution dans des investissements importants au niveau mondial dans le domaine de la prévention des risques biologiques, tout en considérant l'OIE comme coordinateur des politiques devant être définies puis mises en œuvre notamment dans les Régions et dans les Pays Membres.

Un rapport détaillé de cette réunion sera diffusé prochainement par la Banque Mondiale (François Legall).

La réunion a permis de confronter les points de vue de plusieurs hauts responsables (aux niveaux stratégique et géographique) de la Banque et des représentants et invités de l'OIE. Elle a débuté par une longue présentation de ma part qui concluait en listant les investissements prioritaires à réaliser, notamment au niveau des Services Vétérinaires des pays en développement (présentation en annexe). Ensuite les personnalités invitées par l'OIE se sont exprimées et ont appuyé mon intervention, notamment :

- Mr Bill Hawks, Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat américain à l'agriculture,
- Dr Lonnie King
- Dr Brian Evans
- Dr Lester Crawford, Directeur général de la FDA
- Mr Dick Crawford, Chef des relations internationales de McDonald.

Les conclusions exprimées par les responsables de la Banque ont été globalement positives. Ils connaissent maintenant tous l'OIE en détail et nous considèrent comme partenaire à part entière, capable de coordonner les politiques sanitaires animales au niveau mondial.

La participation du secteur privé au profit des futurs financements et d'opérations coordonnées par l'OIE a également été débattue avec le représentant de McDonald, ouvrant des perspectives intéressantes.

Cependant il est apparu clair que les divisions et jalousies internes entre les Services de la Banque et même à l'intérieur de ces Services peuvent retarder un peu certaines prises de décision.

L'initiateur de la réunion, le Dr Legall est à remercier chaleureusement, d'autant plus que son initiative a été combattue en interne par certains spécialistes de la production animale qui craignent sans doute une réduction de leur budget si la Banque investit enfin dans la santé animale. Une subvention à l'OIE de 400 000 USD environ sera très certainement allouée par la Banque Mondiale à l'OIE-Bureau Central en 2005 (suivi par JLA et JMB).

J'ai par ailleurs été interviewé sur l'ESB par une chaîne japonaise en compagnie d'A. Thiermann pendant mon séjour à Washington.

Personnalités rencontrées / Key person(s) met:

- Mr Dick Crawford (McDonald)
- J. Baah-Dwomoh, Fr Legall, N. Leboucq (projet ALive)

Suites à donner / Follow-up:

- Maintenir un contact régulier avec Fr Legall (JM. Bergès) et avec McDonald (ATH).

MISSION À MEXICO-CITY (MEXIQUE)

Objet de la mission / aim of the meeting:

Représenter l'OIE à la 14ème réunion de la RIMSA (réunion des Ministres de l'Agriculture et de la Santé des pays des Amériques qui a lieu tous les deux ans sous l'égide de l'OPS).

Autres participants / Other participants:

- Dr Alex Thiermann, Président du Code
- Luis Barcos, Représentant régional de l'OIE pour les Amériques.

Résumé et conclusion / Summary and conclusion:

26 pays étaient représentés, au niveau Ministre ou Directeur général. Plusieurs pays importants avaient délégué à la fois le Ministre de l'agriculture et de la santé (Brésil, Chili, Mexique) ainsi que plusieurs pays des Caraïbes.

J'ai prononcé un discours au cours de l'ouverture et fait une présentation le lendemain sur le lien entre la santé animale et la santé publique et le rôle de l'OIE dans ce domaine (en annexe).

J'ai également critiqué en séance plénière plusieurs points évoqués par le Dr Omi (OMS Asie) lors de son intervention sur le risque de pandémie lié à l'Influenza.

L'objectif principal de cette mission était cependant d'obtenir une Résolution de la RIMSA afin d'introduire une référence à l'OIE et à la FAO dans le futur Règlement Sanitaire International (RSI) de l'OMS qui devrait être adopté en mai 2005. Malgré de très fortes réticences des Ministres de la santé présents, un lobbying interne mené par Luis Barcos et moi-même nous a permis d'aboutir (avec le soutien actif de la Direction générale de l'OPS).

De nombreux contacts positifs ont eu lieu à un niveau politique et technique pendant la réunion. De nombreux Délégués auprès de l'OIE étaient présents.

Plusieurs documents importants découlant de cette réunion seront versés à la bibliothèque de l'OIE.

Personnalités rencontrées / Key person(s) met:

- Direction générale de l'OPS,
- Ministres de l'Agriculture du Brésil, du Chili, du Mexique et d'Haïti,
- Ministre de la Santé d'Argentine,
- Dr Lester Crawford, Commissaire de la FDA,
- Dr Alfonso Torres (Université du Michigan),
- Délégués de l'OIE (Etats-Unis, Cuba, Chili, Argentine, Paraguay, Costa Rica, ..),
- Anne McKenzie (Canada).

Suites à donner / Follow-up:

- Transmettre la Résolution finale relative au RSI qui devra être diffusée aux Représentations régionales (avec demande de diffusion aux délégués) et à toutes les Organisations internationales destinataires des précédentes correspondances (y compris l'OMS) (JLA).

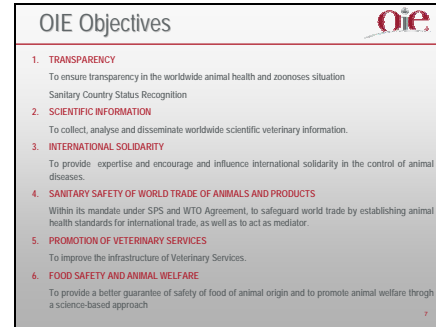
Diffusion : Chefs de Service et adjoints, Chargé(e)s de mission, A. Thiermann, P. Blandin, M. Teissier, M. Zampaglione, Représentants régionaux.

Présentation Banque Mondiale – 19 avril 2005

Diapositive 1



Diapositive 6



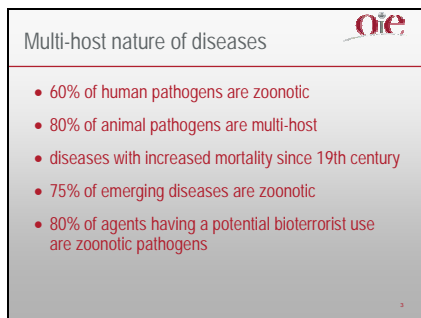
Diapositive 2



Diapositive 7



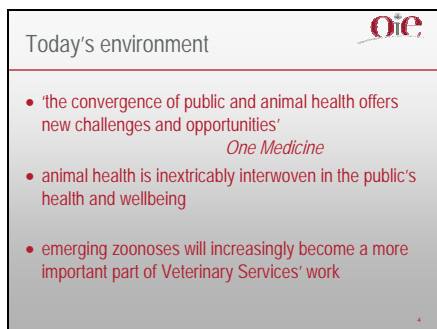
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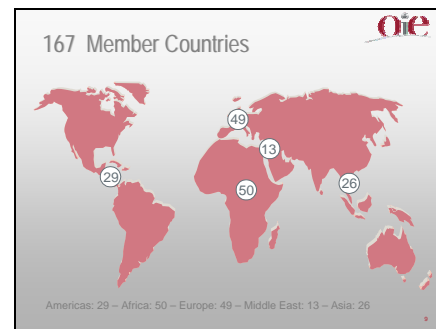
Diapositive 8



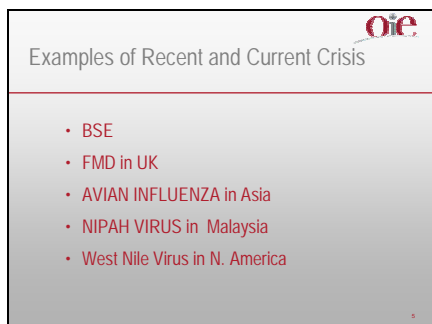
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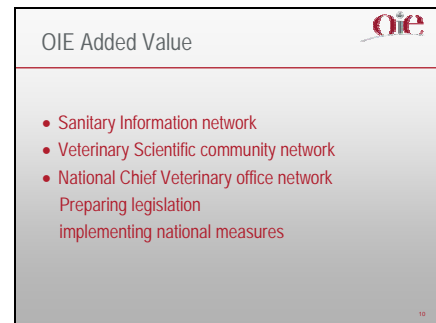
Diapositive 9




Diapositive 5



Diapositive 10



Diapositive 11

OIE Information System 

Promote transparency in, and knowledge of, global animal disease situation including zoonosis

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Diapositive 16

Current reality: Veterinary Services 

- High quality veterinary surveillance is essential to minimize and manage sanitary risks
- Recently most *Veterinary Services* have experienced decreases in their infrastructures:
- Budgetary
 - Shift in priorities
 - Eradication based funding
 - Difficult to justify preventive surveillance

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Diapositive 12

How ? 

- OIE Early Warning System based on official reports from Member Countries
- Active search and verification of non official information
- Improve data quality at the field level
- OIE Global Information System

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Diapositive 17

Mechanisms to improve Sanitary Governance 

- Standards and Trade development facility (STDF)
- African Livestock (ALIVE)
- Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Disease Control – GF TADs
- OIE Regional Representation Projects
 - Capacity Building of National Representatives
 - Evaluation of Quality of Veterinary Services

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Diapositive 13

The OIE Global Information System 



13

Diapositive 18

Investment Priorities 

- Veterinary and Medical services alliances
- OIE – WHO – FAO alliance: GLEWS system
- Applied research investments
- Capacity building for worldwide implementation of:
 - animal diseases and zoonoses standards and guidelines
 - good sanitary governance
 - staffing
 - equipment and infrastructures
 - financial resources

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Diapositive 14

Why standards are necessary 

- International Public Good
- Safety of international trade
 - fewer disease outbreaks
- Harmonisation of national legislation and control measures
 - fewer unjustified restrictions
- Fairer trade
 - benefits to developing countries
 - Disputes settlement

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Diapositive 19

Investments Priority (cont) 

- Veterinary Services Evaluation
- Veterinary accreditation programs
- Private sector financing
- Role of private practitioners and para-vets
- Insurance concept
- International public good content
- Tool kit for National investments
- Regional approach

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Diapositive 15


Influences on standards 

- Pressure from exporting countries for less restrictions
- Pressure from importing countries for maximum protection
- Consumer reactions (fears, animal welfare)
- Pressure from developing countries for assistance in participating in standards development → fairer standards
- Need for science-based decisions

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Diapositive 20

Thank you for your attention



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Présentation RIMSA – 21-22 avril 2005

Diapositive 1




Diapositive 6

Coordination with Codex 

- Need for Codex and OIE to jointly review standards and identify gaps / duplications
- OIE involved in work of various Codex Committees
- Senior Codex officials members of OIE WG


Diapositive 2


Dr Bernard Vallat
Director General

The OIE linking
public and animal health


14th Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on
Health and Agriculture – Mexico City, 21-22 April 2005

Diapositive 7




OIE Work
on
Avian Influenza

Diapositive 3



OIE Work
on
Animal Production Food Safety

Diapositive 8

Current AI issues 

- significant outbreaks since late 1990s, especially in Asia
- important zoonosis with risk of severe human pandemic
- importance of wild waterfowl and wet poultry markets in disease transmission
- up to date OIE standards

Diapositive 4

OIE's food safety goal 

- To reduce food borne risks to human health by preventing, eliminating or controlling hazards arising from animals
 - prior to slaughter of the animal or primary processing of the product
 - primary focus on food safety measures applicable at the farm level
- OIE food safety work coordinated by Animal Production Food Safety WG

Diapositive 9

Working with FAO / WHO 


- Issues in Asia
 - FAO/OIE Regional meeting on Avian Influenza Control in Asia in collaboration with WHO
 - February 2004 in Bangkok (emergency meeting)
 - February 2005 in Ho Chi Minh (follow-up meeting)
 - ⇨ on going efforts for follow-up, evaluation and further advice etc.
- Global based cooperation
 - FAO/OIE/WHO Technical Consultation on Control of Avian Influenza
 - February 2004 in Roma
 - April 2005 in Paris
 - Establishment of OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on Avian Influenza

Diapositive 5

Food safety priorities 

- dual roles and functionalities of veterinary services throughout the food chain
 - public health and animal health
- good farming practices
 - to minimise hazards at farm level
- zoonoses
 - those not up to date in OIE Code
 - those not always affecting animals
- antimicrobial resistance
 - prudent use
- Traceability of animals

Diapositive 10

OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on AI 

- Objectives:
 - To develop research on AI and to offer veterinary expertise to MCs to assist in the control of AI
 - To collaborate with the WHO Influenza Network on issues relating to the animal-human interface including vaccines
 - To avoid duplication of works

Diapositive 11

OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on AI

- The Steering Committee of Network will comprise:
 - a representative from each of the two organisations (OIE and FAO)
 - a scientist from an OIE-FAO Epidemiology Collaborating Centre
 - the President of the OIE Biological Standards Commission as Chairman.

Diapositive 16

Number of reported cases of BSE in farmed cattle worldwide (30.03.2005)

Country/Year	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
AUSTRIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BELGIUM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CANADA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CZECH REP.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DENMARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FINLAND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRANCE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GERMANY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GREECE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Diapositive 12

Reducing human contact with virus

- control measures in animals to reduce viral spread (stamping-out, quarantine, movement controls)
- vaccination of poultry to greatly reduce virus levels
- minimising common domestic environments with birds
- minimising possible contacts with infected birds (at poultry markets)

Diapositive 17

Number of reported cases of BSE in farmed cattle worldwide (30.03.2005)

Country/Year	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
IRELAND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ISRAEL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ITALY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JAPAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LIECHTENSTEIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LUXEMBOURG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NETHERLANDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
POLAND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PORTUGAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SLOVAKIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SLOVENIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SPAIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWITZERLAND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Diapositive 13

OIE AI Standards

- Code chapter needs to better address risks presented by different commodities
 - using latest scientific information
 - differentiation between likelihood of transmission of HP and LP
- Member Countries' concerns re reporting of LP AI
 - and imposition of unjustified trade barriers
- New surveillance appendix

Diapositive 18

Number of cases of BSE reported in the UK (up to 2004)

Year	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	Total United Kingdom
1980	0	0	0	0	0
1981	0	0	0	0	0
1982	0	0	0	0	0
1983	0	0	0	0	0
1984	0	0	0	0	0
1985	0	0	0	0	0
1986	0	0	0	0	0
1987	0	0	0	0	0
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1997	0	0	0	0	0
1998	0	0	0	0	0
1999	0	0	0	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0	0	0

Diapositive 14

4 commodity groups in proposed Code Chapter

- live poultry (other than day-old)
 - highest likelihood of virus transmission
- day-old poultry, hatching eggs, poultry semen
- fresh meat and eggs for human consumption
 - lowest likelihood of virus transmission
- others (egg products, meat products, feathers etc.)
 - if not produced from one of above commodities, should be processed to ensure destruction of AI virus

Diapositive 19

BSE annual incidence rate in Countries that reported BSE cases in 2004

Country	Number of BSE cases	Number of bovines aged over 24 months	Annual BSE incidence per million bovines aged over 24 months
Belgium	11	1,306,441	7,862
Canada	1	6,700,000	0,149
Czech Republic	7	678,000	10,324
Denmark	1	771,961	1,296
France	84	11,400,000	4,736
Germany	659
Ireland	126
Italy	7	2,980,000	2,348
Japan	8	2,006,800	2,491
Netherlands	6	1,785,000	3,359
Poland	11	3,075,294	3,578
Portugal	91	959,422	93,870
Slovakia	7	284,141	24,635
Slovenia	1	218,080	4,585
Spain	137	3,617,735	38,945
Switzerland	3	800,000	3,750
United Kingdom	338	4,955,495	67,735

Diapositive 15

Global BSE situation

Diapositive 20

OIE BSE Chapter

Diapositive 21

Current BSE Chapter

- complex 5-category prevalence-based approach
 - number of cases reported has become prime issue, although only one of factors listed in chapter
- not being used by Member Countries as science basis overwhelmed by political issues
- even for high risk category, fresh meat can be traded under certain conditions
 - absolute ban only for MBM

Diapositive 26

Perspective on vCJD

- many past models predicted likelihood of severe vCJD epidemic
- need to keep in perspective and now appears to be minor compared to other public health concerns
- article published by the Royal Society makes a "best estimate" of 70 future deaths in addition to 150 to date

Diapositive 22

Proposed 3 category approach

- risk based, not prevalence based:
 - negligible BSE risk without commodity-specific risk mitigation measures
 - negligible BSE risk with commodity-specific risk mitigation measures
 - undetermined BSE risk
- concentrates on commodity-specific measures
- assessment of risk factors and whether appropriate measures have been taken to address them
- surveillance important, but finding one case does not necessarily change trade measures

Diapositive 27

Animal health and public health

- need for collaboration -

Diapositive 23

'safe' commodities

- when authorising import or transit of the following commodities, Veterinary Administrations should not require any BSE related measures, regardless of the BSE status of the exporting country:
 - milk and milk products
 - semen and in vivo derived cattle embryos
 - hides and skins (excl. from head)
 - gelatin and collagen prepared exclusively from hides and skins (excl. from head)
 - protein-free tallow (max of insoluble impurities of 0.15% in weight) and derivatives
 - dicalcium phosphate (with no trace of protein and fat)

Diapositive 28

Today's environment

- 'the convergence of public and animal health offers new challenges and opportunities'
One Medicine
- animal health is inextricably interwoven in the public's health and wellbeing
- emerging zoonoses will increasingly become a more important part of Veterinary Services' work

Diapositive 24

Proposed additions

Code Commission is proposing:

- deboned skeletal muscle *meat* (excluding mechanically separated meat)
- blood and blood by-products

as additional 'safe' commodities due to lack of evidence of transmission

Diapositive 29

Multi-host nature of diseases

- 60% of human pathogens are zoonotic
- 80% of animal pathogens are multi-host
- diseases with increased mortality since 19th century
- 75% of emerging diseases are zoonotic
- 80% of agents having a potential bioterrorist use are zoonotic pathogens

Diapositive 25

For other commodities

- when authorising import or transit of other commodities listed in this chapter, Veterinary Administrations should require the conditions prescribed in this Chapter relevant to the BSE risk status of the cattle population of the exporting country and zone....

Diapositive 30

Roles of OIE and Codex

- Codex is responsible for developing standards on food safety and public health, while OIE is responsible for standards on animal health and zoonoses.
- An increased collaboration between OIE and Codex will ensure standards that bridge public and animal health interests in the 'production to consumption continuum'.


Diapositive 31

Collaboration 

- The collaboration between authorities responsible for public and animal health must also occur at national levels.
- The duality of objectives at ante- and post-mortem inspection is just one of the areas for integration and collaboration.

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Diapositive 32

Collaboration 

- Collaboration and interdependence between public health and animal health authorities at a national, regional and international level are crucial in the control of the food safety risks of today.
- But more importantly, they are essential for confronting the emerging food-borne diseases of the future.

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Diapositive 33

International Health Regulations 

- This collaboration is gaining momentum at national and global levels.
- It is unfortunate that as these efforts are going on, the WHO is proposing an International Health Regulation (IHR) in total isolation.
- The current IHR text fails to recognize and any need for specific collaboration with its own Codex and with the OIE

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Diapositive 34

OIE's proposed IHR text 

Article 12:

WHO shall cooperate and coordinate its activities, as appropriate, with other competent intergovernmental organizations or bodies such as the FAO and the OIE in the implementation of these Regulations, including through the conclusion of agreements and other similar arrangements.

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Diapositive 35

Thank you for your attention



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GF-TADs STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE AMERICAS
Buenos Aires, Argentina
14-15 April 2005

1. Opening Session

Opening addresses were delivered by the President of the National Service of Health and Agri-food Quality of Argentina, Dr. Jorge Amaya, the Animal Health Director of the FAO, Dr. Joseph Domenech, the Director General of the OIE, Dr. Bernard Vallat and the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery and Food of Argentina, Ing.Agr. Miguel Campos, all of whom emphasised the importance of a regional and international approach to better coordinate policies and strategies, to avoid overlapping and to better prevent and control transboundary animal diseases including zoonosis.

2. Program description

The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is a joint FAO/OIE initiative, which combines the strengths of both organizations to achieve agreed common objectives. GF-TADs is a facilitating mechanism which will endeavour to empower regional alliances in the fight against transboundary animal diseases, to provide for capacity building and to assist in implementing and developing programs for the specific control of certain transboundary diseases, based on regional priorities.

The GF-TADs program will function to a regional level throughout a Regional Steering Committee and Regional and Sub-Regional Support Units (RSUs), integrated in the Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations (RSOs). In the region OIE and FAO Headquarters, OIE and FAO Regional Commissions and Regional Representations and the Private Sector representatives and donors representatives are included in the GF-TADs coordination mechanism.

3. Objectives

- (1) A regional and worldwide leadership on the coordination and facilitation of actions against transboundary animal diseases and priority zoonosis as agreed with responsible for decisions-taken,
- (2) Development of a Global and Regional Early Alert System of priority animal diseases and zoonosis;
- (3) To support training and assessment on the agent causing transboundary animal diseases to a molecular and ecological level in order to increase effective and strategic management of diseases control, and
- (4) Continuation and integration of ongoing sanitary programs

4. Regional and Sub-regional Specialized Organizations (RSOs-), Private Sector and Donors

The Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations (RSOs), OPS, IICA, OIRSA, CAN, CVP, NAAHC, CARICOM, the private sector as well as public and private donors are key actors.

5. Election of the President and two Vice-Presidents of the Regional steering Committee

President	Dr. Peter Fernandez, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.
Vice-President	Dr. Luis Alberto Espinoza, OIRSA.
Vice-President	Dr. Eduardo Correa Melo, PAHO-PANAFTOSA.

6. Regional Steering Committee priorities

- 6.1 Notes that transboundary animal diseases and zoonosis represent a serious impediment to livestock production and trade of livestock and livestock products affecting also public health and threatening the livelihood of the rural population, due to income decreases, because of difficulties to access markets.
- 6.2 Define the following diseases as regional priority diseases: Foot and Mouth Disease, Avian Influenza, Classic Swine Fever, Rabies, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and Screwworm
- 6.3 Endorses the Terms of Reference of the Regional Steering Committee, The Permanent Secretariat, the Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations (RSOs), the Regional Supporting Units (RSUs) and the Veterinary Laboratories and Epidemiology Centres;

- 6.4 Notes that some countries of the Region need a Veterinary Service strengthening, which is considering of priority;
- 6.5 Notes that a significant progress has been achieved against some diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease, Classic Swine Fever and Rabies and that current programs shall be coordinated and integrated to GF-TADs Program;
- 6.6. Organize a worldwide and Regional Conference with Public and Private Sector Donors.

7. Priority Actions

Within following twelve (12) months, the following actions shall be carried out:

7.1 Strategic Vision

A document will be developed compiling a strategic vision for application in the region, concerning transboundary animal diseases and zoonosis and strengthening of the veterinary services.

7.2 Action Plan

An Action Plan will be proposed, according to Strategic Vision and regional and sub-regional needs.

7.3 Donors meetings

Meetings will be promoted with Public and Private sector donors to a worldwide and regional level

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Regional Steering Committee of the Americas (RSC)

1.1. Roles

- Develop an strategic vision reflecting regional animal health and zoonosis and Veterinary Services strengthening.
- Provide strategic assistance to the Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations (RSO's), to the Regional Support Units (RSU's) and to the countries in the prevention, control and eradication of Transboundary Animal Diseases including zoonosis.
- Promote and facilitate coherence of actions in the American countries, monitor the progress and determine indicators development for specific issues, such as: laboratories, epidemiological diseases and other activities of the sanitary programs, including applied research activities.
- Foster a spirit of cooperation, transparency, scientific background, as well as the application of OIE standards, among the American OIE member countries, donors, livestock and industry producers

1.2 Regional Steering Committee Membership

- a) Countries Delegate to the OIE, elected among the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (4)
- b) Representatives of the Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations (RSO's), PAHO-PANAFTOSA, IICA, OIRSA, CAN, CVP, NAAHC, CARICOM and other Organizations accrediting their participation.
- c) Representatives of the OIE Headquarters (OIE Paris) and the FAO Headquarters (FAO-Rome).
- d) The Regional Representation for the Americas with base in Buenos Aires, and the Animal Health Officer of FAO's Regional Office for Latin-America and the Caribbean, placed in Santiago de Chile
- e) Public and Private Donors Representatives, under conditions to be decided by the Regional Steering Committee, and
- f) Private Sector Representatives, under conditions that will be stated by the Regional Steering Committee

1.3 Duties and responsibilities of the Regional Steering Committee

- To establish common interest issues to a horizontal level, such as the veterinary services strengthening.

- To avoid overlapping and promote complementation of Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations.
- To sensitize public and private sector donors by means of promoting policies and making conferences to a worldwide and regional level.
- To advise on Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations annual work plans.
- To assist the Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations and donors in monitoring and evaluating of the Regional and Sub-Regional Support Units.
- To ensure that the Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations provide information and coordinate implementation of agreed actions among their country members.
- To ensure that the Regional Support Units, provide reports to the Global and Regional Steering Committee, throughout the Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations.
- To report donors on specific actions.

1.4 Frequency of meetings

- The Regional Steering Committee Meeting will meet at least once a year.
- An extraordinary meeting can be convened by the President, coordinated and organized by the Permanent Secretariat.
- Between meetings, activities will be carried out by the Permanent Secretariat of the Regional Steering Committee.

1.5 Rules of meetings

- The Regional Steering Committee Meeting will have a quorum of half of the members plus one, provided that at least one each of the OIE and FAO Headquarters are present.
- Decision taking will be carried out by consensus.
- The cost of the meetings for under-developing country representatives will be financed by GF-TADs resources.

1.6 President and Vice-President

- The President and Vice-President rotate each two year, and may be re-elected.
- The President appoints the Vice-Presidents in agreement with the Regional Steering Committee.
- The President has authority to invite experts on specific items of the agenda.

2. The Permanent Secretariat of the Regional steering Committee of the Americas

2.1 Location

- The Permanent Secretariat will set up its Bureau in the Regional Representation for the Americas

2.2 Roles

- Be responsible for preparing agendas, invitations, draft recommendations and reports for annual meetings.
- Organize conferences for donors in FAO and OIE Headquarters.
- To undertake and maintain communication with the Global Steering Committee.
- To organize the Regional Committee meetings
- To circulate invitations and provisional agenda at least one month before meetings.
- To attend meetings of the Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations and cooperate on issues out of Session, as require.
- To report summarized outcome of meetings to the Regional Steering Committee.

3. Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations (RSO's)

RSOs are PAHO-PANAFTOSA, IICA, and the Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations are OIRSA, CVP, CAN, CARICOM and NAAHC

3.1 Roles

Key actors in the implementation of GF-TADs are the Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations, which in interaction with OIE, FAO, the Regional Steering Committee, the public Veterinary Services and their technical specialists, prioritize and plan strategic activities for diseases control, horizontal activities such as training and veterinary services strengthening, among others.

Integrate and continue ongoing regional actions to GF-TADs, particularly veterinary strengthening programs, Foot and Mouth Disease, Classic Swine Fever, Rabies, Avian Diseases Programs, among other.

4. Sub-Regional Support Units (RSU's)

The RSUs work within the framework of the Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations, analyzing case by case.

The supporting specific priorities by specialist to the RSUs will be defined by the Regional Steering Committee.

Geographical areas, based on agro-ecological and traditional animal production practices, are identified in conjunction with the importance of transboundary animal diseases for livestock production and trade and their significance for the maintenance of the most important infectious agents with zoonotic potential to spread between countries and regions.

4.1. Establishment of Sub-Regional Support Units (RSUs)

The Sub-Regional Support Units will be established based on the Steering Committee strategic vision and action plan.

5. Veterinary Laboratories Network and Epidemiology Centres

- The National Veterinary Laboratories Network will be established for each disease
- OIE and FAO International Reference Laboratories and others, which compose a worldwide network, will support the National Laboratories Network and the Epidemiology Centres Network, by providing training, know-how of tools, assessing their capability, reference diagnostics, ensuring the diagnostics and epidemiological tests quality.
- The National laboratories and International Laboratories of Reference will act as nodes for diagnostic, providing training on collection of data and diffusion of information, according to OIE and Regional and Sub-Regional Specialized Organizations, throughout the CVO's of the country Veterinary Services, the National laboratories and Laboratories of Reference.
- An epidemiology network will be established in the continent sub-regions based on Epidemiology Centres.
- The Epidemiology Centres will support the veterinary laboratories and the National Epidemiology Units by training on transferring of technology, epidemiology follow up, providing support to meeting coordination for epidemiology analysis to a national level.

COMMENTS

- For the elaboration of Vision and Action Plan, which is coordinated by the Secretariat of the Regional Steering Committee it is foreseen a budget of (USD 200.000) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DOLLARS TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND. The methodology for elaboration of Vision and Action Plan shall take into account prior experiences and maintain and close contact with GF-TADs actors.
- JICA commented that GF-TADs Steering Committee actions are in agree with the JICA objectives
- BID commented that a document to pursue funds shall be prepared.
- Dr. B. Vallat commented that many donors should participate, as they are also involve in GF-TADs, he proposed that funds should be collected as to start GF-TADs activities, to elaborate the Terms of reference and diffuse them among al GF-TADs actors. After approval of terms of reference, pass on proposal and selection mechanism of experts stage and then to the Regional steering Committee and OIE opinion and FAO Headquarters comments
- To ensure the audit work efficiency by holding meetings to a sub-regional level with different public and private sector actors.
- FAO proposes that a sub-regional auditing in the Caribbean and Andean countries shall be carried out in the GF-TADs framework. All actors shall be invited to participate of this auditing, prior

interchanging of information to all interested actors of GF-TADs Steering Committee by the Secretariat of the Regional Steering Committee.

- To take into account Dr. Lonnie J. King document on [Emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases challenges and opportunities](#) .
- To take into account the OIE/IICA tool for the elaboration of the veterinary services vision.
- Note all regional resources to elaborate this project.
- Bear in mind the Amazonian Organization Cooperation Work on borders issues which are depressed zones and with sanitary risk.
- It has been agreed that GICSA overlaps with GF-TADs, therefore the opinion is that GICSA should stop its activities.