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Avian Influenza: International Community takes action



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A big thank-you to the Geneva Meeting



The Meeting on Avian Influenza and Human Pandemic Influenza which was held in Geneva from 7-9 November 2005 was extremely useful on several counts. More than 600 participants from a hundred different countries took part in working out consensus

conclusions, which will allow a better coordination of the worldwide management of the crisis started since the new H5N1 'Asia strain' appeared in South East Asia at the end of 2003.

For the first time, four world organisations (WHO, FAO, OIE and the World Bank) agreed to co-organise a meeting of this kind, bringing together the medical and veterinary professions and the international financial community, the meeting being hosted and perfectly organised by the WHO.

The Meeting in Geneva brought together government Delegations comprising doctors, veterinarians and diplomats, representatives of many Regional Organisations including the European Commission and the African Union, and, in addition to the World Bank, the major regional development banks (African, Asian and American Development Banks).

The OIE's first message, and one that our colleagues and partners at the FAO have always wholeheartedly shared, was as follows: the probability of a human pandemic occurring is directly correlated to the quantity of virus type H5 (and even H7) circulating in the world's farmed bird population, wild birds being more resistant to the infection. The greater the number of farmed birds contaminated by this type of virus, the greater the quantity of virus circulating worldwide and the higher the probability of a human pandemic occurring as a result of virus mutation or reassortment. If on the other hand the number of birds infected by the H5 or H7 avian influenza virus subtypes were to remain at the same level as before the

present crisis originating in Asia, the probability of an imminent pandemic would be lower, though it must be said that no scientist on earth has ever been able to calculate this probability. Control of the virus in animals worldwide must therefore be one of the priorities in allocating national and global resources. This message was very clearly taken into account.

The second message, also well received by the Meeting, was that the viruses present in birds and potentially capable of evolving into viruses capable of human-to-human transmission by mutation or

reassortment are currently circulating (or will circulate), above all in developing countries with neither the appropriate organisational structure nor the resources to set up prevention and control systems for farmed birds.

Developed countries and some transition countries have succeeded in controlling the virus as soon as it occurred in their livestock: Japan,

Korea, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Romania and Turkey, Croatia have so far succeeded in combating the first incursions of the Asian strain on their territory. Yet it must be said that, should the need arise, at least a hundred countries around the world still lack the appropriate veterinary legislation and administrative and financial structures to deal with an infection of this kind without international scientific, technical and financial support. In

The Meeting will allow a better coordination of the worldwide management of the crisis H5N1 'Asia strain'





Vietnam, for example, the virus has broken through all the first lines of defence since the beginning of 2004, and despite the slaughter of tens of millions of birds, is now present in virtually all of the country. Several hundred million birds in Vietnam will have to be vaccinated to try to stem this disaster, and external aid will be absolutely essential if this is to be achieved within an acceptable period.

Fortunately, the majority of developing countries are not yet directly affected by the present strain, but the Meeting most opportunely acknowledged that the prevention and control of avian influenza and other emerging diseases of animal origin should be designated an International Public Good. Indeed, failure by a single country could place the entire world in danger, especially in a context of increasing globalisation in the movement of commodities, animals and people. As a result, there is also a globalisation of pathogens. By conquering new territories they encounter previously impossible opportunities for genetic mixing, carrying with it the possibility of their becoming increasingly dangerous for animals and for mankind.

The Meeting therefore emphasised the importance of these new sanitary issues and the urgent need to give unreserved support both to the developing countries currently infected and those that are at risk of becoming infected in the near future, such as those on the African continent, to help them be ready to prevent and control the disease.

The probability of a human pandemic occurring is directly correlated to the quantity of virus type H5 (and even H7) circulating in the world's farmed bird population

The Meeting also took into account the third and last priority message on which I and my team laid particular emphasis: the emergency programmes will only be 'a flash in the pan' if we do not learn from the lessons of this crisis, and set up sustainable veterinary prevention and control mechanisms throughout the world on behalf of poor countries and in the interests of the international community at large.

We know that 75% of emerging diseases in humans are of animal origin and that 80% of pathogens that could potentially be used for bioterrorism are also derived from animals. We can therefore be certain that from now, on crises will repeatedly occur in our globalised world if we do not help the countries included in the emergency aid package evaluated in Geneva to equip themselves with Veterinary Services that comply with the minimum quality standards democratically adopted by all 167 Member Countries of the OIE. These standards deal with good

governance and the adoption of the most effective veterinary sanitary policies, optimal legislation and administrative organisation, the role of producers in disease management, transparency, independence, the necessary scientific and technical competencies and the level of human and financial resources needed to implement the appropriate policies.

Good governance is based on a strong Veterinary Service capable of ensuring that the legislation is strictly applied. This will mean abandoning the components of the structural adjustment policies imposed on certain developing countries, which in some cases have reduced the public Veterinary Services to the bare bones and rendered them ineffective.

These standards also enable a country that complies with them to effectively apply two principles that are crucial for preventing and controlling animal diseases: early detection of a emerging or re-emerging disease as soon as it appears – for each minute counts if one is to stop a pathogen spreading – and a rapid response to the incursion by the emergency slaughter of infected or in-

contact animals, while applying the OIE standards adopted to prevent unnecessary suffering for animals that have to be slaughtered.

It is both a duty and in their own interests for rich countries to help poor countries set up or re-establish sustainable veterinary systems, based on an effective administration supported by a dense and highly motivated network of private rural veterinarians, and by livestock farmers who are well-trained and organised in the sanitary field.

The global cost of such a programme is far lower, for example, than the very high cost of stockpiling antiviral drugs currently being undertaken by the rich countries to prepare for a possible pandemic. Such a pandemic would now undoubtedly have been a much less likely occurrence had these same countries helped the poor countries of Asia at the start of the crisis in 2003, as we and the FAO suggested at the time but to no avail.

The Meeting also raised the thorny issue of communication about sanitary risks. How can we justify the fact that global communication, which for the past two years has been almost entirely concerned with the fear of

a pandemic, has completely lost sight of the distress of hundreds of thousands of families in Asia suddenly

deprived of their only means of support? How can we avoid the massive fall in the consumption of chicken (up to 50% recently in Italy), which will lead to the loss of thousands of jobs even before the European Union has suffered a single case?

This subject could not be dealt with in depth in Geneva. It would merit a new international conference of its own to deal with our methods of communication in times of crisis,

regardless of whether the issue is influenza or other emerging or re emerging diseases.

Let us not forget that the WHO defines human health as not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, but a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. Thousands of farmers, firms and employees in the poultry industry all over the world

are going to disappear pointlessly. Who is going to compensate them for their distress? How long before we can say 'never again'?

It is a duty in their own interests for rich countries to help poor countries set up or re-establish sustainable veterinary systems



Bernard Vallat
Director General, OIE

Food safety update

The safety of foods of animal origin is an area accorded high priority by the OIE. Following a request by its International Committee to strengthen activities in the food safety area and desiring to further develop collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), a permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety was established in 2002. The Working Group's role is to co-ordinate OIE activities related to animal production food safety and to provide advice to the Director General of the OIE and relevant Specialist Commissions in these areas.



At the 73rd OIE General Session, held in Paris in May 2005, a report from the Working Group's fourth meeting was presented. In that report, the Working Group identified the following additional work and priorities for 2005/2006:

Horizontal issues

- animal identification and traceability
- testing, inspection and certification
- antimicrobial resistance
- most effective approaches to zoonoses – listing or alternative approaches
- good farming practices
- guidelines for animal feeding, taking into account the work already done by the CAC
- ante- and post-mortem meat inspection standards
- role of Veterinary Services in the reduction of chemical hazards of public and animal health significance at the farm level.

Disease-specific OIE texts

- *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* chapters on brucellosis
- Salmonellosis, initially *Salmonella enteritidis* in eggs.

Strengthened relationship between OIE and Codex

- enhanced OIE input into Codex texts
- effective utilisation of Codex expertise in the work of OIE ad hoc groups.

On 24 May 2005 the OIE International Committee adopted a resolution recommending the Director General to maintain the Working Group with the above work programme as a guide to its activities, giving special attention to its work on animal identification and traceability, and to drafting a text dealing with *Salmonella enteritidis* in eggs for consideration by the Committee. One result of the Working Group's activities is that the OIE has already submitted a

draft text on animal identification and

traceability to Member Countries for comment. At the 28th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, held in Rome in July 2005, the Director General of the OIE provided extensive information about OIE activities relevant to Codex work, including OIE's input into the development of the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding, the draft Code of Practice on Meat Hygiene and the draft Code of Practice to Minimise and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance. Dr Vallat reaffirmed the OIE's desire to further improve cooperation with Codex in order to enhance the harmonised development of the following priority areas: animal identification and traceability, testing, inspection and certification, antimicrobial resistance, good farming practices, and salmonellosis and other foodborne diseases. The CAC reciprocated the desire for improved cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

The fifth meeting of the Working Group will take place in Paris from 30 January to 1 February 2006.

Volume 25 (2) of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*, planned for publication in August 2006, will deal with the subject of *Animal production food safety challenges in global markets*.



new OIE publications

These publications are available for purchase from the OIE e-bookshop
www.oie.int (publications)

Biological disasters of animal origin: the role and preparedness of veterinary and public health services

Scientific and Technical Review

Volume **25** (1), April 2006

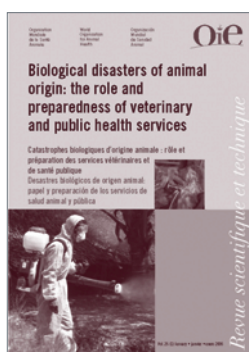
Trilingual

ISBN 92-9044-661-7

29.7 × 21 cm

approx. 350 pp.

Price: 50 €



It is the efficiency with which we plan for and confront traditional and emerging disease outbreaks that will predict our ability and confidence in tackling intentional outbreaks if, when, and where they occur. The cost of disease increases even as the incidence may decrease. And as the health and productivity of livestock have increased, the more we depend on a veterinary corps with decreasing hands-on experience in handling epidemics. This means that planning and training must

depend on valid models. To prevent public panic, communications must be transparent. Laboratory support must be able to respond to surge demands as well as forensic investigations. These and other crucial dimensions – such as compliance of Veterinary Services with OIE standards, early detection and rapid response to outbreaks – herd registration, rapid field diagnostics and data entry, inter-agency coordination, to take but a few – of where we must go are covered by recognized experts in this publication.

Compendium of technical items presented to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions of the OIE 2005

Trilingual

29.7 × 21 cm

approx. 200 pp.

ISSN 1022-1050

ISBN 92-9044-660-9

Price: 30 €



OIE standards within the framework of the SPS Agreement – Applications of genetic engineering for livestock and biotechnology products – Socio-economic and animal health impact of transhumance – The implications of GMOs for the livestock industry in Africa – Capacity-building in the Veterinary Services of Middle Eastern countries – Registration of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals – Avian influenza and emerging diseases of relevance in Asia – Epidemiological analysis of BSE



'Avian Influenza' pages

On the following pages of the OIE website, you will find the latest scientific and sanitary information on the disease, as well as on international standards:

Information on the world sanitary situation as regards highly pathogenic avian influenza

– a special page entitled 'Update on Avian Influenza in Animals'

http://www.oie.int/download/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A_AI-Asia.htm

– weekly information containing emergency notifications and animal health follow-up reports

http://www.oie.int/eng/info/hebdo/a_info.htm

NB: If you wish to receive alerts and weekly information by email, you may subscribe to the OIE-info mailing list.

http://www.oie.int/eng/info/en_listserv.htm

Scientific information on avian influenza is also available in the 'Focus on' section of the OIE's home page:

<http://www.oie.int>

Information on international standards regarding avian influenza:

– relevant page of the *Code*

http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_2.7.12.htm

– relevant page of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests* on the OIE's website (available in English only):

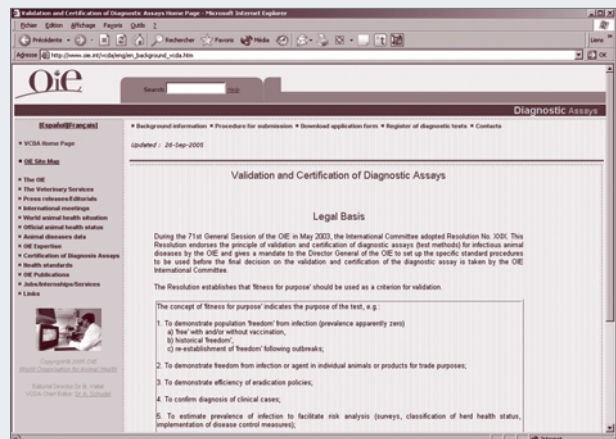
http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mmanual/A_00037.htm

Presentation of the Joint OIE/FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of avian influenza (OFFLU)

http://www.oie.int/eng/OIE/organisation/en_OFFLU.htm

Validation and certification of diagnostic assays

The previous issue of the OIE *Bulletin* in 2005 contained the formal procedure for the validation and certification of diagnostic kits; their modalities of application were available in English on the OIE website under the heading 'Certification of diagnostic assays'. The procedure and modalities of application have since been translated into Spanish and French, and are available on the OIE website as well.



meetings and visits

August to December 2005

August (continued)

AQSIQ workshop on OIE international standards

Dr D. Wilson, Head, International Trade Department, represented the OIE at the AQSIQ workshop on OIE international standards, held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, from 15 to 17 August 2005.

September (continued)

Organisation of the OIE Expert Mission to Russia

At the request of the Russian Authorities, the OIE sent an expert mission to Russia to advise the authorities on the role of wildlife in avian influenza transmission and to assess the current Russian capabilities for diagnosis and control of avian influenza. Drs S. Marangon from Italy, I. Brown from UK, V. Guberti from Italy, N. Gaidet from France and B. Olsen from Sweden participated in this Mission, held in Russia, from 1 to 10 September 2005.

STDF's Policy Group meeting and Working Group meeting

Dr A. Thiermann, President of the Terrestrial Code Commission, and Dr D. Sibartie, Deputy Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, represented the OIE at the STDF's Policy Group meeting and Working Group meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, 6-7 September 2005.

Meeting of the European Union Heads of Veterinary Services

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, took part in the meeting of European Union Heads of Veterinary Services held in Edinburgh (Scotland), in the United Kingdom on 6 and 7 September 2005, at the invitation of the British presidency.

Organisation of the OIE Expert mission to Kazakhstan

Drs G. Cattoli and S. Marangon, Experts on avian influenza, assisted the Government of Kazakhstan with the measures to be implemented for the prevention and control of avian influenza, from 6 to 11 September 2005.

Organisation and participation in a seminar on the quality of Veterinary Services organised by the OIE, with the support of the delegate of Russia and its services

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, Professor N.T. Belev, Regional Representative of the OIE for Europe, and Dr V. Bellemain, Director of ENSV, OIE collaborating centre, took part in a seminar on the quality of Veterinary Services organised by the OIE, with the support of the delegate of Russia and its services, held in Suzdal, Russian Federation, from 12 to 14 September 2005.

First Regional Workshop on WAHIS, visit of the OIE's Regional Representation for Asia, and the Pacific and meeting with Representatives from the Japanese Veterinary Services

Dr K. Ben Jebara, Head, Animal Health Information Department, and Dr D. Chaisemartin, Chargé de Mission to the Director General, represented the OIE at the First Regional Workshop on WAHIS and the visit of the OIE's Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific and meeting with Representatives from the Japanese Veterinary Services, held in Vientiane, Laos and Tokyo, Japan, from 12 to 16 September 2005.

International High Level Forum on Bioeconomy 2005

Dr J. Pearson, OIE Consultant, represented the OIE at the International High Level Forum on Bioeconomy 2005, held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, from 13 to 15 September 2005.



Participation in the WHO Consultation on Tissue Infectivity Distribution in Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies

Dr D. Mathews, OIE Expert on TSE, represented the OIE at the WHO Consultation on Tissue Infectivity Distribution in Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, held in WHO, Geneva, Switzerland, from 14 to 16 September 2005.

Participation in the 18th European Flu Meeting and its Prevention

Dr I. Capua, OFFLU General Coordinator, represented the OIE at the 18th European Flu Meeting and its Prevention, held in La Baule, France, 19-20 September 2005.

Session of the Research Group of the Standing Technical Committee of the European Commission for the Control of FMD (EUFMD)

Dr D. Paton, OIE Expert on FMD, represented the OIE at the Session of the Research Group of the Standing Technical Committee of the European Commission for the Control of FMD (EUFMD), held in Greifswald, Germany, from 20 to 23 September 2005.

World Dairy Summit 2005

Dr J. Pinto, Deputy Head, Animal Health Information Department, represented the OIE at the World Dairy Summit 2005, held in Vancouver, Canada, from 17 to 22 September 2005.

Meeting on avian influenza, World Bank

Dr J.-L. Angot, Head, Administrative and Financial Department, represented the OIE at the meeting on avian influenza held at the World Bank, Washington, United States of America, on 23 September 2005.

International symposium on the comparative advantages for typical animal products for the Mediterranean zone

Dr D. Chaisemartin, Chargé de Mission to the Director General, represented the OIE at the International symposium on the comparative advantages for typical animal products for the Mediterranean zone, held in Fonte Boa, Portugal, from 24 to 27 September 2005.

65th executive committee meeting/29th session of APHCA and FAO-ACPHA/OIE regional avian influenza economic assessment workshop

Dr Ch. Brusckke, Chargée de Mission to the Scientific and Technical Department, and Dr Y. Oketani, Deputy of the Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the 65th executive committee meeting/the 29th session of APHCA and FAO-ACPHA/OIE regional avian influenza economic assessment workshop, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 26 to 29 September 2005.

8th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and participation in a seminar organised by Australia at the fringe of the conference

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, Dr D. Sibartie, Head, Department of Regional Activities, Dr J.-M. Bergès, Chargé de Mission, Mrs H. Gevers, Department of Regional Activities, Mrs B. Agudelo, Department of Regional Activities, Dr G. Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, and Mrs R. Rizk, Secretariat of the Regional Representative for the Middle East,

participated in the 8th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, held in Manama, Bahrain, from 26 to 30 September 2005.

OIE-EU seminar on the dialogue and common activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Dr J.-L. Angot, Head, Administrative and Financial Department, Professor N.T. Belev, Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, and Dr D. Chaisemartin, Chargé de Mission to the Director General, took part in the OIE-EU seminar on the dialogue and common activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 28 and 29 September 2005.



National Congress of Parasitology

Dr A. Golovko, Secretary General of the OIE Laboratories Commission, represented the OIE at the National Congress of Parasitology, held in Brasov, Romania, 29-30 September 2005.

Meeting of the EFSA Task Force on Zoonoses

Dr D. Chaisemartin, Chargé de Mission to the Director General, represented the OIE at a meeting of the EFSA task force on zoonoses, held in Parma, Italy, on 29 and 30 September 2005.

October

Conference on 'New Diagnostic Technology: Applications in Animal Health and Biologics Controls'

Dr A. Schudel, Head, Scientific and Technical Department, Dr F. Diaz, Chargé de Mission to the Scientific and Technical Department, Professor S. Edwards, President of the Biological Standards Commission, Dr J. Pearson, OIE Consultant, and Ms M. Banaszak, Publications Department, represented the OIE at the Conference on 'New Diagnostic Technology: Applications

in Animal Health and Biologics Controls', held in Saint-Malo, France, from 2 to 4 October 2005.

WTO Seminar on the application of SPS measures and OIE Seminar on 'training the trainers programme' for CVOs and their Collaborators

Dr D. Sibartie, Head, Regional Activities Department, Dr J.-M. Bergès, Chargé de Mission to the Regional Activities Department, and Dr S. Sidibé, Regional Representative for Africa, represented the OIE at the WTO Seminar on the application of SPS measures and OIE Seminar on 'train the trainers programme' for CVOs and their Collaborators, held in Bamako, Mali, from 3 to 7 October 2005.

Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health (CISA) and Latin-American Congress on Poultry; visit of the Gorgas Laboratory of Tropical Diseases; and Meeting of the Latin-American Association of Poultry (ALA)

Dr L.O. Barcos, Regional Representative for the Americas, represented the OIE at the Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health (CISA), and at the Latin-American Congress on Poultry, visited the Gorgas Laboratory of Tropical Diseases, and participated at the Meeting of the Latin-American Association of Poultry (ALA), held in Panama, from 3 to 9 October 2005.

WTO Regional Seminar on the SPS Agreement and OIE 'Train the Trainers' Workshop

Dr D. Wilson, Head, International Trade Department, Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, and Dr R. Abila, the Regional Coordinator of the SEAFMD Programme, represented the OIE at the WTO Regional Seminar on the SPS Agreement and OIE 'Train the Trainers' Workshop, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 10 to 14 October 2005.

European Technological Platform for Global Animal Health, working groups 2 and 3

Dr A. Schudel, Head, Scientific and Technical Department, and Dr Ch. Brusckhe, Chargée de Mission to the Scientific and Technical Department, represented the OIE at the European Technological Platform for Global Animal Health, working groups 2 and 3, held in Brussels, Belgium, 11-12 October 2005.

First East-West Veterinary Medicine and Feeding Stuff Congress 'Bridge over Europe'

Dr W. Droppers, Chargé de Mission to the International Trade Department, represented the OIE at the First East-West Veterinary Medicine and Feeding Stuff Congress 'Bridge over Europe', held in Riga, Latvia, on 14 October 2005.



**Cycle of Conferences
IICA-Diario El Pais,
Interamerican Institute
for Cooperation on
Agriculture (IICA)
Uruguay**

Dr A. Schudel, Head, Scientific and Technical Department, represented the OIE at the Cycle of Conferences IICA-Diario El Pais, Interamerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Uruguay, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 14 October 2005.

**Steering
Committee FMD-CSF**

Dr Ch. Brusckhe, Chargée de Mission to the Scientific and Technical Department, represented the OIE at the Steering Committee FMD-CSF, held in the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, United Kingdom, on 17 October 2005.

**11th meeting of the PACE
Advisory Committee and
ALive Executive
Committee meeting**

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, Dr D. Sibartie, Head, Department of Regional Activities, Dr J.-M. Bergès, Chargé de Mission to the Department of Regional Activities, Dr Caroline Planté, technical assistant to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa, participated in the 11th

meeting of the PACE Advisory Committee and ALive Executive Committee meeting, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 17 to 21 October 2005.

**Preparation of the OIE
Technical Expert Mission
to Kish Island**

Dr J.M. Sánchez-Viscaíno, OIE Expert on equine diseases, and Dr G. Yehia, Regional Representative for Middle East, represented the OIE at the meeting of the preparation of the OIE Technical Expert Mission to Kish Island, held in Kish Island, Iran, from 17 to 21 October 2005.

**APEC Workshop on the
Development and
Adoption of International
Standards with a focus on
Plant and Animal Health**

Dr T. Ishibashi, Chargée de Mission to the International Trade Department, represented the OIE at the APEC Workshop on the Development and Adoption of International Standards with a focus on Plant and

Animal Health, held in Fort Collins, United States of America, from 18 to 22 October 2005.

**Conference on Food
and Feed Safety,
EFSA PHARE Project**

Dr A. Schudel, Head, Scientific and Technical Department, represented the OIE at the Conference on Food and Feed Safety, EFSA PHARE Project, held in Bucharest, Romania, from 19 to 21 October 2005.

**Euroconference
on Mastering anti-
infective therapies**

Dr W. Droppers, Chargé de Mission to the International Trade Department, represented the OIE at the Euroconference on Mastering anti-infective therapies, held in Institut Pasteur, Paris, France, 20-21 October 2005.

**Fourth Meeting of the
NACA Advisory Group
on Aquatic Animal
Health Management**

Dr Y. Oketani, Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the Fourth Meeting of the NACA Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health Management, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 22 to 24 October 2005.

**Second Joint WHO/EC
Workshop on Pandemic
Influenza Preparedness
Planning**

Dr W. Droppers, Chargé de Mission to the International Trade Department, represented the OIE at the Second Joint WHO/EC Workshop on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Planning, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 24 to 26 October 2005.

**Conference on
Agriculture's Role
in Managing
Antimicrobial Resistance**

Dr J. Acar, OIE Expert, represented the OIE at the Conference on Agriculture's Role in Managing Antimicrobial Resistance, held in Toronto, Canada, from 23 to 26 October 2005.

**First seminar on the
new OIE's World Animal
Health Information
System in Europe**

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, Professor N.T. Belev, the Regional

Representative for Europe, Dr K. Ben Jebara, Head, Animal Health Information Department, and Dr D. Chaisemartin, Chargé de Mission to the Director General, represented the OIE at the First seminar on the new OIE's World Animal Health Information System in Europe, held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 24 to 27 October 2005.

November

17th VICH Steering Committee Meeting

Dr P. Dehaumont, Director of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products, represented the OIE at the 17th VICH Steering Committee Meeting, held in Kyoto, Japan, 1-2 November 2005.

US-China symposium on avian influenza

Dr D. Wilson, Head, International Trade Department, represented the OIE at the US-China symposium on avian influenza, held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, 1-2 November 2005.

GLEWS meeting between the OIE, the FAO and the WHO

Dr K. Ben Jebara, Head, Animal Health Information Department, and

Dr D. Chaisemartin, Chargé de Mission to the Director General, represented the OIE at the GLEWS meeting between the OIE, the FAO and the WHO, held in Parma, Italy, on 2 and 3 November 2005.

Conference of African Ministers in charge of animal resources and Veterinary Services and preparation for the conference in Geneva with the technical managers responsible for avian influenza at the FAO and the World Bank

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, took part in the conference of African Ministers in charge of animal resources and Veterinary Services and preparation for the conference in Geneva with the technical managers responsible for avian influenza at the FAO and the World Bank, held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 2 to 4 November 2005.

109th Annual Meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and 48th Annual Conference of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD)

Dr A. Schudel, Head, Scientific and Technical Department, represented the OIE at 109th Annual Meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and 48th Annual Conference of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), held in Hershey, Pennsylvania, United States of America, from 3 to 9 November 2005.

International Course on the Prevention and Control of Exotic Animal Diseases, CISA, INIA

Dr A. Schudel, Head, Scientific and Technical Department, represented the OIE at International Course on the Prevention and Control of Exotic Animal Diseases, CISA, INIA, held in Valdeolmos, Spain, 3-4 November 2005.

Seminar on the dialogue and common activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Dr J.-L. Angot, Head, Administrative and Financial Department, Dr D. Wilson, Head, International Trade Department, and Dr V. Bellemain, Director, ENSV, OIE Collaborating Centre, represented the OIE at the seminar on the dialogue and common activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Poiana Brasov, Romania, on 7 and 8 November 2005.

WB/WHO/OIE/FAO international conference on avian influenza and prevention of a human pandemic

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, Dr A. Thiermann, President of the OIE Code Commission, Dr Ch. Brüscke, Chargée de Mission to the Scientific and

Technical Department, Dr W. Droppers, Chargé de Mission to the International Trade Department, Mrs M. Zampaglione, in charge of Communications, Dr L.O. Barcos, Regional Representative for the Americas, Dr T. Fujita, Regional Representative for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, Dr S. Sidibé, Regional Representative for Africa, and Dr G. Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East, took part in the international conference on avian influenza and prevention of a human pandemic, organised by the World Bank, WHO, OIE and FAO, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 7 to 9 November 2005.

Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for France

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, and Dr J.-L. Angot, Head, Administrative and Financial Department, met with Mr D. Bussereau, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for France, in Paris, France, on 10 November 2005, regarding the participation of France in OIE activities.

24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far east and Oceania

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, Dr D. Sibartie, Head, Department of Regional Activities, Mrs H. Gevers, Department of Regional Activities, Mrs B. Agudelo, Department of Regional Activities, Dr T. Fujita, Regional Representative for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, Dr Y. Oketani, Regional Representative for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, Dr R. Abila, Regional Coordinator for SEAFMD, and Dr S. Forman, SEAFMD advisor, participated in the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Seoul, Korea, from 14 to 18 November 2005.

Meeting with the President of the World Bank

Dr J.-L. Angot, Head, Administrative and Financial Department, and Mrs M. Zampaglione, in charge

of Communications, met with Mr P. Wolfowitz, President of the World Bank, and Mr K.S. Kellems, Advisor to the President of the World Bank, in a Conference organised in Paris, on 15 November 2005, to talk about the cooperation between the World Bank and the OIE.

12th International Symposium of the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (ISWAVLD) and 7th OIE Seminar on Biotechnology

Professor S. Edwards, President of the Biological Standard Commission, and Dr A. Schudel, Head, Scientific and Technical Department, represented the OIE at the 12th International Symposium of the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (ISWAVLD) and 7th OIE Seminar on Biotechnology, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 15 to 19 November 2005.

Colloque 'Humanité-Animalité'

Dr M. Artois, OIE Expert on wildlife diseases, represented the OIE at the Colloque 'Humanité-Animalité', held at the Hospital of the Salpêtrière, Paris, France, on 16 November 2005.

International Symposium on Influenza Pandemic Preparedness

Dr L.O. Barcos, Regional Representative for the Americas, represented the OIE at the International Symposium on Influenza Pandemic Preparedness, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 16 to 18 November 2005.

COPA-COGECA meeting on AI

Dr A. Thiermann, President Terrestrial Code Commission, and Ms M. Zampaglione, in charge of Communications, represented the OIE at the COPA-COGECA meeting on AI, held in Brussels, Belgium, on 17 November 2005.

EU Welfare Quality Project conference

Dr D. Wilson, Head, International Trade Department, represented the OIE at the EU Welfare Quality Project conference, held in Brussels, Belgium, 17-18 November 2005.

International Congress on Food Safety

Dr R. Dugas, Head, Publications Department,

represented the OIE at the International Congress on Food Safety, held in Murcia, Spain, from 17 to 19 November 2005.

Meeting with the Ambassador of Iran in France

Dr J.-L. Angot, Head, Administrative and Financial Department, met with Mr S.M.S. Kharazi, Ambassador of Iran in France, and Mr M.R. Abbassi, First Secretary to the Embassy of Iran in France, in Paris, France, on 18 November 2005, regarding the participation of Iran in the activities of the OIE.

33rd Session of the FAO Conference

Dr J.-L. Angot, Head, Administrative and Financial Department, represented the OIE at the 33rd Session of the FAO Conference, held in Rome, Italy, from 24 to 26 November 2005.

OIE/SEAFDEC Hands-on Training on Important Viral Pathogens of Fish and Shrimp

Dr Y. Oketani, Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at OIE/SEAFDEC Hands-on

Training on Important Viral Pathogens of Fish and Shrimp, held in Iloilo, Philippines, 21-22 November 2005.

European Union meeting between experts in human and animal health on the collection of data on zoonoses and food poisoning and the meeting of the EFSA Task Force on zoonoses

Dr D. Chaisemartin, Chargé de Mission to the Director General, represented the OIE at the European Union meeting between experts in human and animal health on the collection of data on zoonoses and food poisoning and the meeting of the EFSA Task Force on zoonoses, held at Parma, Italy, on 23 and 24 November 2005.

First Regional Meeting for Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services, SPC

Dr K. Ben Jebara, Head, Animal Health Information Department, and Dr T. Fujita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at First Regional Meeting for Heads of

Veterinary and Animal Production Services, SPC, held in Nadi, Fiji, from 23 November to 2 December 2005.

COST International Research Conference for Brucellosis in small ruminants sease

Dr A. Giovaninni, Expert on epidemiology, represented the OIE at the COST International Research Conference for Brucellosis in small ruminants, held in Skopje, Macedonia, from 28 to 30 November 2005.

14th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

Dr D. Wilson, Head, International Trade Department, represented the OIE at the 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, held in Melbourne, Australia, from 28 November to 2 December 2005.

72nd session of the executive committee of the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease

Dr Ch. Brusckke, Chargée de Mission to the Scientific and Technical Department, and Professor N.T. Belev, Regional Representative for

Europe, represented the OIE at the 72nd session of the executive committee of the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease, held in The Hague, the Netherlands, 29-30 November 2005.

WTO Seminar on the application of SPS measures

Dr J. Pinto, Deputy Head, Animal Health Information Department, represented the OIE at the WTO Seminar on the application of SPS measures, held in Managua, Nicaragua, from 30 November to 2 December 2005.

OIE/FAO-APHCA/NIAH-Japan Regional Hands-on Training Workshop on BSE Diagnosis, including Western Blot

Dr Y. Oketani, Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at OIE/FAO-APHCA/NIAH-Japan Regional Hands-on Training Workshop on BSE Diagnosis, including Western Blot, held in Tsukuba

Science City, Japan, from
30 November to
9 December 2005.

December

EFSA Scientific Colloquium on Principles of Risk Assessment of Food producing Animals

Dr F. Berlingieri, Deputy Head to the International Trade Department, represented the OIE at the EFSA Scientific Colloquium on Principles of Risk Assessment of Food producing Animals, held in Parma, Italy, 1-2 December 2005.

Working groups 2 and 3 of the European Technological Platform for Global Animal Health

Dr Ch. Bruschke, Chargée de Mission to the Scientific and Technical Department, and Professor S. Edwards, President of the Biological Standards Commission, represented the OIE at the Working groups 2 and 3 of the European Technological Platform for Global Animal Health, held in Brussels, Belgium, 1-2 December 2005.

Preparation for the AU-IBAR/OIE/FAO/ALive meeting on Animal Health Policies, evaluation of VS and the role of livestock breeders in epidemio-surveillance

Dr J.-M. Bergès, Chargé de Mission to the Department of Regional Activities, represented the OIE during the Preparation for the AU-IBAR/OIE/FAO/ALive meeting on Animal Health Policies, evaluation of VS and the role of livestock breeders in epidemio-surveillance, held in N'Jamena, Chad, from 2 to 13 December 2005 and met the OIE Delegate of Chad, and the director of CEDEVIRHA.

Ministerial Conference for Asian Cooperation on HPAI Control

Dr T. Fujita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the Ministerial Conference for Asian Cooperation on HPAI Control, held in Kunming, People's Republic of China, 6-7 December 2005.

WHO Global pandemic communication meeting

Ms M. Zampaglione, in charge of Communications, represented the OIE at the WHO Global pandemic communication meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 6 to 8 December 2005.

The Consultants meeting on diagnosis and genotypic characterisation of foot and mouth disease virus

Dr J. King, OIE Expert, represented the OIE at the Consultants meeting on diagnosis and genotypic characterisation of foot and mouth disease virus, held in IAEA, Vienna, Austria, from 6 to 8 December 2005.

Meeting with the Minister for Rural Development for the Central African Republic in France

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, Dr J.-L. Angot, Head, Administrative and Financial Department, and Dr D. Sibartie, Head, Department of Regional Activities, met with Lieutenant Colonel P.A. Mbay, Minister for Rural Development for the Central African Republic, in Paris, France, on 7 December 2005.

International meeting on the integration of laboratory information in worldwide animal disease notification systems

Dr K. Ben Jebara, Head, Animal Health Information Department, and Dr D. Chaisemartin, Chargé de Mission to the Director General, represented the OIE at the International meeting on the integration of laboratory information in worldwide animal disease notification systems, held at IAH and VLA, Surrey, United Kingdom, on 7 and 8 December 2005.

Meeting of Chief Veterinary Officers and Chief Medical Officers (CVO and CMO) of the European Union Member States on the control and prevention of avian influenza and the risk of a pandemic

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, took part in the meeting of Chief Veterinary Officers and Chief Medical

Officers (CVO and CMO) of the European Union Member States on the control and prevention of avian influenza and the risk of a pandemic, held in Brussels, Belgium, on 12 December 2005.

Working Group GBR: update methodology meeting

Dr Ch. Brusckhe, Chargée de Mission to the Scientific and Technical Department, and Dr G. Thompson, OIE Scientific commission, represented the OIE at the Working Group GBR: update methodology meeting, held in EFSA, Parma, Italy, on 13 December 2005.

Biosafety Level 4 facilities for the Netherlands

Dr Ch. Brusckhe, Chargée de Mission to the Scientific and Technical Department, represented the OIE at the Biosafety Level 4 facilities for the Netherlands, held in Bilthoven, the Netherlands, on 14 December 2005.

Tripartite Conference on public-private partnerships to develop interventions on AI

Dr D. Wilson, Head, International Trade Department, represented the OIE at the Tripartite Conference on public-private partnerships to develop interventions on AI, held in Bangkok, Thailand, 14-15 December 2005. The opening speech was made by video transmission by Dr. Vallat, Director General.

Interview with the Director General of the FAO, Dr J. Diouf, and technical meetings with staff

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, and Dr B. Niang, President of the OIE International Committee, met with the Director General of the FAO, Dr J. Diouf, and took part in technical meetings with his staff, held in Rome, Italy, on 19 December 2005.

'Flu pandemic' colloquium organised by the French High Committee for Civil Defence

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, took part in the 'Flu pandemic' colloquium organised by the French High Committee for Civil Defence, held in Saint-Denis, France, on 20 December 2005.

16th Session of the Joint Co-ordinating Committee of the Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme

Dr D. Sibartie, Head, Regional Activities Department, and Dr G. Yehia, Regional Representative for Middle East, represented the OIE at the meeting of the 16th Session of the Joint Co-ordinating Committee of the Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme, held in Athens, Greece, from 20 to 22 December 2005.



news from the headquarters



Regional Activities Department meetings

First meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Europe (OIE Headquarters, Paris, 13-14 October 2005)

The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is a joint FAO/OIE initiative for the fight against transboundary animal diseases (TADs), to provide for capacity building and to assist in establishing programmes for the specific control of certain TADs based on regional priorities. The ultimate aims of the Programme are to improve protein food security, alleviate poverty, safeguard the world livestock industry (of developed as well as developing countries) from repeated shocks of infectious disease epidemics, and the promotion of safe and globalised trade in livestock and animal products.

The meeting for Europe was the third of the five regional meetings scheduled to take place under the GF-TADs launching programme. The first two meetings were held in Asia and the Americas in March and April 2005 respectively. The meetings for the Middle East and Africa will both be held in April 2006.

The main objective of the meeting for Europe was to establish the Regional Steering Committee, the common positions of its members and its priority actions.

The following four Recommendations were prepared during the meeting on the priorities to be taken by the GF-TADs

Europe: research on the role of wildlife in highly pathogenic avian influenza epidemiology; support for rabies eradication; collaboration between existing networks on activities related to animal health; and structures of national Veterinary Services of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe. The setting up of a GF-TADs Regional Support Unit in the Trans-Caucasian countries was also proposed.

The meeting elected Dr Jaana Husio-Kallio (EC-Brussels) as Chairperson, and Dr Joseph Domenech (FAO-Rome) and Dr Evgueny A. Nepoklonov (CVO Russia) as Vice-Chairpersons. The OIE Regional Representation for East European Countries in Sofia, Bulgaria (Prof. Dr Nikola Belev) will be the Permanent Secretariat of the Regional Steering Committee. Members of the Steering Committee, pending endorsement in May 2006, include Dr Bernard Vallat (with Dr Dewan Sibartie as substitute) (OIE), Dr Juan Lubroth (FAO), Dr Bernard Van Goethem (EC), Dr Keith Sumption (EUFMD, sub-regional specialised organisation), Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania), Dr Petr I. Verbytsky (Ukraine). The Netherlands, Germany, Italy, France and the United Kingdom will attend the Steering Committee meetings as observers. The representative of the Presidency of the European Union at the time of the meeting will also be invited as a permanent observer.



International trade department meetings

Ad hoc Group on the OIE list of aquatic animal diseases and Chapters for crustacean diseases for the Aquatic Animal Health Code, 6-7 October 2005

This Ad hoc Group met to address Member Countries' comments received on the previous Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission's report and the comments raised

during the 73rd OIE General Session on the new chapters for crustacean diseases and on the list of diseases. The Ad hoc Group focused on the commodities that could be traded with negligible risk. It also made progress in the harmonisation of the aquatic diseases chapters. The Ad hoc Group proposed a revised list of reportable crustacean diseases.

Scientific and Technical Department meetings

Ad hoc Group on Rinderpest

The Ad hoc Group met at the OIE Headquarters from 12 to 14 September 2005. The Group evaluated dossiers submitted by several Member Countries wishing to be recognised by the OIE as free from rinderpest disease or rinderpest infection.

The Group also analysed the use of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) vaccine to protect cattle against rinderpest virus infection and made a proposal for the necessary work to be done.

Ad hoc Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy in Accordance with the Terrestrial Animal Health Code

The Ad hoc Group met at the OIE Headquarters from 24 to 26 October 2005.

The Group evaluated dossiers submitted by several Member Countries wishing to be recognised by the OIE as free and provisionally free from BSE according to Resolution XXI from the 73rd General Session, May 2005.

The Group considered the principles that should underpin management of the transitional arrangements for moving from country categorisation using the BSE chapter in the

2004 *Terrestrial Code* to the new chapter to be endorsed by Member countries at the OIE General Session in May 2006.

Ad hoc Group for Evaluation of Country Status for Foot and Mouth Disease

The Ad hoc Group met at the OIE Headquarters from 28 to 30 September 2005.

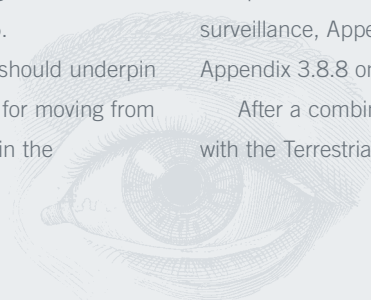
The Group evaluated dossiers submitted by several Member Countries wishing to be recognised by the OIE as free from FMD.

Ad hoc Group on Epidemiology

The Ad hoc Group on Epidemiology, meet at the OIE Headquarters from 20 to 22 September and from 12 to 14 December 2005.

At its meeting in September and in the light of Country comments received during the 73rd General Session, the Group reviewed and amended Appendix 3.8.7 on FMD surveillance, Appendix 3.8.1 on General surveillance and Appendix 3.8.8 on Classical swine fever.

After a combined discussion on compartmentalisation with the Terrestrial Animal Health Standard Commission



(the Code Commission) the Group developed a concept paper with emphasis in three particular areas:

- a) The role of the Veterinary Services in compartment supervision and accreditation,
- b) Animal identification in compartments, and
- c) The role of OIE in establishing standards by which Member Countries can assess the viability of compartments or other initiatives taken to mitigate the impact of diseases on trade.

At its meeting in December, the Group revised and produced the final version of the concept paper on compartmentalisation and developed a basic guide for BSE country status applications. In producing this new guideline, the Group applied the same replacement of TSEs with BSE through the document as was employed by the Ad hoc Group on BSE Surveillance.

Ad hoc Group on Brucellosis

The Ad hoc Group met at the OIE Headquarters from 17 to 19 October 2005.

The Group reviewed chapter 2.3.1 on Bovine Brucellosis in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and discussed the changes in the light of new scientific concepts and the need to revise the issues of compartmentalisation and surveillance. It proposed a series of amendments on the definition of 'cattle', and the concept of compartments applied for brucellosis.

The Group considered that the OIE should not embark on the development of specific guidelines for brucellosis surveillance unless specifically asked by the OIE International Committee. It also considered that the Biological Standards

Commission should provide specific recommendations on tests to be used for surveillance and maintenance of herd status. The Group also made specific provisions for the safety of raw milk and the collection of bovine semen.

Ad hoc Group on Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia

The Ad hoc Group met at the OIE Headquarters from 10 to 11 October 2005.

The Group evaluated dossiers submitted by several Member Countries wishing to be recognised by the OIE as free from CBPP. The Group critically reviewed the chapter and the appendix relating to CBPP in the *Terrestrial Code*. A draft version of the revised chapter and appendix were presented for consideration of the Scientific Commission.

Ad hoc Group on Aujeszky's Disease

The Ad hoc Group on Aujeszky's Disease met at the OIE Headquarters from 23 to 25 November 2005.

The Group developed and proposed new Aujeszky's disease surveillance guidelines based on the General Surveillance guidelines contained in Appendix 3.8.1 of the *Terrestrial Code*. The new proposed appendix takes into account the concept of compartmentalisation.

While developing the new guidelines the Group noted the need to modify certain articles in the *Terrestrial Code*. A new proposed *Terrestrial Code* chapter was developed and submitted to the Scientific Commission for its consideration.

regional activities

8th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East Manama (Kingdom of Bahrain)

26-29 September 2005

The 8th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, was held in Manama, from 26 to 29 September 2005. It was presided by His Excellency Mr Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture. Seventy-two participants attended the Conference from nineteen OIE Member Countries and five international or regional organisations.

During his opening address, the Minister expressed the concerns of his country regarding transboundary animal diseases and avian influenza, in particular, since the Gulf Region lies at the cross-roads of international travel and the flight routes of migratory birds. He urged the Member Countries of the Middle East to strengthen their solidarity to combat animal diseases and to improve the animal health situation in the region.

The Director General stated that on the international scene, the OIE has been in the forefront in the control of important animal diseases, the most important of which is currently avian influenza (AI). He explained that the OIE has through its world-wide network of Reference Laboratories and experts provided Member Countries with AI surveillance guidelines, advice on diagnostic tests, standards to continue trade in poultry and poultry products, a choice of vaccines that can be applied to animals, and a joint OIE/FAO forum for the exchange of scientific information and virus strains, which will be used for the manufacture of human vaccines. He urged politicians and other policy-makers to consider strengthening of the Veterinary Service as an 'International



At the OIE reception, from left to right: Mr Jaffer Habib, Assistant Secretary for Agriculture Production of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, and Dr Khalil Alderazi, Acting Director of Extension and Agriculture, Relations Directorate of the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture of Bahrain

Public Good'. He stressed "*investment in animal health through Veterinary Services should be considered as a priority for its role in more effectively controlling animal diseases, in protecting public health and in improving regional and international market access for the benefit of the Middle East region and the international community as a whole*".

The two technical items discussed during the conference were:

- the Evaluation of Veterinary Services
- the Registration of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals.

Discussions were also held on food-borne diseases in products of animal origin, OIE activities related to aquatic animals, control of horse movements in Middle Eastern countries, the FAO/OIE project for recognition of freedom from rinderpest in the Middle East, and the Rift Valley fever (RVF) climate modelling system.

Recommendations on the two technical items, as well as on 'Mitigation measures against avian influenza in the Middle East', were discussed and adopted.

It was agreed that the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East will be held in Syria in September 2007, one of the technical items being 'The role

of veterinary councils and veterinary associations in the promotion of the veterinary profession and upgrading of Veterinary Services’.

Seminars on ‘Dialogue and Common Activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe’

Organised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the European Union/TAIEX

In compliance with the implementation of the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan, a series of seminars on ‘Dialogue and Common Activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe’ were organised by the OIE and EC/TAIEX as part of the OIE Programme for Europe, 2005-2008, during the second half of 2005.

The aim of these seminars is to provide information on EC veterinary legislation, food safety, animal welfare and public health sector, international codes and standards and guidelines and procedures of the OIE.

The first seminar of this series was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 28 and 29 September 2005, under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr Georgi Parvanov; the second seminar in Poiana-Brasov, Romania, on 7 and 8 November 2005, under the auspices of the Prime Minister of Romania, Mr Calin P. Tariceanu; and the third seminar in Ankara, Turkey, on 21 and 22 November 2005 under the auspices of the Prime Minister of Turkey, Mr Erdogan.

The number of participants at the three seminars ranged from 215 to 372 and included members of Parliament, representatives of the national Veterinary Services, representatives from various associations, researchers, veterinary faculties, private sector, pharmaceutical companies and the mass media.

A further series of seminars on the same topic and following the same programme is scheduled for 2006: Macedonia on 27 and 28 March, Montenegro and Serbia on 30 and 31 March, Croatia on 3 and 4 April and in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 6 and 7 April.



First seminar of this series in Sofia, Bulgaria, 28-29 September 2005, from left to right: Dr Jurgen Westergaard, European Commission (EC), Dr Howard Batho, DG SANCO European Commission, Dr Jean-Luc Angot, Head of the OIE Administrative and Financial Department, Prof. Nikola Belev, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, Dr Ana-Margarida Mariguesa, DG Enlargement EC-TAIEX, Dr Jean-Louis Duby, EC-TAIEX expert, Dr Klaas Steijn, EC-TAIEX expert, and Dr Hinrich Meyer-Gerbaulet, European Commission

New OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) Seminar of OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Tbilisi (Georgia), 24-27 October 2005

This seminar, organised by the OIE and the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, was aimed at all Directors of Veterinary Services of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, which totals fifty Member Countries. Sixty-five participants from twenty-four OIE Member Countries, the European Commission (EC) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) took part in the event.

The topics discussed were the new obligations of Member Countries for animal health notification to the OIE following the respective Codes; general presentation of the WAHIS internet application – functions and rules, output of WAHIS on the OIE Web site; WAHIS database interface as well as the improvement of the National Veterinary Services to comply with the OIE rights and obligations.

24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania Seoul (Republic of Korea)

15-18 November 2005

The Government of the Republic of Korea hosted the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania in Seoul, from 15 to 18 November 2005. It

A recommendation was prepared at the end of the seminar.

Another seminar on WAHIS was held in Santiago (Chile) from 23 to 26 January. It will be followed by seminars in Africa and the Middle East, for which the venues and dates are still to be determined.



From left to right: Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head, OIE Animal Health Information Department, Dr Daniel Chaisemartin, OIE Information System Project officer, Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, Prof. Nikola T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, Mr Mikhail Svimonishvili, Honourable Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Georgia, Mr Giorgi Kheviashvili, Chairman of the Agrarian Committee of the Georgian Parliament, Dr Levan Ramishvili, Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture and Delegate of Georgia to the OIE, and Dr Vladimir Ivanovich Gvardjaladze, Head of the Veterinary Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Georgia

was presided by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Korea, Mr Hong-Soo Park, Members of the Korean Government, the Delegate of the Republic of Korea to the OIE, Dr Chang-Seob Kim, and the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, Dr Gardner Murray. The Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, the OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Dr Teruhida Fujita, the Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, Dr Dewan Sibartie, 86 Delegates of Member Countries of the OIE, representatives of international and regional organisations and observers attended the Conference.

In his opening address, the Minister referred to the global concern of the recent spread of avian influenza, whereby the

health of the human race and the animal health sector can be affected. This alternate situation requires a mutual relationship between health policies and animal sanitation policies by using new scientific knowledge. Experts of international organisations, such as the OIE, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), which are controlling animal and human health, have recently established a joint project against bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The Minister believed that this collaboration project will play a large role in eradicating zoonoses and underlined that various sectors including animal disease prevention and treatment, livestock-borne food safety control and animal welfare promotion will need to be developed.

The Director General confirmed that the international scene was currently dominated by the occurrence of avian influenza (AI) in animals and its potential threat to lead to a human pandemic. He made an appeal for stronger cooperation among countries of the region with regard to animal health for economic and public health reasons. He stated that this could be achieved by complying with OIE international standards, strengthening Veterinary Services for an early detection and

response system in compliance with OIE standards on quality and evaluation and by promoting solidarity in combating exotic and transboundary animal diseases.

The President of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania stated that the global importance of emerging diseases emphasises the need for strong leadership by the OIE. As well as developing international standards and promoting transparency in the global animal disease situation, the OIE is continuing to work closely with the WHO and the FAO on programmes that address the problem of emerging zoonoses at its animal source. Such multi-disciplinary approaches are essential, within countries, within regions and globally.

Recommendations on the two technical items were discussed and adopted, namely:

- avian influenza and emerging diseases of relevance in Asia
- epidemiological analysis of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

It was agreed that proposals for the venue, exact dates (November 2007) and technical items for the 25th Conference would be discussed at the meeting of the Region during the OIE General Session in May 2006.



At the opening ceremony, from left to right: Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Dr Huyn-cheol Park, Director of the Livestock Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, The Honourable Mr Hong-soo Park, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Korea, Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, Dr Chang-seob Kim, Director of the Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Delegate of the Republic of Korea to the OIE, Dr Gardner Murray, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, and Dr Mun-il Kang, Director General of the Korean National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service (NVRQS)

official acts

Appointment of permanent Delegates

24 August 2005

Afghanistan

Dr Azizullah Osmani

General President of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food

21 September 2005

Gabon

Eng. Yolande Mounguengui

Director of Livestock and Animal Industries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development

1 October 2005

Kenya

Dr Joseph Omachi Musaa

Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development

10 October 2005

Indonesia

Dr Mathur Riady

Director General, Livestock Services, Ministry of Agriculture

15 October 2005

Iran

Dr Hussein Hassani

Head of Iran Veterinary Organization, Ministry of Jihad-e-Sazandegi

15 October 2005

Cyprus

Dr Giorgos Neophytou

Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

26 October 2005

Iraq

Dr Dawood M. Sharief

Director General, Iraqi Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture

29 October 2005

Nicaragua

Dr Roberto Dangla Lira

Director of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests

19 December 2005

Nigeria

Dr Junaidu A. Maina

Acting Director of the Department of Livestock and Pest Control Services, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

21 December 2005

Albania

Dr Lefter Klimi

Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection

12 January 2006

Ukraine

Dr Ivan Yuriyovych Bisyuk

Head of the State Department of Veterinary Medicine, Ministry of Agricultural Policy

New agreements

The agreement between the Regional International Organisation for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), published in Vol. 3, 2005 of the OIE *Bulletin*, has been adopted on 21 May 2005, and signed between Mr Oscar Manuel Gutiérrez R. (Lic.), Executive Director of the OIRSA and Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE

news from colleagues

epidemiology & animal disease control programmes

Report on a simulation exercise for avian influenza in Argentina

*Translation of information received
on 20 September 2005 from
Dr Jorge Nestor Amaya,
President, National Agrifood
Health and Quality Service
(SENASA¹), Secretariat for
Agriculture, Livestock,
Fisheries and Food, Buenos Aires*



Introduction

For Argentina, avian influenza is an exotic disease. No cases have ever been recorded, nor has the virus ever been isolated in the country.

Recent examples of heavy losses in the poultry farming of countries that have been faced with the disease, losses that include the closure of markets for exportation and, added to this, the difficulty of its eradication, make it clear that it is necessary to use all the possible means to avoid the introduction of this disease into the country.

If its introduction always took place in its highly pathogenic form, after the first devastating incidents, one can suppose that the disease would rapidly be detected and means would be adopted for its control. Unfortunately, what usually has happened in the majority of countries is that the disease has entered in its mildly pathogenic form, and has not been detected immediately, sometimes not for months, during which time no symptoms of any importance were recorded and the disease spread through farms.

Among prevention methods that should be considered a priority, is the permanent training of the professionals and technicians of the Veterinary Service and the preparation of the emergency teams charged with taking immediate measures once the presence of the disease has been detected.

A simulation exercise for avian influenza was held in Concepcion del Uruguay, province of Entre Rios, from 7 to 11 August 2005.

Deployment

1st Day:

Reception of the participants and presentation of the problem

The participants and the professional external advisors met at the SENASA Local Office in Concepción, Uruguay, on 7 August 2005, at 6 pm. Also present were the regional and central SENASA authorities, local government representatives from the Entre Ríos province, poultry farming representatives and sector professionals.

A brief presentation was made on the characteristics of poultry farming in Argentina, in particular in the Entre Ríos province. Then followed explanations

1-SENASA: Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria



concerning the groups participating in the Emergency Plan, the functions of each one of them, and a General Team Coordinator and an Operations Chief were nominated.

Each participant received a file containing Procedure Manuals for Newcastle Disease and Avian Influenza, as well as Operating and Technical Procedure Manuals containing the general and specific functions of each group in the Emergency Plan, and some technical specifications to be applied during emergencies. In addition to this, cassettes containing bibliographic material on avian influenza were distributed.

2nd Day: Activities initiated in the Operations Centre

The following working groups were formed:

- Epidemiological Diagnostic and Disease Monitoring Group
- Field Epidemiology Group
- Patrol and Quarantine Group
- Cleaning and Disinfection Group
- Stamping Out and Carcass Destruction Group
- Finance Group
- Legal Support Group
- Press
- Laboratory Link.

The groups sat down at separate tables. Among the material handed out were Specific Operating Forms for each group, concerning:

- Diagnostics
- Quarantine and Patrol
- Field Epidemiology
- Killing and Culling
- Evaluation of the Cost of the Animals.

Maps, elements on publications and other support material were distributed, and each group began its activity, working respectively on the index case presented by the Local Office Chief the previous day.

The strategy adopted was that each group should choose its own working methodology, in accordance with the instructions laid down, so as to avoid any initial intervention on the part of the instructors. The Epidemiological Diagnostic and Tracing Group made contact with the problem zone, situating the index case farming establishment and detecting other establishments with problems, identifying the zone in conjunction with the Patrol and Quarantine Group.

First to be identified was the problem zone and the existence of other poultry farms on the lands bordering those of the two establishments chosen initially as the sample outbreak point.

The Field Epidemiology Group began its work on the zone cartography, situating other establishments, determining an Outbreak zone and a Surveillance zone, in accordance with the guidelines provided in the Manuals.

Parallel to this, the Killing and Culling Group, the Cleaning and Disinfection Group and the Tracing Group worked on the problem, consulting the relevant documentation and the data provided by the Diagnostic and Tracing Group and by the Field Epidemiology Group.

The Quarantine and Patrol Group analysed the available maps in collaboration with SENASA veterinarians from the adjoining Departments, and examined the possibility of immobilising transits and setting up strategic control points on roads and highways.

Also present were veterinarians from the private poultry farming sector, responsible for the sanitary conditions of farms in the zone, and they gave information to the Diagnostic and Field Epidemiology teams.

The Finance Group began by establishing a mechanism by which, using updated national cost and price values, possible indemnities could be calculated, including the value of the poultry, eggs, pigs, horses and others, and production expenses covering bedding, feed, gas and other costs.

To finish the afternoon, the Laboratory Link informed the Emergency Team that the tests done in the SENASA central laboratory (agar gel immunodiffusion test and ELISA²), based on the samples from the two establishments in the sample outbreak point, proved positive to avian influenza, type A. It also announced that the SENASA laboratory had contacted the Malbrán Institute to derivate samples for the classification of the Influenza virus and the determination of a subtype.

The General Coordinator summoned an Emergency Plan Meeting, in which each of the groups reported on the tasks completed during the day.

The Diagnostic and Field Epidemiology Group, on the first day, investigated a total of four establishments, two from the sample outbreak point and two new establishments close by. The Patrol and Quarantine Group set up two road control points.

Following evaluation after the second day, certain measures were proposed and the group of instructors made the following observations:

- 1) The functions of each group within the emergency plan was redefined and specified.
- 2) Emphasis was made on the necessity to analyse in further depth the on site situation through investigation on the presence of the disease in each establishment in the zone.

3rd Day: Continuation of the activities in the Operations Centre

a) Epidemiological Diagnostic and Disease Monitoring Group

The group investigated the situation in the laying hen establishments. There were problems in some farms whose owners either refused to give information or simply declared that the farm was empty, but some contacts were made successfully according to the protocol.

The investigation discovered clinical data on the mortality of hens suspected to have had the disease in farms situated on the limit of the surveillance zone. This generated concern, in particular among the members of the Field Epidemiology Group, which had to trace out a new outbreak zone to include this establishment neighbouring onto a high density urban zone with a high concentration of poultry farms.

Investigation was also done on the disposal of productive aviaries from farms tested positively.

2- ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay



b) Field Epidemiology Group

Using GPS technology, a satellite map was drawn up showing the poultry farms situated in the outbreak zone and the surveillance zone, the farms tested positively to avian influenza and the farms under suspicion. The same map showed the Centre of Operations, as a reference point, and the production plants and, in particular, identified a provincially authorised farm situated in a zone adjacent to the zone of surveillance.

c) Killing and Culling Group

The group made progress on the choice of method of killing the poultry, suggesting the use of anhydride carbonic gas, one of the methods recommended by international organisations, because of its low cost and painlessness to animals. As for the destruction of the carcasses, the group examined the feasibility of burying them and went to the outbreak zone to verify the burial capacity and the necessary equipment.

d) Cleaning and Disinfection Group

The group analysed methods of composting bedding and chicken guano, and examined the methods that would be necessary to clean the barns, and the type of disinfectants that should be used and their concentration.

e) Legal Support Group

The group explained the necessity of the intervention of a local judge to order searches to be done on poultry farms if the owner forbade the entry of the emergency team into the premises. For these cases, it took upon itself the management of such orders.

f) Financial Group

A double-entry table was drawn up to calculate the value of the chickens slaughtered, according to age, and the value of the hens and eggs confiscated.

g) Laboratory Link

New results came in, corresponding to the samples from the new farms under investigation that were submitted to the laboratory.

In the afternoon of the third day, a meeting was held in which all the groups, the advisors, the instructors, the Operations Chief and the General Coordinator were present. A certain number of **critical decisions and their implications** were discussed:

- 1) The possibility of implementing the compulsory slaughter of poultry which appear to be sick, without waiting for the diagnosis of a laboratory to confirm the presence of avian influenza. The question of a legal framework to implement this measure was discussed.
- 2) The possibility of sending to slaughter poultry in farms situated inside the circle defining the surveillance area and not presenting any symptoms of the disease.
- 3) The application of compulsory slaughter of all the poultry on all the farms in the outbreak zone, even those not showing any symptoms of disease or those reacting negatively to the laboratory test. In other words, depopulate the outbreak zone by slaughtering sick animals or by slaughtering animals exposed to the disease due to their proximity or possible contact.

4th Day: Continuation of the activities in the Operations Centre

A simulated case of pneumonia was notified in a veterinarian specialised in poultry. Samples from the patient were submitted to the reference laboratory in order to confirm or rule out whether the picture was due to avian influenza. A specialist provided the Emergency Team with information about the measures of prevention to be taken for people in contact with diseased poultry. Information was also given concerning the contracting of avian influenza by humans, and about the evolution of the disease in other countries. The group asked the specialist about the use of vaccines for humans against Influenza. They asked about the availability and effectiveness of such vaccines against avian influenza, and about the use of antiviral molecules such as oseltamivir and amantadina. The specialist also referred to the 'General Contingency Plan for situations of Emergency and Disaster', drawn up by the Epidemiological Department of the Health Ministry of Argentina.

The Epidemiological Group expressed the necessity of defining criteria to ensure epidemiological Unity when determining the sampling carried out in the surveillance zone.

A poultry farming specialist made a brief presentation on wild migratory aquatic birds present in Concepcion del Uruguay and Costa del Rio, in Uruguay. A group of four duck species that frequent the zone was mentioned.

5th Day: Assessment and closure of the simulation

Each participant received a personal opinion form to fill out anonymously for the assessment of the programme.

Conclusions

- Simulation exercises are one of the means of training and assessing the systems of defence against exotic diseases, in addition to the specific training programmes in the different fields of competence, and serve to facilitate the application of contingency plans in emergency situations. In the training programmes of the SENASA Emergency Teams, high risk avian diseases must be included, such as Newcastle disease and avian influenza.
- In the training programmes of the Emergency Teams, a field simulation is an extremely informative exercise, generating:
 - High levels of discussion on critical aspects of diseases, rarely entered into on a purely theoretical level.
 - A high level of awareness of the impact the disease could have on human and animal health.
 - Detection of the strengths and weaknesses of the Veterinary Services and the degree of training and experience among veterinarians in the private sector.
 - Estimation of the economic effect, notably the effect on the poultry market that the occurrence of the disease could have.
 - A clear appreciation of the equipment and material necessary for the efficient



intervention of the emergency teams.

– Knowledge of the legal aspects in emergency situations, such as the management of orders to search premises, the flexibility of standards in force, the importance of drawing up prohibition orders, orders to slaughter, to clean and disinfect, etc.

• If avian influenza and Newcastle disease were ever to occur in Argentina, the strategies to control them should include the involvement of the private poultry sector, not only for the implementation of measures of action, but also to make recommendations when decisions are taken.

• Avian influenza should be considered as a national and regional threat, and its occurrence in the country should trigger off the alert systems set up by SENASA, the Health Ministry, government and civilian organisations, and security entities.

Recommendations for the deployment of a simulation

- Use simulations permanently as part of training programmes.
- The simulation protocol is essential. It should be drawn up by professionals who have a wide knowledge about the disease and about the production and sanitary aspects of the species that contracts it.
- A simulation requires an Emergency Team made up of no less than 25 participants for logistic reasons.
- It is preferable to organise just before a simulation, a meeting of no more than two days covering all the theoretical aspects of the disease on which operational aspects will be developed for its control.
- To inform the participants about the functions and responsibilities of each group, and about the theoretical concepts of the disease, bibliographic material, Procedure Manuals and Operating Manuals must be distributed in advance.
- Those in charge of coordination must be professionals with the ability to direct groups with a sense of leadership.
- The organisation of the simulation should be sufficiently flexible to allow changes of protocol, changes in the direction of groups, changes in unplanned assessments, and even changes in the course of the activity, if necessary.
- During the simulation, the participants must be accommodated comfortably, and have at their disposal the basic means of communication (telephones, fax, internet, etc.) and administrative support.

activities of reference laboratories & collaborating centres



OFFLU OIE/FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of avian influenza

The OIE/FAO avian influenza network was strongly endorsed at the International Scientific Conference on Avian Influenza held in Paris on 7 and 8 April 2005 and was started in May 2005. The main objectives of the network are:

1. To offer veterinary expertise to member countries and to assist in the control of avian influenza.
2. To develop research on avian influenza
3. To collaborate with the WHO Influenza Network on issues relating to the animal-human interface

The activities in 2005 were mainly related to the set up of the network. The scientific committee with internationally recognised avian influenza experts was selected and a group of scientific collaborators with first hand avian influenza experience was invited. Three missions were organised to infected countries (Romania, Kazakhstan and Russia) and diagnostic reagents were made available for infected countries. Samples and strains of infected countries were made available to the network. The internet site was developed (www.offlu.net) and new candidates to become scientific collaborators can apply through the internet. The network was presented during the Global Meeting on Avian Influenza held in Geneva, 7-9 November 2005.



book review

Rinderpest and Peste des Petits Ruminants

Edited by

Thomas Barrett,

Paul-Pierre Pastoret and

William P. Taylor

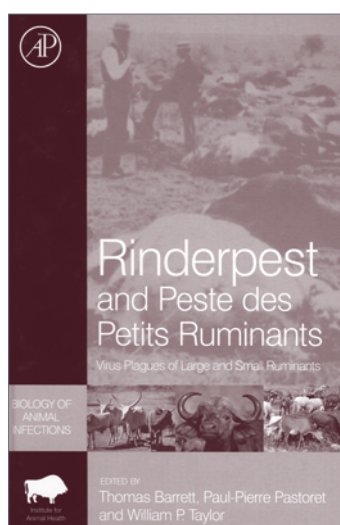
Institute for Animal Health,
Pirbright Laboratory, UK

ISBN: 0-12-088385-6

Elsevier, Academic Press

15 November 2005

Price: 56.99 GBP



Rinderpest and Peste des Petits Ruminants is the second volume in *Biology of Animal Infections*, a series devoted to major animal infections.

Written by international experts in the field, *Rinderpest and Peste des Petits Ruminants* provides a comprehensive review of Rinderpest, a morbillivirus, giving an historical perspective and discussion on the fight for global eradication.

Key features

- reviews the pathology, epidemiology and transmission of rinderpest, including a detailed expose on members of the morbillivirus genus
- describes historical accounts of the disease and its consequences in terms of social and economic costs
- illustrates the effects on immunology, in particular why individuals that recover from morbillivirus infections develop lifelong immunity to reinfection despite the ability of these viruses to cause severe immunosuppression
- discusses the development and use of vaccinations and examines how modern techniques have allowed for better control
- considers the processes and problems leading toward the possibility of the first global eradication of a veterinary virus disease and how this can be applied to other such diseases.

Rinderpest and Peste des Petits Ruminants will be an invaluable reference for university veterinary departments and specialists in veterinary research institutes worldwide.

special events

Implication of the OIE in the avian influenza crisis: from Malta to Beijing

The implication of the OIE within the global fight against avian influenza is permanent. In previous issues of the *Bulletin* we have already had the opportunity to stress the role played by our organisation since the very beginning of the crisis.

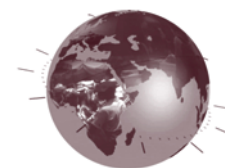
2004 and even more so 2005 have been very busy and complex years during which the OIE, together with FAO and WHO, have been in the front line in the global fight against avian influenza and the occurrence of a possible human influenza pandemic.



Here is a short summary of what have been the major events and the very recent international actions undertaken by the OIE with regard to the avian influenza.



With the virus spreading outside of Asia in **autumn 2005**, the **Second European Influenza Conference organised by the European Scientific Working group for Influenza (ESWI)** in Malta (10-14 September 2005) was an important opportunity for the OIE to



address the problem from the veterinary side and to stress that avian influenza was since already two years and currently mainly an animal disease and that this should be taken into account when talking about the risk of a human influenza pandemic.

On the **8-16 October 2005**, the OIE **joined the US Secretary of Health and Human Services and his delegation**, at a fact finding trip to avian influenza affected countries in Southeast Asia (Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and

*to manage the risk of a human
influenza pandemic,
it is crucial
to fight the virus at its animal source*



Vietnam). Representatives from WHO and FAO also participated at the visit intended to make an on-the-ground assessment of the avian influenza situation and the efficacy of current programmes*.

While the focus of the visit was primarily on human health, during the trip the delegation learned about the importance of early detection and



control activities in poultry by the veterinary services. This trip also allowed for a closer collaboration between WHO, FAO and the OIE and for recognising the need to continue to jointly develop avian influenza control

OIE's position was clearly stated in the meeting's final Declaration.

The **Global Influenza Meeting jointly held in Geneva by WHO/FAO/OIE/World Bank in November 2005** identified the strategies and the resources needed to



control avian influenza in animals and simultaneously limit the threat of a human influenza pandemic*.

The OIE participated with two main objectives, presented by the Director General:

- To make the international community recognise the crucial need for managing the risk of a human influenza pandemic by starting to fight the virus at its animal source, and
- To make the international

the evaluation of Veterinary Services will be crucial before the preparation and the submission of national grant and loan applications to donors to be made in order to address the prevention and control of avian influenza and other emerging diseases

strategies and preparedness plans.

On the **24-25 October 2005**, an **international meeting of all ministries of health was organised by the Canadian government in Ottawa** in order to discuss the preparation for a possible influenza pandemic. The OIE was invited to participate and it emphasised the importance of the animal health component and a multisectorial approach to the problem was endorsed.

community recognise the missions of the veterinary services on early detection and rapid response to disease outbreaks as an International Public Good and their compliance with OIE's international standards on quality and evaluation as a priority investment from countries and the international community. Therefore, the OIE stressed that investments by international donors should go well beyond urgency



* see color pictures in page 41



actions aimed at the fight against AI in developing and in transition countries and should extend at the prevention of the spread of other emerging zoonoses that will occur in the future as a result of globalisation which increases unprecedented movement of commodities and people.



Both the objectives were achieved and the conference endorsed the strategies proposed by the OIE.

During the **International Pledging Conference on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza** which was then held on **17 -18 January 2006 in Beijing (People's Republic of China)**, the international community pledged a total



pledges announced in Beijing by donors would be managed.

In his two presentations given at the conference which was attended by 700 participants representing some 100 countries, Dr Bernard Vallat stressed the critical role to be played by Veterinary Services worldwide in the prevention and control of the spread of animal pathogens. He presented OIE's strategy in the fight against avian influenza at the global, regional and national level.

At global level, the OIE proposed that financial support be provided for the immediate creation of a global forum led by the OIE to define

the missions of the Veterinary Services on early detection and rapid response to disease outbreaks must be recognised as an International Public Good by the international community

amount of \$1.9 billion US dollars to fight avian influenza and to cope with a possible human influenza pandemic. Co-organised by the Government of the People's Republic of China, the World Bank and the European Union, the main goal of this conference was to confirm the strategies already agreed upon in Geneva in November 2005 and to define the mechanisms by which the

new global veterinary strategies, build new alliances among international organisations, private sector and consumers, and develop common communication policies on threats from animal diseases.

At the regional level, the OIE proposed to support mirror actions defined at global level through Regional Animal Health Centres hosted by all

OIE Regional Representations and Offices with the involvement of relevant Regional Organisations. These to be implemented within the framework of the joint FAO/OIE GF-TADs (Global

Finally, at a national level, the OIE stressed that the evaluation of Veterinary Services will be crucial before the preparation and the submission of national grant and loan

*the identification
and implementation
of national compensation
mechanisms for farmers in
case of disease outbreaks
must be addressed as one
of the priorities*

Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases), which was created with the strong partnership between the two organisations. This mechanism would facilitate coordination of regional policies and provide technical support in the evaluation of Veterinary Services and capacity building efforts.



applications to donors be made in order to address the prevention and control of avian influenza and other emerging diseases. This will be possible through the identification of needs and gaps in the quality of veterinary services and through priority investments to be made through their evaluation. This evaluation will also identify the national needs for capacity building and will help build new alliances between official Veterinary Services and the private sector (including farmers). The identification and implementation of national compensation mechanisms for farmers in case of disease outbreaks must be addressed as one of the priorities.



In Beijing, more than ten international donors showed interest in providing financial support to OIE's proposals.



Tripartite Meeting OIE/World Bank/Private Sector - Prevention of Global Sanitary Crises

10 November 2005

Following the International Conference on Avian Influenza and Prevention of a Human Pandemic (organised by the World Bank/WHO/OIE/FAO, in Geneva, Switzerland, from 7 to 9 November 2005), the OIE hosted a historic meeting of leaders from multi-national food system companies, academia and the World Bank to discuss public-private partnerships for prevention of global sanitary crises and avoidance of collateral economic and social damage. Participants discussed views about the opportunity for private sector influence to improve governance and veterinary infrastructure to more effectively respond to zoonoses that threaten human and animal health and economies around the world. More effective disease prevention, control and response set the stage for sustainable trade.

agenda

2006

March

**Animal Welfare a part of
EU Food Chain Policy**

March
Brussels, Belgium,
Charlemagne Building
event-registration.bmgf.gv.at

**International Symposium
on Emerging Zoonosis.
Medical and Veterinary
Partnership to address
Global Challenges and
OIE/CDC Conference**

22-24 March,
Atlanta, Georgia,
United States of
America
www.isezconference.org
and OIE Scientific and Technical
Department

April

**6th International
Symposium on Avian
Influenza,**

3-6 April, St John's
College, Cambridge,
United Kingdom
Events Unit, Veterinary Laboratories
Agency (VLA) Weybridge
Tel: +44 (0) 1932 357234
Fax: +44 (0) 1932 357701_
Avian2006@vla.defra.gsi.gov.uk

**EU/OIE Seminar on
Collaboration between EC
and European non EC
Member Countries**
4-5 April, Former Yug.
Rep. of Macedonia
OIE Regional Activities Department

**EU/OIE Seminar on
Collaboration between
EC and European non
EC Member Countries,**
6-7 April
Albania
OIE Regional Activities Department

**OIE/FAO First Meeting
of the Regional Steering
Committee of the GF-
TADs for the Middle East**
6-7 April
Beirut, Lebanon
OIE Regional Activities Department

**Workshop on Avian
Influenza preparedness**
18-22 April
Beirut, Lebanon
OIE Regional Activities Department

**International Forum for
Sustainable Management
of Disease Vectors**
21-23 April, Beijing,
People's Republic
of China
www.chinavbc.cn/forum/En_(02).asp

**OIE/FAO First Meeting
of the Regional Steering
Committee of the
GF-TADs for Africa,**
24-25 April
Bamako, Mali
OIE Regional Activities Department

**12th PACE Advisory
Committee Meeting**
26-27 April
Bamako, Mali
OIE Regional Activities Department

**6th ALive (African
Livestock) Meeting**
28-29 April
Bamako, Mali
OIE Regional Activities Department

May

**Seminar on the Evaluation
of Veterinary Services**
2-11 May, OIE
Headquarters
OIE Regional Activities Department

**EU/OIE Seminar on
Collaboration between
EC and European
non EC Member Countries**
4-5 May,
Serbia and Montenegro
OIE Regional Activities Department

**Toxo & Food. Has the
time come for control of
Toxoplasma-infection
through Toxoplasma-free
food?**
Palermo, Italy
info@newteam.it

**Prion Diseases of
Domestic Livestock**
28th-30th May
Radisson Edwardian
Hotel, London
www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/pdf/c
onference0506.pdf

**4th International
Symposium Salmonella
and Salmonellosis**
10-12 May
Saint Malo France
www.zoopole.com/ispaia/i3s2006



OIE Veterinary Biologics Training Program,
10-24 May, Ames,
Iowa, United States
of America

www.cfsph.iastate.edu/iicab/

**74th OIE
General Session,**
21-26 May
Paris, France

Inquiries: www.oie.int

June

**SPS meeting and OIE
'Train the trainer' seminar**
11-13 June
Cairo, Egypt

OIE Regional Activities Department

**2006 JIFSAN Summer
Integrated Program in
Food Safety Risk Analysis,**
Washington, DC,
United States
of America

jifsan@umail.umd.edu

**Diffusion of the
new OIE World Animal
Health Information
System**
Andean Region

OIE Regional Representation
for the Americas

**12th International
Congress for
Infectious Diseases**
15-18 June
Lisbon, Portugal

www.isid.org/12th_ICID/

**EU/OIE Seminar on
Collaboration between EC
and European non EC
Member Countries**
27-28 June, Croatia

OIE Regional Activities Department

**4th International
Veterinary Vaccines and
Diagnostics Conference**
25-30 June
Oslo, Norway

www.ivvdc.org/ivvdc@veso.no

**EU/OIE Seminar on
Collaboration between EC
and European non EC
Member Countries**
29-30 June
Bosnia and Herzegovina

OIE Regional Activities Department

July

**2nd Seminar on the
Evaluation of Veterinary
Services**
3-7 July, OIE
Headquarters

OIE Regional Activities Department

**SPS meeting and OIE
'Train the trainer' seminar**
17-20 July
Vienna, Austria

OIE Regional Activities Department

August

**Annual Seminar on
Bovine Brucellosis**
Buenos Aires,
Argentina

OIE Regional Representation
for the Americas

**11th International
Congress of
Parasitology – ICOPA XI**
Glasgow, Scotland

www.icopaxi.org/

**FMD National
Coordinators' Meeting**
7-9 August,
Bangkok, Thailand

Southeast Asia FMD Campaign,
Regional Coordination Unit

September

**OIE/FAO-APHCA WTO-
SPS Workshop in
collaboration with
CMU/DLD/FUB**
September,
Chiang Mai, Thailand

OIE Regional Representation
for Asia and the Pacific

**22nd Conference
of the OIE Regional
Commission for Europe**
25-29 September,
Lyon, France

OIE Regional Activities Department

October

**EU/OIE Seminar on
Collaboration between
EC and European non
EC Member Countries**
2-3 October, Georgia

OIE Regional Activities Department

**EU/OIE Seminar on
Collaboration between
EC and European non
EC Member Countries**
4-5 October, Armenia

OIE Regional Activities Department

**EU/OIE Seminar on
Collaboration between
EC and European non
EC Member Countries**
6-7 October, Azerbaijan

OIE Regional Activities Department

**Regional OIE/FAO
workshop on Food and
Feed Safety, Asia**

OIE Regional Representation for Asia
and the Pacific

**OIE Global Conference on
Aquatic Animal Health**
9-12 October
Bergen, Norway

www.oie.int/eng/Norway2/home.htm



**24th World
Buiatrics Congress**
15-19 October
Nice, France

Tel +33 4 93 92 81 61
Fax +33 4 93 92 83 38
wbc2006@nice-acropolis.com

**27th IDF
World Dairy Congress**
20-23 October
Shanghai, China

Inquiries: www.idf2006shcn.com

November

**OIE/SEAFDEC
Hands-on Training
Workshop on Aquatic
Animal Disease Diagnosis**
Iloilo, Philippines

OIE Regional Representation
for Asia and the Pacific

**XX Pan American
Congress of Veterinary
Sciences and XIV Chilean
Congress of
Veterinary Medicine**
**Diego Portales
Convention Centre,
Santiago de Chile,
Chile**

www.panvet2006.cl/

**OIE/FAO-APHCA
Workshop on BSE
Diagnosis and
Surveillance**
Japan

OIE Regional Representation
for Asia and the Pacific

**Sixth Working Group
Meeting of Animal
Movement Management
and Zoning Approach for
Foot and Mouth Disease
Control in the Upper
Mekong Basin**
1-8 November, Asia

OIE Regional Representation
for Asia and the Pacific

**II Meeting of the
Permanent Commission
of the Americas on TSEs
In Animals – COPEA**
**Buenos Aires,
Argentina**

OIE Regional Representation
for the Americas

**18th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission
for the Americas**
**28 November -
2 December,
Florianopolis, Brazil**

OIE Regional Activities Department

December

**Meeting of OIE
Laboratories of Reference**
3-5 December, Brazil

Scientific and Technical Department

questions and answers

question

**Open Letter from B. Bardot,
President of the Brigitte Bardot
Foundation,
dated 25 October 2005**

...I would like to join all the French people who contact my Foundation day after day in order to express their indignation over the inhuman techniques of slaughter used in the various countries affected by the lethal H5N1 strain of the avian influenza virus....

...If all these animals must be killed, our duty is to limit their suffering!

I place all my hopes in you, as a stakeholder and decision-maker, to see to it that solutions more worthy of our species are adopted, and that the subject is debated at the meeting organised by your organisation along with the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization early November

Brigitte Bardot

answer

Avian influenza: controlling the disease at its animal source does not justify inhumane killing methods on farm

The OIE stresses the need for veterinary services worldwide to address urgently outbreaks of avian influenza in poultry. However, as the international reference organisation for animal welfare, the OIE is committed to alerting the international community to the necessity to use appropriate methods when killing infected and in contact birds.

The global fight against avian influenza in some cases necessitates the killing of birds. Concern is being expressed not only by animal welfare organisations worldwide, but also by the media and the general public that, in many cases, this killing is not being carried out in an appropriate manner.

The OIE emphasises that early detection and rapid response mechanisms are crucial to the successful control of the disease and to minimising the number of animals needing to be killed to prevent the spread of the virus. Specific guidelines have been adopted by all 167 OIE Member Countries with regard to appropriate methods for the killing of animals (including birds) for disease control purposes.

In particular, these guidelines recommend that:

- When animals are killed for disease control purposes, methods used should result in immediate death or immediate loss of consciousness lasting until death; when loss of consciousness is not immediate, induction of unconsciousness should not cause anxiety, pain, distress or suffering in the animals.

- There should be continuous monitoring of the procedures to ensure they are consistently effective with regard to animal welfare, operator safety and biosecurity.
- The operational activities should be led by an official veterinarian who has the authority to appoint the personnel in the specialist teams and ensure that they adhere to the required animal welfare and biosecurity standards. When appointing the personnel, he/she should ensure that the personnel involved has the required competencies.
- A specialist team, led by a team leader answerable to the official veterinarian, should be deployed to work on each affected premises. The team should consist of personnel with the competencies to conduct all required operations; in some situations, personnel may be required to fulfil more than one function. Each team should contain a veterinarian.

The OIE considers that there is an essential link between animal welfare and animal health.

The standards in the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on surveillance for avian influenza and on measures guaranteeing the safety of international trade in poultry and poultry products represent the cornerstone in the global fight against avian influenza in birds and for avoiding a potential human pandemic.

The complete guidelines on appropriate methods for the killing of animals for disease control purposes, are available online in the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code* at http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_3.7.6.htm.



Implication of the OIE in the avian influenza crisis: from Malta to Beijing



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8-16 October 2005, the OIE joined the US Secretary of Health and Human Services and his delegation, at a fact finding trip to avian influenza affected countries in Southeast Asia (Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam)



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The Global Influenza Meeting jointly held in Geneva by WHO/FAO/OIE/World Bank in November 2005 identified the strategies and the resources needed to control avian influenza in animals and simultaneously limit the threat of a human influenza pandemic



During the International Pledging Conference on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza which was then held on 17 -18 January 2006 in Beijing (People's Republic of China), the international community pledged a total amount of \$1.9 billion US dollars to fight avian influenza and to cope with a possible human influenza pandemic

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ANDORRA	DOMINICAN REP.	LATVIA	SENEGAL
ANGOLA	ECUADOR	LEBANON	SERBIA-AND-MONTENEGRO
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AUSTRALIA	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	LITHUANIA	SLOVAKIA
AUSTRIA	ERITREA	LUXEMBOURG	SLOVENIA
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