

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 82nd General Session
in Paris, 26 May 2014**

NOTE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

Draft Recommendations proposed during the meetings of the Regional Commissions held during the General Session must be presented again for adoption during the next Regional Commission Conference held in the respective regions, so as to be examined and possibly adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

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List of abbreviations

ASEAN	:	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU-IBAR	:	African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
AU-PANVAC	:	African Union, Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
CEBEVIRHA	:	Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)
CIC	:	International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation
CIRAD	:	Center for International Research on Environment and Development
COPA/COGECA	:	Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations/General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the European Union
CVP	:	Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone
ECOWAS/CILSS	:	Economic Community Of West African States/ Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel
EEC	:	Eurasian Economic Commission
EUFMD	:	European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEI	:	Fédération Equestre Internationale
FESASS	:	European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
FVE	:	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
GFSI	:	Global Food Safety Initiative
GF-TADs	:	FAO/OIE Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
GLEWS	:	Global Early Warning System for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses
IBRD	:	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICFAW	:	International Coalition for Animal Welfare
ICSID	:	International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
IDA	:	International Development Association
IDF	:	International Dairy Federation
IEC	:	International Egg Commission
IETS	:	International Embryo Transfer Society
IFC	:	International Finance Corporation
IFHA	:	International Federation of Racehorse Authorities
IICA	:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILRI	:	International Livestock Research Institute
IMS	:	International Meat Secretariat
IPPC	:	International Plant Protection Convention
ISO	:	International Organization for Standardization
IZS-Teramo	:	Istituto zooprofilattico sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise
MIGA	:	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
OIRSA	:	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
PAHO	:	Pan American Health Organization - PANAF-TOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
PATTEC	:	Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign
PCR	:	Polymerase chain reaction

PVS	:	Performance of Veterinary Services
Quads	:	Quadrilateral (United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand)
RSPCA	:	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SADC	:	Southern African Development Community
SEAFDEC	:	South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre
SPC	:	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
STAR-IDAZ	:	Global Strategic Alliances for the Coordination of Research on the Major Infectious Diseases of Animals and Zoonoses
TAIEX	:	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (EC/DG ENLARG)
VICH	:	International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products
WAEMU	:	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WAHID	:	OIE World Animal Health Information Database (http //web.oie.int/wahis/public.php)
WAHIS	:	World Animal Health Information System
WHO	:	World Health Organization
WSPA	:	World Society for the Protection of Animals
WTO	:	World Trade Organization
WVEPAH	:	World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 26 May 2014

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 92 participants, including Delegates and observers from 36 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries and representatives from 10 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observer countries/territories: Liberia, South Sudan.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR³⁹, AU-PANVAC⁴⁰, CEBEVIRHA⁴¹, CIRAD⁴², FAO, ILRI, PATTEC⁴³, SADC⁴⁴, WAEMU⁴⁵, World Bank.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Theogen Rutagwenda (Rwanda), Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The Agenda and the annexes concerning agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries had become a matter of concern and urged OIE Delegates from the region to follow up on their country's contribution to the OIE.

He encouraged Member Countries of the region to upgrade their contribution when possible.

³⁹ AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
⁴⁰ AU-PANVAC: African Union, Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
⁴¹ CEBEVIRHA: Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)
⁴² CIRAD: Center for International Research on Environment and Development
⁴³ PATTEC : Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign
⁴⁴ SADC: Southern African Development Community
⁴⁵ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

Discussions

Dr Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu, Delegate of Zimbabwe, considered that, due to the fact that OIE Delegates reported directly to elected political leaders whose positions might often change, it was very difficult for them to guarantee the level of understanding about OIE activities.

In that regard, she expressed her great concern regarding the absence of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to the meeting of the Commission, despite the importance of that meeting. Therefore, she inquired whether that might be a reflection regarding such lack of understanding.

Finally, Dr Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu added that, in addition to the efforts of Delegates to influence the level of understanding of their countries regarding OIE activities, it might be necessary that the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the Sub-Regional offices observe those difficulties and consider special measures to raise the OIE's profile and to convince governments on the importance of actively participating in OIE activities.

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, agreed with the Delegate of Zimbabwe regarding the difficulties Delegates could face in ensuring that funds for OIE activities are systematically earmarked in their countries' national budgets, enabling arrears to be paid and OIE contributions upgraded, where possible. However, Dr Samaké pointed out that Delegates were the OIE's main representatives in their countries and that the OIE gives Delegates the lead to ensure that their countries comply with their responsibilities to the organisation such as the payment of contributions. Therefore, Dr Samaké said that the OIE was always willing to assist Delegates whenever necessary to comply with their obligations. In that sense he commented that, in all meetings with political authorities of Member Countries, the OIE endeavours to underline the importance of Members Countries' active participation in OIE activities as well as the importance of paying contributions.

3. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Botlhe M. Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and member of the OIE Council, began his presentation by describing the composition of the Council. He also made special reference to the OIE's 90th anniversary.

He commented on Council matters of general interest, including: the need of a partial election in 2014 of a new member of the OIE Council to represent the Africa region; the agreement to present a draft resolution to the World Assembly of Delegates proposing the creation of two new categories of extraordinary contributions in order to increase the OIE's general budget; the selection of the Technical Item II (without a questionnaire) of the current General Session entitled "African swine fever: new challenges and measures to prevent its spread"; and the validated list of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories to be presented for endorsement by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

Dr Modisane also indicated that the Council had examined the applications for accession of South Sudan and Liberia as new OIE Member Countries with a favourable opinion.

He concluded by commenting on the expectations of the OIE Council regarding the commitment of OIE Delegates highlighting the importance of their involvement in all OIE activities and providing input on the various issues discussed in order to guide Council meetings and ensure that all Member Countries' needs be addressed properly.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, on behalf of Dr Marosi Molomo, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, who had been unable to attend the General Session, started the presentation by extending a warm welcome to all new OIE Delegates in the region.

He gave a brief review of the last meeting of the Regional Commission, held at the 81st General Session, on Monday 27 May 2013. He reported that it had been attended by 94 participants, including Delegates and observers from 38 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries, including Liberia. He also described the agenda and the main items discussed.

Dr Rutagwenda then reminded Delegates of the composition of the Members of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and representatives of the region in the OIE Council and Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases. He informed participants that Professor Jaouad Berrada, former Delegate of Morocco, had resigned as Delegate in August 2013, leaving vacant the position of Vice-President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, this justifying the election for that position, as well as for the position of Member of the Council.

Dr Rutagwenda said that, since 2009, Africa's common position had been successfully coordinated by AU-IBAR. In his view, this had enabled Africa to speak with one voice and hence contribute to enriched discussions at OIE General Sessions. As a good example, he cited the proposed changes to the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes by the African region.

He discussed the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Morocco in February 2015, inviting all Delegates to attend.

He then gave a brief review of the different regional activities, highlighting those relating to veterinary education and Veterinary Statutory Bodies and to the promotion of twinning projects in these fields, as well as activities relating to: the "Reinforcement of African Governance" (VET-GOV) Programme; advancing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); and providing ongoing promotion and support for Veterinary Services through the OIE PVS Pathway.

Dr Rutagwenda concluded by encouraging countries to increase their participation in OIE activities and stressed on the utmost importance of Member Countries to implement OIE international standards in line with the OIE Strategic Plan. He highlighted the importance of statutory contributions to the OIE, and increasing them if any possible. Finally, he reiterated the importance of a common position for Africa to enable the continent to speak as much as possible with one voice.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Southern Africa, North Africa, and Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, on behalf of all OIE Representatives in the region, provided a summary of the activities carried out by the Regional Representation and the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Africa between 1 January and 1 May 2014, and their planned activities for the rest of the year.

Regarding human resources, he said that the period covered by the report had been marked by the departure of: Dr Florência Cipriano, Deputy Regional Representative for Africa; Dr Antonio Petrini, Programme Officer from the Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa in Tunis; Mrs Youma N'Diaye, accountant, and Mrs Mariam Minta, secretary, both

from the Regional Representation. This had been followed by the arrival of Dr Alessandro Ripani, Programme Officer at the Sub-Regional Representation in Tunis, and Mr Abdramane Sanogo, accountant at the Regional Representation.

Dr Samaké then spoke of the collaboration between the OIE, FAO, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), AU-IBAR, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and countries on the development of continental or regional control strategies, especially for foot and mouth disease (FMD), peste des petits ruminants (PPR), African swine fever (ASF), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Newcastle disease. He mentioned the first inter-regional meeting (Middle East and North Africa) on FMD-PPR and the implementation of the PPR pilot project in Burkina Faso and Ghana financed by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Vaccine Standards and Pilot Approach to PPR Control in Africa (VSPA)).

He also discussed continued implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway and its associated programmes (Twinning, support for the modernisation of veterinary legislation, support for the organisation of round tables), as well as the involvement of all African Members in the OIE PVS Pathway.

Dr Samaké then spoke of the appropriation of the results of activities (especially the OIE PVS Pathway and other capacity-building activities) by individual countries (substantial increase in the national budget allocated to Veterinary Services: Benin, Senegal, Togo, Niger, among others), by Economic Communities (e.g. WAEMU technical and financial support in implementing activities and its responsibility for activities requiring a regional approach, such as harmonisation of veterinary pharmaceutical legislation and the CBPP and Newcastle disease control strategy), and by development partners (World Bank in the case of Mali; European Union in the case of Kenya; Belgian Cooperation in the case of Mozambique).

He gave an account of support provided to countries in different areas, including: the OIE PVS Pathway; notification to the OIE of relevant epidemiological events; and regular payment of country contributions to the OIE. This had involved courtesy visits to Kenya, Mali and Comoros.

Dr Samaké mentioned the Support Programme for Pastoralism in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal), pointing out that the component one of the programme regarding animal health would be implemented by ECOWAS/CILSS⁴⁶ with the technical support of the OIE.

He remarked on the consolidation of existing networks, including the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA) and Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education (REEV-Med), and the establishment of new networks such as: the veterinary laboratory network for avian influenza and other transboundary diseases (RESOLAB) and regional network of national epidemicsurveillance systems (RESEPI) in Central Africa; Southern and Eastern Africa Association of Veterinary Educational Establishments (SEAAVEE); and the South African Development Community's Livestock Technical Committee (LTC/SADC).

He informed Delegates that the OIE Council had approved a cooperation agreement between the OIE and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and that an updated cooperation agreement between the OIE and AU-IBAR would be submitted soon.

⁴⁶ ECOWAS/CILSS: Economic Community Of West African States/ Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel

Dr Samaké was pleased to announce that applications for accession to the OIE by Liberia and South Sudan had been considered favourably by a meeting of the OIE Council.

He said that the Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako had been consolidated (visit by the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] Commissioner) and that the establishment of a Regional Animal Health Centre in Central Africa is still waiting final political decision.

He mentioned a preparatory mission for the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, to be held in Rabat from 16 to 20 February, 2015.

Lastly, Dr Samaké gave a brief review of the work programme of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations covering the period from 1 May to 31 December, 2014.

He highlighted a number of activities: the annual coordination meeting for chief veterinary officers (concerning standards to be examined at the 82nd General Session), organised by AU-IBAR; the 82nd General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates and bilateral meetings on the fringes of the General Session; support for applications by Liberia and South Sudan for accession to the OIE; statutory meetings of GF-TADs for Africa Regional Steering Committee, GF-TADs Global Steering Committee and VET-GOV; participation in OIE global conferences; continued implementation of the PPR pilot project; planning for the Support Programme for Pastoralism in the Sahel; development of continental or regional strategies under the GF-TADs for Africa Five-Year Action Plan, notably for FMD, PPR, ASF, CBPP and Newcastle disease; the meeting on FMD and PPR disease status, coupled with a PPR control strategy in North Africa; and a meeting on rabies in North Africa. He also discussed: the 'One Health' approach; pilot activities, including control of rabies, Rift Valley fever (seminar on Rift Valley fever prevention in North Africa) and antimicrobial resistance; raising countries' awareness of the OIE PVS Pathway; reporting epidemiological events to the OIE; regular payment of OIE contributions; and activities to build stakeholder capacity, including the seminar on rabies in Niger, a planned seminar on food safety and activities to improve the governance of Veterinary Services in Africa (VET-GOV project); the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa; World Rabies Day on 28 September, 2014; and the Annual Meeting of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in Paris in October, 2014.

Discussions

The Delegate of Senegal wondered whether the OIE could raise the awareness of more Member Country governments regarding the importance of ensuring that the OIE Delegate's position should be a stable one, as this was the only way to ensure proper implementation of OIE activities.

The Delegate of Mauritania said that it was very difficult for some countries in the Region to increase their category of contributions to the OIE. He suggested that the OIE seek a possible solution to the problem of countries with long-term arrears because most of these countries experienced financial difficulties.

In response to the Delegate of Mauritania, Dr Eloit pointed out that the OIE is virtually the only organisation to allow its Member Countries to choose their category of contribution. She explained that, when increasing contributions, the OIE takes into account higher expenses to be faced. She stressed that the OIE always requests Council approval before increasing contributions. She then reminded participants that contributions had not been increased in either 2012 or 2013. Lastly she said that the OIE is open to discussion with any countries finding it difficult to pay their contributions in order to seek a solution. She added that the most important thing was for such countries to show their willingness and intent to resolve that situation. She also added that the amount of OIE contributions is extremely low comparing to other international organisations.

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 84th General Session:

- “Defining a strategy to achieve freedom from tsetse fly and trypanosomosis in Africa”

7. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

After an animated discussion involving several Delegates, a small group comprising the Delegates of Burkina Faso, Rwanda and Tunisia was appointed to finalise the proposal of technical item.

The following technical item (without questionnaire) is proposed for the 21st Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

- “Cross border movements of animals and animal products and their relevance to the epidemiology of animal diseases in Africa”

8. Election of a representative of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in the OIE Council and election of the Vice-President of the World Assembly of Delegates

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, first reminded participants that the Delegate of Morocco had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as representative of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on the OIE Council, which required an election to be held.

Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, then indicated, to the Regional Commission, the institutional rules regarding election of members to the OIE Council. She also provided some consideration points to take into account when electing a Delegate as a member of one of the OIE’s statutory bodies. Among these points, she highlighted the importance of considering the stability of the selected Delegate’s position in his or her country as well as the sub-regional balance of Delegates selected, which is mainly reflected by the languages. She underlined the fact that, during the current meeting, Delegates would have to reach a consensus in order to present their candidate to the World Assembly of Delegates on Friday. She reminded participants that it is the World Assembly that takes the final decision on the composition of the Council, based on the advice of the Regional Commission.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates regarding the outcomes of the Chief Veterinary Officers’ meeting in Nairobi, and in the light of the procedure described by Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, Dr Nicholas Kauta, Delegate of Uganda, was unanimously proposed as Member of the OIE Council.

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa, already Member of the OIE Council, was proposed as Vice-President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

These proposals will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement by vote.

9. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by referring to the significant worldwide growth of the sport horse industry, bringing with it measurable and significant socio-economic benefits to the respective national economies.

She explained that the OIE has engaged, for the past two years, in the development of the high health, high performance horse (HHP) concept to facilitate the safe international movement of horses to compete at international equestrian events. She noted that the concept excludes international movement for the purpose of breeding.

She noted that the concept is based on principles that are already well established in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, with special reference to the Chapters on (i) Identification and traceability; (ii) zoning and compartmentalisation; (iii) model passport for competition horses; (iv) certification procedures; and, (v) transport by air, land and sea. Furthermore, comprehensive biosecurity guidelines for HHP horses at their home stable, during transport and at the venue are being developed.

Dr Münstermann then informed participants that the OIE has laid down these general overarching principles for the HHP concept in a new *Code* chapter, in line with the approach that had been previously taken when introducing Animal Welfare chapters into the *Code*.

Dr Münstermann added that acceptance of these general principles by OIE Member Countries would provide the OIE ad hoc Group with a clear vision to propose the tools necessary to build the framework for the HHP concept, e.g. additional guidelines.

Dr Münstermann concluded by acknowledging the special situation of many countries in Africa due to the endemic presence of African Horse Sickness.

She noted that the OIE ad hoc Group will give special attention to this situation and will make provision in the HHP concept for horses from AHS affected countries. In this regard a meeting with South African representatives and OIE experts will take place during the current General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates.

Dr Gideon Brückner, President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, provided further background on the development of the proposed *Code* Chapter. He explained that the draft was confined strictly to describing the concept and that all pertinent questions and concerns would be addressed by future expert group meetings and Specialist Commissions, and presented to Members.

He added that the OIE had taken the same approach when presenting the Guiding Principles on Animal Welfare to Members.

He explained that details of the various activities, including a description of the sub-population, certification, diagnosis, testing and transport, would be part of an international biosecurity plan to be prepared by the private sector in consultation with Members, which would be based on the OIE's biosecurity guidelines.

He suggested that, when implementing compartmentalisation in their territories, Members use the same approach to develop their biosecurity plan, based on the OIE's biosecurity guidelines.

Finally, Dr Brückner said that Delegates would have the opportunity to raise points and concerns later during the current General Session as part of the standard-setting process.

10. Organisation of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015

Dr Abderrahman El Abrak, Delegate of Morocco, expressed his country's sincere gratitude to the OIE and to all Delegates of the region for their vote of confidence in Morocco to host the upcoming Regional Conference. He reiterated that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference in Rabat in February 2015.

He gave a general description of Morocco and the city of Rabat.

He also gave a brief account of the different actions that Morocco had undertaken to start organising the conference. He mentioned that, last February, there had been a preparatory mission to Rabat by the OIE Regional Representation accompanied by OIE Headquarters representatives.

To conclude, Dr El Abrak provided general information about hotel accommodation and transport, giving assurances that full details would be sent to all participants in a timely manner.

He ended by presenting a video introducing the participants to Morocco and more particularly Rabat.

11. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives

Dr Botlhe M. Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and member of the Council, gave the Commission a brief presentation on the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan for the 2016-2020 period. He informed Delegates that a preliminary version of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan had been drafted on the basis of discussions at the previous Council meetings (October 2013 and February 2014).

He reminded participants that the draft had been forwarded to all OIE Delegates in early May 2014 to enable them to submit comments and observations to Council Members in their region.

Dr Modisane emphasised that the aim of his presentation was to summarise the key information regarding the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan in order to start discussions among Delegates with the aim of finalising the Strategic Plan over forthcoming Council meetings. He said that the final text would be circulated among Member Countries for comments in March 2015 with a view to its adoption at the 83rd General Session in May 2015.

He reiterated that the OIE Council considered that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan should:

- contain a revised consolidated statement of OIE's strategic vision and its global goals;
- take into account current and anticipated global trends and challenges affecting OIE's operating environment;
- incorporate important cross-cutting issues;
- be ambitious but not necessarily expansive;
- be high-level, flexible and enabling rather than prescriptive, and allow for optional approaches in order to be responsive and facilitate implementation; and
- be developed with the engagement of all Members of the OIE.

Dr Modisane explained that this topic would be included in the agenda of all OIE Council meetings and OIE Regional Conferences to be held over the coming year.

He reported that, in October 2013, the OIE Council had reviewed the Strategic Objectives and discussed factors expected to impact on the operating environment during the 2016-2020 period, as well as organisational dynamics and institutional arrangements, including the duties and relevance of the current Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, the operation of Regional and Sub Regional Representations, and relationships and synergies with other international organisations. He said that the OIE Council would also be establishing a flexible five-year strategic human resources plan for the recruitment, retention and development of OIE staff.

Dr Modisane concluded by inviting Delegates to provide their thoughts and comments on the initial framework and directions for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. He emphasised that Members' comments were most welcome and highly valued and said that Members could provide their input to the OIE Director General and to OIE Council members representing Africa region.

12. Implementation of the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme in Africa

Dr David Sherman, Coordinator of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), briefly described the development of VLSP, with a focus on recent developments in Africa.

Dr Sherman emphasised the importance of comprehensive veterinary legislation as a foundation for the effective operation of national Veterinary Services and the need for veterinarians and legal experts to work closely to produce modern, high quality veterinary legislation.

He reviewed important VLSP activities in Africa, including: the first OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, held in Djerba (Tunisia) on December 2010; the first pilot training seminar, targeting the 15 SADC countries, held in Gaborone (Botswana) in November 2011; the second training seminar held for ECOWAS countries in Cotonou (Benin) in January 2013; and two workshops on veterinary legislation sponsored by AU-IBAR through VET-GOV – the first in Arusha (Tanzania) for English-speaking countries in October 2013 and the second in Naivasha (Kenya) for French-speaking countries.

Dr Sherman went on to discuss OIE's anticipated future activities for veterinary legislation to be pursued through VET-GOV. The OIE is planning a series of regional workshops to build capacity for drafting quality legislation and to promote regional harmonisation of such legislation. The seminars are to be conducted in the context of the RECs. Each seminar is to focus on different veterinary themes, including: regulating the profession; animal disease control; food safety; and regulation of veterinary medicinal products. Veterinarians and legal experts will be invited from each participating country. The week-long workshops will include: presentations on the principles of drafting legislation; assessments of exemplary legislation relating to specific themes; analysis of existing legislation on each theme from participating countries; and, finally, exercises in drafting a regional bill on each theme. Multiple regional workshops are expected to be held over the next two years for both French-speaking and English-speaking Regional Economic Communities, and it is foreseen that participating countries will be involved in workshops covering at least two veterinary themes.

In anticipation of effective participation in these workshops, Dr Sherman concluded by encouraging Delegates from countries that have not yet done so to request an OIE veterinary legislation identification mission to assess the current status of veterinary legislation in their country.

13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of Notification by Members in Africa

Dr Lina Awada, Veterinary Epidemiologist, OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease notification concerning the Region.

She started by emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting through WAHIS by the countries/territories, and of the provision of other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control, to maintain transparency, to enhance trade and to contribute to the global early warning. She then went on to provide relevant information on compliance with reporting for 2013 in Africa.

Dr Awada also showed the evolution of the number of countries from the Region submitting reports to the OIE since 2005 as well as the evolution of submission time since 2005, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Finally, Dr Awada presented the recent exceptional events of foot and mouth disease in Africa.

14. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

• **African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)**

Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of AU-IBAR, updated the meeting on AU-IBAR achievements in animal health and World Trade Organization sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) matters. He said that strengthening animal health systems remained a major strategic objective of AU-IBAR, with a strong focus on policy, legislation and institutional reforms.

He said that the disease-surveillance and control capacity of RECs and IGAD had been built, in particular with two new projects in this area. He added that support had been provided to RECs to mobilise the necessary resources to implement the Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism (IRCM) for the control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in Africa and to build capacity and consensus on the One Health concept in Africa. The Pan African PPR Progressive Control programme is being customised by RECs and member states and is awaiting funding. According to Prof. El-Sawalhy, a strategy to control ASF in Africa is being developed jointly with FAO and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

Prof. El-Sawalhy reported that trade and marketing activities focused mainly on animal health certification, identification and traceability, and support to stakeholder organisations. However AU-IBAR also remained heavily committed to the process of supporting and enhancing the participation of African nations in the OIE standard-setting process, among others.

He also reported that the Animal Resources Information System (ARIS) had been rolled out in over 30 countries, highlighting the fact that member states had benefited from advance training in data collection and management and that inter-operability with WAHIS was in the way to be completed.

Prof. El-Sawalhy concluded by saying that formulation of the livestock development strategy under the leadership of AU-IBAR was on track and was undergoing a process of intensive consultations and securing the ownership and participation of all stakeholders. It is expected to be adopted by the African Union Summit in January 2015.

- **Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in CEMAC (CEBEVIRHA)**

The representative of CEBEVIRHA started his presentation by providing details of his organisation. He described CEBEVIRHA's missions, which are mainly to contribute to the sustainable, harmonised and balanced development of the livestock, fishery and aquaculture sectors, and to growth in trade, to enable countries to optimise production to achieve food security and reduce poverty among the populations of the sub-region.

He also gave details of CEBEVIRHA's objectives, which include: supporting the quantitative and qualitative development of the livestock, fishery and aquaculture sectors; developing and harmonising trade; and harmonising and coordinating the livestock, fishery and aquaculture policies contained in Member States' development plans.

Finally, he summarised the status of implementation of CEBEVIRHA activities.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

On behalf of Dr Cheikh Ly, FAO Regional Animal Health and Production Officer, Dr Juan Lubroth, FAO's Chief Veterinary Officer, reviewed FAO's outreach to Africa and the renewed partnership in animal health. Dr Lubroth reported that FAO had been implementing country and regional projects in the Africa region at the request of countries and regional bodies in various areas, in addition to pursuing its early-warning and capacity-building work under the Emergency Prevention System-Animal Health (EMPRES-AH) and missions relating to FAO's rapid response mechanism for transboundary animal disease emergencies, the Crisis Management Centre - Animal Health (CMC-AH). He added that action had taken place in the mainstream of FAO's five strategic objectives, regional initiatives and support to the CAADP framework.

Dr Lubroth briefly reviewed the lessons learned, in particular: (a) the need for stronger livestock production and health policies regionally in order to contribute globally; (b) if the livestock sector continues to grow in an unregulated fashion, the risk of diseases impacting on health will undoubtedly grow; and (c) promotion and support to apprise the private sector (producers, veterinary practitioners, value chain actors) of best practices for production and health, disease prevention, reporting and partnership with the public sector are essential and should not be downgraded in favour of the public sector alone.

- **Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC)**

Dr Hassane H. Mahamat, African Union PATTEC Coordinator, said that the AU-PATTEC Coordination Office is responsible for coordinating and implementing PATTEC, in line with its mandate and role.

He added that, within this context, the coordination office had been actively engaged in efforts to develop an enduring mechanism through which countries can implement the PATTEC initiative successfully. Tsetse- and trypanosomiasis-affected countries and AU-PATTEC have used such resources as national budgetary contributions, loans, grants and technical support from relevant partners to achieve major results.

Dr Hassane H. Mahamat briefly presented a report covering the 2012-2014 period and summarised progress in implementing activities and achievements in such areas as coordination, proposal development, training, advocacy and resource mobilisation, in an effort to alleviate the burden of tsetse and trypanosomiasis in Africa through the African Union.

- **Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC)**

Dr Karim Tounkara, Director of AU-PANVAC, said that, in line with its mandate, AU-PANVAC provided satisfactory services to African Union member states. He reported on the different activities of AU-PANVAC, underlining that the number of vaccine batches received had increased. A total of 288 samples had been tested in 2013, compared with 142 batches in 2012. Vaccine seeds (162) had been sent to vaccine-producing laboratories. Training and technical assistance had been provided to laboratory technicians of African Union member states and other stakeholders in the field of vaccine production and vaccine quality control.

Dr Tounkara reported that the harmonisation of veterinary vaccine registration had been facilitated in East and West Africa.

He added that the first batch of reagents to conduct indirect enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for detecting PPR virus antibodies had been produced and sent to laboratories in African Union member states for field validation.

Dr Tounkara said that all rinderpest materials were kept in safe custody in a biosafety level 3 laboratories, including an emergency rinderpest vaccine bank containing 1.5 million doses and 300 phials of rinderpest vaccine seed.

Dr Tounkara concluded by reporting that the scheduled activities under programme budget projects had been implemented successfully. The main ones were: developing a strategic framework for biological reagent production in Africa; OIE sub-grant to AU-PANVAC to guarantee the quality of PPR vaccines produced in Africa; and supporting food security and capacity-building in African Union member states through the sustainable control of Newcastle disease in village chickens.

- **Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

Mr Beedeeanan Hulman, Senior Programme Officer at SADC, started his presentation by explaining that the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate of the SADC Secretariat implements strategies and programmes to promote agricultural and livestock productivity and food security region-wide.

He said that, to this end, the FANR Directorate emphasises cooperation in sustainable food security in order to achieve sustainable access to safe and adequate food at all times by all people in SADC for an active and healthy life. Mr Hulman added that the FANR Directorate had finalised the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP, 2013), which provides the overall framework under which FANR programmes and activities will contribute to executing the SADC Common Agenda for promoting sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development.

He added that RAP focuses on implementing the Regional Livestock Development Programme, which seeks to improve regional and international trade in livestock products and their market access. Mr Hulman pointed out that, to facilitate trade in agricultural products, the SADC Protocol on Trade had been amended to take into account the requirements of the World Trade Organization's SPS Agreement.

He also reported that SADC, with the assistance of development partners, had embarked on a regional capacity-building programme to improve compliance with standards and norms for trade in livestock and livestock products.

Mr Hulman concluded by saying that the SADC Secretariat wished to bring the following two concerns to the OIE's attention.

- Freedom from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE): SADC member states are still considered to have “undetermined BSE risk” status for trade in deboned muscle meat and are required to carry out BSE surveillance and tests in order to prove freedom from the disease. Given that BSE has not occurred in any SADC member state, SADC wishes the OIE to consider the claim of SADC member states for historical freedom from BSE.
 - Revised FMD chapter: SADC submitted comments on the revised FMD chapter and hopes that they will be taken into account during the revision process. SADC wishes to reiterate that the SADC region finds itself in a unique situation with regard to FMD control because of the presence of the wild buffalo, which is a healthy carrier of the SAT virus. The recent drive to turn vast areas of the region into transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs), as a biodiversity conservation initiative, will increase contact between wildlife and domestic livestock. This will make FMD control even more challenging than before. When implementing the OIE/FAO Global Foot and Mouth Disease Control Strategy, special consideration will need to be given to FMD management and control in the SADC region.
- **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)**

Dr Soumana Diallo, representative of the WAEMU Commission, reported that, in connection with implementing the WAEMU Agricultural Policy (WAP), the WAEMU Commission had embarked on a number of reforms in the field of animal health, including zoonoses and food safety.

He explained that, first and foremost, the reforms concerned the harmonisation of veterinary pharmaceutical legislation, which has helped to achieve major results, the most significant being: the adoption of a package of community legislation for all eight member states; the introduction of a single mechanism in the eight member states for the registration of veterinary medicinal products; the introduction of a community-wide mechanism for the quality control of veterinary medicinal products, by setting up a

network of nine national quality control laboratories; the introduction of a mechanism to coordinate the production of regulations: the WAEMU Veterinary Committee, which is tasked with giving technical opinions on all matters of community interest in the field of livestock production, including veterinary medicinal products; and the introduction of a mechanism for the surveillance of veterinary medicinal products, with the launch of veterinary pharmaceutical inspection.

The second area of reform was to build the capacity of Veterinary Services through the adoption of a WAEMU strategic plan to strengthen the Veterinary Services of member states.

A further reform related to the safety of animals and animal-derived foodstuffs, which had led to the adoption of a common regulation on sanitary safety in 2007: Regulation No. 07/2007/CM/WAEMU on the health safety of plants, animals and foodstuffs.

He went on to discuss the reform of support projects for the control and eradication of animal diseases. Through the Regional Fund for Agricultural Development (RFAD), the WAEMU Commission supports its member states in the control of certain animal diseases (anthrax, Newcastle disease). It has also commissioned two studies to devise a regional strategy and coordinated control programmes for CBPP and Newcastle disease.

Lastly, he referred to the adoption of a directive aimed at guaranteeing and organising the freedom of movement and right of establishment within WAEMU of veterinarians who are nationals of another WAEMU member state and at establishing a College of Presidents of national veterinary associations that will now be responsible for regulating veterinary practice within the WAEMU area. The implementing text on the membership, powers, organisation and operating procedures of the College of Presidents has just been signed.

- **World Bank**

Dr Stephane Forman, the World Bank's representative for Africa, highlighted the steadily increasing collaboration between the World Bank and its partners involved in livestock development and animal health, especially the OIE, and described how the World Bank is strongly re-engaging in supporting the pastoral economy and resilience. He started by introducing Myriam Chaudron, the new Veterinarian and Livestock Specialist seconded to the World Bank to support him in managing the animal production and health portfolio in Sub-Saharan Africa.

He then discussed pastoralism, which is the extensive, mobile rearing of livestock on communal rangelands and is the prevailing livelihood and production system practised in the world's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). He highlighted the fact that, according to recent estimates, there are around 120 million pastoralists/agro-pastoralists worldwide, 50 million of whom reside in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the Horn of Africa, ASALs represent more than 60% of the total area, where the pastoral population is estimated to number between 12 million and 22 million and animals and their products are for self-consumption, sale in national markets or export to the growing coastal cities. In West Africa, they account for up to 65% of the beef supply. Worldwide, pastoralists constitute one of the poorest population sub-groups. The incidence of extreme poverty among African pastoralists ranges from 25% to 55%.

Dr Forman added that the recurrent food security crises in the Horn of Africa and the security situation in the Sahel are stark reminders that the root causes of vulnerability in ASALs need more attention. Requests from countries and Regional Economic Commissions had prompted the World Bank's strong re-engagement in supporting the development of pastoral areas, in line with pillar 3 (equity) of its Global Agenda for

livestock. This had led to major analytical studies, as well as to two flagship regional operations: the Horn of Africa Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (approved by the Board in March 2014) and the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project, which is in the early stages of preparation.

In Dr Forman’s view, by enhancing the ability of Veterinary Services to deliver animal health services to mobile communities in dry areas, these two operations will play a key role in ensuring that the projects achieve their objectives. The OIE PVS pathway remains the core pre-operation tool for guiding investments to strengthen these Veterinary Services. Surveillance and control of transboundary, zoonotic and productivity-affecting animal diseases, including through harmonised vaccination campaigns, will indeed help to increase the resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities to external shocks and to improve their market access. For this, collaboration with and support from international technical organisations, such as the OIE, FAO or AU-IBAR, will be crucial to building the capacity of countries and RECs and achieving our goal. The World Bank representative re-emphasised the importance of OIE activities as Global Public Goods and reiterated the World Bank’s support for it. He recognised the crucial work conducted by the Chief Veterinary Officers in this regard in their respective countries, both in Africa and worldwide.

The meeting officially ended at 7:00 p.m.

.../Appendix

Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Paris, 26 May 2014**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Report on OIE Council meetings
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa
5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Southern Africa, North Africa, and Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa
6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016
7. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa
8. Election of a representative of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in the OIE Council and election of the Vice-President of the World Assembly of Delegates
9. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept
10. Organisation of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015
11. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives
12. Implementation of the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme in Africa
13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of Notification by Members in Africa
14. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
 - Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in CEMAC (CEBEVIRHA)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC)
 - Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC)
 - Southern African Development Community (SADC)
 - West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)
 - World Bank

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 26 May 2014

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 97 participants, including Delegates and observers from 20 Members of the Commission and representatives from 5 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, United States of America and Uruguay.

International/regional organisations: CVP⁴⁷, FAO, IICA⁴⁸, OIRSA⁴⁹, PAHO-PANAFTOSA⁵⁰.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, seconded by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, and Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The proposal by Dr Francisco Muzio, from Uruguay, to include an item on the use of compartments not practising foot and mouth disease vaccination for sheep was adopted. The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was adopted unanimously.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America and member of the OIE Council, described the status of Members' contributions. He pointed out that, although some Members still had outstanding contributions, there was a continuing trend for countries to upgrade their category of statutory contributions to the OIE, as well as voluntary contributions to the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund. He encouraged countries to keep up this trend.

3. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates, reminded participants that, as members of the OIE Council, he and Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America, act as the conduit for putting the region's concerns to the OIE to ensure they are properly addressed, including matters pertaining to the logistics of the current General Session.

⁴⁷ CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

⁴⁸ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁴⁹ OIRSA: Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria

⁵⁰ PAHO: Pan American Health Organization - PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

He said that the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in Jalisco (Mexico) from 10 to 14 November 2014, would provide the appropriate opportunity to discuss the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan, which had been distributed to Delegates of countries in the region.

He also urged countries to participate actively in the process of standard-setting and adoption of OIE standards by sending their comments on the reports of Specialized Commissions.

Dr Correa and Dr Clifford reminded participants about the elections to be held in May 2015 to select the OIE Director General and members of the Council, Specialized Commissions and Regional Commissions.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas including the discussions at the Regional Commission meeting on Sunday 25 May 2014

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, reported that the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas had met several times in the past year. The meetings had addressed administrative and technical matters. The President of the Regional Commission said that the latest meetings of the Bureau of the Regional Commission had been held in August 2013 and prior to the 82nd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates. He also mentioned that a videoconferencing system provided by the Regional Representation was being used for technical meetings on specific situations.

The administrative activities discussed by the Bureau of the Commission included the status of Members' contributions and the organisation of the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in Mexico in November 2014.

On the technical side, Dr Figueiredo Marques said that, in 2014, past and planned meetings in the region included: seminar of the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health (CISA, Cuba); regional seminar for OIE National Focal Points for veterinary products (Canada); and seminar of the Committee of the Americas for Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET, Canada).

The President described the outcomes of the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body in Brazil in December 2013.

Dr Figueiredo Marques said that the virtual meeting on porcine epidemic diarrhoea had identified the need for guidelines on measures for the control, surveillance, diagnosis and movement of animals and animal products. He urged countries in the Americas to participate actively in the ongoing discussions.

He also took the opportunity to briefly comment on the discussions at the Regional Commission meeting on Sunday, 25 May 2014, which had covered: the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan; the "high-health, high-performance horse" concept; official recognition for countries free from classical swine fever; criteria for the inclusion of diseases on the OIE list and the region's position on draft amendments of certain chapters of the *Code*; the possible establishment of a regional technical committee on bee diseases; the current status of payments to the OIE for the cost of recognising countries as historically free from foot and mouth disease and African horse sickness; and the difficulties faced by some small countries in paying their contribution.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, presented a summary of the activities of the Regional Representation (Buenos Aires) and Sub-Regional Representation (Panama).

Dr Barcos reported that the Regional Representation would continue to coordinate regular meetings of the Bureau of the Regional Commission to follow up on: the conclusions of the regional conference in Barbados in 2012; progress with organising the next regional conference to be held in Mexico from 10 to 14 November 2014; and the work programme for the Americas.

He said that the participation of Member Countries in the updating of OIE standards would be promoted by: building the capacity of Veterinary Services, including in the area of aquatic animal health; holding seminars for Delegates and National Focal Points; and promoting the implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway, including building the capacity of the region's laboratories. He reported that experts from Member Countries of the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP) would be trained to enable PVS Evaluation missions to be conducted in CVP member countries every two years. He also pointed to interest among Central American countries in OIE missions to evaluate their aquatic animal health services.

He described activities to ensure OIE membership for countries in the Caribbean Sub-Region that are not yet OIE Members.

He discussed activities to ensure the effective implementation of OIE standards on foot and mouth disease (FMD), including: an agreement between the OIE and the Andean Community (CAN) to implement actions at borders; interaction with regional and international organisations based on the FAO/OIE Global Strategy for the control of FMD; and expert field missions.

He reported on meetings and coordination activities with international organisations in connection with the Regional Steering Committee for the Americas of the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs).

He also described actions for implementing the recommendations of the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body held in December 2013.

He added that the behaviour of diseases of interest to the region is being kept under constant surveillance, including porcine epidemic diarrhoea and shrimp early mortality syndrome.

Dr Barcos explained that it is imperative for Delegates to become involved in providing information to help ascertain how much progress countries of the region have made in disseminating and implementing the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas. He also pointed to the need for Member Countries' support in providing and maintaining information to run the web application on the capabilities of national laboratories in the region. He added that a survey of National Focal Points had been conducted to assess the impact of capacity-building activities.

He concluded by detailing planned activities to be carried out in the current year, thanking Member Countries that are providing financial support.

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session:

- “Modelling tools for the simulation and early warning of foreign animal diseases (FAD) and emerging threats”

7. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (without questionnaire) for inclusion in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas:

- “Implementation of the compartmentalisation concept: practical experience and perspectives”

8. Organisation of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Jalisco (Mexico) from 10 to 14 November 2014

Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez, Delegate of Mexico, officially confirmed his country’s commitment to organising the next Conference, to be held in the city of Guadalajara, Jalisco, and reported on progress with its organisation.

9. Election of the Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission

Dr Carlos Correa, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates, informed participants that the Delegate of Peru had stepped down, leaving vacant the position of Secretary General of the Regional Commission, which requires an election to be held.

Dr Martine Dubuc, Delegate of Canada, was unanimously elected as Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

The membership of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas until 2015 is as follows:

President:	Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques (Brazil)
Vice-President:	Dr Miguel Angel Azañón Robles (Guatemala)
Vice-President:	Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados)
Secretary General:	Dr Martine Dubuc (Canada)

This proposal will have to be confirmed by the World Assembly.

10. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, gave the Commission a brief presentation on preparations for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan for the 2016-2020 period. He informed Delegates that a preliminary version of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan had been drafted on the basis of discussions at the previous Council meetings (October 2013 and February 2014).

He reminded participants that the draft had been forwarded to all OIE Delegates in early May 2014 to enable them to submit comments and observations to Council Members in their region.

Dr Correa Messuti emphasised that the aim of his presentation was to summarise the key information regarding the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan in order to start discussions among Delegates with the aim of finalising the Strategic Plan over forthcoming Council meetings. He said that the final text would be circulated among Member Countries for comments in March 2015 with a view to its adoption at the 83th General Session in May 2015.

He reiterated that the OIE Council considered that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan should:

- contain a revised consolidated statement of OIE’s strategic vision and its global goals;
- take into account current and anticipated global trends and challenges affecting OIE’s operating environment;
- incorporate important cross-cutting issues;
- be ambitious but not necessarily expansive;
- be high-level, flexible and enabling rather than prescriptive, and allow for optional approaches in order to be responsive and facilitate implementation; and
- be developed with the engagement of all Members of the OIE.

Dr Correa Messuti explained that this topic would be included in the agenda of all OIE Council meetings and OIE Regional Conferences to be held over the coming year.

Dr Correa Messuti reported that, in October 2013, the OIE Council had reviewed the Strategic Objectives and discussed factors expected to impact on the operating environment during the 2016-2020 period, as well as organisational dynamics and institutional arrangements, including the duties and relevance of the current Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, the operation of Regional and Sub Regional Representations, and relationships and synergies with other international organisations. He said that the OIE Council would also be establishing a flexible five-year strategic human resources plan for the recruitment, retention and development of OIE staff.

Dr Correa Messuti concluded by inviting Delegates to provide their thoughts and comments on the initial framework and directions for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. He emphasised that Members’ comments were most welcome and highly valued and said that Members could provide their input to the OIE Director General and to OIE Council members representing the Americas region.

11. OIE procedure for official recognition of classical swine fever status

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Officer in charge of the recognition of countries’ animal disease status, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, gave an overview of the OIE procedure for official recognition of classical swine fever status. She explained that an initial assessment of applications from Member Countries wishing to receive OIE official recognition of freedom from classical swine fever would be made in the course of 2014, with a view to the first applications being approved at the 83rd General Session in May 2015.

She added that a series of workshops would be held in all five regions to inform Members more fully about the procedure for OIE official recognition of animal disease status. A first pilot workshop in the Americas region is planned for March 2015.

12. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by referring to the significant worldwide growth of the sport horse industry, bringing with it measurable and significant socio-economic benefits to the respective national economies.

She explained that the OIE has engaged, for the past two years, in the development of the high health, high performance horse (HHP) concept to facilitate the safe international movement of horses to compete at international equestrian events. She noted that the concept excludes international movement for the purpose of breeding.

She noted that the concept is based on principles that are already well established in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, with special reference to the Chapters on: (i) identification and traceability; (ii) zoning and compartmentalisation; (iii) model passport for competition horses; (iv) certification procedures; and, (v) transport by air, land and sea. Furthermore, comprehensive biosecurity guidelines for HHP horses at their home stable, during transport and at the venue are being developed.

Dr Münstermann then informed participants that the OIE has laid down these general overarching principles for the HHP concept in a new *Code* chapter, in line with the approach that had been previously taken when introducing Animal Welfare chapters into the *Code*.

Dr Münstermann added that acceptance of these general principles by OIE Member Countries would provide the OIE *Ad hoc* Group with a clear vision to propose the tools necessary to build the framework for the HHP concept, e.g. additional guidelines.

Dr Münstermann concluded by stating that a regional workshop was organised in Panama December 2012 to present the HHP concept and to analyse the currently existing import regulations for horses into countries of the region. She mentioned that the analysis revealed a wide diversity of regulations and that some 25 diseases are regulated for the importation of horses.

She added that a more comprehensive presentation on the concept and its accompanying tools will be given at the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Mexico in November 2014.

Discussion

Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, congratulated Dr Münstermann on the *Ad hoc* Group's progress and reiterated that the draft was confined strictly to the HHP concept, confirming that Delegates would have an opportunity to raise any questions and concerns during the General Session or later throughout the OIE standard-setting process.

He explained that details on such matters as the description of sub-populations, certification, diagnosis, transport and others, would be part of an international biosecurity plan to be prepared by the private sector, in consultation with Members, which would be based on the OIE's biosecurity guidelines.

It was unanimously agreed that the Delegate of Brazil would make a statement at the respective plenary session on behalf of all countries in the region to express their support for the HHP concept.

13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in the Americas

Dr Paula Cáceres-Soto, Acting Head, OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease notification concerning the Region.

She started by emphasizing the importance of timely disease reporting through WAHIS by the countries/territories, and of the provision of other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control, to maintain transparency, to enhance trade and to contribute to the global early warning. She then went on to provide relevant information on compliance with reporting for 2013 in the Americas.

Dr Cáceres-Soto also showed the evolution of the number of countries from the Region submitting reports to the OIE since 2005 as well as the evolution of submission time since 2005, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Finally, Dr Cáceres-Soto presented the recent exceptional events of porcine epidemic diarrhoea in the Americas.

Discussion

In this regard, Dr Delgadillo Álvarez, Delegate of Mexico, highlighted the need for a harmonised case definition of porcine epidemic diarrhoea.

On the subject of failure to report aquatic animal diseases, Dr Max Millien, Delegate of Haiti, said that this was due to lack of trained personnel. In this regard, Dr Joaquín Delgadillo, Delegate of Mexico, and Dr Alicia Gallardo, Delegate of Chile, offered their countries' support in providing such training.

For his part, Dr Figueiredo Marques stressed the importance for countries to comply with their obligation to report animal diseases within the established time frame.

14. Proposals for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres

Proposals by the United States of America

Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America, presented the Commission with two applications for new Collaborating Centres. The first was for the OIE to consider Sandia National Laboratories, International Biological Threat Program (SNL/IBTR) as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Laboratory Biorisk Management”.

The second application was for the OIE to consider the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD) as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Biological Threat Reduction”.

Dr Clifford provided a brief review of the centres and their activities, adding that further details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission approved the proposals by the United States, which will be presented for endorsement by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

Proposal by Brazil

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil, presented the Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO-PANAFTOSA) as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Veterinary Public Health”.

Dr Figueiredo Marques provided a brief review of the centre and its activities, adding that further details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission approved the proposal by Brazil, which will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates.

15. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

• **Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO-PANAFTOSA)**

Dr Ottorino Cosivi, Coordinator, Veterinary Public Health Project and Director of the World Health Organization’s Pan American Center for Foot and Mouth Disease (PAHO-PANAFTOSA), detailed the organisation’s activities over the past year under the “One Health” concept, in particular the sixteenth Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMS 16) and the veterinary public health programme. Activities included the surveillance, prevention and control of zoonoses and emerging infectious diseases and actions relating to the safety of food for human consumption and the prevention of foodborne disease.

• **Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)**

Dr Julio Urzúa, CVP Acting Technical Secretary, gave a brief summary of CVP’s main activities, emphasising those under the MERCOSUR Foot and Mouth Disease-free Action Plan (PAMA) and announcing that Paraguay had recovered its status as an FMD-free country practising vaccination. He pointed out that PAMA was nearing completion and, in view of its success, the CVP had begun working with PANAFTOSA to undertake stage two.

Dr Urzúa mentioned that PAMA activities had included four visits to border areas that were former high surveillance zones in order to continue the technical missions recommended by the OIE and the activities to which countries had committed, with the participation of field and laboratory technicians from CVP member countries.

He reported that the CVP had conducted visits to support sero-epidemiological sampling in two countries in the region with the aim of providing technical cooperation and enabling the countries to participate in the CVP as observers. He then reviewed the follow-up of regional assistance plans based on the results and agreements of previous missions.

He said that, in addition to the recent OIE PVS evaluation follow-up missions to Brazil and Uruguay, and the forthcoming one to Bolivia, as well as the OIE PVS evaluation mission to be carried out in Argentina, CVP activities to strengthen official Veterinary Services comprise two basic components: a mechanism for the systematic evaluation of official Veterinary Services and the training of a team of qualified professionals to implement the evaluation mechanism. To train an evaluation team, Dr Urzúa explained that the OIE would deliver a course to train CVP professionals in the use of the OIE PVS tool.

As regards activities to strengthen official Veterinary Services, Dr Urzúa reported that 16 professionals from the CVP's six official Veterinary Services had taken part in a risk communication course delivered by the IICA in 2013.

He reported that, since the last OIE General Session, meetings of two CVP ad hoc groups had been held: one on food safety (GIdEA) and one on avian influenza (GIA).

Dr Urzúa concluded by saying that an international seminar had been held to commemorate the CVP's tenth anniversary, which had featured distinguished speakers, including from the OIE.

- **Andean Community (CAN)**

In the absence of the CAN representative, it was agreed to include the summary sent by the organisation.

The activities conducted by the Andean Technical Committee on Agricultural and Livestock Health (COTASA), which stem from Decision 515 of the Andean Community Commission, form the basis for the Andean Agricultural Health System (SASA), the establishment of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and joint action programmes.

CAN harmonisation and standard-setting activities include decisions on: veterinary products; community risk analysis; quarantine control; measures for the prevention, control and eradication of foot and mouth disease; movement of livestock commodities and disease reporting.

Lastly, the activities of joint action programmes include coordination with the OIE and other international organisations.

- **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)**

Dr Robert G. Ahern, Head of Agricultural Health and Food Safety at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), presented IICA's animal health activities over the past year. He detailed its hemispheric activities and projects, including: collaboration in the organisation of a seminar to disseminate OIE standards (at the consultation stage); draft good farming practices; and harmonisation of regulations on products intended for animal feed, in collaboration with the Latin American Feed Industry Association (Feedlatina).

He described regional activities and projects relating to: the research and innovation network for animal health – brucellosis and tuberculosis; the regional project CARIFORUM-European Community Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) (to support the Caribbean Forum in implementing commitments under the EPA in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures); and support for the Standing Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP).

He concluded by detailing national activities and projects conducted in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Venezuela.

- **International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA)**

Dr Luis Alberto Espinoza Rodezno, Disease Control Coordinator of the OIRSA Animal Health Regional Coordination Office, reported on the main activities conducted in 2013, highlighting the following.

1. Coordination of an online course on transboundary animal diseases with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and with the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics (IICAB) and Iowa State University in the United States;

2. Regional project to improve veterinary legislation in OIRSA member countries (STDF/PG/358) of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), with support from the OIE and FAO;
3. Completion of prevalence studies of bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis in Central America; a study on the socioeconomic cost of brucellosis in countries conducted jointly with FAO; finalisation of several proposals, including the regional programme for the control and eradication of bovine brucellosis from OIRSA member countries;
4. Funding and technical monitoring of classical swine fever; establishment of the control phase in Guatemala; financial support for epidemiological surveillance in self-declared free countries;
5. Desk-top simulation of acute hepatopancreatic necrosis syndrome (AHPNS) in Honduras and a field simulation exercise in Nicaragua; preparation of a manual on epidemiological surveillance and an emergency plan for control and eradication;
6. Financial support for the animal health emergency programme to tackle the emergence of *Aethina tumida* in El Salvador;
7. Preparation of an H7N3 highly pathogenic influenza virus prevention plan for Central America; updating of the emergency plan and support for surveillance in Belize and Guatemala;
8. Training on good animal welfare practices during transport and slaughter.
9. Practical guide to best practice in the use of veterinary medicines and a manual on withdrawal periods for antiparasitic agents;
10. Coordination with Mexico in preparing the action plan for the Central American Laboratory Network.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Tito Díaz, Senior Livestock Development Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, said the world is experiencing severe pressure on natural resources and agriculture as a result of globalisation, climate change and population growth, in turn increasing the risk of emergence or re-emergence of animal diseases, which have a serious impact on animal production and productivity, trade and public health.

He added that, in the Americas, diseases such as foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever and New World screwworm have been prioritised under GF TADs, and that FAO, together with Veterinary Services in the region, has implemented a comprehensive control strategy to cope with disease threats, chiefly at the animal–human–ecosystems interface. This approach has been used to strengthen national control and eradication programmes, integrating animal health education as a key component of these programmes.

He said that, using this comprehensive strategic approach, FAO is working to facilitate synergy among the animal health, public health, environmental and rural development sectors, and is helping to establish public-private partnerships to reduce animal health risks and their impact on the economy.

He concluded by saying that FAO and its partners have understood that the time is right to move towards a truly global approach to animal health that takes into account regional differences, and to strive for dynamic linking of health, institutional strengthening and governance to ensure sustainable development and food and nutrition security.

16. Other matters

Chapter 8.X. (Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *melitensis* and *suis*) and Chapter 6.9. (Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine)

The Delegate of the United States of America proposed minor changes to amended Chapters 8.X. and 6.9., which will be proposed for adoption at the current General Session. The proposed changes were endorsed by the Members and it was agreed that the Delegate of the United States of America would submit them on behalf of the countries of the Americas.

Movement of animals from FMD-free zones practising vaccination to free zones not practising vaccination

The Members of the Americas endorsed the amendments to Chapter 8.6.13 on the movement of animals from FMD-free zones practising vaccination to free zones not practising vaccination. The Delegate of Mexico stressed the need to include the requirement that animals should not have been vaccinated within 12 months of being moved. It was decided that the Delegate of Mexico would submit the proposal to the Assembly on behalf of the countries of the Americas.

Use of compartments not practising foot and mouth disease vaccination for sheep

Dr Francisco Muzio said that Uruguay has FMD-free status with vaccination for cattle, but without vaccination for sheep. He reported that, as a result of public-private partnership, a compartment of around 300 hectares of free-range grazing for 1,500 unvaccinated sheep had been defined and organised. He offered to share the outcomes of this experience with other countries, pointing out that this was the very first compartmentalisation system for sheep.

The meeting officially ended at 6:30 p.m.

.../Appendix

Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS
Paris, 26 May 2014**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Report on OIE Council meetings
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas including the discussions of the Regional Commission meeting on Sunday 25 May 2014
5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America
6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016
7. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
8. Organisation of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Jalisco (Mexico) from 10 to 14 November 2014
9. Election of the Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission
10. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives
11. OIE procedure for official recognition of classical swine fever status
12. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept
13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in the Americas
14. Proposals for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres
15. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO-PANAFTOSA)
 - Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)
 - Andean Community of Nations (CAN)
 - Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
 - International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
16. Other matters

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

Paris, 26 May 2014

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 94 participants, including Delegates and observers from 23 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of), Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

Observer countries/territories: France, Hong Kong.

International/regional organisations: FAO, ILRI, SPC⁵¹, WSPA.

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of the People's Republic of China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations and introduced the Members of the Regional Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The Agenda and the annexes concerning agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and member of the OIE Council, reminded the meeting that there were six different categories of country statutory contributions to the OIE. He indicated that each Member Country should belong to the category suited to that country's economic level and that, once a Member Country makes a commitment, it should ensure that contributions are paid in a timely manner.

Dr Schipp reported that most Regional Commission Members comply with their financial commitments to the OIE. However, he said that contributions from 5 countries are still outstanding and urged any Members with arrears to settle them promptly. He reminded participants that Members in arrears could forfeit their right to vote and participate in the corresponding OIE decision-making procedures.

He urged Member Countries to move up to a higher contribution category where possible. He thanked Singapore for increasing its contribution by one category.

⁵¹ SPC: Secretariat of the Pacific Community

3. Report on OIE Council meetings including the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives

Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and member of the OIE Council, extended the apologies of Dr Kawashima, Delegate of Japan and member of the OIE Council, for his inability to attend the meeting.

He commented on general Council issues, pointing out that the applications for accession to the OIE by South Sudan and Liberia had been examined by the Council and given a favourable opinion. He said that they would be submitted to the 82nd OIE General Session for approval by the World Assembly of Delegates.

He added that the Council had approved the signing of agreements with several international organisations, pending approval by the World Assembly at the 82nd General Session. Approved agreements are with: the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA), the International Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH) and the Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC).

Furthermore, Dr Schipp gave the Commission a brief presentation on the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan for the 2016-2020 period. He informed Delegates that a preliminary version of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan had been drafted on the basis of discussions at the previous Council meetings (October 2013 and February 2014).

He reminded participants that the draft had been forwarded to all OIE Delegates in early May 2014 to enable them to submit comments and observations to Council Members in their region.

Dr Schipp emphasised that the aim of his presentation was to summarise the key information regarding the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan in order to start discussions among Delegates with the aim of finalising the Strategic Plan over forthcoming Council meetings. He said that the final text would be circulated among Member Countries for comments in March 2015 with a view to its adoption at the 83rd General Session in May 2015.

He reiterated that the OIE Council considered that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan should:

- contain a revised consolidated statement of OIE's strategic vision and its global goals;
- take into account current and anticipated global trends and challenges affecting OIE's operating environment;
- incorporate important cross-cutting issues;
- be ambitious but not necessarily expansive;
- be high-level, flexible and enabling rather than prescriptive, and allow for optional approaches in order to be responsive and facilitate implementation; and
- be developed with the engagement of all Members of the OIE.

Dr Schipp explained that this topic would be included in the agenda of all OIE Council meetings and OIE Regional Conferences to be held over the coming year.

He reported that, in October 2013, the OIE Council had reviewed the Strategic Objectives and discussed factors expected to impact on the operating environment during the 2016-2020 period, as well as organisational dynamics and institutional arrangements, including the duties and relevance of the current Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, the

operation of Regional and Sub Regional Representations, and relationships and synergies with other international organisations. He said that the OIE Council would also be establishing a flexible five-year strategic human resources plan for the recruitment, retention and development of OIE staff.

Dr Schipp concluded by inviting Delegates to provide their thoughts and comments on the initial framework and directions for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. He emphasised that Members' comments were most welcome and highly valued and said that Members could provide their input to the OIE Director General and to OIE Council members representing the Asia, Far East and Oceania region.

To date, solely Dr Kawashima and Dr Schipp had provided comments on the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. Dr Schipp urged Member Countries to send their comments by mid July 2014. He reiterated that their comments are important to ensure that OIE Sixth Strategic Plan reflects the views of the region.

Discussion

Dr Syukur Iwantoro, Delegate of Indonesia, queried whether there was further information on output '*Economic benefits due to protection of livestock and sustainable trade*' under Strategic Objective 1 - Securing animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management.

Dr Schipp explained that this output aims to demonstrate the importance of animal health to the larger community, including for increasing and improving animal production; and that this should be communicated to national policy makers in order to make a case for greater investment in the sector.

Dr Davinio Catbagan, commended the Council for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan and also urged Member Countries to issue comments. He stated that the Philippines had no additional comments to make to the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan.

Dr Tashi Samdup, Delegate of Bhutan, also positively commented on the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan but suggested that further reference should be given to the ecosystem interface.

Dr Schipp agreed and noted that the ecosystem interface should be further emphasised given that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan encourages a One Health approach.

Dr Matthew Stone, Delegate of New-Zealand, congratulated the Council, particularly Dr Kawashima and Dr Schipp. He stated that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan was a coherent and transparent document and recognised that the approach to concentrate on three strategic objectives and three crosscutting areas was helpful to sharpen the focus of future direction. With reference to item 'Headquarters and Regional/ Sub-Regional Offices' under crosscutting Area C – Governance, he requested that a clear statement be made to further elucidate the relationship between Headquarters and the Region (Regional Commission and (Sub) Regional Representations) given their important role in the governance structure of the OIE. Linked to this, he underlined the importance of good coordination between these parties.

Dr Schipp concurred and stated that there is a need to further define the strategic purpose of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. He recommended better defining the roles of National Focal Points to the OIE, particularly their contribution to governance in Member Countries through their support to national Delegates to the OIE.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania including the outcomes of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Cebu (Philippines) from 18 to 22 November 2013

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of the People's Republic of China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, gave a presentation on the activities of the Commission. He informed the Delegates that, following the 81st OIE General Session, he had been invited to but was unable to attend the key world conference, OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body, held in Foz do Iguazu (Brazil) in December 2013. Regretting his absence due to other commitments in his own country, he noted that participation by Regional Commission Members had not been very high, in part owing to the geographical distance involved. He encouraged Regional Commission Members to take steps to action the recommendations adopted by OIE Member Countries during this important Conference, in close communication with their veterinary education establishments, Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Veterinary Services.

Dr Zhang reported that he had attended the seventh Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, held in Tokyo in July 2013, where he was nominated as the new Chairman of the Regional Steering Committee, adding that a detailed explanation would be given by the Regional Representative. Dr Zhang noted that he had attended the sixth Meeting of the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee, held in Rome on 29 and 30 October 2013, in his capacity as Chairman of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific.

Dr Zhang then explained that the regional core group, established pursuant to a recommendation in the Regional Work Plan Framework, continued to meet on an *ad hoc* basis while maintaining communication through email. He expected such communication to be expanded beyond core group members to all Regional Commission Members and noted that the regional Delegate site, which is about to be launched, should contribute to this aim. He said that further explanation of core group meetings and issues communicated among Members would be provided by other core group Members following his presentation.

Dr Zhang reminded Regional Commission Members of the discussion that had taken place at the Regional Commission meeting during the 81st General Session about how to improve communication with experts of Specialist Commissions elected from the region, to ensure that the region contributes effectively to OIE standard-setting process. Dr Zhang was pleased to report on the success of the special half-day regional seminar for OIE Delegates on the activities of Specialist Commissions, which had been held alongside the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission in Cebu (Philippines). Dr Zhang asked for Members' thoughts on whether this had been useful and whether and how such an initiative should be expanded.

Dr Zhang went on to describe the outcomes of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission, which had been attended by a total of 105 OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 22 Members. In particular, Dr Zhang listed the main recommendations following the discussions of each of the two technical items.

Technical Item I (with questionnaire), entitled "The use of cost-benefit analysis in animal disease control, including practical examples from the region", led to recommendations that:

- Member Countries consider economic analysis in the planning of animal disease control and eradication programmes;
- the OIE establish an *ad hoc* group and publish guidelines on economic analysis in animal health policies, including disease control and eradication.

Technical Item II (without questionnaire), entitled “Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) control in the region”, led to recommendations that:

- OIE Member Countries systematically notify the occurrence of PRRS in a timely manner using the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS);
- OIE Member Countries develop a national disease control strategy for PRRS and other infectious diseases of swine addressing such issues as animal movement management and control to prevent the spread of PRRS virus;
- the OIE develop, in the *Terrestrial Manual*, new standards on the quality of vaccines for PRRS;
- the OIE, in collaboration with other international and regional organisations, support the development and publication of scientific information on PRRS, including biosecurity and surveillance.

Regional Commission Members were reminded that the adopted recommendations would be presented for endorsement at the seventh plenary session on 27th May, making their implementation binding on the overall OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

Lastly, Dr Zhang reported on the Regional Information Seminar for newly appointed OIE Delegates, held in Beijing (China) in April 2014. Despite the extremely comprehensive programme, with three regional core group members, including himself, as speakers, he regretted to note that participation had not been as high as desired. Dr Zhang reminded the Commission that two global conferences were planned in the region: one for OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in Korea in October and another for aquatic animals in Vietnam in January, encouraging Regional Commission Members to participate actively.

5. Status report on the Regional Work Plan Framework 2011-2015

Dr Matthew Stone, Delegate of New Zealand and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, discussed the report on progress with the Regional Work Plan Framework 2011-2015 provided to the Regional Commission. He explained that the framework had been developed to provide structure to the region’s work within the context of the Fifth OIE Strategic Plan. The framework has been valuable in raising both awareness of the region’s effectiveness and its profile. Regional Members have: reported more disease incidents; made a greater contribution to standard-setting process; strengthened Veterinary Services; and gained a better understanding of ‘One Health’ approaches.

He explained that, in view of previous achievements and the fact that the work plan framework expires in 2015, it was sensible to begin work on the next edition in light of the Sixth OIE strategic plan. The current work plan framework has encouraged:

- contribution to and implementation of science-based standards and guidelines;
- prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, including zoonoses;
- scientific excellence in information and advice through reference centres and twinning arrangements;
- stronger Veterinary Services;

- cooperation with partner agencies consistent with One Health approaches;
- enhanced cooperation and communication within the region;
- increased sharing of comments and participation in standard-setting;
- regional activities under the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Implementation Plan;
- increased cooperation with other multilateral agencies in the region; and
- support for GF-TADS activities.

He concluded by proposing the Regional Commission to consider the need for a new Regional Work Plan Framework and start the discussions regarding the elements it might include.

Discussion

Prof. Suresh Honnappagol from India inquired why the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania had not participated in Regional Commission meetings held in other OIE Regions.

Dr Stone replied that this was not possible during the General Session given that all Regional Commission meeting are conducted in parallel. With regard to Regional Conferences, to date, the participation of a member of the Secretariat in other Regional Conferences had not been identified as a priority and also incurred a corresponding cost and commitment. Dr Stone concluded by agreeing that participating in Regional Conferences in other regions could indeed strengthen good collaboration among regions.

Dr Schipp highlighted that the regional approach adopted by the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region had been a model for other regions and encouraged Member Countries to participate in the definition of the new Regional Work Plan. He invited the Secretariat to commence working on this Work Plan and offered Australia's support in its development. He complimented the region's Member Countries for their active engagement in OIE standard setting activities and other arenas. He drew attention to the fact that SEACFMD Campaign had been identified as a model regional disease control and that this recognition was also manifested during the opening speeches of the 82nd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates to the OIE.

Dr Michael Appleby of WSPA congratulated the Region for its Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) and inquired whether animal welfare would remain a priority in the future Regional Work Plan.

Dr Stone confirmed that animal welfare was an important issue and therefore would continue to have high profile in the Region. He reminded the participants that a presentation on RAWS would be given later in the agenda.

6. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (RR-AP), started his presentation by a summary of the Regional Representation activities and by informing the Commission of recent staff changes at the Regional Representation.

He reported that capacity-building activities had included a regional information seminar for newly appointed OIE Delegates, which was held in April in Beijing, attended by six new Delegates or their representatives, and noted that 13 new Delegates had been appointed in the last two years among 32 Members. He added that four seminars for National Focal Points are scheduled in 2014 (for animal production food safety; wildlife; veterinary products; and animal welfare), while the seminar for aquatic animal health had been postponed to 2015.

Dr Kugita explained that, as the Secretariat for GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Representation had held GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee Meetings every year back-to-back with the Steering Committee meeting of the Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases (HPED) and discussed collaboration among sub-regions, international organisations and Members. He informed the Commission that the next Regional Steering Committee meeting will be held in Bangkok (Thailand) on 17-18 July 2014. He added that, to facilitate collaboration with relevant partner organisations, the Regional Representation is attending meetings of such organisations, including the meeting of Chief Veterinary Officers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and that of the Sectoral Working Group on Livestock of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

He reported on the progress of the “OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) Project for foot and mouth disease (FMD) control in Asia”, including development of the Roadmap for FMD Control in East Asia, which had been endorsed by the Regional Commission at the 28th Regional Conference, held in Cebu (Philippines) in November 2013. He mentioned that, in response to this roadmap, some Members in East Asia are now working to develop national FMD control plans, or to regain FMD-free status with vaccination to be endorsed by the OIE. He reported on other field activities carried out under this project, including FMD diagnosis training, FMD vaccination campaigns and FMD epidemiology studies in selected regional Members, adding that the next meetings under the project will be held in September 2014.

He informed the Commission about the new “OIE/JTF project on controlling zoonoses in Asia under the One Health concept”, launched in December 2013, saying that two meetings will be organised in August 2014: regional training on rabies diagnosis and a Regional Workshop on influenza surveillance. He then referred to other capacity-building workshops and training carried out or to be carried out in the region.

Finally, he informed the Commission that both the Regional Representation and Sub-regional Representation updated the regional website frequently to enhance the visibility of OIE activities.

7. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia (SRR-SEA), presented a report on the role and responsibilities of the SRR-SEA. He described the three major donor-funded programmes of the Sub-Regional Representation: Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) initiative, funded by the Australian Government’s overseas aid programme (AusAID); Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases (HPED), funded by the European Union; and IDENTIFY, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Dr Abila reported on the successful STANDZ Mid-Term Review (MTR), which had highlighted the key achievements of the three programmes under its umbrella: the South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) campaign; the Strengthening Initiatives for Veterinary Services (STRIVES) programme; and the One Health programme with a focus on rabies. The STANDZ initiative was found to remain highly relevant to: promoting FMD control efforts in the region; improving Veterinary Services; controlling rabies and promoting a One Health approach; and helping the OIE to build its programme management capacity in the region.

He also commented on the 20th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Myanmar. One of the meeting's key outputs was an analysis of key epidemiological changes in circulating FMD viruses, particularly serotype A. It was also recommended to review the SEACFMD 2020 roadmap in the light of the new epidemiological findings and the changes in Members' socio-economic development.

Dr Abila provided details of the following SRR-SEA activities conducted for Members:

- SEACFMD provided support for various FMD control-related activities, including advising countries on technical aspects of FMD control;
- a Concept Note for the five-year New Zealand FMD project in South-East Asia was approved. A Project Design Mission was conducted in Vietnam, Myanmar and Laos in order to fully develop a project proposal based on the approved Concept Note;
- provision of vaccines (FMD vaccines to Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from OIE vaccine banks; rabies vaccines under the HPED programme, and rabies vaccines to the Philippines under the STANDZ initiative);
- proposals for a comprehensive (2014-2016) FMD Project in northern Lao People's Democratic Republic and a rabies project in the Philippines have been submitted to the STANDZ Steering Committee for approval;
- the Veterinary Services Strategic Plans for the Philippines and Lao People's Democratic Republic were drafted on the basis of the OIE PVS Evaluation and PVS Gap Analysis reports;
- in preparation for the comprehensive rabies project, dog census and registration in Masbate, one of the two pilot provinces in the Philippines has progressed and is presently being encoded into the Philippine Animal Health Information System (PhilAHIS);
- SRR-SEA, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organised training on "Laboratory quality assurance: internal quality control and standardisation of diagnostic reagents and tests", which was held at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory;
- SRR-SEA, together with the World Health Organization (WHO), supported joint training on animal health and public health laboratories in Thailand for the detection of influenza-like illnesses.

Dr Abila also presented the following activities for the rest of the year, listed under each programme.

- SEACFMD: review of the SEACFMD 2020 roadmap; launch of comprehensive FMD control in northern Lao People's Democratic Republic and central Myanmar; conducting training on communication and outbreak investigation and management; organising meetings of National Coordinators, epidemiology and laboratory networks.
- STRIVES: follow-up PVS evaluation missions in Myanmar and possibly Cambodia; organising the fourth workshop of veterinary education establishments and veterinary statutory bodies in South-East Asia to continue to encourage the adoption of OIE recommendations on the competencies of graduating veterinarians (Day 1 graduates) and OIE guidelines on a veterinary education core curriculum; finalising the training module for middle management; exploring twinning of veterinary education establishments within the region.
- One Health/rabies: organising a workshop on OIE standards on rabies and training on laboratory diagnosis; launch of comprehensive rabies control projects in Myanmar and the Philippines.
- HPED: continued delivery of FMD and rabies vaccines to eligible countries and zones; assisting with follow-up PVS missions; organising training for National Focal Points for animal production food safety and participating in other focal point training to be organised by the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific; pursuing various communication and visibility activities for HPED projects.
- IDENTIFY: conducting initial laboratory strategic planning in Malaysia; conducting follow-up strategic planning in the Philippines and China; supporting Member Countries' laboratory staff for training in OIE Reference Laboratories; organising the Laboratory Directors' Forum Meeting jointly with ASEAN and FAO.

8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session:

- “The relationship between animal production systems (e.g. intensive, extensive, organic, pastoral) and diseases: impact on epidemiology and control”

9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Mongolia in September 2015

Following proposals from Members, the following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 29th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

- “The role of Veterinary Services in managing emerging aquatic animal diseases: what are the factors needed for success?”

10. Confirmation of the venue of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, asked the Delegate of Mongolia to confirm her country's proposal to host the next Regional Conference.

Dr Bolortuya Purevsuren, Delegate of Mongolia, informed the Regional Commission that her country accepts to host the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held during the third week of September 2015.

She also took the opportunity to announce the future international conference on pastoralism which is scheduled to take place in Mongolia in June 2015.

Dr Kugita pointed out that, owing to weather conditions in Mongolia, exceptionally the Regional Conference would be held in September instead of November, the traditional month for holding conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far and Oceania.

11. Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS)

Dr Gardner Murray, OIE Special Adviser and Chair of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Coordination Group, began his presentation by saying that most of the recommendations of RAWS Coordination Group (RAWS CG) meetings in the Republic of Korea (in 2013) and Bangkok (in 2014), as well as those of the 2013 Conference of the OIE Regional Commission in Cebu, have been actioned. He explained that these included publication of the second edition of RAWS and the development of a RAWS website managed by the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific. Other matters, such as animals in disasters, are being progressed subject to advice from the OIE.

Dr Murray added that, from the limited numbers of reports received – mainly from RAWS CG Members and New Zealand – substantive progress was being made in areas such as national animal welfare guideline developments, legislation and training. However, he considered that there was a clear need for other countries to report on national animal welfare activities so that overall progress against the RAWS can be evaluated. He reminded that OIE Delegates could usefully drive this issue using their Animal Welfare National Focal Points.

He went on to report that funding of RAWS under a deed between the OIE and the Australian Department of Agriculture (DA) will cease on 30 June 2015 and that it was highly unlikely that new funds would become available thereafter. Furthermore, the DA will no longer provide the RAWS Secretariat. He added that the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific in Tokyo has offered to provide the Secretariat. Although Malaysia had made a similar offer, it supported the proposal that the OIE provide the Secretariat, as this ensures consistency with other OIE activities.

Dr Murray concluded by saying that, given these developments, the future management of RAWS was a key issue. Options will be discussed at the November RAWS CG Meeting in Canberra (Australia) for consideration by the Regional Commission. Given that RAWS was a 'mature' activity, he felt that one option was for the Regional Commission to assume greater responsibility for managing RAWS, including setting up an Advisory Group and making greater use of Focal Points.

12. Rabies in wildlife – Concerns of the region

Dr Ping-Cheng Yang, Delegate of Chinese Taipei, began his presentation by mentioning that Chinese Taipei has been recognised by the international community as free from rabies in the past half a century. Immediately following confirmation by the wildlife disease monitoring programme of rabies virus infection in ferret-badgers in July 2013, the Government set up a rabies prevention network to protect people and animals.

He added that preventive strategies to help contain the epidemic in wildlife/mountain fauna were as follows: (1) to increase the rabies vaccination rate of dogs and cats; (2) to reduce contact between dogs/cats and wild animals by enhancing management of dogs and cats; (3) to set up a notification hotline through the National Bulletin; (4) to strengthen passive surveillance of animals killed on roads or that may be infected with rabies and bite people; and (5) to provide pre-exposure vaccination for people at high risk and post-exposure prophylaxis for people bitten or scratched by animals, which can protect humans from rabies infection and onset of disease.

He reported on surveillance results up to 14 April 2014, according to which a total of 351 wild ferret-badgers, one house shrew and a quarantined dog bitten by a rabid ferret-badger were confirmed to be infected with rabies. The rabies cases in Chinese Taipei were attributed mainly to ferret-badgers found in the mountains.

Dr Ping-Cheng Yang concluded that it was necessary to continue promoting dog and cat rabies vaccination in order to reduce the risk of rabies spreading. He said that various preventive measures will be strengthened, based on long-term planning, with the aim of eradicating all epidemic cases among dogs, cats and humans.

13. HPAI H5N8 event in the Republic of Korea

A representative from the Republic of Korea began her presentation by saying that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) viruses caused considerable economic losses to the poultry industry and, in some cases, caused human infection. Since 2003, several countries have become endemic with subtype H5N1 HPAI and, in China, there have been reports of new subtypes of H5 HPAI viruses, such as H5N2, H5N5 and H5N8, which likely emerged as a result of genetic reassortment between the H5 HPAI virus and other non-H5 viruses in the 2009-2011 period.

She reported that a suspected case of HPAI, with decreasing egg production, had been reported in a breeder duck farm in the Republic of Korea on 16 January 2014. Soon after, hundreds of dead wild birds (Baikal teal) were found in Donglim Reservoir, which is located near the index case farm. H5N8 HPAI viruses were isolated from both cases. This was the first outbreak of H5N8 HPAI in the Republic of Korea, although there had been four previous outbreaks of H5N1 HPAI, all of which were successfully eradicated. Among the 35 reported suspect cases, 29 were confirmed as positive for H5N8 infection in poultry. The total number of virus isolation cases was 197, which included positive cases on farms that had been eliminated through pre-emptive culling. In addition, a total of 37 H5N8 viruses were isolated from both dead and captured wild birds.

She explained that the causative H5N8 HPAI viruses belonged to clade 2.3.4.6., which could be divided into two geno-groups. Both virus groups seem to have originated through reassortment between A/duck/Jiangsu/k1203/2010(H5N8) virus and other subtypes of avian influenza viruses, all of which co-circulated in eastern China during 2009-2012. Group A viruses were predominant, whereas group B viruses were isolated in only two cases.

She concluded by stating that HPAI control measures in the Republic of Korea were based on a stamping-out policy, with zoning, movement restrictions, disinfection, prohibition of vaccination and intensive surveillance.

14. Outcome of the 20th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar) from 11 to 14 March 2014

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia, presented a report on the outcomes of the 20th meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in South-East Asia and China, held in Myanmar on 11-14 March 2014. He explained that the purpose of the meeting had been to review recent FMD developments in the region and worldwide, assess programme progress and key developments, and make recommendations on policy, strategic, technical and governance matters.

He mentioned that Delegates at the meeting had been informed of the region's FMD status and updated on reference laboratory findings. The FMD situation in SEACFMD Member Countries had also been described, highlighting the need for more input for promoting epidemiological studies (in particular the development of risk models) and for identifying areas at higher risk of FMD incursion by adopting a risk-based strategy for FMD control.

Dr Abila added that the meeting had reiterated the important role of the FMD vaccine bank and the need to advocate for funding to enable the bank to continue operating. He reported that an expert group meeting had been held at the end of the four-day meeting with the specific goal of providing recommendations on suitable serotype A vaccine strains and FMD research needs. The experts strongly advised countries to step up efforts to collect animal samples during disease outbreaks and to promote post-vaccination evaluation studies.

He said that another key focus point discussed at the meeting was the review of the SEACFMD 2020 roadmap, with the new version defining the programme strategy for the 2016-2020 period.

Dr Abila mentioned that the meeting had also presented the outcomes of the independent mid-term review of STANDZ commissioned by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). DFAT has committed to provide financial support to SEACFMD until the end of the programme. New Zealand indicated possible support for a five-year FMD project to support the SEACFMD Campaign.

He reported that a separate workshop had been held for SEACFMD coordinators and observers to review key issues and advice concerning the 2014/2015-action plan and other relevant matters. A special One Health session had also been held on the last day of the meeting and prominence was given to the existing agreement between FAO-OIE-WHO (Tripartite), which represents a joint effort to resolve public health issues.

Dr Abila concluded by presenting the key recommendations and priority actions emerging from the meeting, which included priority activities for the next 12 months. They were: to work towards harmonising approaches to cross-border movements by holding high-level meetings of OIE Delegates from the Greater Mekong Subregion; to take action concerning the spread of Serotype A and monitor circulating viruses in order to develop vaccine-

matching plans using the expertise of the Regional Reference Laboratories (RRL) and World Reference Laboratories for FMD (WRLFMD), as well as that of the expert group convened on the fringes of the meeting; to conduct post-vaccination monitoring and evaluation studies; to conduct epidemiological studies on FMD outbreaks to identify risks and potential control points; and for Greater Mekong Subregion countries to design and conduct animal movement studies.

15. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Hu Suk Lee, Veterinary Epidemiologist, OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease notification concerning the Region.

He started by emphasizing the importance of timely disease reporting through WAHIS by the countries/territories, and of the provision of other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control, to maintain transparency, to enhance trade and to contribute to the global early warning. He then went on to provide relevant information on compliance with reporting for 2013 in Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Dr Lee also showed the evolution of the number of countries from the Region submitting reports to the OIE since 2005 as well as the evolution of submission time since 2005, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Finally, Dr Lee presented the recent exceptional events of infection with avian influenza viruses in Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

16. Proposal for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres

New Zealand and People’s Republic of China consortium of OIE Collaborating Centres for “Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health” in the Asia-Pacific-Far East region

An application by the People’s Republic of China for the OIE to consider the China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC) of the Ministry of Agriculture as an OIE Collaborating Centre for veterinary epidemiology and risk analysis, was examined by the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and found to be acceptable. However, as a Collaborating Centre for veterinary epidemiology and public health already exists in the region (EpiCentre at New Zealand’s Massey University), the Commission suggested that the Chinese centre seek to form a consortium with the latter.

Accordingly, Dr Matthew Stone, OIE Delegate of New Zealand, and Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, OIE Delegate of the People’s Republic of China, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider a New Zealand and China consortium of OIE Collaborating Centres for “Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health” in the Asia-Pacific-Far East Region.

They provided a brief review of the China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center, as well as of the consortium and its proposed activities, adding that more details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission approved the proposal by New Zealand and the People’s Republic of China, which will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates.

OIE Collaborating Centre for “Foodborne Parasites in the Asian-Pacific Region”

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, OIE Delegate of the People’s Republic of China, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the “Institute of Zoonosis, Jilin University” as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Foodborne Parasites in the Asian-Pacific Region”.

He provided a brief review of the centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission approved the proposal by the People’s Republic of China, which will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates.

17. Report on the high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by referring to the significant worldwide growth of the sport horse industry, bringing with it measurable and significant socio-economic benefits to the respective national economies.

She explained that the OIE has engaged, for the past two years, in the development of the high health, high performance horse (HHP) concept to facilitate the safe international movement of horses to compete at international equestrian events. She noted that the concept excludes international movement for the purpose of breeding.

She noted that the concept is based on principles that are already well established in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, with special reference to the Chapters on (i) Identification and traceability; (ii) zoning and compartmentalisation; (iii) model passport for competition horses; (iv) certification procedures; and, (v) transport by air, land and sea. Furthermore, comprehensive biosecurity guidelines for HHP horses at their home stable, during transport and at the venue are being developed.

Dr Münstermann then informed participants that the OIE has laid down these general overarching principles for the HHP concept in a new Code chapter, in line with the approach that had been previously taken when introducing Animal Welfare chapters into the Code.

Dr Münstermann added that acceptance of these general principles by OIE Member Countries would provide the OIE ad hoc Group with a clear vision to propose the tools necessary to build the framework for the HHP concept, e.g. additional guidelines.

Dr Münstermann further stated that the HHP concept had been presented at the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission in Cebu, Philippines, in November 2013.

She added that a regional workshop was organised in Hong Kong in February 2014 to present the HHP concept and to analyse the currently existing import regulations for horses into countries of the region. She mentioned that the analysis revealed a wide diversity of regulations and that some 43 diseases are regulated for the importation of horses.

Dr Münstermann concluded by acknowledging and commending Korea (Rep. of) for its demonstration of leadership in adoption of the principles for the HHP concept in its formulation of import measures for the hosting of the Asian games.

Dr Gardner Murray, OIE Special Adviser and Chair of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Coordination Group, emphasised the importance of endorsing the draft Code Chapter as this would give a mandate to the ad hoc group to develop a range of standards and guidelines in areas such as certification, testing and biosecurity guidelines as well as recommending research projects. He emphasised that the Code Chapter articulated principles and the model being used was similar to the very successful approach taken for the development of animal welfare.

18. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

Dr Tomoko Ishibashi informed the meeting participants that SEAFDEC⁵² was unable to attend the meeting, but had provided a statement in advance to the Director General of the OIE. This statement had been included in the Regional Commission's working documents.

- **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)**

Dr Kenneth Cokanasiga, Animal Health and Production Team Leader of the SPC, announced that the Land Resources Division's (LRD) goal is to assist the Pacific Community to improve its food, nutritional, and, income security, as well as to sustainably manage and develop its land, agriculture and forestry resources.

He reported that the LRD's new Strategic Plan (2013 – 2017), clearly articulated the division's focus areas and approach, supporting the priorities of Pacific Island countries and territories for their land, agriculture and forestry sectors. The Strategy also complemented the programmes and support from other development partners and agencies.

Dr Cokanasiga stated that the Strategic Plan focused on four strategic objectives and their associated medium term outcomes, related outputs and activities. The work programme of the Animal Health and Production thematic team contributes to the LRD's work plan through activities resulting in specific outputs and medium term outcomes. All activities complement the four strategic objectives of the new Strategic Plan (2013 – 2017).

As an example of current operations, the SPC shared its ongoing work in the development of the Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Juan Lubroth, Chief Veterinary Officer of the FAO, explained that, in accordance with FAO's overall strategic objectives, the Asia-Pacific livestock programme aimed to maximise livestock's contribution to attaining food security and reducing poverty, while at the same time enhancing resilience and sustainability and reducing health risks to humans and animals (including the threat from antimicrobial resistance).

He added that FAO's work is built on strong partnerships with international 'sister' organisations (OIE and WHO regional/sub-regional offices) and is implemented in close consultation with national counterpart institutions of Member Countries, fostered through FAO country offices. Furthermore, the FAO-hosted Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) provides a long-standing forum for information exchange, mutual support and coordination of collective action in the livestock sector.

⁵² SEAFDEC: South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre

He added that, functionally, FAO activities in the Asia-Pacific region fall into five broad areas: (i) strategy/policy guidance; (ii) coordination; (iii) information-generation and knowledge-sharing; (iv) capacity-building; and (v) support for field programme implementation.

Dr Lubroth concluded by saying that the main focus of FAO work over the past 12 months had been in four areas: (i) H7N9 management; (ii) sub-regional control of FMD, (iii) capacity-building in disease diagnosis, surveillance and management; and (iv) assessment of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic pathogens and indicator bacteria from livestock.

The meeting officially ended at 6:45 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 26 May 2014

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Report on OIE Council meetings including the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania including the outcomes of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Cebu (Philippines) from 18 to 22 November 2013
5. Status report on the Regional Work Plan Framework 2011-2015
6. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific
7. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia
8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016
9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Mongolia in September 2015
10. Confirmation of the venue of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
11. Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS)
12. Rabies in wildlife – Concerns of the region
13. HPAI H5N8 event in the Republic of Korea
14. Outcome of the 20th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar) from 11 to 14 March 2014
15. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania
16. Proposals for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres

17. Report on the high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept
 18. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
-

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 26 May 2014

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 130 participants, including Delegates and observers from 45 Members of the Commission and representatives from 10 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations: COPA/COGECA⁵³, Council of the European Union, European Commission, EEC⁵⁴, EuFMD⁵⁵, FAO, FESASS⁵⁶, FVE⁵⁷, IZS⁵⁸-Teramo, ICFAW RSPCA⁵⁹.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Ago Pärtel (Estonia), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Professor Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), Regional Representative for Eastern Europe and Honorary President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative in Moscow, Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, Dr Ivan Bisiuk (Ukraine), Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr Lucio Carbajo Goñi (Spain), Vice-President of the Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

⁵³ COPA/COGECA: Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations/General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the European Union
⁵⁴ EEC : Eurasian Economic Commission
⁵⁵ EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease
⁵⁶ FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
⁵⁷ FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
⁵⁸ IZS-Teramo: Istituto zooprofilattico sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise
⁵⁹ RSPCA: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Ago Pärtel, Delegate of Estonia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, congratulated the Members of the Regional Commission on the fact that outstanding contributions from almost all countries (only 2 countries are late by three years in their statutory contributions) had been paid.

He encouraged OIE Members to increase their category of contribution. It was noted that three countries increased their level of contributions over the past year.

3. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany and President of the World Assembly of Delegates, informed participants that the Council had met three times since the last General Session: in October 2013, in Berlin, and in February and May 2014, in Paris.

She reported that, apart from the traditional agenda items (reviewing the past General Session, preparing budget documents for the next General Session, discussing new applications, etc.), the main focus of deliberations had been on preparing the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

She regretted the departure from the Council of Professor Jaouad Berrada, Delegate of Morocco, who had resigned as Delegate in August 2013. As he was the elected Vice-President of the Assembly, this position has been vacant for all subsequent meetings of the Council.

She concluded by reminding Delegates that they could access the summaries of Council discussion outcomes on the OIE Delegates website.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Dr Ago Pärtel, Delegate of Estonia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, described the composition of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe, underlining the recent resignation of Dr Nihat Pakdil as OIE Delegate of Turkey. As a consequence, he pointed out the necessity to hold 'partial' election to nominate a new Secretary General of the Bureau until the general elections in May 2015 (refer to section 7). He informed the audience about the newly opened OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana, Kazakhstan, in October 2013, which now increases the number of OIE offices in Europe (Sofia, Brussels, Moscow and Astana) to four.

With regard to the activities of the Regional Commission for Europe, Dr Pärtel provided the participants with an update regarding the latest developments of the OIE regional standard setting mechanism for Europe, mentioning the two meetings of the Task Force in Vienna, Austria in November 2013 and in Belgrade, Serbia in April 2014 to identify common positions for the 82nd General Session of the OIE. In total, 29 common positions were agreed and will be presented on behalf of the 53 OIE Members of the region.

In his capacity as President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, Dr Pärtel attended several meetings, including a meeting of the Bureau (Kiev, Ukraine in August 2013), the TAIEX⁶⁰ meeting on African swine fever and Classical swine fever (Vilnius, Lithuania in September 2013) and the 5th meeting of the GF-TADs⁶¹ for Europe Steering Committee (Brussels, Belgium in October 2013).

Dr Pärtel concluded by emphasising the importance of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Bern, Switzerland in September 2014.

⁶⁰ TAIEX : Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (EC/DG ENLARG)

⁶¹ GF-TADs : FAO/OIE Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow, and the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana

Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, presented the work programme of all the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional representations and office in Europe, on behalf of Prof N. Belev, OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria), Dr K. Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative in Moscow (Russia), and Dr A. Kozhayev, technical assistant at the OIE Sub-Regional Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Coordination Unit Office in Astana, Kazakhstan (SRO-Astana).

She informed Delegates that, in October 2013, Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, had signed a cooperation agreement with Mr A.S. Mamytbekov, Kazakhstan's Minister of Agriculture, establishing a new OIE office with diplomatic status based in Kazakhstan's capital city of Astana, aimed at supporting the prevention and control of animal diseases – particularly FMD – in the country and sub-region.

Starting by mentioning the first ever OIE Representation in Europe, Dr Leboucq commended the active role of Prof Belev in maintaining regular dialogue with the highest authorities in Bulgaria (Prime Minister; Chairperson of the National Assembly; Minister of Agriculture; university and faculty deans; President of the Veterinary Union; CVO; etc.), to ensure the participation of Bulgarian authorities in the opening ceremony of the 82nd OIE General Session (Paris, May 2014) and the continued compliance of Bulgarian Veterinary Services with OIE international standards. Another important topic for discussion had been the fruitful on-going cooperation between OIE and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), with the preparation and implementation of a robust joint agenda for the 2014-2015 period, including: (a) the OIE-CIC Joint International Meeting on detection and prevention of African Swine Fever and other animal health issues at the wildlife-livestock-human interface (30 June-1 July 2014 in Paris, France); and (b) the project to establish a CIC hunters' training centre for wildlife diseases in Bulgaria. The Regional Representation for Eastern Europe (RR-Sofia) is staffed by Prof N. Belev (Regional Representative), Dr A. Miteva (technical assistant) and Mrs R. Kostova (secretary).

Dr Leboucq went on to discuss the work programme of the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (SRR-Brussels) for 2014, which had focused on the same two areas of intervention as in previous years: (i) participation in OIE capacity-building activities in Europe, in close collaboration with the other OIE offices in the region; and (ii) providing a collaborative interface for Brussels-based organisations with a regional mandate (European Commission, European Parliament, FVE, COPA-COGECA, European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV), etc.) and those with a global mandate (World Customs Organization [WCO], North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO]). Of note is the fact that SRR-Brussels was recently assigned two new responsibilities: hosting the Secretariat of the newly launched OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, and serving as the regional contact point for the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS/WAHID) to provide basic country assistance for disease notification to the OIE. SRR-Brussels continues to be staffed by three veterinarians: Dr N. Leboucq (Sub-Regional Representative), Dr S. de la Rocque (chargé de mission following WHO relations) and Dr S. Ralchev (technical assistant).

With regard to the first area of intervention, SRR-Brussels organised and participated in the OIE regional seminar for newly appointed Delegates (February 2014 in Brussels, Belgium). SRR-Brussels is also now actively implementing the 2014 work programme of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, aimed at: (i) developing a dedicated website, with pages and documentation in both English and Russian; (ii) preparing a

regional seminar on stray dog population control for Balkan countries (June 2014 in Bucharest, Romania); and (iii) preparing a regional awareness campaign on stray dogs. The second Steering Group meeting of the Platform took place in Moscow (Russia) in May 2014, monitored progress in implementing the Platform's Action Plan. The Secretariat has had the opportunity to present the OIE Platform at several regional stakeholders' meetings over the past six months. In November 2013, SRR-Brussels also participated in a PVS Gap Analysis mission in Israel.

With regard to the second area of intervention, SRR-Brussels has taken part in around 40 coordination meetings since the last OIE General Session, including a photo exhibition and a second symposium entitled "Preventing human pandemics by improving animal health" at the European Parliament in Brussels (Belgium) in November 2013. Close collaboration with the European Commission continues on a wide range of topics.

Dr Leboucq also reported that, in its capacity as Secretariat of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Europe, SRR-Brussels had organised the fifth meeting of the GF-TADs for Europe Regional Steering Committee (Brussels, Belgium in October 2013), aimed at enhancing regional coordination and collaboration for seven priority transboundary diseases in Europe. In 2014, SRR-Brussels is still an active member of the two global GF-TADs Working Groups on FMD and "peste des petits ruminants".

Dr Leboucq also mentioned Dr de la Rocque's important roadmap focusing on improving strategic options for delivering the One Health agenda at global, regional and national levels. In March 2014, 'pilot' workshops were held in Baku (Azerbaijan) (by the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow and SRR-Brussels) and Bangkok (Thailand) (SRR-Brussels) to understand country perspectives and see how countries could best use the outcomes and outputs of assessments under the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations Monitoring Framework and OIE PVS Pathway to identify gaps and opportunities for improving collaboration at the public health- veterinary interface.

RR-Moscow, which opened in 2013, is at the forefront when it comes to prevention and control of African swine fever (ASF) in the region, which is currently a great concern for Europe, with Lithuania and Poland reporting their first ever outbreaks in 2014. Dr Lukauskas provided technical advice and participated in several meetings on ASF: (a) a Technical Assistance Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX) meeting on ASF and classical swine fever, organised under the GF-TADs umbrella (Vilnius, Lithuania, in September 2013); (b) meetings with senior Lithuanian officials, including the Prime Minister (Berlin, Germany, and Vilnius, Lithuania, in January 2014), after wild boars had been found dead in Alytus, southern Lithuania; (c) a meeting entitled "Situation assessment of African swine fever in wild boar in Lithuania", with experts from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO), European Union Reference Laboratory for African Swine Fever (EURL-ASF) (Madrid, Spain), Federal Centre for Animal Health (ARRIAH) (Russia), Belarusian State Veterinary Center's animal disease control laboratory (Belarus) and other country representatives (Lithuania in January 2014); (d) a mission by the Community Veterinary Emergency Team on ASF (Warsaw / Poland, on 26-28 February 2014), aimed at providing on-the-spot assistance to develop the most suitable control and eradication measures for ASF; the Community Veterinary Emergency Team also conducted a mission in Lithuania in March 2014, with the participation of SRR-Brussels, to provide targeted support to the Lithuanian authorities in drawing up a plan for ASF surveillance and possible eradication; and (e) the OIE-CIC Joint International Meeting on ASF (Paris, France, on 30 June–1 July 2014).

Dr Leboucq reported that the OIE Regional Representative in Moscow is also very involved in diplomatic dialogue with the Russian authorities (meeting with Russia's Minister of Agriculture in Germany in January 2014), as well as with authorities in neighbouring countries (meeting with the State Secretary of Latvia's Ministry of Agriculture in Germany in January 2014; meeting with Estonia's Minister of Agriculture in Germany in January 2014). He also participated in regional technical meetings relating to good governance of Veterinary Services (National Animal Health Program [NAHP] Steering Group Meeting, in Tbilisi, Georgia, in February 2014; mission on the status of Veterinary Services and veterinary laboratories, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in March 2014; fourth International Veterinary Congress of Russia in Kazan, Russia, in April 2014). Finally, RR-Moscow was responsible for organising and conducting the OIE regional seminar for National Focal Points on wildlife in St Petersburg, Russia, in April 2014. RR-Moscow is staffed by Dr K. Lukauskas (Regional Representative) and Dr E. Panina (technical and administrative assistant).

One of the first actions of the newly established SRO-Astana Office was to organise and participate in the fifth West Eurasia roadmap meeting (Astana, Kazakhstan, in April 2014), organised under the GF-TADs umbrella – which showed that virtually all 14 participating countries were moving towards achieving the regional vision (freedom from clinical cases of FMD by the year 2020). Dr A. Kozhayev, technical assistant at SRO-Astana will be in charge of implementing the meeting's recommendations.

Dr Leboucq concluded by presenting the following programme of activities of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and SRO-Astana for the coming months:

- participation (RR-Sofia; RR-Moscow; SRR-Brussels; SRO-Astana) in the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Bern, Switzerland, in September 2014);
- organisation and participation (SRR-Brussels) in the OIE Seminar for National Focal Points for communication, to be held in Estonia in July 2014;
- participation (RR-Sofia; RR-Moscow; SRR-Brussels) in OIE seminars for National Focal Points (for animal disease notification, in Chisinau, Moldova, in October 2014; and for veterinary products, in Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in November 2014);
- implementation (RR-Sofia; RR-Moscow; SRR-Brussels; SRO-Astana) of further capacity-building activities for national Veterinary Services in Europe, based on the OIE PVS Pathway;
- implementation (SRR-Brussels) of the 2014 work programme of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe and participation in related meetings (RR-Sofia; RR-Moscow; SRR-Brussels) and activities (SRR-Brussels);
- implementation (SRO-Astana) of the FMD West Eurasia roadmap and recommendations; and
- routine collaboration with partners and stakeholders in the region (RR-Sofia; RR-Moscow; SRR-Brussels; SRO-Astana).

Dr Leboucq also reminded participants that all the activities of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in Europe and the SRO-Astana Office are published regularly on the OIE regional website for Europe (www.rr-europe.oie.int), managed by SRR-Brussels (with a section for Russian speaking countries).

6. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by referring to the significant worldwide growth of the sport horse industry, bringing with it measurable and significant socio-economic benefits to the respective national economies.

She explained that the OIE has engaged, for the past two years, in the development of the high health, high performance horse (HHP) concept to facilitate the safe international movement of horses to compete at international equestrian events. She noted that the concept excludes international movement for the purpose of breeding.

She noted that the concept is based on principles that are already well established in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, with special reference to the Chapters on (i) Identification and traceability; (ii) zoning and compartmentalisation; (iii) model passport for competition horses; (iv) certification procedures; and (v) transport by air, land and sea. Furthermore, comprehensive biosecurity guidelines for HHP horses at their home stable, during transport and at the venue are being developed.

Dr Münstermann then informed participants that the OIE has laid down these general overarching principles for the HHP concept in a new Code chapter, in line with the approach that had been previously taken when introducing Animal Welfare chapters into the Code.

Dr Münstermann added that acceptance of these general principles by OIE Members would provide the OIE *ad hoc* Group with a clear vision to propose the tools necessary to build the framework for the HHP concept, e.g. additional guidelines.

Dr Münstermann concluded by stating that the HHP concept is in line with the free movement of registered horses in the EU and that it is indeed intended to expand this movement beyond the EU region and its approved third countries.

She added that a more comprehensive presentation on the concept and its accompanying tools will be given to the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in Bern in September 2014.

7. Election of the Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission

Dr Ago Pärtel, Delegate of Estonia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, informed the participants that the Delegate of Turkey had stepped down, leaving vacant the position of Secretary General of the Regional Commission, which requires an election to be held.

Dr Budimir Plavšić, newly appointed Delegate of Serbia was unanimously proposed as Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

This decision will be submitted for endorsement by vote of the World Assembly during the week.

8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 84th General Session:

- "Economics of animal health: direct and indirect costs of animal disease outbreaks"

9. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

The following technical item (without questionnaire) was adopted for the 26th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

- “Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea: current global situation and possible threat for Europe”

10. Organisation of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Bern (Switzerland) from 22 to 26 September 2014

Dr Hans Wyss, Delegate of Switzerland, reiterated that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the Conference to be held in Bern from 22 to 26 September 2014.

He gave a brief account of the different actions that Switzerland had undertaken to start organising the conference.

Dr Wyss also provided general information about hotel accommodation including the special procedure put in place through a tourist agency for ensuring hotel reservations for all participants attending the Conference. He then commented about transport facilities that would be provided to all participants.

Dr Wyss concluded his presentation giving assurances that full details would be sent to all participants in a timely manner.

11. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany and President of the World Assembly of Delegates together with Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov, Delegate of Russia and member of the OIE Council, gave the Commission a brief presentation on the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan for the 2016-2020 period. Dr Schwabenbauer informed Delegates that a preliminary version of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan had been drafted on the basis of discussions at the previous Council meetings (October 2013 and February 2014).

She reminded participants that the draft had been forwarded to all OIE Delegates in early May 2014 to enable them to submit comments and observations to Council Members in their region.

Dr Schwabenbauer emphasised that the aim of her presentation was to summarise the key information regarding the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan in order to start discussions among Delegates with the aim of finalising the Strategic Plan over forthcoming Council meetings. She said that the final text would be circulated among Member Countries for comments in March 2015 with a view to its adoption at the 83rd General Session in May 2015.

She reiterated that the OIE Council considered that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan should:

- contain a revised consolidated statement of OIE’s strategic vision and its global goals;
- take into account current and anticipated global trends and challenges affecting OIE’s operating environment;
- incorporate important cross-cutting issues;
- be ambitious but not necessarily expansive;

- be high-level, flexible and enabling rather than prescriptive, and allow for optional approaches in order to be responsive and facilitate implementation; and
- be developed with the engagement of all Members of the OIE.

Dr Schwabenbauer explained that this topic would be included in the agenda of all OIE Council meetings and OIE Regional Conferences to be held over the coming year.

Dr Nepoklonov reported that, in October 2013, the OIE Council had reviewed the Strategic Objectives and discussed factors expected to impact on the operating environment during the 2016-2020 period, as well as organisational dynamics and institutional arrangements, including the duties and relevance of the current Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, the operation of Regional and Sub Regional Representations, and relationships and synergies with other international organisations. He said that the OIE Council would also be establishing a flexible five-year strategic human resources plan for the recruitment, retention and development of OIE staff.

Dr Schwabenbauer concluded by inviting Delegates - especially non EU Member Countries - to provide their thoughts and comments on the initial framework and directions for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. She emphasised that Members' comments were most welcome and highly valued and said that Members could provide their input to the OIE Director General and to OIE Council members representing the Europe region.

Discussions

Dr Spyros Doudounakis, Delegate of Greece, commended the quality of the first draft provided on behalf of the 28 countries of the European Union and announced that the comments will be provided within the next two months. Dr Pärtel proposed that comments be made on behalf of the 53 Members of the Regional Commission, following the model of the regional standard setting mechanism. Dr Kristina Landsverk, Delegate of Norway, appreciated that aquatic animal issues had been adequately taken into account.

12. African swine fever situation in Europe

Dr Dietrich Rassow, Veterinarian Adviser, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, informed the Regional Commission that African swine fever (ASF) has continued to spread through parts of Eastern Europe since it was introduced in Georgia and Russia in 2007, affecting both wild boars and domestic pigs. The disease is currently considered to be a major threat to other parts of Europe. In early 2014 the virus was detected in wild boars found dead in Lithuania and Poland, both near the border with Belarus.

He further stated that the epidemiological situation and measures taken by Lithuania and Poland have been assessed on several occasions by international experts including OIE representatives.

From 23 to 25 April 2014 the OIE *ad hoc* Group on ASF met at the OIE Headquarters. The objective of the meeting was to work on updating the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapter 15.1. on ASF, align, as far as possible, with the recently amended Chapter 15.2 on Classical Swine Fever and address issues of ASF specific surveillance. The *ad hoc* Group report will be dealt with by the Scientific Commission in its next September meeting.

Dr Rassow confirmed that the two European OIE Reference Laboratories for ASF located in Spain and the United Kingdom respectively are actively involved in the support of national reference laboratories and the coordination of international research.

The Regional Commission was reminded that Technical Item II of the General Session is dedicated to ‘African swine fever: new challenges and measures to prevent its spread’ which will be presented on Tuesday 27 May 2014.

Considering the epidemiology of the disease and the need to raise the awareness of hunters and other persons involved with game and wildlife management, the OIE has engaged with the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) to host a Joint International Meeting on early detection and prevention of ASF and other animal health issues at the wildlife-livestock-human interface. The meeting scheduled for 30 June and 1 July 2014 will focus on the efforts made by both hunters and Veterinary Services to establish and improve current surveillance and early detection systems for ASF.

For further information, OIE Members were encouraged to follow the second Technical Item (without questionnaire) to be presented on the following day.

13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Europe

Dr Marija Popovic, Chargée de mission, OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease notification concerning the Region.

She started by emphasizing the importance of timely disease reporting through WAHIS by the countries/territories, and of the provision of other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control, to maintain transparency, to enhance trade and to contribute to the global early warning. She then went on to provide relevant information on compliance with reporting for 2013 in Europe.

Dr Popovic also showed the evolution of the number of countries from the Region submitting reports to the OIE since 2005 as well as the evolution of submission time since 2005, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Finally, Dr Popovic presented the recent exceptional events of African swine fever in Europe.

14. FMD control in Eastern Europe

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative in Moscow, started his presentation by providing the FMD official status worldwide.

He commented on the overall FMD situation in the Eastern Europe region since 2011, highlighting the FMD recent outbreaks in Central Asia.

Dr Lukauskas commented on the vision of Shiraz meeting in 2008 regarding West Eurasia region becoming free from clinical FMD by 2020. He said that, following that vision, the OIE opened, on 15 October 2013, the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana, Kazakhstan, which works under the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow and cover directly OIE activities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

He explained that the objectives of the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana were to: strengthen FMD control in the 5 OIE Members of Central Asia; develop a uniform FMD approach and strategy at regional level; and ensure regional cooperation for FMD control between Veterinary Services and OIE FMD experts of the region.

Dr Lukauskas commented on the objectives of the fifth Annual West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting, held in Astana (Kazakhstan) on 23 and 24 April, 2014. He highlighted the following objectives:

- to share information on FMD virus circulation within the West Eurasia FMDV ecosystem;
- to review the progress of each country along the Regional Roadmap;
- to assist countries preparing national control programmes, and submissions to the OIE for official control programme endorsement and possible FMD status recognition for countries and zones;
- to emphasise the role of the newly established OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana; and
- to set up a sub-regional vaccine bank.

He then presented the West Eurasia FMD control roadmap to 2025 and listed the countries where FMD outbreaks had been reported. He provided a general overview regarding the situation of the roadmap after Baku meeting in 2013 and then after Astana meeting in 2014.

Dr Lukauskas concluded by commenting on the recommendations of the fifth Annual West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting, held recently in Astana (Kazakhstan). He highlighted the following recommendations:

- Countries with a provisional PCP-FMD stage 2 should submit the revised control plans for review no later than October 2014 to the GF-TADs FMD Working Group;
- Each country should identify 3 focal points (for PCP-FMD, for laboratory and for epidemiology) to facilitate communication and coordination;
- Countries should be actively involved in the OIE PVS Pathway and Governmental Authorities should support the development of an 'Enabling Environment' for controlling FMD, of which the reinforcement of Veterinary Services is an integral component;
- Countries should consider reciprocal and regular communications with neighbouring countries;
- More effort should be made to achieve the rapid sharing of laboratory information (transparency) on FMD virus circulation between countries of the region; and
- All countries consider official recognition by the OIE of their national FMD Control Programmes as a priority.

15. OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

Dr Stanislav Ralchev, Technical Assistant, OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, began his presentation by saying that, after the concept note of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe had been adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe at the 81st OIE General Session (May 2013), the OIE developed a detailed Action Plan for 2014-2016, which was put forward for discussion and adoption by the first meeting of the Platform's Steering Group in Paris in December 2013. The meeting was attended by all Steering Group members and a number of countries invited as observers. SRR-Brussels hosts the Platform's Secretariat.

He explained that the strategic objective of the Action Plan for 2014-2016 is to empower Veterinary Services to take action on animal welfare in compliance with OIE standards. More specifically, the Action Plan aims to: (i) raise awareness and achieve a high level of understanding of animal welfare in the Europe region; (ii) progressively advance with the implementation of OIE standards on animal welfare; and (iii) encourage the participation of Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in the OIE standard-setting process.

Dr Ralchev added that the specific work programme for 2014 includes implementation of the following key activities: creation of the Platform website, with pages and documentation in English and Russian; a 'pilot' workshop on stray dog population control for the Balkan countries, with a methodology involving regular assessment and monitoring of the situation; and an awareness campaign on stray dogs, with a focus on rabies risk. He said that until the Platform website was operational, an interim webpage had been created that can be accessed via the OIE regional website for Europe.

Dr Ralchev mentioned that the European Commission and France had already confirmed their technical and financial support for the OIE Platform. An advocacy document has been produced to present the Platform and its Action Plan to other donors in the region with an interest in animal welfare and to encourage possible additional funding.

He added that the second meeting of the Steering Group was held in Moscow, in May 2014, to report and discuss implementation of past and forthcoming activities.

Dr Ralchev concluded by saying that the Platform's achievements would be regularly communicated to OIE Member Countries, partners and stakeholders of the region, using the Platform website, a twice-yearly newsletter and presentations at various meetings, including meetings and conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

16. Proposal for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres

OIE Collaborating Centre for "Foodborne Zoonotic Parasites from Europe Region"

Dr Jean-Luc Angot, OIE Delegate of France, presented the Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) as an OIE Collaborating Centre for "Foodborne Zoonotic Parasites from Europe Region".

He provided a brief review of the centre and its activities and said that more details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Members of the Regional Commission expressed their strong support for this application.

The Regional Commission approved the proposal from France. It will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates.

OIE Collaborating Centre for “Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics”

Dr Nigel Gibbens, OIE Delegate of the United Kingdom, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the “Medical Research Council – University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research” as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics”.

He provided a brief review of the centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Members of the Regional Commission expressed their strong support for this application.

The Commission approved the United Kingdom’s proposal. It will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates.

17. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

• **European Commission (EC)**

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Director for Veterinary and International Affairs of the European Commission highlighted the activities of the Directorate General for Health and Consumers (EC/DG SANCO) in the area of animal health and animal welfare in Europe, including transboundary animal disease control programmes in the EU and neighbouring countries, TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument) and BTSF (Better Training for Safer Food) activities, the OIE platform on animal welfare for Europe and other OIE capacity building activities financed by the European Commission, and provided an update on the state of play of the EU Animal Health Law.

• **Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)**

Dr Vladimir Subbotin, Deputy Head of Department for sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary measures, Eurasian Economic Commission highlighted that the Customs Union (CU) has been in operation as of 1st July 2010. There are three states in the CU: Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia. Currently Armenia is undergoing the process of accession to the CU. The issue of accession of Kyrgyzstan to the CU was also raised.

He noted that the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) is a permanent supranational regulatory body of the CU and the Single Economic Space (SES). Decisions of the EEC are binding within the territory of the CU and the SES member-states.

Dr Subbotin mentioned that the work of the EEC comprises separate functions, each supervised by a Board Member (Minister) and each encompassing a number of industries and areas of economic activity. There are 23 Departments in the EEC which coordinate with the relevant government bodies within their respective fields of expertise. Issues relating to the SPS measures apply to the competence of the SPS measures Department.

He explained that the EEC is involved in the international cooperation in order to promote the vision of the Eurasian Community and attract key partners from the European and Asia-Pacific regions into the integration processes. He concluded that the Memorandum of Understanding between the EEC and the OIE has been signed and its aim is to ensure optimal collaboration between the OIE and the EEC by coordinating their efforts and the activities in areas of common interest.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr. Henk Jan Ormel, Senior Veterinary Policy Advisor, Animal Health Service, Animal Production and Health Division, FAO (Rome, Italy) , started his presentation by saying that FAO's assistance to its Member Countries is based on country programming frameworks, regional priorities and outcomes of the FAO Regional Conference, and contributes to achieving five strategic objectives: (1) help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; (2) make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable; (3) reduce rural poverty; (4) enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels; and (5) increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

He explained that FAO provides: technical and institutional assistance; policy advice on prevention and control of priority transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses; and advice and capacity-building for reinforcing existing progressive control pathways for brucellosis, FMD and ASF.

Dr Ormel concluded by saying that other important FAO priorities are to: provide assistance through capacity-building, technology transfer, knowledge management, epidemiological analysis and risk assessment; strengthen legal and institutional frameworks for food safety and quality; and build veterinary public health capacity, including traceability of livestock and food of animal origin.

18. Other matters

Dr A. Pärtel, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, indicated that, at the initiative of the Bureau, a questionnaire was prepared to gather the feed-back from the Delegates on the role of the Bureau of the Commission to see how collaboration can be further improved. The questionnaire was distributed and responses are expected by 15 June 2014 (to be provided to Dr A. Pärtel and L. Carbajo Goñi). The results of the questionnaire will be presented during the 26th Conference of the OIE regional Commission for Europe (Bern, Switzerland in September 2014).

The meeting officially ended at 5:45 p.m.

.../Appendix

Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Paris, 26 May 2014**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Report on OIE Council meetings
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow, and the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana
6. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept
7. Election of the Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission
8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016
9. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
10. Organisation of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Berne (Switzerland) from 22 to 26 September 2014
11. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives
12. African swine fever situation in Europe
13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Europe
14. FMD control in Eastern Europe
15. OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe
16. Proposals for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres
17. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - European Commission (EC)
 - Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
18. Other matters

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 26 May 2014

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 46 participants, including Delegates and observers from 13 Members of the Commission and representatives from 5 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates.

Observer countries/territories: France, India, Morocco, Palestine, and United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: FAO, ICFAW, IFHA, WSPA, WVEPAH⁶².

The meeting was chaired by Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani (Qatar), President, assisted by Dr Abdulghani Y. Al Fadhl (Saudi Arabia), Vice-President and Dr Salah Fadhil Abbas (Iraq), Secretary General of the Regional Commission for the Middle East.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of international and regional organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter of concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they had any.

The President added that the funding of the Regional Representation for the Middle East relied on an annual voluntary contribution from the Lebanese government and a little bit less than 10% share of the annual contribution to the OIE by regional Member Countries. However, as several Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East belong to and contribute to other Regional Commissions, only 12 Members in the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East contribute. As most of these Members are not in the highest contribution categories, the share of the regional Members' contribution is insufficient to supply the annual budget required by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to implement its programme of activities.

⁶² WVEPAH: World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health

Therefore, Dr Al-Qahtani encouraged Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to upgrade their level of statutory contributions to the OIE in line with their national level of economic development in order to support the activities of the Regional Commission and Regional Representation more fully, adding that further efforts should also be made to find new sources of funding for its activities.

3. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Ali Abdullah Al-Sahmi, Delegate of Oman and member of the OIE Council, reported that the Council had met in Berlin from 1 to 3 October 2013 to hold a free-ranging, open discussion stimulated by an environmental scan and blueprint pathway in preparation for developing the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan.

He gave general details regarding the main characteristics of the future Strategic Plan and concluded by saying that he would provide more details on the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan during discussion of the agenda item in question.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East including the outcomes of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Amman (Jordan) from 23 to 26 September 2013

Dr Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, stated that the main objectives of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East are to: tackle specific issues relating to the region's animal health situation; and establish cooperation at regional level in order to improve the quality of Veterinary Services, in compliance with OIE standards, through active and efficient collaboration.

He said that regular seminars for OIE National Focal Points in the various fields of activity were a vital part of the process of strengthening Veterinary Services in the region. In that regard, he commented on the seminars held in 2013-2014 on: aquatic animal diseases; wildlife; animal production food safety; and animal welfare.

Lastly, Dr Al-Qahtani reported on the outcomes of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, held in Amman (Jordan), from 23 to 26 September 2013, which had been attended by a total of 70 participants, including OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 16 Member Countries and 4 observer countries and senior officials from four international organisations.

Dr Al-Qahtani commented on the two recommendations developed following discussions of each of the two technical items. Technical Item I (with questionnaire), entitled "Veterinary education and incorporation of the 'One Health' concept", and Technical Item II (without questionnaire), entitled "Proper application of Halal slaughter".

To conclude, Dr Al-Qahtani reminded the Regional Commission that the adopted recommendations would be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates at the seventh plenary session on 27th May 2014, making their implementation binding on the OIE.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented the main objectives of the activities implemented by the Regional Representation during the previous 12 months.

He said that countries in the Middle East had demonstrated increasing interest in the work of the OIE in 2013-2014. This was reflected in the extensive participation and range of topics discussed at the multiple events and meetings held over the past year.

The activities of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East in 2013-2014 were aimed at helping to build the capacity of Veterinary Services to control and manage animal health and welfare, in particular transboundary animal diseases.

The Regional Representation is also involved in: harmonising regulations for regional trade in animals and animal products; improving animal disease information systems; strengthening collaboration with regional and international organisations; holding conferences and seminars to help target specific animal- and public health-related issues; and promoting the establishment of a network of regional reference laboratories and coordinating their activities.

Dr Yehia also described the main outcomes of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, held in Amman (Jordan) in September 2013, and of the seminars for OIE National Focal Points held during the past year: one on aquatic animal diseases, in Byblos (Lebanon); one on wildlife, in Gaborone (Botswana), held jointly with the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa; one on veterinary medicinal products, in Algiers (Algeria), held jointly with the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa; one on animal production food safety, in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates); and one on animal welfare, in Amman (Jordan).

Dr Yehia provided details of the assistance given to countries wishing to take part in laboratory OIE Twinning projects.

He also presented the conclusions of the inter-regional consultative meeting on foot and mouth disease (FMD) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), held in Amman (Jordan), which was an important step in gaining an overview of countries' progress on the FMD Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) roadmap and assisting them in preparing national control plans.

The Regional Representative also confirmed that the OIE was working towards the establishment of an OIE Sub Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in a Gulf Cooperation Council country.

Dr Yehia outlined the activities programmed for the coming year, including: a regional conference on camel diseases scheduled to be held in Cairo (Egypt), to review a common strategy with other camel-producing countries; and a regional conference on vector-borne diseases that was yet to be confirmed. A seminar for OIE National Focal Points for veterinary laboratories is scheduled in September 2014.

He also said that the OIE was working to prepare the region's first veterinary education Twinning project. The project would most likely involve Jordan and the United Kingdom.

Dr Yehia acknowledged the support of Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia in Palermo (Sicily) in organising a training course on equine diseases diagnostic.

In the past year, training courses were held in Amman (Jordan) and Muscat (Oman) as part of the OIE Improved Animal Welfare Programme (IAWP), reflecting the aims of the regional strategy on animal welfare endorsed by Members last year.

Dr Yehia concluded by saying that the Regional Representation for the Middle East would continue to work towards building the technical capacity of Members' Veterinary Services in the region.

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 84th General Session:

- “Interpretation of results of NSP (non-structural protein) tests in epidemiological situations with different vaccine uses”

7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 13th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

- “Prevention of the re-emergence of vector-borne diseases”

The Commission also identified Brucellosis as another topic for consideration during the conference.

8. Confirmation of the venue of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, requested the Delegate of Oman to confirm his country's proposal to host the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission.

Dr Ali Abdullah Al-Sahmi, Delegate of Oman, informed the Regional Commission that his country would be willing to host the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, to be held in November 2015.

Dr Yehia pointed out that, exceptionally, the Regional Conference is being held in November instead of September, the traditional month for holding conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East. This is because the OIE Regional Conference for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, due to be held in Mongolia in 2015, will take place in September owing to weather conditions in that country. This requires the dates of the two conferences to be switched.

9. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives

Dr Ali Abdullah Al-Sahmi, Delegate of Oman and member of the Council, gave the Commission a brief presentation on preparations for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan for the 2016-2020 period. He informed Delegates that a preliminary version of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan had been drafted on the basis of discussions at the previous Council meetings (October 2013 and February 2014).

He reminded participants that the draft had been forwarded to all OIE Delegates in early May 2014 to enable them to submit comments and observations to Council Members in their region.

Dr Al-Sahmi emphasised that the aim of his presentation was to summarise the key information regarding the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan in order to start discussions among Delegates with the aim of finalising the Strategic Plan over forthcoming Council meetings. He said that the final text would be circulated among Member Countries for comments in March 2015 with a view to its adoption at the 83rd General Session in May 2015.

He reiterated that the OIE Council considered that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan should:

- contain a revised consolidated statement of OIE's strategic vision and its global goals;
- take into account current and anticipated global trends and challenges affecting OIE's operating environment;
- incorporate important cross-cutting issues;
- be ambitious but not necessarily expansive;
- be high-level, flexible and enabling rather than prescriptive, and allow for optional approaches in order to be responsive and facilitate implementation; and
- be developed with the engagement of all Members of the OIE.

Dr Al-Sahmi explained that this topic would be included in the agenda of all OIE Council meetings and OIE Regional Conferences to be held over the coming year.

Dr Al-Sahmi reported that, in October 2013, the OIE Council had reviewed the Strategic Objectives and discussed factors expected to impact on the operating environment during the 2016-2020 period, as well as organisational dynamics and institutional arrangements, including the duties and relevance of the current Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, the operation of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, and relationships and synergies with other international organisations. He said that the OIE Council would also be establishing a flexible five-year strategic human resources plan for the recruitment, retention and development of OIE staff.

Dr Al-Sahmi concluded by inviting Delegates to provide their thoughts and comments on the initial framework and directions for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. He emphasised that Members' comments were most welcome and highly valued and said that Members could provide their input to the OIE Director General and to OIE Council members representing the Middle East region.

10. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by referring to the significant worldwide growth of the sport horse industry, bringing with it measurable and significant socio-economic benefits to the respective national economies.

She explained that the OIE has engaged for the past two years in the development of the high health, high performance horse (HHP) concept to facilitate the safe international movement of horses to compete at international equestrian events. She noted that the concept excludes international movement for the purpose of breeding.

She noted that the concept is based on principles that are already well established in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, with special reference to the Chapters on (i) Identification and traceability; (ii) zoning and compartmentalisation; (iii) model passport for competition horses; (iv) certification procedures; and, (v) transport by air, land and sea. Furthermore, comprehensive biosecurity guidelines for HHP horses at their home stable, during transport and at the venue are being developed.

Dr Münstermann then informed participants that the OIE has laid down these general overarching principles for the HHP concept in a new Code chapter, in line with the approach that had been previously taken when introducing Animal Welfare chapters into the Code.

Dr Münstermann added that acceptance of these general principles by OIE Member Countries would provide the OIE ad hoc Group with a clear vision to propose the tools necessary to build the framework for the HHP concept, e.g. additional guidelines.

Dr Münstermann concluded by stating that the early ideas for the HHP concept had been presented at a regional meeting on glanders, held in Dubai in April 2012, and that input from the participants had been received. She added that the HHP concept was also presented to the Regional Commission for the Middle East in Amman in September 2013.

She informed the participants that the OIE plans to hold a Regional Conference on the HHP concept and the existing import regulations in the countries of the Middle East in November 2014.

Dr Ghazi Yehia followed up Dr Münstermann's presentation with some additional comments. He emphasised that the draft Code chapter proposed for adoption strictly describes the concept of HHP horses, while all pertinent questions and concerns will be addressed by future expert meetings and relevant Specialist Commissions, in line with the approach already used when presenting the guiding principles on Animal Welfare to Members. Details of the various activities on the description of the sub-population, certification, diagnostic testing, among others, will be part of an international biosecurity plan, which will be prepared by the private sector in consultation with Members and will be based on the OIE's biosecurity guidelines. He pointed out that Members already use the same approach when implementing compartmentalisation in their territories and when developing the related biosecurity plans, based on the OIE's biosecurity guidelines.

11. Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) situation in the Middle East

Dr Keith Hamilton, Officer in charge of the reduction of biological threats, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, provided the meeting with an overview of the evolving situation with respect to the number of human cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and recent OIE activities designed to gain a better understanding of the role that the presence of the MERS-CoV strain of coronavirus found in camels may play in the current outbreak. Evidence from a limited number of studies suggests that there is an association between MERS-CoV and some infections in humans and camels.

Dr Hamilton provided a brief overview of the history of the current human epidemic indicating that MERS-CoV had not been reported in humans before April 2012. As of May 23, 2014 there had been 635 laboratory confirmed human cases including 193 deaths. The countries affected include Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. In addition, cases have been reported in Egypt, Tunisia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Philippines and the United States of America in individuals who had recently travelled to the Middle East.

Most human cases of MERS-CoV have been confirmed to have had exposure to other human cases of MERS-CoV. However, MERS-CoV does not appear to be easily transmissible from human to human. The dynamics of infection and transmission of MERS-CoV in camel populations, between camels and humans, and between humans are not fully understood.

Serological studies suggest that camels sampled in several countries in the Middle East and Africa have been exposed to MERS-CoV or a similar coronavirus. In sampled adult camel populations the seroprevalence has been high. In younger camels there has been a more variable seroprevalence. Given the limited number of cases of MERS-CoV in humans that have had direct contact with camels, it appears that the MERS-CoV does not appear to be easily transmitted from camels to humans. The involvement of other species of domestic animal or wildlife in the epidemiology of MERS-CoV cannot be ruled out at this stage.

Although MERS-CoV has been isolated from camels showing signs of mild respiratory disease, it is not yet known whether the virus causes clinical disease in animals. Preliminary data suggest that infective camels shed virus in nasal and ocular secretions (to a lesser extent in faeces). Therefore the OIE is aligned with the World Health Organisation in its recommendations that precautionary public health measures be taken to limit contact between camels which are known to be infected with MERS-CoV (PCR positive and/or virus isolation) and other camels that have been in close contact with known infected camels, until the end of the infective period, and to follow general hygiene recommendations when handling all camels.

There is no evidence about the presence or absence of MERS-CoV in the milk or meat of infected camels. Experimental studies show that the MERS-CoV can survive in raw milk. The risk of (cross) contamination between nasal secretions and milk cannot be ruled out. Consequently, the OIE supports the precautionary public health message to avoid drinking raw milk and/or uncooked meat from camels until more is known about the presence or absence of MERS-CoV in these untreated food products and the potential for cross contamination with other secretions or excretions.

According to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the OIE considers that MERS-CoV is an emerging disease owing to its impact on public health and that OIE Member Countries should report detections of MERS-CoV in animals to the OIE as an immediate notification. This is important for informing public health measures. At the national level, the OIE urges Veterinary Services to immediately report confirmed virological or PCR positive cases of MERS-CoV in camels (or other animals) to the Public Health authorities.

Dr Hamilton stressed that there is a need to gain more knowledge about the dynamics of MERS-CoV infections in animals including the routes of virus shedding; the incubation and infective period in camels; the infectivity of the virus amongst camel populations; the likely prevalence (stratified across age groups) of infection in camel herds; the geographical and temporal distribution of camel infections; and risk factors for disease spread.

OIE urges Member Countries to carry out a full epidemiological investigation on confirmation of MERS-CoV infections in animals. This should be done in collaboration with public health authorities.

OIE also urges countries to conduct surveillance in the camel population to better understand the temporal and spatial distribution of infection.

The OIE is working closely with its partner organisations FAO and WHO to collate and share data to gain a better understanding about the possible disease situation in animals and to assess implications for animal and human health.

The OIE has convened the ad-hoc Group on Camelid Diseases to advise the Director General in terms of both research needs and possible guidance once more knowledge becomes available and has posted a series of questions and answers on the OIE website to raise awareness and to inform Delegates of the latest information.

The OIE has also undertaken missions to several Member Countries and additional missions are planned to gain further insights into the in country situation.

Discussion

Dr Mehdi El Harrak, President of the OIE ad-hoc Group on Camelid Diseases, stressed once more the lack of current knowledge regarding MERS-CoV in camels. He also underlined the need for increased veterinary laboratory capacity for testing the virus and the need for further epidemiological investigations to identify at-risk animal populations.

Dr Vincenzo Caporale, President of the OIE Biological Standards Commission, recommended caution when interpreting current published surveillance data in the absence of fully validated tests for MERS-CoV in camels. He underlined the importance of gaining a better understanding of the pathogenesis of the disease and suggested that experimental infections be undertaken.

12. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in the Middle East

Dr Aziza Mustafa, Chargée de mission, OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease notification concerning the Region.

She started by emphasizing the importance of timely disease reporting through WAHIS by the countries/territories, and of the provision of other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control, to maintain transparency, to enhance trade and to contribute to the global early warning. She then went on to provide relevant information on compliance with reporting for 2013 in the Middle East.

Dr Mustafa also showed the evolution of the number of countries from the Region submitting reports to the OIE since 2005 as well as the evolution of submission time since 2005, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Finally, Dr Daria Di Sabatino, Chargée de mission, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the recent exceptional events of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in the Middle East.

13. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Markos Tibbo, Livestock Officer, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, began his presentation by saying that FAO assists countries by building their capacity in the areas of: disease surveillance; prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (FMD, lumpy skin disease [LSD], PPR) and zoonoses (H5N1 avian influenza, Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus [MERS-CoV], brucellosis); improving animal productivity and efficiency; and fostering use of genetic resources. The interruption of animal disease control systems in several countries, increasingly unregulated movements of animals and other factors have heightened the risk of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in the Near East and North Africa. Dr Tibbo reported that FAO had provided training in: strengthening veterinary quarantine systems; good emergency management practices; biosecurity measures; preparedness for and response to animal disease emergencies. FAO had also provided a neutral forum interface with a variety of stakeholders.

He added that FAO provides direct support with animal disease surveillance, diagnosis, and control of priority animal diseases (FMD, PPR, LSD, Rift Valley fever, H5N1 avian influenza, Newcastle disease).

He said that FAO and OIE have jointly organised regional events under GF-TADs, including for the FMD-PCP roadmap/strategy and PPR Control Strategy.

Dr Tibbo concluded by stating that FAO: provides technical, institutional and policy advice through capacity-building, knowledge management and the mobilisation of experts in specialised fields to transfer technologies for sustainable livestock production; assists countries in assessing animal feed resources and their management; assists smallholders engaged in dairy, small ruminant and honeybee production to improve their yield, income, access to markets and resilience to shocks; and assists countries in breed characterisation and adding value to local breeds and their products to support their development and market access.

14. Other matters

Making reference to the previous discussions on MERS-CoV, Dr Vincenzo Caporale suggested that some experts on camel diseases of the Region participate in the OIE Global Conference on Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to take place in Rep. of Korea in October 2014.

The meeting ended at 4:20 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
Paris, 26 May 2014**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE
 3. Report on OIE Council meetings
 4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East including the outcomes of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Amman (Jordan) from 23 to 26 September 2013
 5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East
 6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016
 7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
 8. Confirmation of the venue of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
 9. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives
 10. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept
 11. Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) situation in the Middle East
 12. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in Middle East
 13. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 14. Other matters
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