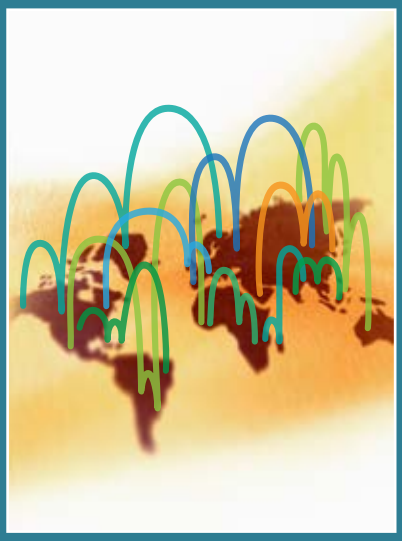
bulletin

No. 2013 – 3

Global strategies for animal disease control

Protecting animals, preserving our future • **World Organisation for Animal Health**



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Preventing and controlling health risks associated with globalisation

National Veterinary Services include official veterinarians assisted by veterinarians working in the private sector. Veterinary Services are crucial for the prevention, early detection and control of animal diseases, including those transmissible to humans (zoonoses). They play an essential role in all countries and are in the forefront when it comes to ensuring animal health, food security and food safety, thereby helping to protect public health.

This crucial role was again demonstrated recently during the emergence of the influenza A (H7N9) virus strain in the People's Republic of China in spring 2013: the Chinese Veterinary Services played a large part in helping to contain a potentially very serious human epidemic.

The control measures taken in China, from the very first suspicions that the virus was of avian origin, clearly demonstrate the importance of early detection and a rapid response to sanitary events by acting directly on the animal source. These measures, including control of live animal markets and the destruction of infected animals, led to a sharp decline of the human epidemic in just a few weeks.

This example is a perfect illustration of the approach that should be adopted, in strict compliance with the provisions of the OIE *International Animal Health Code*, whenever a contagious animal disease occurs anywhere in the world.

The control measures taken in China, from the very first suspicions that the virus was of avian origin, clearly demonstrate the importance of early detection and a rapid response

Now, at a time of unprecedented globalisation of pathogenic microorganisms, it is more appropriate than ever to promote the importance of these animal disease prevention and control measures implemented by effective national Veterinary Services, and to recognise their vital role in protecting public health.

The OIE has adopted and published international standards to ensure the quality of governance of Veterinary Services, and it implements programmes throughout the world to help its Member Countries to apply them. Using the *PVS Pathway* (PVS: Performance of Veterinary Services), the OIE works tirelessly to bring national Veterinary Services into line with international standards of quality democratically adopted by all.

It is important to remember that these international standards also enable countries wishing to export animals and animal products to gain access to the most lucrative regional and international markets, from which they might otherwise be excluded, due to the presence of animal diseases on their territory or as a result of the fact that their Veterinary Services do not comply with OIE standards.

The arsenal of measures available to OIE Member Countries to ensure the sanitary safety of, and access to, international trade in animals and animal products (eggs, milk, meat) also includes official recognition by the World Assembly of national Delegates of OIE Member Countries of the health status of countries, or zones within countries, with regard to certain specific priority diseases. This official recognition, which follows a strict procedure, can be seen as an international standard, to be recognised by all trading partners. Consequently, any non-acceptance of a sanitary status published in accordance with this procedure would have to be scientifically justified by the importing country in question.

Thanks to the concept of 'zoning', this procedure also helps countries in which a single zone is affected by a disease subject to official recognition to maintain or facilitate their access to international markets for

animals and animal products from the remaining, unaffected part of their national territory.

Members can also ask for the recognition of zones free from disease within an infected country.

Since being introduced in May 1994 for foot and mouth disease (FMD), the OIE procedure for official recognition has been extended to include official recognition of the status of countries or zones with respect to rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and, since 2012, African horse sickness. This year, the possibility for Member Countries to have their disease status officially recognised by the OIE World Assembly has been further widened to include peste des petits ruminants and classical swine fever.

Consequently, any non-acceptance of a sanitary status published in accordance with this procedure would have to be scientifically justified by the importing country in question

The OIE has also strengthened this procedure to provide support for Member Countries not yet in a position to apply for an official status and to help them with controlling certain specific diseases. For instance, Member Countries may now, if they wish, submit their national control programmes for FMD and peste des petits ruminants for comment and, where appropriate, official endorsement by the OIE. This procedure enables Veterinary Services to seek the required funding for control and eradication programmes for FMD and peste des petits ruminants from their government or the international community of public or private donors. The procedure is fully in line with the programmes currently being implemented by the OIE and FAO aimed at worldwide control of both these diseases.

To help them with their work of preventing and controlling animal diseases, OIE Member Countries will always find relevant technical and organisational information in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, which detail international standards, including both horizontal standards (such as the quality of national Veterinary Services and procedures for certifying the sanitary safety of products) and vertical standards (specific provisions on controlling risks relating to each OIE-listed animal disease).

The OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* and *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* contain standards related to appropriate diagnostic techniques and vaccine quality.

Lastly, on behalf of its 178 Member Countries the OIE organises continuous training and support programmes to facilitate the application of standards adopted by all.

Thus, through all the mechanisms that the OIE offers its Member Countries, animal diseases around the world are on the decline and sanitary crises are becoming less frequent, despite globalisation, while, at the same time, public health is being strengthened.

Bernard Vallat
Director General

From official disease status to global freedom

In the early 1990s, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) gave the OIE the responsibility of compiling a list of Member Countries or zones that could officially be recognised as being free from certain diseases. To this end, the OIE developed a clearly defined and impartial procedure for declaring a Member Country free from a specific disease. In May 1995, the Assembly adopted a new procedure, which called upon the OIE Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease and other Epizootics (since renamed the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases) to examine in detail, and in accordance with the requirements of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*, dossiers submitted by the Delegates of Member Countries to support their claim that their countries could be considered free of foot and mouth disease (FMD). The first official list of OIE Member Countries to be recognised as being free from FMD, without the use of vaccination, was published in May 1996, on the recommendation of the Commission and after adoption by the International Committee at the OIE General Session. This process for officially recognising a country's disease status has since been expanded to include rinderpest in 2003; contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), also in 2003; bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in 2004; African horse sickness (AHS) in 2012; and both classical swine fever (CSF) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in 2013.

As of May 2013, and out of the 178 Member Countries of the OIE, 66 countries have been designated free from FMD without vaccination, while one country is free with vaccination, and 16 countries have FMD-free zones, with or without vaccination. Some 25 countries have obtained a negligible risk status for BSE and 27 have been recognised as having a controlled risk. To date, only seven Member Countries have applied for and obtained freedom from CBPP while a total of 54 Member Countries have been recognised as free from AHS. The process for evaluating country or zonal freedom from PPR will begin from 2013/2014 onwards, while the process for CSF will start from 2014/2015. It was a source of great satisfaction when global freedom from rinderpest was officially confirmed by the Assembly during the 79th General Session in May 2011.

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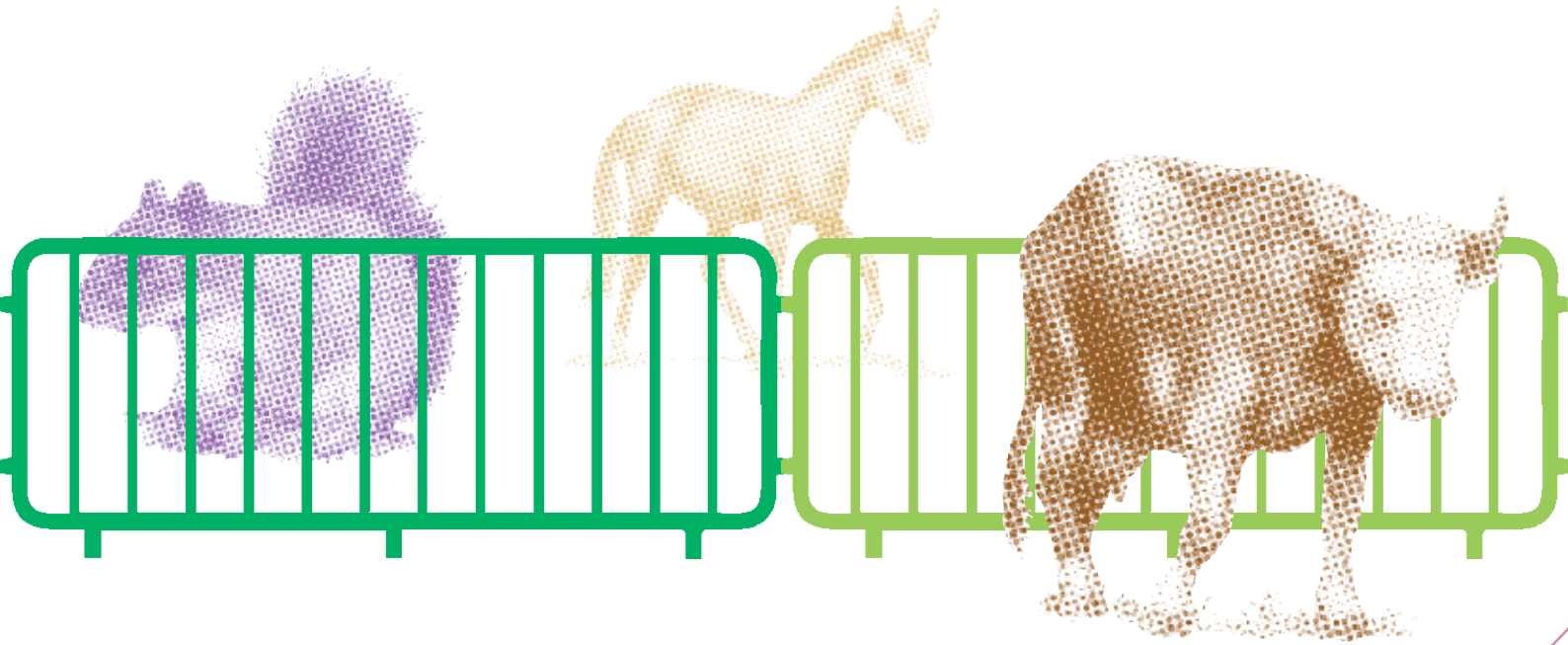
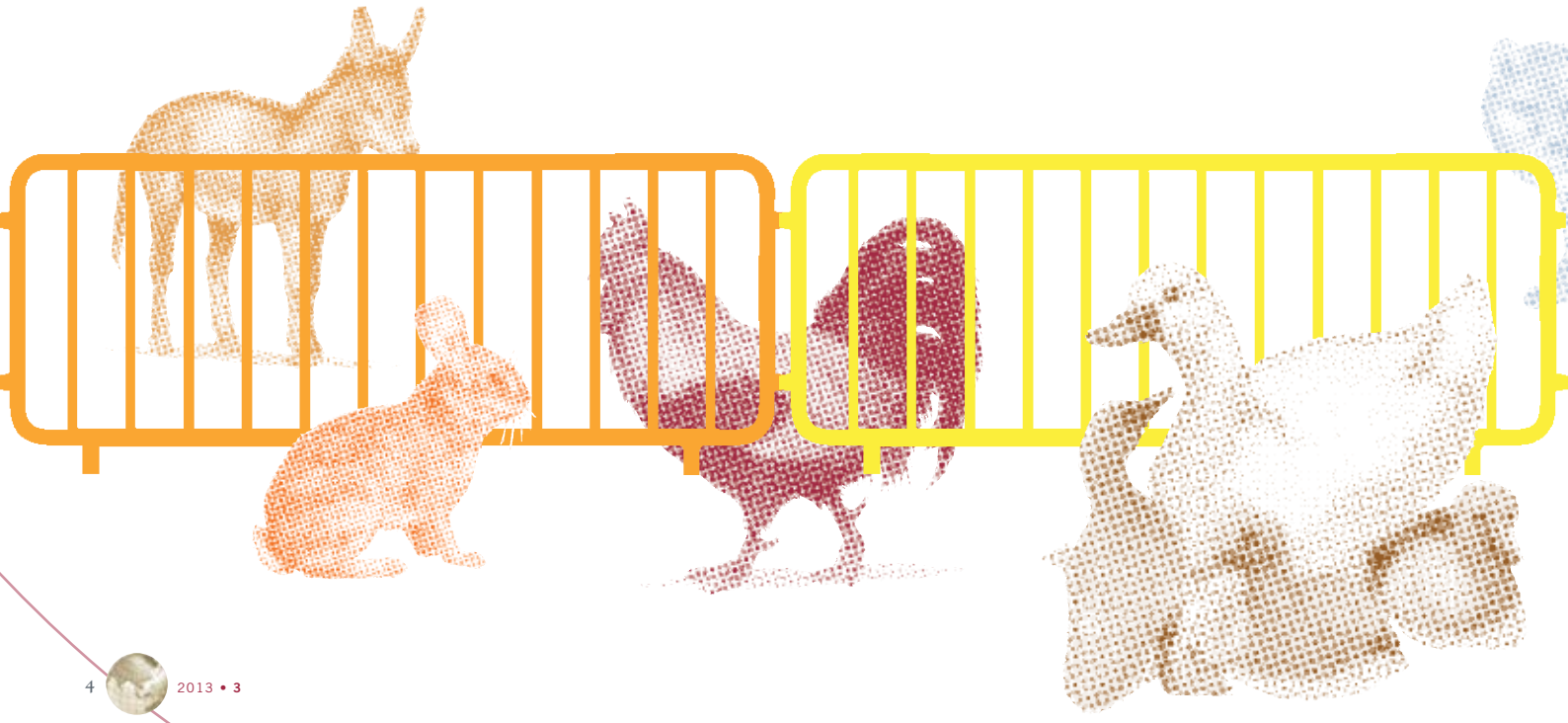


The evolution of the disease status recognition procedure

The ability to comply with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*, and eventually achieve the desired official disease status recognition by the OIE, did not initially seem a major obstacle to most OIE Member Countries. However, it soon became apparent that maintaining that disease-free status was a different matter. In some cases, Member Countries found themselves continually under challenge from the risk of disease re-introduction while, for others, the additional burden of high maintenance costs for retaining their disease-free status was not sustainable. Some Member Countries soon realised that the cost of gaining their initial disease-free status, compared with the cost of maintaining it, differed considerably. To implement a sustainable maintenance system to protect their status, countries had to make significant additional investments, such as maintaining a continuous surveillance system; preventing the introduction of the pathogen through revised import and border controls; revising their import requirements, appointing additional personnel and controlling the movements of animals and animal products. When it became clear that some Member Countries which had been allocated the status of freedom from disease then lost that status, due to an inability to effectively mitigate the risk of re-introduction, the OIE introduced the concept of 'zoning'. Under this procedure, specific zones within an infected country could officially be recognised as being free from that disease – with or without vaccination – and standards to this effect were introduced into the *Terrestrial Code*. This process was further refined to facilitate trade from countries which could not yet achieve either country or zonal freedom, by introducing the idea of compartmentalisation. Whereas both country and zonal freedom are based on maintaining the separation of animal populations which have a different health status for a given disease, mainly through geographic isolation, the concept of compartmentalisation is based on ensuring that a particular establishment is free from one or more diseases by applying strict biosecurity management practices. The principle of compartmentalisation was not a totally new concept to Member Countries, since the practice of separating animal populations of different health status through biosecurity management practices had already been in use for many years, for diseases such as African swine fever and bovine tuberculosis. In addition, it was familiar as a standard management practice in the intensive poultry and swine industries. However, to award official recognition to this additional mechanism for facilitating trade, compartmentalisation was incorporated within the *Terrestrial Code* as a standard applicable to most OIE-listed diseases for trade purposes, and thus liable for recognition and

The OIE introduced the concept of 'zoning' and the idea of compartmentalisation



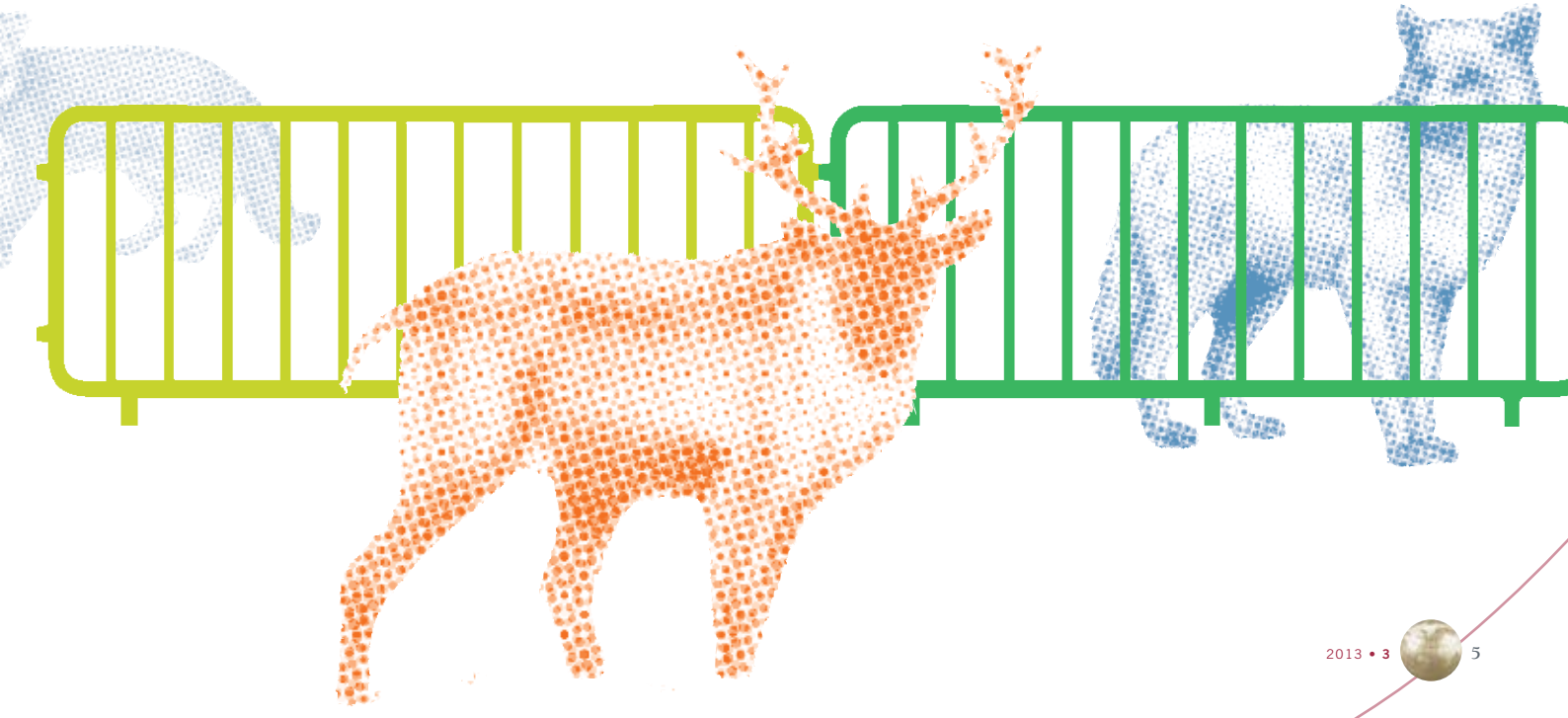
acknowledgement by the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the 'SPS Agreement') of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). While official OIE recognition of country or zonal freedom from an eligible disease is awarded only after a thorough and transparent evaluation of that Member Country's application by the Scientific Commission, and its subsequent adoption by a Resolution of the Assembly, this is not the case for compartments. The *Terrestrial Code* requires that the establishment of a *compartment* should be under the jurisdiction of the Veterinary Service of the country in question, and should be a transparent agreement between the Veterinary Service, the industry concerned and potential trade partners.

A further step, to assist Member Countries which had obtained official disease status recognition but lost it again, through an unfortunate but limited disease outbreak within a disease-free country or zone, was to introduce the concept of a *containment zone* into the *Terrestrial Code*. This concept allows Member Countries to effectively isolate a limited disease outbreak, subject to the requirements in the *Terrestrial Code* and the approval of the Scientific Commission, and maintain their disease-free status in the rest of the zone or country, until the Member Country concerned has successfully contained the outbreak, enabling the isolated containment zone to be re-integrated into the OIE-recognised disease-free zone.

In addition to the official recognition of disease-free countries or zones by the OIE, a further trade-facilitating measure has been introduced into the *Terrestrial Code* to allow for safe trade in certain commodities, irrespective of the disease status of the country of origin. For example, milk and milk products can safely be traded from a Member Country, even if BSE is present in that Member Country; or deboned beef from which the major lymphatic nodes have been removed can be traded (subject to pre-slaughter, slaughter and post-slaughter risk mitigation measures described in the *Terrestrial Code*) even if a country is infected with FMD.

The OIE also acknowledges that more than 70% of its Member Countries are developing countries. Many of these are in the process of moving towards the ideal of country or zonal freedom from disease, but have not attained it yet. To assist such countries, and to officially recognise their attempts to comply with OIE standards, the Assembly endorses the principle of recognising official national disease control programmes and formally publishes, on the OIE website, those Member Countries whose control programmes have been evaluated and recommended by the Scientific Commission. While the endorsement of an official disease control programme

The concept of a containment zone allows Member Countries to effectively isolate a limited disease outbreak, subject to the requirements in the Terrestrial Code



is not official recognition of the status of a particular disease, it does serve as an incentive to those Member Countries to move ahead with the goal of eventually achieving country or zonal freedom. When the OIE recognises the disease control efforts of a Member Country, this also conveys a positive and encouraging message to potential trade partners. This process was initially introduced for national disease control programmes for FMD but has already been extended to include PPR. In the future, it is expected to include control programmes for many other important transboundary animal diseases. Four Member Countries are already listed on the OIE website as having official disease control programmes for FMD.

From country freedom to global freedom

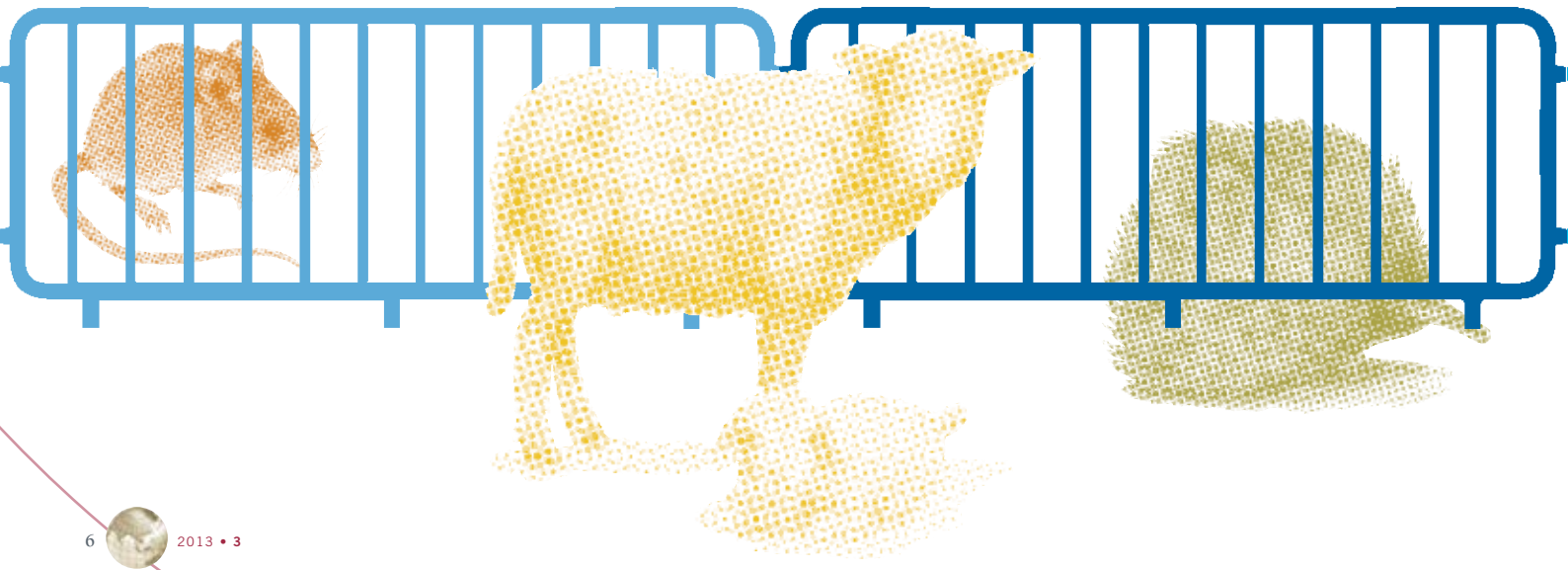
It was a glorious occasion for the OIE, FAO and the whole international veterinary community when, at the 79th General Session in May 2011, the world was officially declared free from rinderpest – the first animal disease ever to achieve this international status. Following this remarkable success, both the OIE and FAO have turned their focus towards FMD, as the next disease to be eliminated in the journey towards global control. A global FMD control strategy was endorsed by both the OIE and FAO and is well under way, following a resolution adopted at the FAO/OIE Global Conference on FMD Control in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2012. During the 81st General Assembly of the OIE, PPR was also endorsed as an animal disease requiring official status recognition by the OIE and as another candidate for a global control programme. This programme will be launched during 2014, with the aim of achieving global freedom from PPR, as a result of its severe socio-economic impact, most especially on developing countries in Africa and Asia.

Rinderpest was the first animal disease ever to be eradicated worldwide

Assistance to Member Countries to move towards country or zonal freedom from disease

It would be naïve and irresponsible to adopt an approach based solely on the systematic inactivation of pathogens in products to give sanitary guarantees for international trade. Such an approach may lead to Member Countries relaxing their surveillance activities and rigorous control programmes and policies against animal diseases.

To guarantee the effectiveness of surveillance at the national, regional and worldwide levels, and to achieve recognition as a country moving towards country or zonal disease freedom, a non-negotiable prerequisite for all Members is to comply with OIE standards on the quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services. In addition to their surveillance mission, Veterinary Services are also responsible for the reliability of the veterinary certificates that they issue. These certificates accompany every consignment of animals or animal



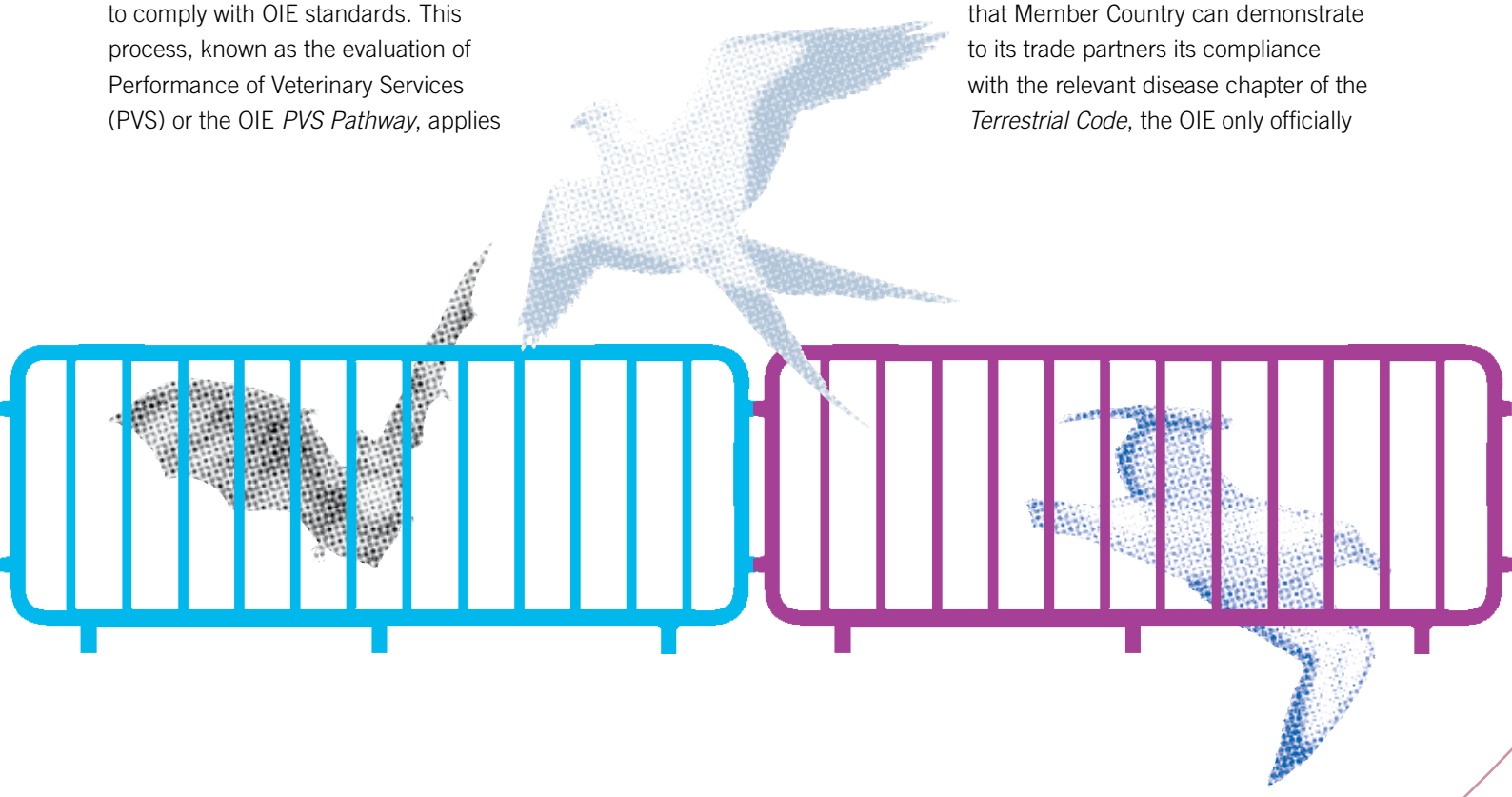
products transported around the world in the course of international trade. When a country complies with OIE standards for the quality of its Veterinary Services, it ensures that these certificates have been issued under conditions that guarantee their reliability, so that granting access to regional and global markets for all will not pose a threat to the safety of international trade.

The OIE recognises that the ability of its Member Countries to successfully deal with disease threats, and ensure trust and integrity in their export certification, is also a test of their ability to ensure the safety of animals and commodities offered for trade. To assist Member Countries which need to improve their ability to cope with perceived threats, the OIE has established a procedure to evaluate the performance of a country's Veterinary Services and to identify what these Services need, to be able to comply with OIE standards. This process, known as the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) or the OIE *PVS Pathway*, applies a specific methodology, known as the OIE PVS Tool, in which trained OIE experts visit countries that wish to be evaluated. The focus of the evaluation is assessing the country's performance within the context of specific critical competencies for veterinary service delivery. These competencies include human, physical and financial resources, technical authority and capability, interaction with stakeholders, and access to markets. The PVS evaluation is further complemented by a Gap Analysis evaluation to help Member Countries assess the costs involved in improving their critical competencies to move towards compliance with OIE standards. Further assistance is given by OIE expert missions, who advise on improving the veterinary legislation of Member Countries, their veterinary education, communication, disease reporting, advancing their diagnostic capabilities through twinning agreements with OIE International Reference Laboratories, and better managing their wildlife-livestock interface.

When a country complies with OIE standards for the quality of its Veterinary Services, it ensures that these certificates have been issued under conditions that guarantee their reliability

The rights and obligations of Member Countries which obtain official disease status recognition

The OIE places a high premium on its system for official disease status recognition. While Member Countries can issue a self-declaration for freedom from OIE-listed diseases if that Member Country can demonstrate to its trade partners its compliance with the relevant disease chapter of the *Terrestrial Code*, the OIE only officially



recognises freedom from disease for FMD, CBPP, BSE, AHS, CSF and PPR. For all other OIE-listed diseases, Member Countries take responsibility for a self-declaration of their own disease status.

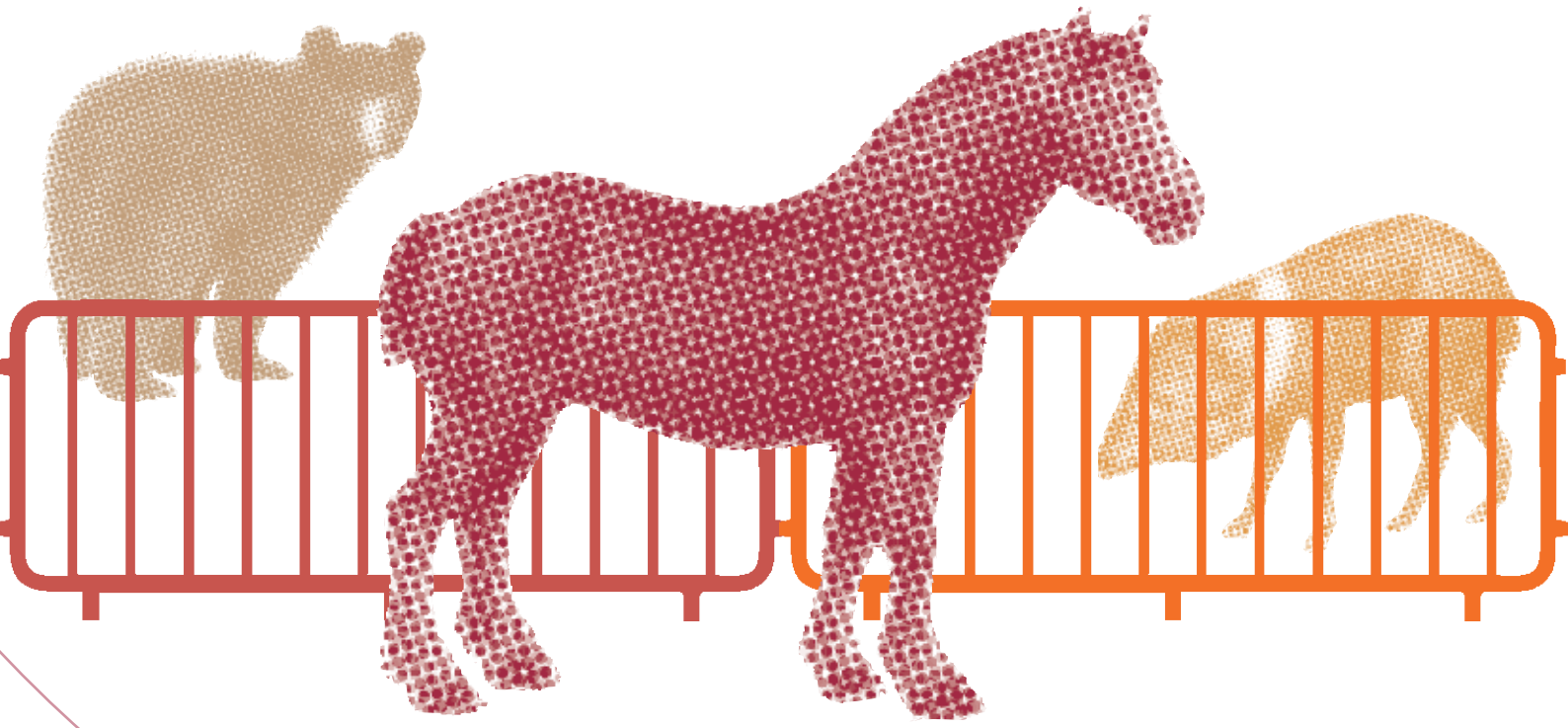
It follows that the OIE decision-making process for Member Country status evaluations, which is mandated to the Scientific Commission by the Assembly, must maintain a scientific base for its decision-making, in accordance with the requirements of the OIE *Codes* and *Manuals*, and should also remain transparent. The Scientific Commission is helped in its task of evaluating Member Country applications for disease status by calling upon designated scientific experts on particular diseases for their evaluations and recommendations. However, the Commission is not necessarily bound by the recommendations of an *ad hoc* Group of experts. Nonetheless, it remains vital that the evaluation system should

Evaluations must maintain a scientific base for decision-making, in accordance with the requirements of the OIE Codes and Manuals

be sas transparent as possible, while at the same time respecting Member Country confidentiality.

It is acknowledged that the pathway for obtaining official recognition of either a disease-free country or a disease-free zone is a slow process that depends on the ability of a Member Country to achieve and maintain that status. Member Countries have by default an obligation to maintain their disease-free status and should notify the OIE immediately if there is any change in their epidemiological situation that may endanger or put into question that status. It is accepted that keeping a recognised status is costly, since it requires a sustainable and effective Veterinary Service and the political will and commitment to maintain it. It is also acknowledged that many developing and in-transition countries experience their own unique problems in moving towards the ideal of a disease-free country or zone, and that the international community should therefore consider appropriate ways of helping such Member Countries to gain access to international markets, as they become active participants on the pathway to disease freedom.

Gideon Brückner
President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

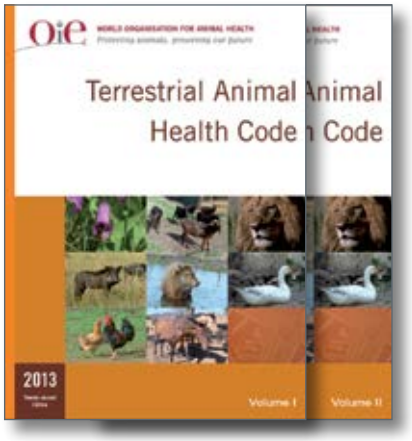


OIE publications

Trilingual publication
2013
ISBN 978-92-9044- 920-1
29.7 × 21 cm
300 pp.
Price: € **65**

Scientific and Technical Review
Vol. **32** (2)
Coordinating surveillance policies in animal health and food safety 'from farm to fork'
Coordinator and editor: S. Slorach

This *Review* addresses the recognised need for better coordination of surveillance policies for animal health, food pathogens and foodborne diseases. It examines the role of Veterinary Services and highlights the need to work closely with the other services involved. The mechanisms for promoting such coordination are discussed, together with the implications for international organisations, including the OIE and the WHO. Included are examples of the integration of animal health, food pathogen and foodborne disease surveillance programmes for different pathogens and in different regions of the world. The scientific and technical tools for promoting the coordination of surveillance policies, which protects the safety of the entire food chain, are also discussed. These tools include improved analytical methods and traceability mechanisms that link live animals to foods derived from them.



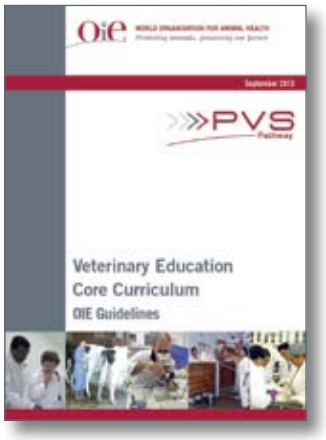
In English
Twenty-second edition, 2013
ISBN 978-92-9044-907-2
Volumes I and II sold together
29.7 × 21 cm
Approx. 800 pp.
Price: € **60**

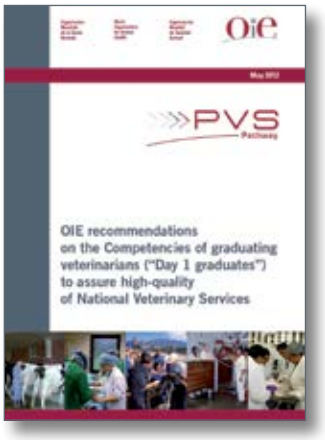
Terrestrial Animal Health Code

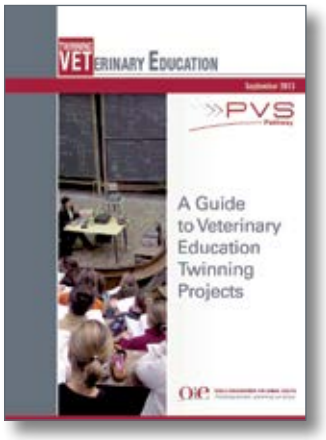
The aim of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* is to contribute to improve animal health and welfare worldwide and to assure the sanitary safety of international trade in animals (mammals, birds and bees) and their products. This is achieved through the detailing of health measures to be used by the Veterinary Authorities of importing and exporting countries to avoid the transfer of agents pathogenic for animals or humans, while avoiding unjustified trade barriers.

The value of the *Terrestrial Code* is twofold: firstly, the sanitary measures recommended are the result of consensus among the Veterinary Authorities of OIE Members and, secondly, it constitutes a reference for terrestrial animals within the WTO SPS Agreement as an international standard for animal health and zoonoses, as well as a key standard for the prevention and control of animal diseases.

Available on the Website at: www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/







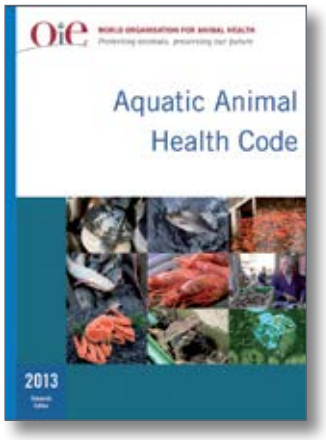
OIE tools for capacity building of Veterinary Services

Good governance of Veterinary Services depends largely on the quality of the initial training received by veterinarians. The OIE continues to develop tools for capacity building of Veterinary Services, with the objective of improving the quality of veterinary education worldwide.

The OIE has published two texts on this subject: the ***'Veterinary Education Core Curriculum: OIE Guidelines'*** (September 2013) (www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Support_to_OIE_Members/Vet_Edu_AHG/formation_initiale/Core-ENG-v6.pdf) and the ***'OIE recommendations on the Competencies of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates')*** to assure national Veterinary Services of quality' (May 2012), also referred to as the OIE 'Day 1 Competencies' (www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Support_to_OIE_Members/Vet_Edu_AHG/DAY_1/DAYONE-B-ang-vC.pdf).

These recommendations set out the minimum competencies needed by graduating veterinarians to be adequately prepared for participation in their national Veterinary Services (both the public and private sectors) at entry level. High-quality veterinary education is of crucial importance to maintaining efficient Veterinary Services, and improving the quality of veterinary education is therefore a key component of any plan to improve the governance of Veterinary Services worldwide. Within the framework of the *PVS pathway*, the OIE has developed procedures for twinning Veterinary Education Establishments; i.e. developing strong relationships between universities from developed and developing countries, based on the successful OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme. Moreover, it has now published ***'A Guide to Veterinary Education Twinning Projects'*** (www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Support_to_OIE_Members/Vet_Edu_AHG/GuideVetEducation_ANG_21012013.pdf).

The twinning of Veterinary Education Establishments is an important initiative for improving the quality of veterinary training and broadening the educational boundaries of both institutions to better protect both human and animal health. It is based on exchanges of both teachers and students.



In English
Sixteenth edition, 2013
29.7 × 21 cm, 284 pp.
ISBN 978-92-9044-916-4
Price: € **45**

Aquatic Animal Health Code

The aim of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* is to contribute to improving the aquatic animal (amphibians, crustaceans, fish and molluscs) health and welfare of farmed fish worldwide, to ensure that products derived from them are safe for human consumption, and to assure the sanitary safety of international trade in aquatic animals and their products. This is achieved through the detailing of health measures in the *Aquatic Code*. The Competent Authorities of importing and exporting countries should use the OIE standards to avoid the transfer of agents pathogenic for aquatic animals or humans, while avoiding unjustified trade barriers.

The value of the *Aquatic Code* is twofold: firstly, the sanitary measures recommended are the result of consensus among the Veterinary Authorities of OIE Members, and secondly, it constitutes a reference within the WTO SPS Agreement as an international standard for animal health and zoonoses of aquatic animals. The 2013 version of the *Aquatic Code* is available on the Web site at www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/aquatic-code/access-online/.

Trilingual publication
April 2013
ISBN 978-92-9044-919-5
29.7 × 21 cm
296 pp.
Price: € **65**

OIE Scientific and Technical Review
Vol. **32** (1)
Brucellosis: recent developments towards 'One Health'

Co-ordinators and Editors:
G. Plumb, S. Pappas & S. Olsen

Brucellosis manifests anywhere and knows no borders, moving liberally amongst humans, livestock, and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. There is a need, therefore, for critical deliberation of its epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and prevention and management. This issue of the OIE *Review* presents a comprehensive overview of current knowledge on the ecology of brucellosis, a clearer understanding of the current situation and a summary of the outlook for the future, so as to allow the disease to be neglected no longer, or at least to be recognised as neglected.

news from headquarters

Staff movements

Arrivals

International Trade Department

Dr Tomasz Grudnik

Animal Welfare Officer

On 3rd June 2013 Dr Tomasz Grudnik joined the International Trade Department as an Animal Welfare Officer as part of the expansion of the Improved Animal Welfare Programme. Tomasz holds a degree in Veterinary Medicine (2000) and PhD in Agricultural Sciences (2006) form the Agricultural University of Wroclaw in Poland. Before joining OIE he worked for the European Food Safety Authority supporting the work of the Animal Health and Welfare Panel. He was visiting researcher at the Animal Welfare Program of the University of British Columbia in 2005, and he also has five years of practical experience as official veterinarian in slaughterhouses in Poland and United Kingdom. Tomasz is looking forward to applying and extending his knowledge and experience with the work of the International Trade Department.

Regional Activities Department

Ms Ewelina Marzec

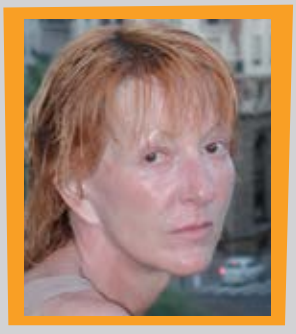
Bilingual secretary

Polish-born Ms Ewelina Marzec joined the OIE Regional Activities Department as a bilingual secretary on 4 February 2013.

Ms Marzec holds a BA in International Affairs from the University of Poznan (Poland), a Master's degree in European Affairs from the University of Paris, the Sorbonne, and a Master's in Geopolitics, also from the Sorbonne. Before joining the OIE, Ms Marzec held a number of internships, including one at the Paris-based think tank, the Foundation for Strategic Research, and another at the European Parliament in Brussels.

As part of her work in the Regional Activities Department, Ms Marzec helps to organise regional capacity-building events, including seminars, conferences and workshops for the OIE Delegates and National Focal Points.

Departure



Ms Marie Teissier

Information specialist

On 28 June 2013, Marie Teissier stepped down from her post as librarian.

A trilingual secretary and librarian by training, Marie was hired as librarian/translator on 5 February 1993. During her career at OIE, she developed the OIE French-English Thesaurus and created the *Alexandrie* documents database, which she built up over the years. As soon as it became feasible, Marie campaigned for the most important OIE archives to be digitised to link the electronic documents to the index file produced in *Alexandrie*, providing immediate online access to the document sought. In addition, she forged contacts with other librarians and became a member of the Council of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL). The last major project Marie oversaw was the uploading onto the OIE website of an online documents database accessible to the general public, which brought to fruition all her years of work at the OIE in collecting, classifying and recording the reports and documents so useful to OIE staff and its numerous experts.

Prior to joining the OIE, Marie worked for many years in the arts and has continued to be active in drama and entertainment, while being steeped in the world of music through her husband.

We are pleased that Marie Teissier now has the opportunity to enjoy these artistic and musical pursuits to the full.

Activities of the Communication Unit

An outbreak of influenza A (H7N9) in the People's Republic of China

April 2013

The OIE Communication Unit has been working with the Scientific and Technical Department to provide information to the media on the occurrence of influenza A virus, subtype H7N9, reported by the People's Republic of China in April 2013.

Two press releases and a question-and-answer page on the disease and this event have been posted on the OIE website, to disseminate reliable information and respond to enquiries from the international press. The Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, has also given numerous interviews on the subject, in line with the OIE's commitment to transparency.

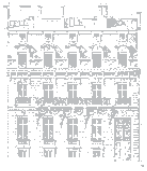
As part of the OIE's tripartite collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO), weekly meetings were held to ensure a continuous exchange of information and to harmonise communication. All the communication tools employed were discussed with these international organisations.

Annual Report 2012

For the third consecutive year, the Communication Unit has produced the OIE annual report, which summarises the activities carried out in the previous 12 months, focusing on new measures for improving the implementation of the OIE mandate.

Traditionally, the annual report is sent to OIE Delegates and international organisations that have signed a cooperation agreement with the OIE, as well as being distributed at high-level global conferences and meetings.

The 2012 edition also introduces a useful digital innovation, enabling readers to download OIE multimedia content directly from their mobile phone by scanning a barcode.



Activities of the Scientific and Technical Department

Summaries of the OIE *ad hoc* Group meetings

April to June 2013

On Tuberculosis

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 9–11 April 2013

The *ad hoc* Group on Tuberculosis was asked to revise the existing tuberculosis chapters of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*, taking a pathogen-based approach. The Group suggested merging the two current chapters into a single, multi-species chapter, following the same approach used for the chapters on brucellosis. However, the Group amended this approach, where appropriate, to reflect specific issues involved in controlling tuberculosis. The new draft chapter takes the infection of farmed animals into account, including cattle, water buffalo, wood bison, deer, roe deer, goats, African buffalo, greater kudu and lechwe, infected with *Mycobacterium bovis*, *M. caprae* or *M. tuberculosis* (all species of the *M. tuberculosis* complex), and differentiating maintenance species from incidental hosts. After discussing the advantages and disadvantages of vaccination strategies for tuberculosis and the safety and efficacy of vaccination, the Group agreed that it would be appropriate to support large-scale, long-lasting vaccination field trials, which would also allow the validation of accompanying tests for differentiating infected from vaccinated animals (DIVA). The Group also noted recent scientific evidence in favour of the use of purified protein derivative-based, gamma-interferon tests for control and trade purposes in cattle and recommended that the chapter on tuberculosis of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* also be revised.

On International Horse Movement for Equestrian Sport

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 24–26 April 2013

This *ad hoc* Group held its inaugural meeting to begin putting into practice the Collaboration Agreement between the *Fédération Équestre Internationale* (FEI) and the OIE, signed in January 2013. The Group, composed of experts from the FEI, the International Racing Authorities (IFHA), the European Union, the OIE, and other equine disease and laboratory experts and stakeholders, worked on an ambitious agenda and endorsed a three-year work programme for the Collaboration Agreement. The participants also agreed to form sub-groups, as well as to develop the technical aspects of the definition of a *high health, high performance horse* (HHP). The ultimate objective of this Group is to establish standards and guidelines to make the safe, international movement of HHP horses easier, for the purpose of international competition. A public-private partnership between the OIE and the equine industry is the approach that has been chosen to accomplish this.

On Rift Valley Fever

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 4–6 June 2013

At the request of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, the *ad hoc* Group has revised the articles of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, Chapter 8.11., on Rift Valley fever (RVF), which was last revised in 2009. Recommendations from the 'OIE Inter-regional Conference for Middle East and the Horn of Africa on RVF challenges, prevention and control', held in Mombasa, Kenya, in November 2012, were also taken into consideration. The Group made substantial changes to the chapter concerning the infective period and health status of a country. The major change was the introduction of provisions for trade during the 'inter-epizootic period', a period during which disease is not observed but the virus may be circulating at a very low level. In addition, meat was introduced as a 'safe commodity' regardless of the status of the country.

Activities of the International Trade Department

Summaries of the OIE *ad hoc* Group and Working Group Meetings

April to June 2013

Feedback Session on the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 16–17 April 2013

After more than five years of implementation of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), a feedback session was held from 16 to 17 April 2013. Ten of the most active VLSP experts joined representatives from four beneficiary countries to discuss lessons learned and ways in which the programme could be further improved.

The OIE sent a questionnaire to the VLSP experts and analysed their responses. Based on their suggestions, together with the experiences of beneficiary countries, the feedback session recommended:

– raising awareness and encouraging support for the VLSP at senior technical and political levels

– conducting refresher training for VLSP experts to keep them up to date

– inviting appropriate jurists, on a case-by-case basis, to participate in the VLSP, and

– reviewing the VLSP *Manual for Experts*, and all associated materials.

Ad hoc Group on Veterinary Legislation

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 18–19 April 2013

The *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Legislation met on 18 to 19 April 2013, after the feedback session, to review and endorse the recommendations made. The Group then reviewed the revised questionnaire in the *VLSP Manual*, which had been developed at their last meeting, taking into account the feedback from subsequent field trials. The Group also discussed revision of the *VLSP Manual* in response to the recommendation of the preceding feedback session. The report of this meeting will be presented to the meeting of the Animal Health Standards Commission in September 2013.

Animal Welfare Working Group Meeting

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 18–20 June 2013

The OIE Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) held its 12th meeting from 18 to 20 June 2013. In line with the rotational system of hosting representatives from the food animal industry, this year the industry representative participating as a full member of the AWWG came from the International Dairy Federation.

The AWWG meeting was joined by representatives from the Collaborating Centres, who gave brief summaries of their activities during 2012, and current tasks in 2013. The Collaborating Centres' annual reports are available at the OIE website: www.oie.int/en/our-scientific-expertise/collaborating-centres/annual-reports/.

The Working Group acknowledged the adoption of Chapter 7.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*, Animal Welfare and Broiler Chicken Production Systems. The Group also noted the inclusion of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México as part of the Collaborating Centre of Chile–Uruguay, and the adoption of the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) as the new Collaborating Centre on Laboratory Animal Welfare and Science.

Other important topics discussed at the meeting were the continuing work by the OIE on dairy cattle production systems, as well as planned work on the welfare of working equids and disaster management.

Staff movements

Arrivals

OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Hirofumi Kugita

Dr Hirofumi Kugita has been appointed as the new Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific from 1 April 2013. Before joining the OIE, Dr Kugita worked for the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan for 35 years and served as the Delegate of Japan to the OIE from 2004 to 2006.

Dr Kugita was born and brought up among horses. His family bred horses on a farm in the south-west of Japan, which is Japan's biggest livestock-producing area. On graduating from the University of Tokyo, he joined MAFF where, for most of his career, he was involved in the livestock industry, taking part in programmes to support the dairy industry and improve the quality of wagyu (Japanese Black Cattle). Most recently, he served as Deputy Director General of the Tohoku Regional Agricultural Administration Office, where he worked in agricultural and rural reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 2011, which, during the triple disaster of the earthquake, tsunami and Fukushima nuclear power plant accident, took so many lives and livelihoods.

Having being away from the OIE for some time, he is very impressed with the many developments and improvements achieved by the OIE and its Members over recent years. He is looking forward to working with his old friends again, as well as newer colleagues, to contribute to further improvements in the animal health situation of the region.

Dr Batsukh Zayat

Dr Batsukh Zayat, the former Delegate of Mongolia to the OIE, has recently joined the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific as a seconded officer on a temporary basis. After achieving his Ph.D in Immunology and General Biology and a ScD degree in Veterinary Immunology and Parasitology, Dr Batsukh Zayat served at the Institute of Veterinary Medicine of Mongolia as a leading scientist for several decades, focusing on the diagnosis and prevention of disease, epidemiology and disease management. From 2010 to 2013 he held the position of Deputy Director General and Chief Veterinary Officer of the Government Implementation Agency for Veterinary and Animal Breeding, Mongolia.

His responsibilities at the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific include organising the First Scientific Meeting of the OIE/Japan Trust Fund Project on Foot and Mouth Disease Control in Asia and coordinating plans for laboratory twinning, as well as offering support to international pastoralism activities, involving Mongolia. We are sure that his solid experience and high academic achievements will help to accelerate the progress of OIE activities in the Asia–Pacific Region.

Dr Tikiri Wijayathilaka

Dr Tikiri Priyantha Wijayathilaka has been appointed as a Regional Project Coordinator, effective from 1 April 2013.

Dr Wijayathilaka graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, in 1992 and joined the Department of Animal Production and Health of Sri Lanka (DAPH). During his 20-year service at DAPH, among other tasks, he served as Project Manager of the World-Bank-assisted Avian Influenza Project from 2008 to 2011. This experience led him to become his country's Focal Point for a Massey-University-mediated Hubnet programme

Europe

connecting seven South Asian countries. It was activities such as this that cemented his involvement with veterinary public health at DAPH, especially in the fields of zoonotic diseases and food safety. While working to help establish the 'One World, One Health' concept in Sri Lanka, he also obtained a Master's degree in Tropical Animal Production from Larenstein University, the Netherlands, as well as an MVM in Biosecurity from Massey University, New Zealand.

We are confident that his contributions to OIE activities in Asia and the Pacific will prove equally as valuable and welcome him to the OIE.

OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia

Dr Jaruwan Kampa

Dr Jaruwan Kampa joined the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia in April 2013 as Coordinator for the OIE component of the IDENTIFY Programme, funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). She will manage and facilitate activities to strengthen the diagnostic capacities of animal health laboratories in South and South-East Asia through the development of laboratory networks.

Dr Kampa obtained her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Khon Kaen University in Thailand in 1997, with honours. She lectured at the University until 2009, when she also became an Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs. In 2006, Dr Kampa obtained her PhD in Ruminant Medicine at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, Sweden, where she had received her Master's Degree in Veterinary Microbiology, in 2002.
Dr Kampa has published various studies on infectious diseases, particularly in cattle in the north-eastern part of Thailand. She has also led a number of research projects on bovine viral diarrhoea virus infection and bovine mastitis in small dairy herds in the same area of Thailand. We're very pleased to be able to welcome her to her new role in the OIE.

Arrival

OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels

Dr Stanislav Ralchev

Dr Stanislav Ralchev is no stranger to the OIE – after all, he has been working at the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe in Sofia, Bulgaria, from February 2009 until March this year. But now he has changed cities. Dr Ralchev has joined the team of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, Belgium, as a technical assistant, providing support for a variety of ongoing projects and activities.

Among his main duties, he counts the development and implementation of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, providing help to European Members with the use of WAHIS and WAHIS-Wild, and assisting with OIE capacity-building activities for Europe.

Dr Ralchev graduated in veterinary medicine from Sofia University and has a second Master's degree in the Management of Public Administration from the University of Liège, Belgium. Before joining the OIE, he spent almost four years as an expert on infectious diseases and animal health with the National Veterinary Services of Bulgaria. At that time, Dr Ralchev was involved in the pre-accession process as Bulgaria prepared to join the European Union (EU) and, in particular, in the harmonisation of his country's national legal framework with EU veterinary legislation. He has also contributed to the national bluetongue and foot and mouth disease surveillance plans, as well as various information systems for the OIE, EU and EFSA as a National Focal Point. Dr Ralchev is also a certified expert in OIE PVS Gap Analysis and veterinary legislation.

OIE Regional Representation in Moscow

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas

In March 2013, Dr Lukauskas was appointed as OIE Regional Representative in Moscow.

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas was the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Raseiniai District in Lithuania from 1977 until 1989. Later on, and for more than 20 years, he occupied the position of Chief Veterinary Officer at the State Food and Veterinary Service of Lithuania, until 2010. In addition, he was the Permanent Delegate of Lithuania to the OIE from 1992 until 2010 and was elected three times for a three-year term of office as a member of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, in 2000, 2003 and 2006.

Dr Lukauskas has more than 30 years of professional experience in the management, coordination and implementation of disease control and eradication programmes at the regional, national and international levels. He has been responsible for implementing more than 20 EU-funded projects intended to control and eradicate contagious animal diseases and strengthen inspection services for food safety and animal health.

Dr Lukauskas's expertise in his profession has been recognised with several awards and commendations, including acknowledgements from the Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture of Lithuania, the Ukrainian State Award, the French Golden Cross of a Commander of Agriculture, and many others. In 2008, he was awarded the degree of Veterinary Medicine Professor, Doctor Habilitatus, by the Veterinary Academy of Lithuania. He has published more than 20 scientific publications on animal health, the control of contagious animal diseases, animal welfare and nutrition. He is the editor and compiler of five books on veterinary legislation, and the member of a number of scientific boards. Dr Lukauskas is a lecturing professor at the Veterinary Academy and the Aleksandras Stulginskis University in Lithuania, and at other institutions around the world. Since 2010, he has been working as an OIE expert in the OIE *PVS Pathway*, including in the areas of gap analysis and veterinary legislation.

Meetings

Africa

Ninth Conference of Ministers Responsible for Livestock in Africa

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 18–19 April 2013

The Ninth Conference of Ministers responsible for livestock in Africa was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 18 to 19 April 2013. The chosen theme was: 'Investing in livestock to accelerate regional integration and prosperity in the context of African renaissance'. It should be noted that 2013 has been declared the Year of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance. The 53 African Member States of the African Union (UA) all participated, represented by delegations that were often led by Ministers and generally included the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), the Head of Livestock Production and a Representative of the Ministry responsible for planning. Three regional economic communities were also represented: the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Various regional or international organisations were also present, including the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre of the African Union (AU–PANVAC), the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU–PATTEC), the OIE, FAO, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the European Union (EU) and the World Bank. The opening ceremony was presided over by the Minister of State; the Minister of the Interior, representing the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire; and the Acting President of ECOWAS, in the presence of the Minister for Tourism and the Vice President of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire.

Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, delivered a thoughtful address in which he expressed his wish to see Africa achieve sustainable development of its animal production for the greater benefit of the whole population in all countries. Condemning the criticism often unfairly levelled against livestock production, Dr Vallat acknowledged that precautions need to be taken, but pointed out the many benefits that humans derive from animals, including essential protein, draught power and fertiliser, which make a vital contribution to food security and to many other

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Meeting with the delegation from Chad. From left to right: Dr Dokdai Hounly Marc, Director of Animal Production, Chad; Dr Adyl Bechir, CVO and Delegate of Chad to the OIE; Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE; Dr Hassane H. Mahamat, AU-PATTEC Coordinator; Mr Amir Adoudou Artine, Minister of Pastoral Development and Animal Products of Chad; Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa

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Meeting with the delegation from Burundi. From left to right: Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE; Mrs Odette Kayitesi, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi; Mr Pierre Bukuru†, advisor to the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi

areas of activity, such as transport. He placed special emphasis on the health status of animals, not only as a crucial factor for livestock development, given the substantial production losses due to animal diseases, but also as a vital component of public health.

The Director General reminded his audience of the international standards that the OIE prepares and submits for adoption by its 178 Member Countries – including 52 African countries – standards for the prevention and control of all infectious diseases, as well as the precautions to be taken to avoid any introduction of harmful diseases into importing countries while still not setting up unjustified sanitary barriers. He commended the work being carried out by the African Union–Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU–IBAR), which enables Africa to speak with one voice when all the countries of the world meet to vote on and adopt standards. In this way, Africa can defend its particular needs and characteristics while remaining committed to progress in terms of the continuous modernisation of world animal health policies.

Dr Vallat also emphasised that all countries of the continent had embarked on the *PVS Pathway*, helping Ministers responsible for livestock to justify modernisation budgets for their departments during negotiations within their government and, if need be, with potential donors. 'The OIE can help to organise roundtables for this purpose and provide direct support for priority programmes relating to the modernisation of legislation, public–private partnerships, veterinary education or laboratories through twinning arrangements. The OIE can also set up regional vaccine banks for priority diseases in collaboration with AU–PANVAC. Support has been obtained from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for a pilot project in this field.'

Dr Vallat assured participants that the OIE would maintain its constant collaboration with regional organisations, such as AU–IBAR, and regional economic communities, in partnership with FAO and WHO, within the framework of such mechanisms as the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF–TADs) and ALive; in particular, to maintain links between Africa and the rest of the world. However, he cautioned Member Countries against creating new institutions. 'The "One Health" concept, aimed at promoting policies of cooperation between Veterinary Services and Public Health Services to bring them closer together, needs to be promoted but our experience in other regions has shown that the utmost caution is needed before creating any new institutions in this field.' Lastly, he confirmed that the OIE had undertaken to collaborate with AU–IBAR on making the regional Animal Resources Information System (ARIS) compatible with the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), to avoid duplicating work for national officials tasked with fulfilling this obligation in each Member Country of the region.

Alongside the proceedings of the Ninth Conference of Ministers, meetings and more informal conversations provided an opportunity to exchange views on topics of mutual interest: the Regional Animal Health Centre, based in Bamako; support for the organisation of roundtables; the possibility of opening an OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central Africa, and advocacy for more national resources to be allocated to the Veterinary Services.

In preparation for this Conference, a meeting of experts was held directly beforehand, on 16 and 17 April. The presentations on 16 April and subsequent discussions involved: investment in the livestock sector: arguments and strategies

in favour of increased and sustained financial and human investments, whether in the public or private sector; creating an environment conducive to growth in the livestock sector; and threats and opportunities with regard to long-term investments. Dr Etienne Bonbon, speaking on behalf of the OIE, emphasised the importance of investing in people, i.e. livestock professionals, as explicitly set out in the OIE's international standards, a task which demands particular effort in terms of resources, organisation, education and training, and requires the continuous, long-term support of donors and indeed all stakeholders in the livestock sector. In this respect, he described the tools that the OIE makes available to its Member Countries, especially the *PVS Pathway*.

On 14 and 15 April, in conjunction with the Conference of Ministers, the Fifth Panafrican CVOs' Meeting on Africa's Coordinated Position on Animal Health Standards was held, during which Dr Bonbon, as Vice-President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, provided technical and procedural support. The meeting was organised within the framework of the EU-funded Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-Setting Organisations (PAN–SPSO) project, set up to encourage more involvement from African countries in developing such standards, and the EU VET–GOV project, aimed at improving the global quality of Veterinary Services on the African continent. The meeting provided an opportunity for all 52 Member Countries of the OIE's Africa region to agree on common positions on draft modifications to the OIE's *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Code*s and *Manuals*. Useful technical discussions were followed by simulation exercises to prepare Delegates for taking the floor. Furthermore, a study carried out by AU–IBAR showed that there had been a regular increase in the adoption of common positions and that this had been effective in ensuring that the region's interests were taken into account.

After the closure of the Ninth Conference of Ministers, the Director General of the OIE, accompanied by the Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, took part in the Fourth Meeting of the AU–IBAR Advisory Committee. This meeting was chaired by the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, of the African Union Commission.

The Tenth Conference of Ministers is due to be held in Egypt in 2015.

Seminar on the prevention and control of peste des petits ruminants in the Southern African Development Community

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 10-12 June 2013

A joint seminar on peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region was organised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to help infected countries to control PPR and prevent its introduction into non-affected areas. The seminar was held in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) from 10 to 12 June 2013.

It was attended by OIE Delegates from 15 SADC Member Countries, heads of laboratories and epidemiology teams, the SADC secretariat, representatives from the OIE, FAO, IAEA, the African Union–Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU–IBAR), the African Union Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU/PANVAC) and experts from OIE-FAO Reference Laboratories and other specialised agencies.

The international community – especially international organisations such as the OIE, FAO and IAEA – is mobilising to promote and organise the development of PPR prevention and control programmes at the national, regional and international level and, in particular, to halt the spread of PPR in the SADC region.

It was in this context that the Dar es Salaam seminar was organised, with the primary objective of reviewing the situation worldwide, and in all countries of the region, and examining the major problems and risks, before going on to discuss global and national prevention and control strategies, including the SADC regional PPR strategy.

The participants concluded that strategies should be adapted to three risk levels: infected countries, free countries at high risk of PPR and PPR-free countries. Diagnostic laboratories and epidemiology teams need to be strengthened, in particular through appropriate training programmes, and networking between them should be enhanced. Socio-economic studies should be intensified, as should research in such areas as epidemiology, the role of wildlife, and vaccines and diagnostic tests.

Approaches to control must be progressive, depending on the context and objectives, and vaccination remains a key element of any control strategy, as do controls on animal movement. Aspects specific to PPR should be combined with the cross-cutting approaches of strengthening Veterinary Services and, where appropriate, controlling other major diseases of small ruminants.

The new OIE official status for PPR and the possibility of OIE endorsement of official control programmes are seen as strong incentives.

It would be useful to complement the SADC regional PPR strategy with an action plan and a more specific schedule for regional and national implementation. The SADC strategy will be aligned with the FAO/OIE global control strategy currently being prepared by the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF TADs) Working Group on PPR, in collaboration with many partners, including SADC.

Americas

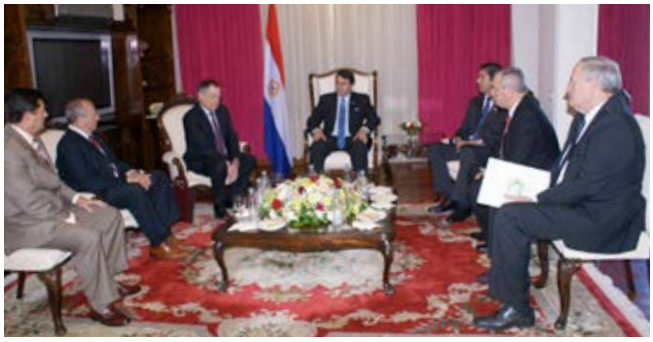
Regional Seminar on Actions Required to Gain and Maintain Foot and Mouth Disease-Free Status

8–9 April 2013, Asunción, Paraguay

The OIE Regional Representation for the Americas, with the support of the government of Paraguay, held a regional seminar entitled: 'Actions required to gain and maintain foot and mouth disease-free status' in Asuncion, Paraguay, on 8 and 9 April 2013. It was followed by a training course for National Focal Points in the Americas for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE, held from 10 to 12 April 2013. This was an opportunity to hear a number of acknowledged experts from different disciplines as they shared their views on eradicating foot and mouth disease (FMD), while it also served the very useful purposes of raising the profile of the OIE and Veterinary Services and improving communication with private-sector stakeholders, including veterinarians, producers and processors.

The seminar was attended by around 300 participants, including the OIE Delegates from three countries in the region, National Focal Points in the Americas for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE, staff from Paraguay's National Animal Quality and Health Service (SENACSA), representatives from international and regional organisations and producers' and processors' associations, and private veterinarians from Paraguay and neighbouring countries.

Participants from OIE Headquarters included the Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, as well as the Head of the Animal



Meeting with the President of the Republic of Paraguay
From left to right: Luis Petengill, President of the Paraguayan chamber for the meat industry; Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas; Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE; Dr Federico Franco, President of the Republic of Paraguay; Rody Godoy, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay; Dr Hugo F. Idoyaga, President of Paraguay's National Animal Quality and Health Service (SENACSA); Dr German Ruiz, President of the Rural Association of Paraguay

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Dr Howard Batho, OIE consultant, presented two papers at the Regional Seminar on Foot and Mouth Disease

Health Information Department, Dr Karim Ben Jebara, and epidemiologist Dr Paula Cáceres Soto.

Speakers introduced various approaches to FMD control and eradication strategies, including the use of risk analysis and epidemiological surveillance models, and case studies of cost/benefit analyses to show the value of investing in the prevention of FMD and other diseases.

Regional approaches to FMD control and eradication were presented by representatives of the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP), the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA) and the Andean community. High attendance at the seminar and extensive local media coverage meant that the seminar's goal of increasing the visibility of FMD control actions by the OIE and Veterinary Services was achieved.

The participation of Paraguay's President, Dr Federico Franco Gómez, and several of his Ministers in the opening ceremony, and a subsequent meeting held with producers' and processors' associations, as well as the OIE Director General, were clear evidence of the importance that both Paraguay and the CVP placed upon this seminar and its goals.

Asia – Pacific

19th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in South-East Asia and China

Singapore, 19–22 March 2013

The 19th meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in South-East Asia and China was held in Singapore from 19 to 22 March 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to review recent developments in foot and mouth disease (FMD) in the region and worldwide, assess progress and key developments, and make recommendations on policy, strategic, technical and governance matters.

In their opening remarks, Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Defence, Singapore, and Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, highlighted the overarching issue of food security and the high cost of disease to global food production. Both remarked on the importance of collaboration and finding new ways to control and eradicate FMD in a sustainable manner. Although the incidence of FMD has been relatively low over the past year, decisive action is needed now, along with strong support at the political level, to ensure robust biosecurity and vaccination programmes to combat declining FMD immunity levels and increasing levels of FMD risk.

The 'Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses' initiative (STANDZ), funded by the Australian

Agency for International Development (AusAID), with its key emphasis on Phase 4 (2011–2015) of the South-East Asia and China FMD Campaign (SEACFMD), places particular emphasis on technical and scientific developments; innovative approaches to support disease management and vaccination, such as the Small Grants Facility (SGF) and shared funding with other agencies and stakeholders; the vital role of SEACFMD Members in driving national programmes, monitoring and evaluation; gender mainstreaming and governance issues.

Much progress has been made since the Sub-Commission Meeting held in Lijiang City, Yunnan, in the People's Republic of China, in 2012. Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar have all updated their national FMD control programmes. Moreover, some 800,000 doses of vaccine have been delivered in these three countries, during targeted vaccination campaigns supported by the EU-funded OIE Regional Vaccine Bank for FMD, as part of the regional cooperation programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in Asia (HPED). In Vietnam, specific epidemiological and socio-economic studies have been carried out, with the backing of STANDZ. These activities have undoubtedly contributed to the reduced number of outbreaks in the pilot areas over the last year, as well as raising awareness of FMD control and prevention measures among farmers and traders.

Other Member Countries have also made advances in their FMD control programmes and are developing or updating their National FMD Plans for submission to the OIE for official recognition. These Members are able to use principally their own resources to support their planned FMD measures.

The last year has also seen improved cooperation and coordination with other projects, including the OIE/Japan Trust Fund Project on FMD control in Asia and the FAO/Republic of Korea project on FMD control in South-East Asia. Results achieved under the SEACFMD umbrella include the harmonisation of work plans to ensure complementarity of FMD activities, and the appointment of SEACFMD National Coordinators as National Coordinators for these other donor-assisted FMD projects, as well. One significant development was the agreement that Japan should become a Member of the Sub-Commission Steering Committee to facilitate coordination and avoid duplication of work.

From a governance perspective, the Terms of Reference of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD Control in South-East Asia and China and its Steering Committee were slightly modified to take account of the changing

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Group photo

circumstances of the SEACFMD Programme. Given the importance of this programme, the way in which this approach can easily be applied to coordinating programmes for other diseases, and the need for continuing high-level engagement and support, it was agreed that OIE Delegates and high-level officials be invited to a special session of the next Sub-Commission Meeting and that rabies be included on the agenda.

A number of issues were identified as needing to be addressed over the next 12 months. Solutions to these problems include:

a) the development of a vaccine-matching plan for viruses circulating in the region (including local and international strains), through the OIE FMD Reference Laboratories in Pakchong, Lanzhou and WRL Pirbright

b) ensuring the sustained use of vaccines that comply with the OIE standards described in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*

c) developing a country-by-country plan to collect an appropriate and significant number of clinical samples from each endemic country, for characterisation at the OIE FMD Reference Laboratory in Pirbright (i.e. virus sequencing and vaccine-matching)

d) examining cost-recovery options for vaccination programmes

e) developing a pilot survey to examine the overall impacts of vaccination, including the economic impacts on livestock holders of delivering and administering the vaccines

f) supporting applications for donor funding for vaccines

g) conducting more in-depth investigations of outbreaks

h) providing outbreak investigation and management training

i) finalising the draft National FMD Plans of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar for endorsement by their respective governments.

Expert Group Meeting on Swine Influenza in the Asia–Pacific Region

Tokyo, Japan, 23 April 2013

This meeting on swine influenza was attended by ten participants representing the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan; the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza, the OIE Reference Laboratory for Swine Influenza, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific.

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative, and Dr Noriyoshi Ojima, Deputy Director of the Animal Health Division of MAFF, opened the meeting with a brief welcome and address.

Participants discussed the various activities carried out under the OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) Project for Strengthening Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Control in Asia, a global update on swine influenza, the activities of the OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza (OFFLU), and swine influenza surveillance in Thailand, Vietnam and Japan, as well as the work of the FAO in this area.

The Group noted that information on swine influenza is probably deficient because it is not an OIE-notifiable disease. In addition, it decided that it was important to request both the animal health and public health sectors for a certain amount of flexibility when carrying out activities of common interest,

The presentation on surveillance brought up two significant points:

a) the isolation of reassortants between human seasonal influenza and a triple reassortant swine influenza virus, originating from North American strains in Vietnam

b) the fact that the highest virus isolation rate was among pigs aged six to ten weeks in Thailand.

especially when it came to sharing information on the genetic make-up of viruses.

Recommendations from the Group include: raising awareness about swine influenza among stakeholders, enhancing collaboration between the public and private sectors, collaborative interventions from the animal health and public health sectors to avoid consumer misunderstandings about this disease, promoting antigenic analysis and characterisation and enhancing the capacity of Veterinary Services to diagnose and establish surveillance programmes for swine influenza. Finally, the Group recommended that cost-benefit analyses of vaccination against swine fever should be undertaken at a range of production levels.

Strategic Planning Workshops organised within the IDENTIFY programme

Vientiane, Laos, 1–5 April 2013 and Quezon City, the Philippines, 14–18 May 2013

Enhancing animal laboratory capacity in Laos and the Philippines was the aim of the five-day strategic planning workshops in Vientiane and Quezon City, organised in April and May 2013, respectively, by the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia, within the framework of the IDENTIFY Programme (funded by the United States Agency for International Development).

The workshop in Quezon City attracted 26 participants from the Philippine Animal Health Centre and the Regional Animal Disease Diagnosis Laboratories, while the one in Vientiane was attended by 24 participants from the National Animal Health Laboratory (NAHL) and Provincial Livestock and Fisheries Divisions.

Among those taking part in the Vientiane workshop were the Director

Group photo of the Strategic Planning Workshop held in Laos, 1–5 April 2013

© Melada Ruengjumroonnath

Group photo of the Strategic Planning Workshop held in the Philippines, 14–18 May 2013

General of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Dr Bounkhouang Khambounheuang, who is also the OIE Delegate, and NAHL Director Dr Bounlom Douangngeun, as well as observers from the World Health Organization and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who provided suggestions and comment.

In the Philippines, the workshop was attended by Dr Davinio P. Catbagan, OIE Delegate and Assistant Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, alongside other officials from the Bureau of Animal Industry and representatives from the FAO.

Both workshops, facilitated by two experts from the Asian Institute of Technology, focused upon strengthening laboratory capacity, standardising diagnosis, harmonising reporting requirements, and long-term development planning.

The National Animal Health Laboratory of Laos has never had a 'vision statement'. This was rectified during the workshop, in which participants identified the core values that guide NAHL in performing its duties and implementing strategies. A five-year vision of NAHL's purpose was constructed, based upon the five core values identified by the workshop participants; namely: accountability, acceptance/ international recognition, information-sharing, commitment, and dependability.

The new vision statement, which was used as a reference point in formulating NAHL's Strategic Plan for 2013 to 2018, runs as follows:

NAHL is the national technical reference centre for animal diseases and livestock products testing, providing accountable and efficient services and complying with regional and international standards.

In the Philippines, a draft Strategic Plan 2013–2018 for the Philippines Animal Health Laboratory was developed to present to the government, to assist in achieving sustainable improvements in diagnostic accuracy, capacity and reporting. The workshop format was a combination of presentations and group exercises in developing a vision for an organisation; setting goals, targets and indicators; SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis; setting priorities and formulating strategies and action plans.

Participants felt that the workshops would definitely prove useful in their main objective of enhancing animal laboratory capacity in these two countries.

Europe

Fourth Annual West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting

Baku, Azerbaijan, 2–4 April 2013

The West Eurasia Roadmap for progressive control of foot and mouth disease (FMD) was first established in Shiraz, Iran, in 2008, following devastating FMD epidemics in this region. The Roadmap meetings provide an opportunity for countries to review their control activities, assess their journey along the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD (PCP), raise the issue of regional coordination, discuss vaccination programmes, and gauge their progress in animal movement and traceability control.

The Fourth Annual West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting was organised by FAO and the European Commission for the Control of FMD (EUFMD), which provided the meeting secretariat, in collaboration with the OIE, and took place under the umbrella of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs). Around 50 people attended, including representatives from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia (as an observer), Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, FAO, OIE, EUFMD, the Merial Institute and the World Bank. However, there were no representatives from Afghanistan, Armenia, Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan.

Countries were asked to define their current PCP stage, using a checklist (which prefigures the PCP-FMD Assessment tool currently under development) that was sent to them before the meeting, and providing the necessary evidence. These country self-assessments were reviewed by an Advisory Group and then presented to all participants, who had the final say. In 2013, out of the 14 countries of the West Eurasian region, 14 countries are in PCP stage 1 (with some specific conditions, and will be advanced to stage 2 if supporting documents are provided, e.g. an FMD control plan). In 2014, 13 countries plan to be in stage 2 and one in stage 3. In 2020, four countries plan to be in stage 3, nine in stage 4 and one in stage 5. In 2025,

The objectives of the West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting were:

a) to review progress along the Regional Roadmap towards the vision identified at the Shiraz meeting in 2008 of a 'West Eurasia region free of clinical FMD by 2020'

b) to share information on FMD virus (FMDV) circulation within the West Eurasia FMDV ecosystem to assist in planning vaccination campaigns and other preventive measures in the short term

c) to support countries in preparing their national project proposals for investment in FMD control, in line with the FAO-OIE Global Strategy for FMD control.

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Group of participants

The agenda of the West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting covered:

a) the FMD situation and PCP stages, PCP training and PCP assessments

b) laboratory and epidemiology networks

c) national project proposals for FMD

d) progress made along the West Eurasia Roadmap, as well as the situation and progress in the regions bordering West Eurasia.

three countries plan to be in stage 3, seven in stage 4 and four in stage 5 or above.

The meeting provided an effective platform for regional discussion, an exchange of experiences and promoting transparency of information, with lively participation from all who attended.

The report from this meeting should help national authorities to better plan FMD preventive measures during 2013 and 2014, through improved time-tabling of supportive actions, in identifying gaps in investment and with preparing project proposals, including strengthening Veterinary Services. The report should also address those activities within national and regional FMD programmes that require international support, in line with the Progressive Control Pathway/Roadmap and other recognised pathways, such as the *PVS Pathway*.

At the end of the GF-TADs seminar on national project proposals, the participants agreed upon two major points:

a) the need for stronger advocacy of the Roadmap to governments and development partners in their countries and to call on International and regional organisations to assist national veterinary authorities as much as possible in their efforts to advocate FMD control as one of the most important issues in the livestock sector

b) the advantage of adopting a harmonised approach when preparing national project proposals. The 'logical framework method' was explained and considered to be a good model.

Appointment

1 April 2013

Malawi

Dr Bernard Chimera

Director of Veterinary Services, Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

18 April 2013

Tanzania

Dr Gopray Nsengwa

Acting Director, Veterinary Services, Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries

21 April 2013

Kuwait

Dr Hanadi Ghuloom Abdul Rahman Mohammad

Deputy Director General for Animal Wealth, Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources

2 May 2013

Benin

Dr Orou Gounou N'gobi

Directeur de l'élevage, Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche

7 May 2013

Ghana

Dr Philip Kwame Bavy Salia

Deputy Director, Veterinary Services, Ministry of Food and Agriculture

10 May 2013

Chile

Dr Héctor Escobar Candia

Jefe de la División de Protección Pecuaria, Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG), Ministerio de Agricultura

official acts

of permanent Delegates

23 May 2013

Georgia

Dr Mikheil Sokhadze

Chief Veterinary Officer and Deputy Head, National Food Agency, Ministry of Agriculture

24 May 2013

Portugal

Prof. Maria Teresa Costa Mendes Víctor Villa De Brito

Diretora Geral, Direcção Geral de Veterinária, Ministério da Agricultura, do Mar, do Ambiente e do Ordenamento do Território

13 June 2013

Kyrgyzstan

Dr Djanybek Sultanov

Deputy Director, Chief State Veterinary Inspector, State Inspectorate on Veterinary and Phytosanitary Security, Ministry of Agriculture and Food

1 July 2013

Norway

Dr Kristina Landsverk

Chief Veterinary Officer, Director, Department for Controls, Central Veterinary Officer, Norwegian Food Safety Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Food

10 July 2013

Venezuela

Dr José Arnaldo Ayala Parés

Director, Instituto Nacional de Salud Agrícola Integral, Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Agricultura y Tierras

strengthening of Veterinary Services

OIE PVS Pathway for efficient Veterinary Services

PVS Evaluation missions

State of Play – as at 12 August 2013

OIE Region	OIE Members	Requests received	Missions completed	Reports available for distribution to donors and partners
Africa	52	53	50	38
Americas	29	25	22	18
Asia and the Pacific	32	19	18	11
Europe	53	16	16	12
Middle East	12	12	11	5
Total	178	125	117	84

PVS Evaluation missions (requests)

- **Africa (53)**

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Rep., Chad, Comoros, Congo, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia (not an OIE Member), Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

- **Americas (25)**

Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

- **Asia-Pacific (19)**

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Dem. People's Rep. of Korea, Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam.

- **Europe (16)**

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

- **Middle East (12)**

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian N.A. (not an OIE Member), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

In red: completed missions

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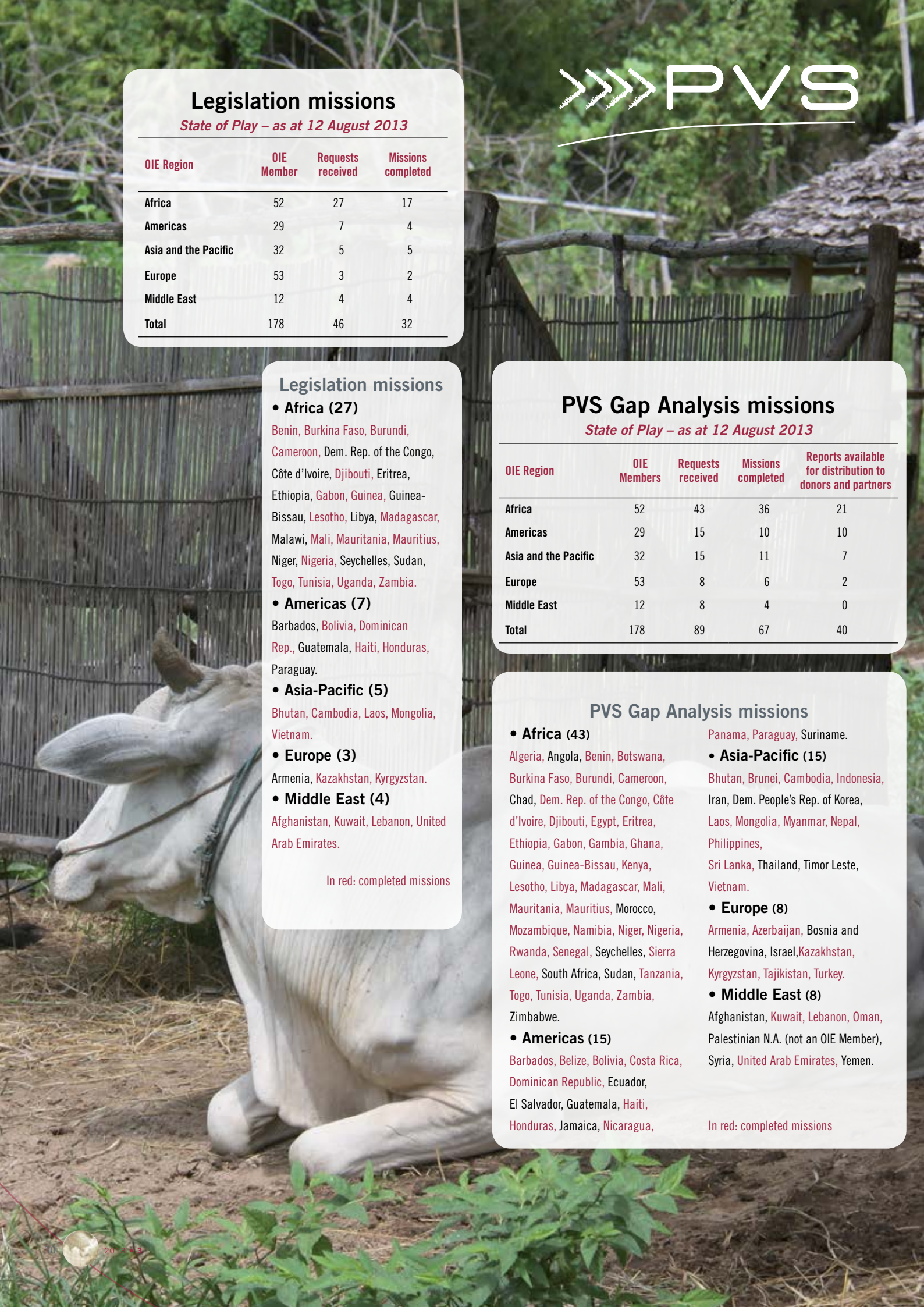

PVS

Legislation missions

State of Play – as at 12 August 2013

OIE Region	OIE Member	Requests received	Missions completed
Africa	52	27	17
Americas	29	7	4
Asia and the Pacific	32	5	5
Europe	53	3	2
Middle East	12	4	4
Total	178	46	32

Legislation missions

- **Africa (27)**

Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia.

- **Americas (7)**

Barbados, Bolivia, Dominican Rep., Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay.

- **Asia-Pacific (5)**

Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Vietnam.

- **Europe (3)**

Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan.

- **Middle East (4)**

Afghanistan, Kuwait, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates.

In red: completed missions

PVS Gap Analysis missions

State of Play – as at 12 August 2013

OIE Region	OIE Members	Requests received	Missions completed	Reports available for distribution to donors and partners
Africa	52	43	36	21
Americas	29	15	10	10
Asia and the Pacific	32	15	11	7
Europe	53	8	6	2
Middle East	12	8	4	0
Total	178	89	67	40

PVS Gap Analysis missions

- **Africa (43)**

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

- **Americas (15)**

Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Suriname.

- **Asia-Pacific (15)**

Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Dem. People's Rep. of Korea, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam.

- **Europe (8)**

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey.

- **Middle East (8)**

Afghanistan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian N.A. (not an OIE Member), Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

In red: completed missions

OIE Regional Workshops for Focal Points and Information Seminars for new Delegates

Africa

Regional information seminar for newly appointed OIE Delegates

Tunis, Tunisia, 23–24 April 2013

Newly appointed Delegates from 16 OIE Member Countries in Africa attended a regional information seminar in Tunis (Tunisia) on 23 and 24 April 2013, designed primarily to introduce good governance concepts for improving animal health and the food safety of animal products in their countries.

Seminar participants and OIE speakers held a lively debate on the agenda items, which included: OIE international standards; standard-setting procedures; compulsory disease reporting by OIE Members using the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS); the OIE *PVS Pathway*; the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme; OIE support for veterinary education and laboratory twinning; the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; informal OIE mediation procedures for resolving trade disputes between Members; and issues to be discussed by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates at the 81st General Session in Paris (May 2013).

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, former Delegate of Algeria to the OIE, who is currently serving as the OIE Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa, described his experiences as a Delegate, a presentation which highlighted the evolving role and responsibilities of an OIE Delegate, particularly in managing animal health crises. He also discussed the emergence of new technologies and OIE tools available to Member Countries.

Regional information seminars for newly appointed OIE Delegates usually take place every two years. The previous seminar was held in Nairobi (Kenya) in June 2011.

Asia – Pacific

Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Communication

Beijing, People's Republic of China, 25–27 March 2013

The OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific organised the First Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Communication in Beijing from 25 to 27 March 2013.

About 51 participants attended the seminar, including National Focal Points or their proxies and resource personnel from 29 Member Countries in the region, as well as the media, and observers from the host country.

Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, Acting Regional Representative, opened the seminar by emphasising how important communication has become to national Veterinary Services. Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of the People's Republic of China to the OIE and President of the OIE Regional Commission of Asia, the Far East and Oceania, welcomed participants on behalf of his host country and affirmed

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Group photo

China's eagerness to contribute to future OIE activities. OIE personnel provided general information on the OIE, the roles and responsibilities of National Focal Points and Veterinary Services, the importance of good governance, setting objectives and an update of the OIE's work in the field of communication. Speakers included Ms Glaieul Mamaghani, the Acting Head of the OIE Communication Unit, who described the development of the OIE's approach to communication since the 2001 adoption of a resolution on communication management. She also presented a conceptual framework of communication in relation to an organisation's needs and target audience, and spoke about the role of communicators and how to design messages. Finally, she emphasised the ways in which communication differs from disease reporting. These topics were new to many participants.

A day was dedicated to presentations by Mr Boris Cambreleng on media perspectives; Dr Rhyll Vallis on how to communicate and to whom (target audiences); Dr Pranee Panichabonghse on public campaigns, using rabies as an example; Dr Nick Mailing on the basics of crisis management; Dr Toshiro Kawashima on experiences and lessons learned from crisis communication during foot and mouth disease outbreaks; and Dr Xu Shixin on recent developments in China's food safety regulations.

Significant time was allocated to working group sessions. Each of the three groups was given a scenario and asked to discuss how to communicate effectively with their target audience and how to deal with any challenges that could be expected to arise. The three topics were: 'Food safety', 'Campaign communication on FMD' and 'Campaign communication on rabies'. Participants were assigned to these groups according to their interests and each group, facilitated by experienced Focal Points and OIE personnel, engaged in intensive discussion. The results were presented at the plenary session and shared with all participants.

OIE personnel reported on a short survey on existing communication policies and resources within Veterinary Services; though the survey had been brief, participation was widespread. Their findings showed that communication strategies are usually included in emergency plans for selected diseases rather than as part of an independent, overarching communication plan. Insufficient financial resources and trained staff were often noted as problems by the respondents.

The newly launched OIE regional website was also introduced as an important way for the OIE to communicate with its target audience.

At the closing session, the participants were reminded of their essential role in reporting back to their Delegates and sharing the knowledge gained at the seminar with the

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Working group session

Americas

appropriate personnel in their own countries. The benefits of improving communication at the national and regional levels by networking among OIE Focal Points to pool their information and experience were also pointed out.

Presenting speakers who came mainly from the Veterinary Services of Member Countries in this region helped participants to understand the importance of communication in their own work. This seminar, the first of its kind in the area, made a promising start in raising awareness about the vital role of communication in achieving Veterinary Service tasks and missions.

OIE Regional Workshop for Advanced Training on the second version of WAHIS and WAHID for OIE Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE

Asunción, Paraguay, 10–12 April 2013

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, and Dr Paula Caceres, veterinary epidemiologist and his colleague in the department, flew to Asunción, in the Republic of Paraguay, to lead a regional workshop on advanced training in the second version of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and database (WAHID) for National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE.

The workshop took place from 10 to 12 April 2013, and had a healthy attendance of 26 participants from 22 countries: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, the United States of America and Uruguay. Despite an invitation from the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas, seven Member Countries were unfortunately unable to attend: the Bahamas, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

The workshop was designed to be fairly interactive, using not only the traditional presentations but also demonstrating practical cases, how to upload data using CSV files, searching for information in WAHID, finding out how to detect frequent errors when submitting information to the OIE, and various other practical exercises supervised by the facilitators.

The level of the 26 Focal Points who participated in this workshop was particularly high; 46% of the participants (12 people from 10 different countries) had also attended previous WAHIS/WAHID training, held in 2010. It should be noted that participants who were attending for the first time also had a good knowledge of WAHIS/WAHID. In addition to the participation of their Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification, Canada and Chile also sent along their Focal Points for Aquatic Animals to join the training.

The participants evaluated the workshop and its organisation as fully satisfactory. Suggesting improvements for future workshops, they requested more days of training and the possibility of adding a section for an intra-regional exchange of experiences. To facilitate the latter, the OIE offered to suggest a country that submits high quality and timely information, and ask it to present a seminar on their approach towards collecting and submitting data to the OIE.

Europe

Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals (2nd Cycle)

Lisbon, Portugal, 9–11 April 2013

© Brit Hjeltnes

The Second Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals was organised in the beautiful city of Lisbon from 9 to 11 April 2013 by the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, as a follow-up to the first seminar, held in Croatia in November 2010.

Participants included National Focal Points or their proxies from 41 Member Countries in the region, as well as speakers who included a member of the OIE Aquatic Animals Commission, experts from the *ad hoc* Groups and the OIE Joint Collaborating Centre for Epidemiology and Risk Assessment of Aquatic Animal Diseases, and industry representatives. Twenty of the Focal Points had attended the first seminar in Dubrovnik, 2010.

The gathering was opened by Prof. Maria Teresa Villa de Brito, the newly appointed Chief Veterinary Officer of Portugal, and current OIE Delegate; Dr Moritz Klemm, Legislative Veterinary Officer from the European Commission, Dr Belev, OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe; and Dr F. Caya, from OIE Headquarters.

The first day of the seminar focused on OIE activities, with specific stress on the work of the Aquatic Animals Health Standards Commission (AAHSC). Dr Brit Hjeltnes, an AAHSC member, updated participants on proposed changes to the *Aquatic Code* and *Manual* being put forward for adoption in May 2013. Other presentations covered the role and responsibilities of Focal Points, the place of OIE standards in international trade, and the new *PVS Tool: Aquatic*. The day finished with a working group session where participants received a copy of the March 2013 AAHSC report and were asked to give their opinion on the suggested changes.

The second day examined the application of risk analysis concepts to aquatic animal diseases in the European region and was led by experts from the OIE Joint Collaborating Centre. Topics included an overview of important diseases in European fish, crustaceans and molluscs; using risk analysis as a decision-making tool, and applying risk categories to fish farms. The day finished with a group session in which participants discussed how they could apply risk categorisation in their own countries.

Day 3, a half-day session, concentrated on the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals, and hosted a speaker from the Federation of European Aquaculturists and an aquaculture consultant.

More working group sessions were included in the Lisbon seminar than had been held in Dubrovnik, providing the opportunity for more active participation and sharing of experiences among

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attendees. A number of participants commented that they appreciated the thematic approach to this seminar, which gave them the chance to learn about several topics in depth. Industry representatives were glad to have had the opportunity to meet with European government officials and participants seemed to appreciate the chance to hear an industry perspective.

One important finding from the working group session was that, although one of the key Terms of Reference for the Focal Points is to: 'receive reports of the AAHSC and conduct the in-country consultation process and to prepare comments for the Delegate on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to aquatic animals', few Focal Points had in fact seen a report or been involved in the commenting process in their country. Moreover, many of the Focal Points had not been given specific responsibility for the tasks outlined in the Terms of Reference, indicating that perhaps OIE Delegates should receive more information about the role of OIE Focal Points.

On the whole, the seminar was felt to be very useful, and participants expressed their thanks to all involved for the in-depth format, the contributions of the speakers and the smooth running of the meeting.

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Group photo

meetings and visits

Names and positions of OIE permanent staff who participated in meetings or visits: April to June 2013

OIE Headquarters

General Directorate

Bernard Vallat	Director General
Alex Thiermann	Technical Adviser and President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
Etienne Bonbon	Adviser of the Director General
Glaïeul Mamaghani	Acting Head of the Communication Unit
Julie Strat	Chargée de mission
Monique Eloit	Deputy Director General (Administration, Management, Human Resources and Regional Actions)
Alain Dehove	Coordinator of the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund
Jean-Paul Pradère	Chargé de mission – animal health economics
Julie Macé	Project Officer – World Animal Health and Welfare Fund
Emily Tagliaro	Project Officer – World Animal Health and Welfare Fund
Victoria Wong	Project Officer – World Animal Health and Welfare Fund
Alix Weng	Head of the Budget and Financial Unit
Jean-Pierre Croiziers	Head of the Human Resources Unit
Gilles Seigneurin	Head of the Accounts Unit
Marie Bonnerot	Administrative and Budgetary Technician
Romain Lemesnager	Accounts Assistant

Administration, Logistics and Publications Department

Daniel Chaisemartin	Head of Department
Marie Teissier	Documentalist
Bertrand Flahault	1st Deputy Head of Department and Head of the Systems Management and Events Unit
Annie Souyri	2nd Deputy Head of Department and Head of the Publications Unit
Tamara Benicasa	Marketing and Sales Manager

Animal Health Information Department

Karim Ben Jebara	Head of Department
Manuel José Sánchez Vázquez	Deputy Head of Department
Marija Popovic	Chargée de mission
Natalja Lambergeon	Animal Health Information Technician
Paula Cáceres	Veterinary Epidemiologist
Lina Awada	Veterinary Epidemiologist
Simona Forcella	Chargée de mission
Aziza Yassin Mustafa	Chargée de mission
Vera Cecilia Ferreira de Figueiredo	Chargée de mission
Margarita Alonso	Translation/Editing Assistant

International Trade Department

Derek Belton	Head of Department
Gillian Mylrea	Deputy Head of Department
Rastislav Kolesar	Animal Welfare Coordinator
Tomasz Grudnik	Chargé de mission
Masatsugu Okita	Chargé de mission
Mariela Varas	Chargée de mission
Dietrich Rassow	Veterinarian Adviser

Scientific and Technical Department

Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel	Acting Head of Department
Joseph Domenech	Adviser
Alessandro Ripani	Chargé de mission
Susanne Münstermann	Project Officer
Kiok Hong	Chargé de mission
François Diaz	Chargé de mission
Keith Hamilton	Chargé de mission
Laure Weber-Vintzel	Officer in charge of the Recognition of Countries' Animal Disease Status
Jennifer Lasley	Project Coordinator
Susan Corning	Project Coordinator
Gounalan Pavade	OFFLU Technical Assistant
Victor Saraiva	Chargé de mission
Sara Linnane	Scientific Editor
Marta Martínez Avilés	Veterinary Epidemiologist
Min-Kyung Park	Intern (from 15 January until 14 July 2013)

Regional Activities Department

François Caya	Head of Department
Mara Elma González	Deputy Head of Department
Nathaly Monsalve	Conference Coordinator/Trilingual Secretary
Marie Edan	Chargée de mission

OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations

Africa

Yacouba Samaké	Regional Representative for Africa (Bamako, Mali)
Florência Cipriano	Deputy Regional Representative for Africa (temporarily in Gaborone, Botswana)
Daniel Bourzat	Adviser to the Regional Representative for Africa (Bamako, Mali)
Youma N'Diaye	Accountant (Bamako, Mali)
Mariam Minta	Secretary (Bamako, Mali)
Aïssata Bagayoko	Secretary (Bamako, Mali)
Alou Sangaré	Administrative Assistant (Bamako, Mali)
Neo Mapitse	Sub-Regional Representative for the Countries of the Southern African Development Community (Gaborone, Botswana)
Mpho Mantsho	Administrative and Financial Assistant (Gaborone, Botswana)
Nomsa Thekiso	Secretary (Gaborone, Botswana)
Rachid Bouguedour	Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa (Tunis, Tunisia)
Vincent Brioudes	Programme Officer (Tunis, Tunisia)
Antonio Petrini	Programme Officer (Tunis, Tunisia)
Inès Guitouni	Secretary (Tunis, Tunisia)
Walter Masiga	Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa (Nairobi, Kenya)
Patrick Bastiaensen	Programme Officer (Nairobi, Kenya)
Grace Omwega	Administrative and Financial Assistant (Nairobi, Kenya)
Loise Ndungu	Secretary (Nairobi, Kenya)

Americas

Luis Osvaldo Barcos	Regional Representative for the Americas (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Martín Minassian	Technical Assistant (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Alicia Palmas	Secretary (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Leandro Barcos	Administrative Assistant (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Filiberto Frago Santamaría	Sub-Regional Representative for Central America (Panama City, Panama)
Alina Gutiérrez Camacho	Secretary (Panama City, Panama)

Asia and the Pacific

Hirofumi Kugita	Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (Tokyo, Japan)
Tomoko Ishibashi	Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (Tokyo, Japan)
Chantanee Buranathai	Regional Project Coordinator (Tokyo, Japan)
Tikiri Wijayathilaka	Regional Project Coordinator (Tokyo, Japan)
Hnin Thidar Myint	Regional Veterinary Officer (Tokyo, Japan)
Batsukh Zayat	Secondment Officer (Tokyo, Japan)
Noriko Tesaki	Accountant (Tokyo, Japan)
Takako Hasegawa	Secretary (Tokyo, Japan)
Yuka Fay	Secretary (Tokyo, Japan)
Chiharu Izumi	Secretary (Tokyo, Japan)
Ronello Abila	Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)
Dirk Van Aken	Deputy Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)
Agnès Poirier	Programme Coordinator (HPED) (Bangkok, Thailand)
Jaruwan Kampa	Programme Coordinator (IDENTIFY) (Bangkok, Thailand)
Mary Joy Gordoncillo	Science and One Health Coordinator (Bangkok, Thailand)
Cecilia Dy	'M&E' Coordinator and Communication Officer (Bangkok, Thailand)
Karanvir Kukreja	Project Officer (Bangkok, Thailand)
Patitta Angvanitchakul	Office Assistant (Bangkok, Thailand)
Melada Ruengjumroonnath	Office Assistant (Bangkok, Thailand)

Eastern Europe

Nikola T. Belev	Regional Representative for Eastern Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Rina Kostova	Secretary (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Valentyna Sharandak	Technical Assistant (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Nadège Leboucq	Sub-Regional Representative (Brussels, Belgium)
Stéphane de La Rocque	Animal Health Specialist (Brussels, Belgium)
Stanislav Ralchev	Technical Assistant (Brussels, Belgium)
Kazimieras Lukauskas	Regional Representative in Moscow (Russia)
Ekaterina A. Panina	Technical and Administrative Assistant (Moscow, Russia)

Middle East

Ghazi Yehia	Regional Representative for the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon)
Mustapha Mestom	Consultant (Beirut, Lebanon)
Rita Rizk	Trilingual Secretary (Beirut, Lebanon)
Khodr Rejeili	Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)
Mahmoud Ghaddaf	Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)
Tony Atallah	Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)

Names and positions of experts who represented the OIE in meetings or visits: April to June 2013

Vincenzo Caporale	President of the OIE Biological Standards Commission
Alvin A. Gajadhar	OIE Expert, OIE Reference Laboratory for Trichinellosis, OIE Collaborating Centre for Food-Borne Zoonotic Parasites (Saskatoon, Canada)
George Hughes	Secondee from the Australian Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Sarah Kahn	OIE Consultant
Ross McLeod	Consultant on Socioeconomic Studies
Robert Moreland	M&E Consultant
Paul-Pierre Pastoret	Scientific Adviser
Karin Schwabenbauer	President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates and OIE Delegate of Germany

List of abbreviations

ADIS
Animal Disease Information System of the European Union

AES
Agriculture and Environmental Services

AFD
French Development Agency

AHI
Avian and Human Influenza

AHS
African horse sickness

AI
Avian influenza

ALiCE
African Livestock Conference and Exhibition

AniBioThreat
Bio-preparedness measures concerning prevention, detection and response to animal bio-threats (project)

ANSES
French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety

APHCA
Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Apimondia
International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations and other organisations working within the apiculture sector

ASEAN
Association of South-East Asian Nations

AU-IBAR
African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

AusAID
Australian Agency for International Development

AVTA
Africa Veterinary Technicians Association

BTSF
Better Training for Safer Food (programme)

CaribVET
Caribbean Animal Health Network

CBD
Convention on Biological Diversity

CIRAD
French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development

CLIO
Inter-Professions Liaison Committee

CMC-AH
Crisis Management Centre-Animal Health

CNEV
National Centre for Vector Research (ANSES, France)

CODEX
Codex Alimentarius Commission

COMESA
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

COPA-COGECA
Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations-General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives

CORDS
Connecting Organizations for Regional Disease Surveillance

COSALFA
South-American Commission for the Fight against Foot and Mouth Disease

CVOs
Chief Veterinary Officers

DAH
Department of Animal Health (Vietnam)

DVM
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

EC
European Commission

ECTAD
FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases

EFSA
European Food Safety Authority

EIDs
Emerging Infectious Diseases

EMS
Early Mortality Syndrome

EPT
Emerging pandemic threats

ESWI
European Scientific Working Group on Influenza

EU
European Union

EuFMD
European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease

FANR
Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources

FAO
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FEAM
Federation of European Academies of Medicine

FEI
International Equestrian Federation

FLURISK
Development of a risk assessment methodological framework for potentially pandemic influenza strains

FMD
Foot and mouth disease

FVE
Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

List of abbreviations (cont.)

GARC
Global Alliance for Rabies Control

GCC
Gulf Cooperation Council

GFSP
Global Food Safety Partnership

GF-TADs
FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

HAIRS
Human Animal Infections and Risk Surveillance

HPAI
Highly pathogenic avian influenza

HPED
European Union-funded cooperation programme on highly pathogenic and emerging and re-emerging diseases in Asia

IADG
Inter-Agency Donor Group

IAMP
Inter-Academy Medical Panel

ICAHIS
International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists

ICLAS
International Council of Laboratory Animal Science

ICLC
International Clinical Librarian Conference

ICML
International Congress on Medical Librarianship

IDENTIFY
Laboratory Capacity Building and Networking Project

IDF
International Dairy Federation

IHR
International Health Regulations

ILRI
International Livestock Research Institute

ISO
International Organization for Standardization

IWTO
International Wool Textile Organisation

JTF
Japan Trust Fund

KVA
Kenya Veterinary Association

LBVD
Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department

M&E
Monitoring & Evaluation

MLA
Medical Library Association

MVNA
MedVetNet Association (European Network of Excellence for Zoonoses Research)

NAHL
National Animal Health Laboratory (Laos)

NATO
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

OECD
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OFFLU
Joint OIE/FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of animal influenzas

OIE
World Organisation for Animal Health

PAAWA
Pan-African Animal Welfare Alliance

PCP
Progressive Control Pathway

PDA
Programme Development Area

PHEFA
Hemispheric Plan of Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease

PPR
Peste des petits ruminants

PVM
Post vaccination monitoring

REMESA
Mediterranean Animal Health Network

RVF
Rift Valley fever

SADC
Southern African Development Community

SENASA
National Animal Health Service

SGF
Small Grants Facility

SMP-AH
Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health

SPS
Sanitary and phytosanitary measures

STANDZ
Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses

STAR-IDAZ
Global Strategic Alliances for the Coordination of Research on the Major Infectious Diseases of Animals and Zoonoses

STDF
Standards and Trade Development Facility

TAIEX
Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument

TASW
Towards a Safer World

UK
United Kingdom

UN/CEFACT
United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

USAID
United States Agency for International Development

USTHB
Houari Boumedienne University of Sciences and Technology

VET-GOV
Project 'Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa'

VSPA
Vaccine Standards and Pilot Approach to PPR Control in Africa (OIE programme supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

WAHID
OIE World Animal Health Information Database

WAHIS
OIE World Animal Health Information System

WAVLD
World Association of Veterinary Laboratories Diagnosticians

WB
World Bank

WCS
Wildlife Conservation Society

WFO
World Farmers' Organisation

WHO
World Health Organization

WSPA
World Society for the Protection of Animals

WTO
World Trade Organization

ZELS
Zoonoses and Emerging Livestock Systems

meetings and visits

April 2013

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Pre consultation with LBVD key Representatives to discuss developments in FMD control in Myanmar	Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar)	1 April	Dr H. Thidar Myint, Dr R. Abila, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Ms C. Dy & Dr K. Kukreja
FAO Sub-Regional Meeting on PPR	Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)	1 April	Dr G. Yehia
Hand-over Ceremony of FMD vaccines from the OIE Regional Vaccine Bank for Asia, and launch of the 2013 FMD Vaccination Campaign in Northern Laos	Luang Prabang (Laos)	1-4 April	Dr D. Van Aken
NAHL Strategic Planning Workshop, within the framework of the IDENTIFY programme	Thalath (Laos)	1-5 April	Dr C. Buranathai, Dr A. Poirier, Dr J. Kampa & Ms P. Angvanitchakul
Meeting with the OIE Focal Points of Myanmar	Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar)	2 April	Dr H. Thidar Myint, Dr R. Abila, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Ms C. Dy & Dr K. Kukreja
4th Annual West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting, under the GF-TADs (inter-regional meeting on the progressive control of FMD in West Eurasia)	Baku (Azerbaijan)	2-4 April	Dr M. Eloit, Dr J. Domenech, Dr S. Ralchev & Dr G. Yehia
Regional Workshop on Inter-Linkages Human Health and Biodiversity in Africa, co-organised by the Secretariat of the CBD and the WHO	Maputo (Mozambique)	2-5 April	Dr F. Cipriano
Meeting with the OIE Delegate of Argentina	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	3 April	Dr B. Vallat & Dr L.O. Barcos
FLURISK Workshop	EFSA Headquarters, Parma (Italy)	3-4 April	Dr G. Pavade
Joint FAO/OIE National Consultation Workshop on FMD Control Plan in Myanmar	Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar)	3-5 April	Dr H. Thidar Myint, Dr R. Abila, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Ms C. Dy & Dr K. Kukreja
1st SADC-FANR Epidemiology and Informatics Sub-Committee Meeting	Gaborone (Botswana)	3-5 April	Dr N. Mapitse
Nomination of Dr Bernard Vallat as Docteur Honoris Causa of the University of Buenos Aires and Corresponding Member of the Argentina National Academy of Agronomics and Veterinary Medicine	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	4 April	Dr B. Vallat
Meeting with the Argentina official authorities	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	5 April	Dr B. Vallat & Dr L.O. Barcos
21st Meeting of the Global GF-TADs FMD Working Group	Baku (Azerbaijan)	5 April	Dr J. Domenech & Dr S. Ralchev
Audience with the President of the Republic of Paraguay	Asunción (Paraguay)	7 April	Dr B. Vallat & Dr L.O. Barcos
Bilateral UK/Jordan Mission on Veterinary Education	Amman (Jordan)	7-8 April	Dr K. Hamilton
Seminar on FMD PCP in the GCC Member Countries and Yemen	Dubai (United Arab Emirates)	8 April	Dr J. Domenech & Dr G. Yehia
Meeting with the Chairman of the PAAWA	Nairobi (Kenya)	8 April	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
Regional Seminar on FMD: 'Actions required to gain and maintain 'FMD free' status'	Asunción (Paraguay)	8-9 April	Dr B. Vallat, Dr K. Ben Jebara, Dr P. Cáceres, Dr L.O. Barcos, Dr M. Minassian, Mr L. Barcos & Dr S. Kahn
International Egg Council Commission Meeting	Madrid (Spain)	8-9 April	Dr A. Thiermann
FEI Sports Forum and Veterinary Committee Meeting	Lausanne (Switzerland)	8-10 April	Dr S. Münstermann
2nd Training Session of Improved Animal Welfare Programme in Philippines	General Santos City (Philippines)	8-12 April	Dr R. Kolesar
Stakeholders meeting and field visits on rabies control	Masbate (Philippines)	8-12 April	Dr R. Abila

meetings and visits

April 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Visit to the OIE Delegates of Guatemala and El Salvador	Guatemala and El Salvador	8-12 April	Dr F. Frago Santamaría
13th ASEAN HPAI Task Force Meeting	Yogyakarta (Indonesia)	9-10 April	Dr A. Poirier
National Training-of-Trainers workshop on zoning 'for wealth and health' for the Ministry of Livestock Development ('Kenya Vision 2030' flagship workshop)	Mombasa (Kenya)	9-10 April	Dr P. Bastiaensen
FAO Regional Workshop on Brucellosis Control in Central Asia and Eastern Europe	Izmir (Turkey)	9-11 April	Dr J. Domenech
FAO/OIE/WHO Workshop, within the framework of the Four-way Linking Project for Assessing Health Risks at the Human–Animal Interface	Sanur, Bali (Indonesia)	9-11 April	Dr S. Forcella & Dr M.J. Gordoncillo
Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals	Lisbon (Portugal)	9-11 April	Dr G. Mylrea, Dr F. Caya, Prof. Dr N.T. Belev & Ms R. Kostova
OIE Regional Workshop for advanced training on the second version of WAHIS and WAHID for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE	Asunción (Paraguay)	10-12 April	Dr K. Ben Jebara, Dr P. Cáceres, Dr L.O. Barcos, Dr M. Minassian, Mr L. Barcos & Dr S. Kahn
Courtesy visit to the AFD Country Manager for Kenya and Burundi	Nairobi (Kenya)	11 April	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
Courtesy visit by the Livestock Officer of the World Bank (Africa)	Nairobi (Kenya)	11 April	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
4th Scientific Day on Transboundary Animal Diseases, organised by Merial in cooperation with the OIE and FAO Sub-Regional Representations for North Africa and the Veterinary Research Institute of Tunisia	Gammarth (Tunisia)	13 April	Dr R. Bouguedour, Dr V. Brioudes & Dr A. Petrini
Apimondia Executive Council Meeting	Kiev (Ukraine)	13-14 April	Dr F. Diaz & Dr V. Sharandak
5th Pan-African CVOs Meeting on Africa's Coordinated Position on OIE Animal Health Standards	Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)	14-15 April	Dr E. Bonbon
Meeting with the International Veterinary Student Association	OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)	15 April	Dr M. Eloit & Dr A. Dehove
3rd WFO General Assembly	Niigata (Japan)	15 April	Dr T. Ishibashi
UN/CEFACT PDA Sectoral Agriculture – 21st Session of the UN/CEFACT Forum	Geneva (Switzerland)	15-16 April	Dr D. Chaisemartin
Pre-COSALFA International Seminar: 'PHEFA's follow-up: prevention in FMD free' zones'	Panama City (Panama)	15-16 April	Dr J. Domenech & Dr V. Saraiva
OFFLU Swine Influenza Virus Meeting	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	16-17 April	Dr K. Hamilton & Dr G. Pavade
Meeting of National Livestock Policy Focal Points on VET-GOV Programme Engagement	Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)	16-17 April	Dr Y. Samaké & Dr W. Masiga
Feedback and *ad hoc* Group Meetings on Veterinary Legislation	Paris (France)	16-19 April	Dr D. Belton, Dr M. Okita, Dr F. Caya, Dr M.E. González & Dr P. Bastiaensen
1st National Animal Disaster Management Conference	New Delhi (India)	17-18 April	Dr T. Ishibashi
CNEV Steering Committee Meeting	Paris (France)	18 April	Dr S. de La Rocque
9th Conference of Ministers of Agriculture responsible for Livestock in Africa, and separate meetings with Ministers	Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)	18-19 April	Dr B. Vallat, Dr E. Bonbon, Dr Y. Samaké, Dr D. Bourzat & Dr W. Masiga

meetings and visits

April 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
40th COSALFA Ordinary Meeting	Panama City (Panama)	18-19 April	Dr J. Domenech, Dr V. Saraiva, Dr L.O. Barcos & Dr F. Frago Santamaría
Planning of future training seminars on veterinary legislation in Africa, with potential trainers	Paris (France)	18-19 April	Dr P. Bastiaensen
OIE/WHO Coordination Meeting regarding the project on governance at the Human–Animal Interface	Paris (France)	19 April	Dr S. de La Rocque
Regional workshop on: 'Good Emergency Management Practice: the essentials', organised by CMC-AH/FAO	Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)	20-23 April	Dr Y. Samaké
German Association of Official Veterinarians Meeting	Bad Staffelstein (Germany)	21-22 April	Dr A. Thiermann
CORDS Inaugural Conference	Annecy (France)	21-24 April	Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Dehove & Dr D. Chaisemartin
Setting up of the pilot facility in view of the PPR vaccination campaign in Ghana, and training of survey officers	Accra (Ghana)	21-27 April	Dr D. Bourzat
GFSP for food safety capacity building: Service Providers' Information Day	WB Headquarters, Washington, DC (United States)	22 April	Dr G. Mylrea
Courtesy visit to the Rural Development Section staff of the EC Delegation in Nairobi	Nairobi (Kenya)	22 April	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
40th General Session of the EuFMD	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	22-24 April	Dr M. Eloit, Dr J. Domenech & Dr S. Ralchev
8th CaribVET Steering Committee Meeting and Interface of the Steering Committee with Saint Lucia's private sector livestock stakeholders	Rodney Bay (Saint Lucia)	22-24 April	Dr F. Frago Santamaría
Expert Group Meeting on Swine Influenza in Asia-Pacific Region	Tokyo (Japan)	23 April	Dr G. Pavade, Dr H. Kugita, Dr T. Ishibashi, Dr C. Buranathai, Dr T. Wijayathilaka & Dr H. Thidar Myint
Coordination meeting with the Department of Livestock Development (Thailand)	Bangkok (Thailand)	23 April	Dr R. Abila, Dr A. Poirier, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Ms C. Dy & Dr K. Kukreja
Regional (Africa) Information Seminar for Recently Appointed OIE Delegates	Tunis (Tunisia)	23-24 April	Dr E. Bonbon, Dr M.E. González, Dr Y. Samaké, Dr N. Mapitse, Dr R. Bouguedour, Dr V. Brioudes, Dr A. Petrini & Ms I. Guitouni
ISO Working Group Meeting	London (United Kingdom)	23-24 April	Dr A.A. Gajadhar
Meeting with the Director General of the ILRI	Gaborone (Botswana)	24 April	Dr F. Cipriano
2nd Workshop for the Technical Working Group of the SMP-AH Project on PPR and FMD	Arusha (Tanzania)	24-25 April	Dr W. Masiga
Preparation of Small Grant Agreement with Cambodia Royal University of Agriculture, and follow-up on STANDZ/SGF/2013-01/CAM on FMD vaccination	Phnom Penh (Cambodia)	24-26 April	Dr D. Van Aken
47th KVA Annual Scientific Congress	Mombasa (Kenya)	24-28 April	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
Support H7N9 AI control in China	Beijing (People's Republic of China)	24 April – 2 May	Dr K. Hamilton

meetings and visits

April 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
3rd Meeting of the GF-TADs PPR Working Group	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	25 April	Dr J. Domenech
26th Meeting of the International Federation of Biosafety Associations	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	26 April	Dr T. Ishibashi
Celebration of the Turkmen Horse Holiday, 5th International Scientific Conference: 'Turkmen Horse and Horse Breeding Art of the World', and 3rd Meeting of the International Akhal-Teke Horse Association	Ashgabat (Turkmenistan)	26-28 April	Prof. Dr N.T. Belev & Prof. K. Lukauskas
Preparatory meeting for the OECD International Conference on: 'Livestock Disease Policies: Building Bridges between Animal Sciences and Economics'	Paris (France)	29 April	Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Dehove & Dr J.-P. Pradère
Discussion with FAO and GARC Focal Points on Rabies Control Strategy	Brussels (Belgium)	29 April	Dr M. Martínez Avilés
PPR Research Alliance Meeting	Nairobi (Kenya)	29-30 April	Dr J. Domenech
Working Party of Veterinary Experts (Animal Welfare)	Brussels (Belgium)	30 April	Dr M. Varas
6th Meeting of the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Neglected Tropical Diseases	WHO Headquarters, Geneva (Switzerland)	30 April	Dr M. Martínez Avilés
Meeting with AusAID	Bangkok (Thailand)	30 April	Dr R. Abila, Dr D. Van Aken, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Ms C. Dy & Dr K. Kukreja
EPT Programme Quarterly Review Meeting	Vientiane (Laos)	30 April	Dr J. Kampa

meetings and visits

May 2013

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
ESWI 3rd Flu Summit	Brussels (Belgium)	2 May	Dr S. Ralchev
1st International Meeting on: 'The Role of Veterinary Public Health in the Mediterranean Basin'	Palermo, Sicily (Italy)	2-3 May	Dr B. Vallat, Dr R. Bouguedour, Dr G. Yehia & Prof. V. Caporale
H7N9 Technical and Programmatic Coordination Meeting	Bangkok (Thailand)	2-3 May	Dr H. Kugita, Dr R. Abila, Dr A. Poirier, Dr J. Kampa & Dr M.J. Gordoncillo
ESWI 'FluQuest' Workshop for Public Health Officials	Brussels (Belgium)	3 May	Dr S. Ralchev
'One Health': Information in an Interdependent World: MLA 2013 Annual Meeting and Exhibition, 11th ICML, 7th ICAHIS, and 6th ICLC	Boston (United States)	3-8 May	Ms M. Teissier
Closing meeting of the Italy–Tunisia OIE Twinning Project for Bluetongue	Gammarth (Tunisia)	6 May	Dr R. Bouguedour, Dr V. Brioudes, Dr A. Petrini & Dr G. Yehia
FAO/USAID Partners' Meeting	Guangzhou (People's Republic of China)	6-7 May	Dr J. Kampa
Finalisation of National FMD Plan	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	6-7 May	Dr R. Abila
COPA-COGECA Conference on: 'The new package for healthier animals and plants for safer food chain: what is at stake?'	Brussels (Belgium)	6-7 May	Dr S. Ralchev
Technical workshop on the costing of IHR implementation	Lyons (France)	6-8 May	Dr A. Dehove & Dr S. de La Rocque
Veterinary Education Establishments Workshop on Improved Animal Welfare Programme	Manila (Philippines)	6-8 May	Dr R. Kolesar, Dr K. Kukreja & Ms P. Angvanitchakul
Meeting with the Belgium 'Federal Public Service Finance'	Brussels (Belgium)	8 May	Dr N. Leboucq & Dr S. Ralchev
Courtesy visit by the Acting Chairman of the AVTA	Nairobi (Kenya)	8 May	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
SADC/FAO-ECTAD/OIE/AU-IBAR Coordination Meeting	Gaborone (Botswana)	8 May	Dr F. Cipriano, Dr N. Mapitse, Ms M. Mantsho & Ms N. Thekiso
ZELS Applicants' Workshop	London (United Kingdom)	8-9 May	Dr K. Hamilton
ISO/CODEX/OIE Regional Workshop on: 'Food Standards and Trade'	Havana (Cuba)	8-10 May	Dr F. Frago Santamaría
Bilateral Meeting with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	Bangkok (Thailand)	13 May	Dr H. Kugita & Dr H. Thidar Myint
Workshop for rabies control and prevention and experience sharing among ASEAN countries	Hanoi (Vietnam)	13-14 May	Dr R. Abila, Dr A. Poirier & Dr M.J. Gordoncillo
10th African meeting on technical biology: 'Biotechnology – laboratories and public health: laboratory facing disease'	Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo)	13-17 May	Dr Y. Samaké
Regional simulation exercice on shrimp early mortality syndrome (EMS)	Honduras	13-17 May	Dr F. Frago Santamaría
Training Course on Animal and Public Health	Tandil (Argentina)	13-18 May	Dr V. Saraiva & Dr L.O. Barcos
Working Group of International Commission on Trichinellosis	Berlin (Germany)	14-15 May	Dr G. Mylrea

meetings and visits

May 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
FAO-APHCA Expert Workshop: 'Towards Standardisation and Harmonisation of Monitoring of Antimicrobial Use in Livestock and Antimicrobial Resistance in Livestock-associated Micro-organisms in the Asia-Pacific Region'	Bangkok (Thailand)	14-15 May	Dr H. Kugita & Dr H. Thidar Myint
General country visit to the veterinary authority of Rwanda	Kigali (Rwanda)	14-16 May	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
Strategic Planning Workshop organised within the framework of the IDENTIFY programme	Quezon City and Manila (Philippines)	14-18 May	Dr R. Abila, Dr J. Kampa & Ms M. Ruengjumroonnath
Setting up of the pilot facility in view of the PPR vaccination campaign in Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou, Djibo, Tougan and Dori (Burkina Faso)	14-21 May	Dr D. Bourzat
Visit to the Atrium, planned site for the exhibition of OIE photographs in the European Parliament from 25 to 29 November 2013	Brussels (Belgium)	15 May	Dr E. Bonbon, Ms G. Mamaghani & Dr N. Leboucq
Meeting with the DAH	Hanoi (Vietnam)	15 May	Dr R. Abila, Dr A. Poirier & Dr M.J. Gordoncillo
13th International Exhibition of Animal Production, Food Industry and Agricultural Equipment	Algiers (Algeria)	15-18 May	Dr R. Bouguedour
FVE Conference, and Round Table Discussion on: 'Caring for health and welfare of fish: a critical success factor for aquaculture'	Brussels (Belgium)	16-17 May	Dr E. Bonbon
9th Workshop on Pensions in International Organisations	Lyons (France)	16-17 May	Mr J.-P. Croiziers
Meeting of the STAR-IDAZ Regional Network for Asia and Australasia	Beijing (People's Republic of China)	17-18 May	Dr M.J. Gordoncillo
Exchange and training workshop on: 'Sustainable livestock development', organised by the World Bank's AES	Costa Rica	19-25 May	Dr J.-P. Pradère
TASW Network of Pandemic Preparedness Practitioners Event: 'Taking Stock of Achievements: Charting Future Directions'	Geneva (Switzerland)	20 May	Dr K. Hamilton
USTHB/ICLAS Workshop on Animal Experimentation	Algiers (Algeria)	20 May	Dr R. Bouguedour
TAIEX workshop on implementation of OIE standards for the control of stray dog population and zoonosis control	Skopje (Macedonia)	20 May	Dr S. Ralchev
66th WHO World Health Assembly	Geneva (Switzerland)	20-28 May	Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel & Dr S. de La Rocque
Meeting on the Influenza A (H7N9) situation, organised during the 66th WHO World Health Assembly	Geneva (Switzerland)	21 May	Dr B. Vallat & Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel
Preparatory meeting for the symposium: 'Serving the public in the 21st century: the ordinal institutions, more relevant than ever', organised by CLIO	Paris (France)	21 May	Dr A. Dehove
TAIEX workshop on implementation of OIE standards for the control of stray dog population and zoonosis control	Bitola (Macedonia)	21 May	Dr S. Ralchev
SPS, 'Green Pass' and Trade Facilitation Workshop, organised by the Secretariat of the COMESA	Nairobi (Kenya)	21-23 May	Dr P. Bastiaensen

meetings and visits

May 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
14th IADG Annual Meeting on pro-poor livestock research and development: 'Livestock value chain development – Strengthening public-private partnerships'	Berlin (Germany)	22 May	Dr J. Domenech
TAIEX workshop on implementation of OIE standards for the control of stray dog population and zoonosis control	Štip (Macedonia)	22 May	Dr S. Ralchev
21st Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock, and 15th Meeting of the ASEAN National Focal Points for Animal Vaccines	Manila (Philippines)	22-24 May	Dr H. Kugita, Dr H. Thidar Myint, Dr R. Abila & Dr M.J. Gordoncillo
AniBioThreat: 'Early warning and strategic analysis'	Stockholm (Sweden)	23 May	Dr K. Hamilton
AHI Facility Annual Meeting	Paris (France)	24 May	Dr A. Dehove
Meeting of the OIE Regional Representatives	Paris (France)	25 May	OIE Headquarters' staff and OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives
OIE Regional Information Seminar for Recently Appointed OIE Delegates	Paris (France)	25 May	OIE Headquarters' staff and OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives
81st General Session of the OIE	Paris (France)	26-31 May	OIE Headquarters' staff and OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives
EU Conference on the enforcement of animal welfare during transport: 'Bringing best practice to light'	Dublin (Ireland)	29 May	Dr S. Ralchev
EPT in-country planning meeting	Vientiane (Laos)	29-30 May	Dr J. Kampa
Final conference of the project: 'Renovation and promoting high quality control posts in the EU'	Dublin (Ireland)	30 May	Dr S. Ralchev
3rd Advisory Board Meeting on the project: 'Renovation and promoting high quality control posts in the EU'	Dublin (Ireland)	31 May	Dr S. Ralchev

meetings and visits

June 2013

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
OECD International Conference on: 'Livestock Disease Policies: Building Bridges between Animal Sciences and Economics'	Paris (France)	3-4 June	Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Thiermann, Dr E. Bonbon, Dr A. Dehove, Dr J.-P. Pradère, Dr N. Mapitse, Dr P. Bastiaensen, Dr L.O. Barcos & Dr T. Ishibashi
Preparatory meeting with the Department of Veterinary and Animal Breeding, Mongolia, on the OIE/JTF Project on FMD control in Asia and other OIE activities	Ulan Bator (Mongolia)	3-8 June	Dr C. Buranathai
Advanced FMD Diagnostic Training	Tokyo (Japan)	3-14 June	Dr C. Buranathai
STDF Information Session	Tokyo (Japan)	4 June	Dr H. Thidar Myint
Meeting with the Chairman Director General of CIRAD regarding relationship between CIRAD and OIE	Paris (France)	4 June	Dr D. Bourzat
22nd Meeting of the Global GF-TADs FMD Working Group	Rome (Italy)	4-5 June	Dr J. Domenech, Dr V. Saraiva & Dr N. Leboucq
2nd WHO Meeting on Laboratory Strengthening for EIDs in the Asia-Pacific Region	Manila (Philippines)	4-6 June	Dr J. Kampa
FAO Training Workshop on Gender, Livestock and Livelihood in South-East Asia	Bangkok (Thailand)	4-6 June	Ms C. Dy & Dr K. Kukreja
1st Training-of-Trainers Session of Improved Animal Welfare Programme in Turkey	Istanbul (Turkey)	4-8 June	Dr R. Kolesar, Dr T. Grudnik & Dr S. Ralchev
Symposium: 'Serving the public in the 21st century: the ordinal institutions, more relevant than ever', organised by CLIO	Paris (France)	5 June	Dr B. Vallat & Dr A. Dehove
1st European Week of the Bee and Pollination, hosted by the European Parliament	Brussels (Belgium)	5 June	Dr E. Bonbon & Dr F. Diaz
HAIRS Group Meeting	London (United Kingdom)	5 June	Dr K. Ben Jebara
IAMP/FEAM International Workshop on: 'Integrated Education in "One Health"' (Public Health, Animal Health and Environmental Health)	Budapest (Hungary)	5 June	Prof. P.-P. Pastoret
8th DICK/CEVA Avian Scientific Day	Hammamet (Tunisia)	5 June	Dr V. Brioudes
Technical meeting with the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Myanmar	Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar)	5-7 June	Dr M.J. Gordoncillo & Dr K. Kukreja
Meeting on: 'Livestock Global Alliance'	London (United Kingdom)	7 June	Dr B. Vallat & Dr A. Dehove
10th OIE Seminar on: 'New Approaches to Diagnosis: Opportunities and Challenges', held during the 16th WAVLD Symposium, from 5 to 8 June 2013	Berlin (Germany)	7 June	Dr K. Schwabenbauer, Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel, Ms S. Linnane & Ms M.-K. Park
Meeting with Dr Toshiko Abe, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs	Tokyo (Japan)	7 June	Dr H. Kugita & Dr H. Thidar Myint
Official delivery of the OIE FMD-free and AHS-free status certification, and meeting with Bolivian President and Ministers	Santa Cruz (Bolivia)	8 June	Dr L.O. Barcos
Training course on participatory epidemiology, within the framework of the VSPA project	Thies (Senegal)	9-14 June	Dr D. Bourzat

meetings and visits

June 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Seminar for supporting notification to the reference organisations, within the framework of the EU regional programme to support the quality and application of SPS measures in Central America	Guatemala	9-14 June	Dr F. Frago Santamaría
Workshop on PPR prevention and control in the SADC Region	Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)	10-12 June	Dr J. Domenech, Dr S. Münstermann, Dr N. Mapitse & Ms N. Thekiso
Chatham House Round Table Enhancing Global Security	London (United Kingdom)	11 June	Dr A. Dehove
M&E Workshop	Bangkok (Thailand)	11-12 June	Dr R. Abila, Dr D. Van Aken, Dr A. Poirier, Dr J. Kampa, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Ms C. Dy, Dr K. Kukreja, Dr G. Hughes & Dr R. Moreland
WSPA International Workshop on Farm Animal Welfare: 'Advancing good handling practices in breeding, transport and slaughter of poultry, cattle and pigs'	São Pedro (Brazil)	11-13 June	Dr S. Kahn
1st International Forum: 'Public Health Surveillance and Response in island territories'	Saint-Denis, Reunion (France)	11-13 June	Dr P. Bastiaensen
Stakeholders' consultation retreat to initiate the formulation of the AU-IBAR strategic plan 2014-2017	Naivasha (Kenya)	11-14 June	Dr W. Masiga
Global Partnership Biosecurity Sub-Working Group Meeting	London (United Kingdom)	12 June	Dr A. Dehove
82nd IWTO Congress	Biella (Italy)	12-13 June	Dr D. Belton
Global Partnership Match Making Session	London (United Kingdom)	13 June	Dr A. Dehove
Meeting with Institut Pasteur – Episouth Plus Project 2010-2013 – Work Package 4: Establishment of a Mediterranean Regional Laboratories Network to facilitate common threats detection in the countries involved. Two diseases addressed: Dengue and West Nile Fever	OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)	13 June	Dr K. Ben Jebara & Dr F. Diaz
Conference of the EU Veterinary Week	Brussels (Belgium)	13 June	Dr E. Bonbon & Dr N. Leboucq
7th Meeting of the REMESA Joint Standing Committee	Faro (Portugal)	13-14 June	Dr M. Eloit, Dr R. Bouguedour, Dr V. Brioudes & Dr A. Petrini
Global Partnership Working Group: Centre of Excellence Sub-Working Group	London (United Kingdom)	14 June	Dr A. Dehove
Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock and the OIE Delegate of Colombia	Bogota (Colombia)	16-18 June	Dr L.O. Barcos
IDF Standing Committee for Animal Health and Welfare	Paris (France)	17 June	Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel
8th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of the GF-TADs for Africa	Accra (Ghana)	17-18 June	Dr J. Domenech, Dr S. Münstermann, Dr F. Caya, Dr Y. Samaké, Dr D. Bourzat, Dr N. Mapitse & Dr W. Masiga
Workshop on socio-economic study of the impacts of FMD at the household level	Bangkok (Thailand)	17-18 June	Dr R. Abila, Dr D. Van Aken, Dr A. Poirier, Ms C. Dy, Dr G. Hughes & Dr R. McLeod
USAID-EPT Regional Planning Meeting and IDENTIFY Regional Meeting	Bangkok (Thailand)	18-20 June	Dr S. Corning, Dr R. Abila & Dr J. Kampa

meetings and visits

June 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Animal welfare at slaughter course under the BTSF initiative	Madrid (Spain)	18-21 June	Dr T. Grudnik
Meeting of Chief Veterinary Officers at the Council, and meeting with EC Directorates	Brussels (Belgium)	19 June	Dr B. Vallat, Dr E. Bonbon, Dr A. Dehove & Dr N. Leboucq
International Consultative Workshop on Development and Implementation of DVM Programme in the Royal University of Agriculture of Cambodia	Phnom Penh (Cambodia)	19-20 June	Dr D. Van Aken
Meeting on RVF with the OIE Delegate of Algeria and the Manager of the Central Laboratory, within the framework of the FAO/OIE programme on RVF in Maghreb	Algiers (Algeria)	19-20 June	Dr A. Petrini
World Bank Seminar on Pastoralism and Conflicts in the Dry Lands: experience from World Bank-supported projects and others	Nairobi (Kenya)	19-20 June	Dr P. Bastiaensen
Economic study of the impacts of FMD at the national level, and follow-up to stakeholder survey	Hanoi (Vietnam)	19-21 June	Ms C. Dy & Dr R. McLeod
IDENTIFY Tripartite Meeting	Bangkok (Thailand)	20 June	Dr J. Kampa
Meeting of the Joint Health, Agriculture and Food Group of NATO	Brussels (Belgium)	20 June	Dr N. Leboucq
Coordination meeting between AU-IBAR, FAO-ECTAD, EU and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for East Africa	Nairobi (Kenya)	20 June	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
Meeting with the OIE Delegate of Panama	Panama City (Panama)	20 June	Dr L.O. Barcos
2nd Training-of-Trainers Session of Improved Animal Welfare Programme in Turkey	Gaziantep (Turkey)	23-28 June	Dr R. Kolesar, Dr T. Grudnik & Dr S. Ralchev
STDF workshop to review multi-criteria decision analysis	Geneva (Switzerland)	24-25 June	Dr M. Okita
2nd MVNA International Scientific Conference: 'One Health, One Medicine: sharing challenges for combating zoonoses'	Lyngby (Denmark)	24-25 June	Dr S. Corning
Technical and Policy Discussion on the Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza A (H7N9) in Asia	Bangkok (Thailand)	24-25 June	Dr J. Domenech, Dr H. Kugita, Dr T. Wijayathilaka, Dr R. Abila, Dr A. Poirier, Dr J. Kampa & Dr M.J. Gordoncillo
Eastern Africa 'One Health' Meeting, organised by FAO and AU-IBAR	Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)	24-25 June	Dr D. Bourzat
OIE Regional Workshop for advanced training on the second version of WAHIS and WAHID for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE	Nairobi (Kenya)	25-27 June	Dr M.J. Sánchez Vázquez, Dr P. Cáceres, Dr L. Awada, Dr S. Forcella, Dr W. Masiga, Dr P. Bastiaensen, Ms G. Omwega & Ms L. Ndungu
Cambodian Zoonotic Disease Strategic Plan Development Workshop and IDENTIFY Laboratory Visit	Phnom Penh (Cambodia)	25-27 June	Dr J. Kampa

meetings and visits

June 2013 (cont.)			
Title of the event	**Place**	**Date**	**Participants**
Working meeting on the ADIS project	Brussels (Belgium)	26 June	Dr D. Chaisemartin
USAID/IDENTIFY Annual Meeting	Lyons (France)	26-27 June	Dr S. Corning
57th Meeting of the WTO SPS Committee, followed by two informal meetings	Geneva (Switzerland)	26-28 June	Dr D. Belton & Dr M. Okita
FMD PVM Expert Group Meeting	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	26-28 June	Dr S. Münstermann & Dr M.J. Gordoncillo
African Livestock Conference and Exhibition (ALiCE 2013)	Nairobi (Kenya)	26-29 June	Dr W. Masiga
Side event on Invasive Alien Species	Geneva (Switzerland)	27 June	Dr M. Okita
Meeting between WCS, TAD Scientific (a consulting company from South Africa) and OIE on market access and SPS issues	Gaborone (Botswana)	27 June	Dr F. Cipriano & Dr N. Mapitse
2nd Bilateral Meeting between the National Institutes of Animal Health of Japan and Thailand	Tsukuba (Japan)	27-28 June	Dr H. Kugita & Dr C. Buranathai
ILRI Meeting on PPR	Nairobi (Kenya)	29 June	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen

epidemiology & animal disease control programmes

Controlling peste des petits ruminants

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) is one of the most serious and contagious diseases of domestic sheep and goats. It causes significant losses in herds and its geographical spread is growing all the time. PPR occurs in most countries of tropical Africa, the Middle East, and South and Central Asia. It has recently arrived in North Africa and continues to expand in southern Africa.

From a virological and epidemiological standpoint, there are many similarities with rinderpest: the viruses are closely related; highly effective vaccines are available that confer protection against all viral strains; and no wild reservoir plays a significant role in the disease's epidemiology. The key difference is that sheep and goats are much less valuable than cattle. Since this has major implications for farming systems and the status and livelihoods of the farmers concerned, it affects the way in which control programmes are designed and implemented.

In May 2013, the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE adopted a revised Chapter 14.8. for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*, with new articles defining the conditions for securing official PPR-free status for a country or zone, enabling Members to request official endorsement of their national PPR control programmes (Resolution No. 29 adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates in May 2013, Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Code*) (3). These new standards serve as a specific tool and strong incentive to support control programmes. The standards that should be applied to diagnostic tests and vaccines are those in the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, 2013 edition (4).

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The OIE and FAO are currently developing a global PPR control strategy under the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF TADs). This plan will build on


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the experience acquired in previous programmes from various countries and regions of the world. Although vaccination is the customary method of control in endemic areas, the type of measures to be taken – vaccination or other – will be decided on the basis of the local socio-economic situation and local forms of production.

A number of basic principles will be applied, including the acknowledgement that control programmes can only be effective if they are based on efficient Veterinary Services that comply with the quality standards described in Chapters 3.1. and 3.2. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* (1, 2), and on a strong partnership between stakeholders in both the public and private sector, who are involved at every stage of the animal product supply and marketing chain. In countries where PPR is endemic, a progressive control approach is preferred. This may entail zoning or compartmentalisation and takes into account production systems and the results of risk analysis and socio-economic studies. A progressive approach culminates in a series of stages targeting certain geographic areas or farming systems, giving special priority to the most affected herds and species or those at highest risk. Transparent animal health information and capabilities for surveillance, detection, early warning and rapid response must be guaranteed in the event of a new outbreak, and based on effective laboratories and epidemiology teams, as well as on appropriate legislation.


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1. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2012). – Chapter 3.1. Veterinary Services. *In* Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 21st ed. OIE, Paris. Available at: www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/?htmfile=chapter_1.3.1.htm (accessed on 28 June 2013).

2. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2012). – Chapter 3.2. Evaluation of Veterinary Services. *In* Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 21st ed. OIE, Paris. Available at: www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/?htmfile=chapter_1.3.2.htm (accessed on 28 June 2013).

3. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2013). – Chapter 14.8. Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus. *In* Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 22nd ed. OIE, Paris.

4. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2013). – Chapter 2.7.11. Peste des petits ruminants (version adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE in May 2013). *In* Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals. Available at: www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/fr/Health_standards/tahm/2.07.11_PPR.pdf (accessed on 28 June 2013).

Controlling animal brucellosis

Brucellosis is a contagious communicable disease of many animal species. The most important *Brucella* species affecting domestic animals are *B. abortus* in cattle, *B. melitensis* in small ruminants, *B. suis* in pigs and *B. ovis* in sheep. Humans may be naturally infected with *B. abortus* and *B. suis* but *B. melitensis* is the most pathogenic species.

Apart from countries where brucellosis has been eradicated, its geographical distribution is global, with B. melitensis being particularly widespread in the Mediterranean Basin, Middle East and Central Asia.

The economic importance of brucellosis stems mainly from production losses (including abortion, infertility and reduced milk yield) and from barriers to trade in animals and animal products. Brucellosis is also important in terms of the frequency and severity of human cases, being classed as one of the major zoonoses. As it is transmitted to humans mainly through direct contact with infected animals and the consumption of unpasteurised milk and dairy products, to control human brucellosis sustainably it is necessary to control the infection in animals.

In the past, brucellosis in cattle and small ruminants has been the main focus of control programmes. The epidemiological characteristics, incidence rates and impact of brucellosis in these species vary hugely from one country and farming system to another. Even though numerous tools and methods are available, governed by the same basic principles, the use of a particular control strategy cannot be extrapolated to every region of the world, or to all countries in the same region, or even to all areas of a single country. For this reason, it would be too simplistic to recommend a single global or regional strategy: in all likelihood, the most appropriate approach is a national one.

The standards published in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (1) (Chapter 11.3. for cattle, Chapters 14.1. and 14.7. for sheep and goats and Chapter 15.3. for pigs) are basic principles that Member Countries can use to prevent the introduction of *Brucella* into free herds or zones, as well as to define national control strategies in endemic areas. In addition, the OIE has seven Reference Laboratories for animal brucellosis whose officially designated experts form a support network for controlling the disease.

The OIE took part in a regional meeting on brucellosis held by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Izmir, Turkey, from 9 to 11 April 2013, which was attended by representatives from Eastern European and Central Asian countries, international organisations (FAO, OIE and World Health Organization) and institutions, and by brucellosis experts. The meeting examined each country's situation and control methods. The FAO, with OIE support, will draft a guide to preparing national programmes for brucellosis prevention and control in cattle and small ruminants. In countries where brucellosis is endemic, a progressive control approach is preferred; for example, by targeting certain areas or farming systems with the highest risk or incidence of the disease. Such targeting will require a series of stages to be defined, together with activities tailored to local conditions, and objectives for each phase of the programme. The expected outcome of animal health programmes is to bring human brucellosis under control, so cooperation with the public health authorities should also be systematically promoted.

1. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2012). – *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, 21st Ed. OIE, Paris.
Available at: www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/?htmfile=sommaire.htm (accessed on 28 June 2013).

activities of Reference Laboratories & Collaborating Centres

Botswana and the UK look towards new collaborative horizons

20 March 2013, Gaborone, Botswana

Botswana and the United Kingdom (UK) are looking towards new collaborative horizons as the sun sets on their OIE twinning project for avian influenza and Newcastle disease. The Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory (BVNL) in Gaborone hosted the Animal Health Veterinary Laboratory Agency (AHVLA) to mark the end of the project but hopefully not the end of their close cooperation.

The twinning project financed by the OIE World Fund started in February 2009, with the aim of establishing BNVL as a regional centre for the diagnosis of avian influenza and Newcastle disease. The specific objectives of the project were to develop BNVL's ability to conduct confirmatory diagnosis and virus characterisation, as well as to: produce diagnostic reagents, ensure good laboratory practices/quality management systems, develop and implement a laboratory contingency plan for avian influenza and Newcastle disease, carry out virus exchange between BNVL and AHVLA and to develop the BNVL's capacity to conduct epidemiological surveys of avian influenza and Newcastle disease.

The meeting was officially opened by Dr Neo Mapitse, the OIE Sub-Regional Representative, who highlighted the achievements and impact of the OIE Twinning Programme.

Dr K. Moagabo, the National Project Focal Point, expressed his appreciation. 'Before the twinning project, BNVL did not have the capacity for molecular diagnostic tests for avian influenza or Newcastle disease and we could not conduct full antibody typing by haemagglutination and neuraminidase inhibition tests and for Newcastle disease with monoclonal antibodies, therefore the twinning project has vastly improved our diagnostic capacity.'

The twinning project also successfully coordinated its activities with those of a number of other donors and projects at BNVL. Dr L. Modisa, Director of Veterinary Services and OIE Delegate, acknowledged the support the laboratory had obtained from the OIE and also from other partners, such as FAO, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the EU, the United States Agency for International Development and the African Union–Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources, and said that, in its future planning, BNVL should consider how to attract donor support for these vital activities.

The Chairman of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Veterinary Laboratories Sub-Committee, FAO Representatives and the OIE Representative also pledged their support to work with BNVL to attract further donor support. However it was emphasised that the main support for this regional initiative should continue to be led by SADC.

In the true spirit of twinning, Professor Ian Brown, Designated Expert of the OIE Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza/ Newcastle Disease at AHVLA (UK), expressed his commitment to a long-lasting relationship with BNVL. 'AHVLA will continue the strong relationship and technical support, including collaboration on research, with BNVL as this is important for both laboratories.'

Dr C. Marobela-Raborokgwe, Head of the BNVL, highlighted some key benefits of twinning, including staff training in the areas of proficiency testing, contingency planning, quality management and good laboratory practices.

The meeting was attended by experts and Project Focal Points from both AHVLA and BNVL, the Chairman of the SADC Veterinary Laboratories Sub-Committee, and key scientists from BNVL.

news from Member Countries

Self-declaration

Other than for African horse sickness, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, classical swine fever, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, foot and mouth disease and peste des petits ruminants*, for which the OIE currently has a procedure of official recognition of status, the self-declaration of freedom of a country or a territory from a given OIE-listed disease is under the responsibility of the Member concerned. The OIE is not responsible for inaccuracies in the publication of self-declarations concerning the status of a country or zone with regard to a disease.*

** Resolution No. 29 adopted in May 2013 at the 81st OIE General Session*

Self-declaration by Burkina Faso on the recovery of its freedom from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

submitted to the OIE on 21 March 2013 by Dr Lassina Ouattara, Delegate of Burkina Faso to the OIE, Director-General, Veterinary Services, Ministry of Animal Resources, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Poultry are farmed in all regions of Burkina Faso, and are a significant source of income for the population. Poultry are short-cycle production animals that help to reduce poverty in both urban and rural areas.

In 2012, the total estimated population of all poultry species was 38,637,000. Farming methods are 24% intensive or semi-intensive and 76% traditional. Poultry farming faces a number of constraints, including animal health. Despite the efforts of the Veterinary Services, poultry are prey to parasitic and infectious diseases, including Newcastle disease. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) made its first appearance in Burkina Faso in 2006. All the outbreaks were eliminated, using an effective control strategy and appropriate human and material resources. As all clinical and serological surveillance since then has demonstrated the absence of further outbreaks, as well as the absence of virus circulation in former outbreak areas, Burkina Faso declares itself free from notifiable avian influenza and highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses, in accordance with Article 10.4.4. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, 2012 edition.

Outbreaks of notifiable avian influenza and highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses (subtype H5N1) in 2006 and crisis management

Burkina Faso experienced a total of four outbreaks of HPAI (subtype H5N1) between March and May 2006. The disease made its first appearance in the country on 1 March 2006 at Barogo (Gampéla) in the department of Saaba (Kadiogo Province, Central region). The other three outbreaks occurred in Ouagadougou (sector 2, Kadiogo Province, Central region); Ténado (Sanguié Province, Centre West region); and Bobo Dioulasso (sector 20, Houet Province, Hauts Bassins region). The confirmatory diagnosis of avian influenza virus subtype H5N1 in all four outbreaks was made by two OIE Reference Laboratories: Instituto Zooprofilatico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe) in Padua (Italy) and the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Weybridge (United Kingdom). The following map gives the location of the four outbreaks that occurred in Burkina Faso in 2006.

Fig. 1

Location of outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus in 2006

Source: OIE World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID), 2012

The disease affected 15,564 domestic birds: made up of intensively farmed hens and guinea fowl and free-range hens and chickens. The following table provides a breakdown of the birds in each outbreak.

As Burkina Faso already had a prevention and control plan in place against HPAI when the disease occurred (adopted by the government on 16 February 2006), the following control measures provided for in the plan were implemented to eliminate all outbreaks:

– control of wildlife (migratory bird) reservoirs of the disease

– stamping out of birds in the outbreak areas, followed by compensation to farmers

– quarantine

– restriction of bird movements within the country

– disinfection of poultry houses

– enhanced epidemiological surveillance

– care by the public health services of people in contact with the birds involved in the outbreaks (no human infection was detected).

Implementation of these control measures led to the destruction of 15,687 hens, 586 guinea fowl, 74 ducks, 11 turkeys, 886 pigeons and 26,700 eggs, with compensation paid to 1,492 poultry owners from funds released from the State budget. Funding for all these measures came from the State and various technical and financial partners.

An extensive information and awareness campaign was carried out among the public, poultry-sector stakeholders and administrative, religious and customary authorities, in line with a multimedia communication plan, which contributed to the success of the operation. The event was terminated on 22 May 2006.

Table I

Breakdown of highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in 2006

Date of occurrence	Province	Site	Susceptible animals	Sick	Died	Destroyed
1 March 2006	Kadiogo	Barogo	6,461	10	10	6,451
18 May 2006	Kadiogo	Ouagadougou (sector 2)	1,259	3	3	1,256
18 May 2006	Houet	Bobo (sector 20)	7,320	5	5	7,315
18 May 2006	Sanguié	Ténado	524	2	2	522
Total	**3**	**4**	**15,564**	**20**	**20**	**15,544**

Source: Directorate-General of Veterinary Services, Burkina Faso, 2006

There is also a communication plan for HPAI. Poultry farmers have also been trained in the proper application of biosecurity measures.

In terms of coordination, all the activities were managed:

– at the national level, by the National Committee for the Management of Epizootics, established by decree 2006-05/MRA of 14 February 2006 (chaired by the Minister for Animal Resources), the Technical Committee for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Prevention and Response, established by decree 2006-06/MRA/MS/MAHRH/MECV/MESSR/MCPEA/MFB/MATD/MI of 22 February 2006 (chaired by the Director-General of Veterinary Services), and the Fund Management Unit, established by decree 2006-07/MRA/MFB of 22 March 2006;

– at regional and provincial levels, by 13 regional committees and 45 provincial committees for the management of epizootics.

Surveillance of notifiable highly pathogenic avian influenza in domestic and wild birds

Avian influenza is on the list of priority diseases of the Epidemiological Surveillance Network for Animal Diseases in Burkina Faso (RESUREP). It was first included in November 2005.

RESUREP was established by decree 99-003 MRA/SG/DGSV of 20 January 1999 on the establishment, functions and organisation of an epidemiological surveillance network for animal diseases in Burkina Faso. RESUREP comprises 104 epidemiological surveillance posts, including 18 border inspection posts, four regional laboratories (Bobo-Dioulasso, Fada N'Gourma, Ouahigouya and Tenkodogo) and the National Livestock Laboratory in Ouagadougou.

The Ministry of Animal Resources is responsible for the surveillance of domestic birds, while the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development is responsible for the surveillance of wild birds, in close collaboration with livestock officers.

RESUREP officials were trained in recognising the disease and in techniques for collecting, packaging, storing and shipping suspected samples to the laboratory. They have equipment for protecting, collecting, storing and shipping samples.

Since 2006, RESUREP officials have been conducting active surveillance at risk sites (border villages, poultry markets and poultry houses bordering bodies of water used by wild birds) in order to detect early signs of the disease. Monthly reports on active clinical surveillance and passive surveillance are sent to the RESUREP Central Unit.

In suspected cases, RESUREP officials are required to alert the Central Unit directly, without delay. They must implement initial animal health measures and take samples, which they send to the National Livestock Laboratory. Mobile teams of epidemiologists from the Animal Health Division and specialists from the National Livestock Laboratory support field staff by carrying out more in-depth epidemiological and clinical investigations, conducting rapid diagnostic tests and collecting samples.

In the event of a confirmed outbreak, control measures are implemented in the field with the support of the Directorate-General of Veterinary Services. The situation is managed at national level by the National Committee for the Management of Epizootics and by its branches at field level.

Active and passive surveillance in the field led to suspicions and samples were taken. After analysis by the National Livestock Laboratory in Ouagadougou, the samples were sent to the OIE Reference Laboratories. A total of 227 organ and serum samples were analysed: they all proved negative after testing by IZSVe in Padua.

To confirm the absence of HPAI virus circulation, active surveillance was conducted in 2010 and 2011 among waterfowl populations in the four former outbreak areas. Serological and virological surveys were carried out on chicken, guinea fowl, duck and turkey farms. For these surveys, a total of 414 tracheal and cloacal swabs were analysed by the National Livestock Laboratory, using the indirect haemagglutination assay and reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT PCR), with 84 samples being sent to IZSVe for confirmation by real-time PCR. The results of all these analyses confirmed the absence of HPAI virus circulation in the waterfowl populations presumed to be the reservoir.

In 2008, as part of the FAO/CIRAD Epidemiology of Avian Influenza in Africa (EPIAAF) Survey, the OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory in Padua used RT-PCR to analyse 670 cloacal samples and 670 tracheal samples collected from chickens, guinea fowl, geese and turkeys in the areas in Burkina Faso where HPAI had occurred in 2006: all tested negative for the avian influenza virus. An analysis by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay of 646 sera collected from the same birds yielded a 10% seroprevalence rate of positive sera.

The serological analysis of 351 samples collected in April and May 2011 in the municipalities and villages that had experienced the outbreaks in 2006 revealed no presence of antibodies against H5 and H7 virus subtypes. These serological results

were confirmed by the OIE Reference Laboratory in Padua, where virological research also proved negative.

Conclusion

In 2006, Burkina Faso experienced a total of four outbreaks of notifiable HPAI, which were all eliminated by the application of control measures that proved to be effective, as the event was terminated on 22 May 2006. Active and passive epidemiological surveillance have detected no further outbreak since that date. The various serological surveys carried out in 2011 revealed no circulation of the virus, even in the waterfowl populations presumed to be the reservoir.

Burkina Faso's freedom from notifiable avian influenza and HPAI viruses will be preserved by maintaining and enhancing epidemiological surveillance of domestic and wild birds for the early detection of any suspicion of avian influenza and by conducting serological and virological surveys. These activities will be supported by providing information, training and awareness-raising to both modern and traditional farmers on good farming practices and the importance of their participation in passive surveillance of HPAI and other poultry diseases. In terms of diagnosis, the National Livestock Laboratory has the capacity to make a more accurate and early diagnosis of the disease. Procedures for shipping samples to Reference Laboratories have been established to shorten the time between sending samples and receiving the results.

The Delegate of Burkina Faso to the OIE agrees to notify the OIE immediately of any epidemiological event concerning notifiable avian influenza or HPAI viruses that might occur in Burkina Faso.

Based on the above, the Delegate of Burkina Faso therefore declares that his country has recovered its freedom from notifiable highly pathogenic avian influenza and highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses, in accordance with Article 10.4.4. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, 2012 edition.

Self-declaration by Estonia on the recovery of its rabies-free status

submitted to the OIE on 3 April 2013 by Dr Ago Pärtel, Delegate of Estonia to the OIE, Chief Veterinary Officer, Veterinary and Food Board, Ministry of Agriculture, Tallinn, Estonia

Notification

Rabies is a disease subject to compulsory notification since 1950; statistical data from outbreaks in the territory of Estonia are available, starting from this year. The Regulation Ministry of Agriculture No. 67 'Rabies Control Rules' based on the Infectious Animal Disease Control Act is the contemporary legal act enforcing the responsibility to declare any suspicion of rabies to the Veterinary Services.

Epidemiological evolution

According to records, dog-mediated rabies was a common disease in Estonia in the middle of last century. Thanks to the compulsory vaccination of cats and dogs since 1953, and the extermination of stray animals, urban rabies was eliminated in 1959. No case of disease was notified in the period between 1960 and 1967. However, a new epizootic of sylvatic rabies reached Estonian territory in 1968 and spread rapidly all over the country, including to islands. Rabies has been endemic in Estonia for virtually 40 years, with peaks in infection in 1986 (451 cases) and 2003 (812 cases). Some 76% of all cases were found in wild animals, predominantly in red foxes and raccoon dogs, the reservoirs of the disease in the area. Domestic animals most commonly affected were dogs, cats and bovines (Fig. 1).

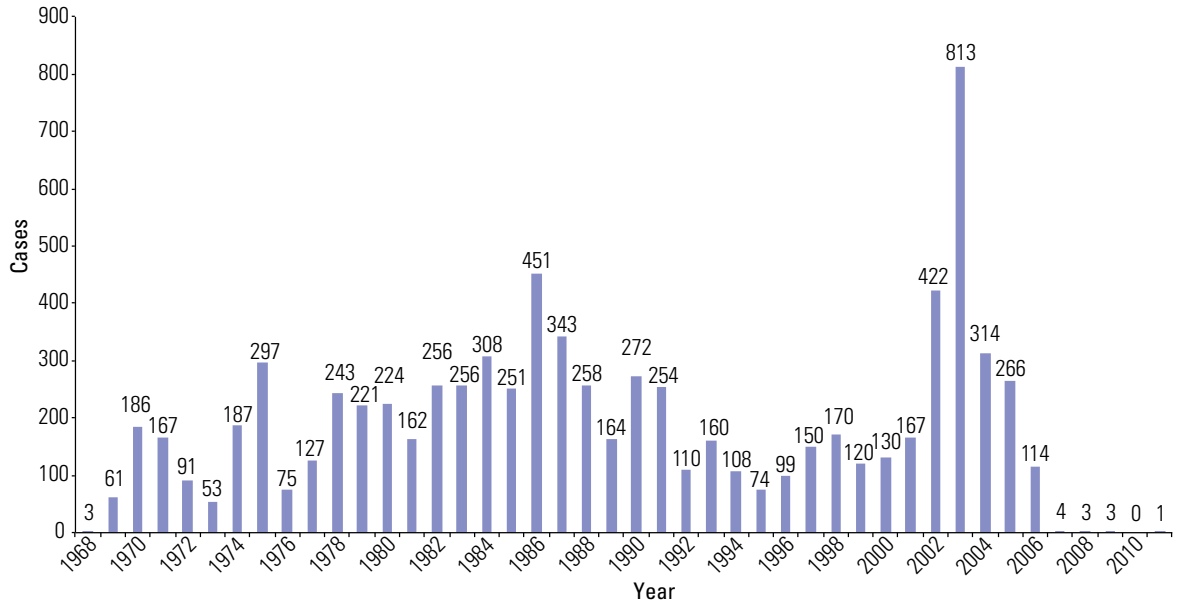


Fig. 1

Rabies cases in Estonia from 1968 to 2011

In total, 27 cases of rabies have been diagnosed in humans since World War II. The last human death due to rabies was confirmed in 1986.

Eradication measures

Compulsory annual vaccination of companion/pet animals and the vaccination of livestock on outbreak sites was a suitable methodology to suppress the spread of infection among domestic animals, but ineffective to eradicate fox- and raccoon dog-mediated rabies, so a new strategy, based on long-term and large–scale oral rabies vaccination (ORV) of wildlife, was developed in 2003 to 2004. The first ORV campaign was implemented in autumn of 2005 and covered two-thirds of Estonian territory in the north. The following spring, ORV activities were also expanded to southern areas of the country. In the years 2006 to 2010, aerial baits were dropped in spring and autumn over the whole country, with the exception of well-defined ranges (water fields, urban areas, roads etc.). Baits of the type Rabigen SAG2 were distributed manually via a specially constructed tube from small aeroplanes with an average density of 20 baits per square kilometre. On average, 860,000 oral baits were distributed per campaign and 1.72 million baits per year. As a result of oral ORV campaigns being conducted twice a year and covering the entire area of the Republic, the incidence of rabies cases decreased dramatically (from 266 in 2005 to 0 in 2010). As a result of the improved rabies situation since 2011, ORV has been restricted to a buffer zone, 20–50 km deep (Fig. 2), covering an area of 9,325 km2 in the north-eastern, south-eastern and southern areas bordering neighbouring infected countries.

Surveillance and monitoring

Passive surveillance of rabies in Estonia is based upon a network of authorised veterinarians and veterinary officials. All suspected cases of rabies should be notified to the Veterinary Services and relevant samples collected and submitted to the Veterinary and Food Laboratory (VFL) of Estonia. The costs of rabies investigations (as well as the preventive vaccination costs for pet animals) are covered from the State Budget. Samples collected for rabies surveillance and for monitoring ORV campaigns are analysed at the VFL Central Laboratory in Tartu, the National Reference Laboratory for rabies. The Tallinn department of the VFL performs diagnostic work on animals suspected to have rabies originating from northern Estonia.

Besides to above mentioned investigations in rabies-suspected wild and domestic animals in the frames of the monitoring of the efficacy of ORV programme starting from year 2008 brain samples are collected from eight foxes/raccoon dogs per 100 km2 for virus investigations. From year 2009 sample size was reduced to four target animals per 100 km2 as recommended by WHO Expert Consultation on Rabies (First Report, 2005). Samples for monitoring of ORV are collected by Estonian Hunters Organisation. For detection of virus preferable group to target are indicator animals (foxes/raccoon dogs showing abnormal behaviour suggestive of rabies, found dead and road-kills). Number of animals investigated to confirm or overrule presence of rabies virus in years 2005-2012 and detected positive cases can be observed in Figure 3. All positive findings

Fig. 2
Estonia: oral rabies vaccination buffer zone since 2011

have been confirmed among clinically suspected animals.

Number of rabies-suspected animals has ranked between 308-190 during last five-year period. The last case of rabies clearly caused by circulation of virus within Estonian indigenous fauna occurred in March 2008 in North Estonia. Despite of intensified risk-based surveillance of target animals, only four rabies cases has been diagnosed since then. In summer 2009, three rabid foxes were found in the south-east close to (less than 5 km) the Estonian-Russian Federation border. Again in early January 2011 one raccoon dog with unnatural behaviour was detected in the same area, approximately 1 km from the common border. The animal was sampled and his carcass destroyed on 7 of January. The laboratory confirmed the case on 10 January 2011. Starting from this date no rabies cases have been confirmed in Estonia. All positive rabies cases occurred in ORV area since the beginning of eradication programme have undergone in European Union reference laboratory investigations to detect virus genotype. No vaccine-induced rabies case has occurred. All positive animals were infected with classical rabies virus (genotype 1), wild rabies strains present in Estonia. From the beginning of ORV of wildlife, results of vaccination have been monitored by the control of bait uptake by detection of marker traces in teeth of target population and evaluation of immunisation rates by ELISA test in serum samples. An average bait uptake was shown to be as high as 85% and 87% in raccoon dogs and foxes in 2006-2011. Corresponding immunisation rates as assessed by ELISA were 46% in raccoon dogs and 44% in foxes.

Importation procedures

As Member State of European Union (EU), Estonia follows the importation procedures in line with EU legislation. Importation procedures respected are enacted by Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Importation of susceptible pet animals is allowed in case they have been vaccinated for rabies and animals originated from defined countries with unfavourable rabies situation should additionally undergo laboratory testing to prove existence of sufficient immune-response. In accordance with Decree of Director General of Veterinary and Food Board of Estonia importation of unvaccinated dogs, cats and ferrets under the age of three months for commercial reasons is prohibited.

Conclusion

Via ORV of wildlife in total territory of country starting from 2006 Estonia has succeeded within three-year period in eliminating terrestrial rabies from the main parts of the country. Although three cases of rabies were detected in summer

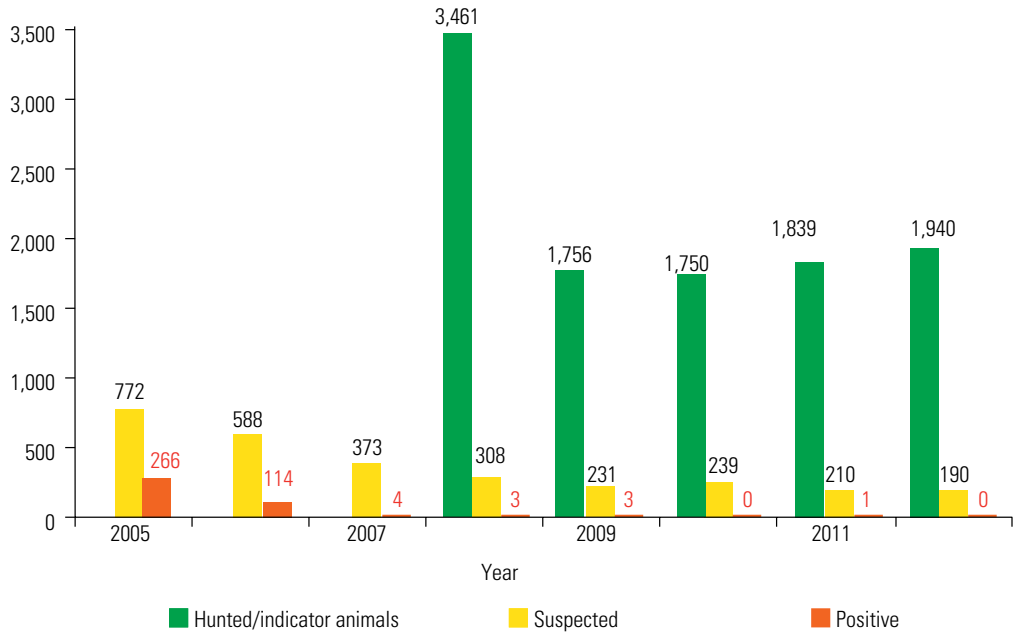


Fig. 3
Number of rabies investigations and cases from 2005 to 2012

2009 and one in January 2011 in short range from south-east border of country, no infection have been found in other parts of Estonia since March 2008. An adequate system of laboratory-based rabies surveillance and ORV monitoring has been put in place and investigation results obtained confirm the decent outcome of the programme. To reduce as much as possible the threat of re-incursion of rabies into Estonian territory from neighbouring infected areas, on-going ORV will be implemented in buffer – zone with sufficient depth in country borders. Contracts have been undersigned with vaccine producer and aerial company to start instantly additional emergency vaccination in case of need. Efforts will be continued to maintain surveillance awareness and educate public about the risk of reintroduction of disease via illegal importation of pets or natural migration of infected wildlife.

No cases of rabies have been reported in humans or animals over the past two years in Estonia. The last case of rabies occurred in January 2011: one rabies-suspected raccoon dog was found in south-east border of country in Põlva county, district of Värska, approximately 1 km from the common border. It was sampled and his carcass destroyed on 7 of January. The laboratory confirmed the case on 10 January 2011.

Therefore, considering the before mentioned information,
– and the fact that more than two years have elapsed since the last case of rabies was detected on 7 January 2011,
– and that no case was detected throughout the monitoring programme for rabies,
– and in accordance with Article 8.10.2 of Chapter 8.10. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (2012);
Estonia complies with the conditions to be considered a rabies free country and the Delegate of Estonia to the OIE declares that his country has regained its rabies-free status.

Self-declaration by Belgium on the recovery of its freedom from bluetongue

submitted to the OIE on 24 May 2013 by Dr Pierre Naassens, Delegate of Belgium to the OIE, Director, Directorate-General for Policy Control, Animal Health and Animal Product Safety Division, Federal Food Safety Agency (AFSCA), Brussels, Belgium

Epidemiological background

The bluetongue virus (serotype 8), or BTV-8, was identified in Belgium for the first time by the National Reference Laboratory on 18 August 2006, coinciding with a period when the virus was also identified in other Northern European countries. The Belgian authorities sent the OIE an immediate notification on the same day. The disease spread rapidly throughout the country and Belgium was declared a restriction zone for serotype BTV-8.

The number of identified cases peaked in 2007. In 2008, a compulsory nationwide vaccination campaign against BTV-8 reduced the incidence of the disease significantly.

A total of 7,613 outbreaks were reported during this episode, affecting cattle, sheep, goats and deer.

No cases were detected in 2009 or in subsequent years.

Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of bluetongue outbreaks between 2006 and 2009.

It was not possible to determine how the bluetongue virus was introduced into Northern Europe. The spread of the virus in Belgium was facilitated by the presence of virus vectors (47 Culicoides species were identified between 2007 and 2010).

An epidemiological monitoring programme was established immediately after the emergence of the virus and is still in progress, to detect any resurgence of the disease in Belgium.

Legal provisions

Measures against bluetongue are regulated by the following European and Belgian legislation:

– Council Directive 2000/75/EC of 20 November 2000, laying down specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue

– Commission Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 of 26 October 2007, on implementing rules for Council Directive 2000/75/EC as regards the control, monitoring, surveillance and restrictions on movements of certain animals of susceptible species in relation to bluetongue

– the Animal Health Act of 24 March 1987

– the Royal decree of 25 April 1988 designating animal

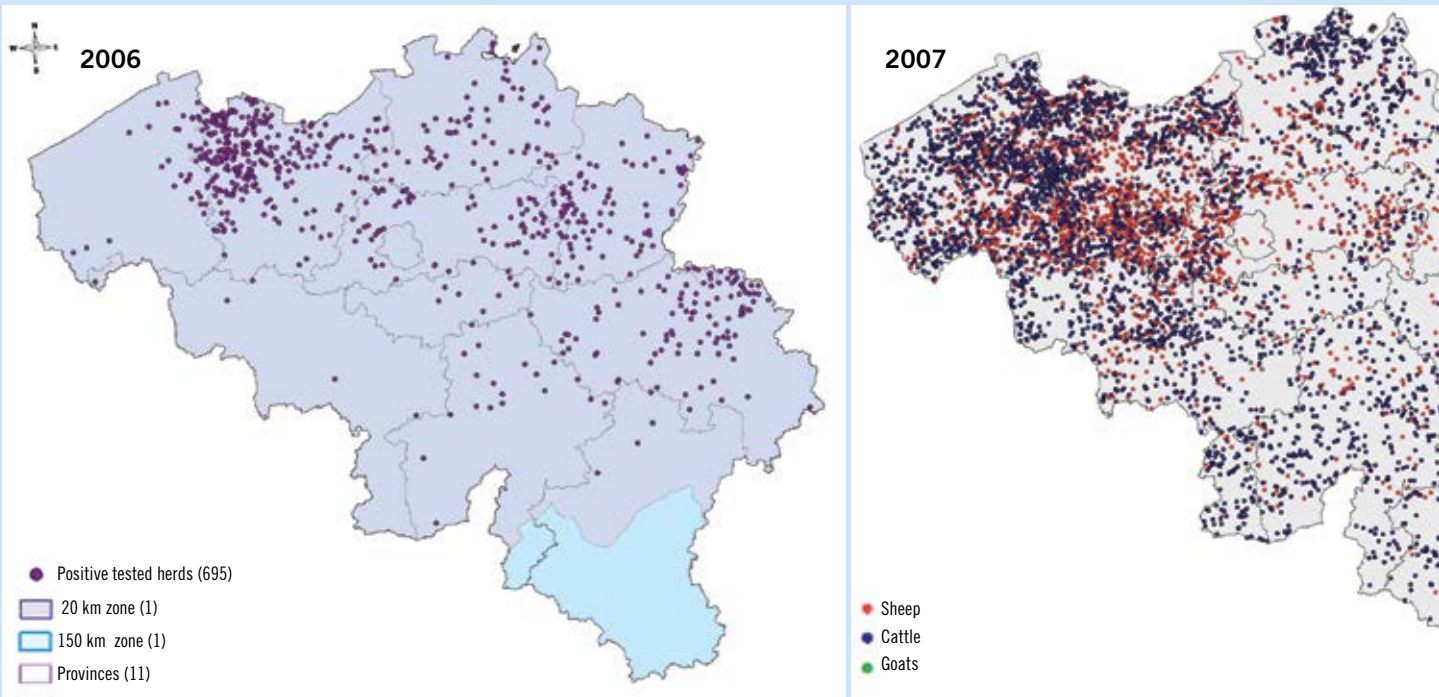


Fig. 1

Epidemiological status of bluetongue in Belgium between 2006 and 2008

diseases subject to the application of Chapter III of the Animal Health Act of 24 March 1987

– the Royal decree of 7 May 2008 on bluetongue control and eradication

– the Ministerial order of 7 May 2008 on bluetongue vaccination.

Official measures

Vaccination using inactivated BTV-8 vaccines was compulsory in 2008, 2009 and 2010 for cattle (except veal calves) and sheep. In 2011, this became voluntary vaccination. Vaccination of goats and deer was voluntary.

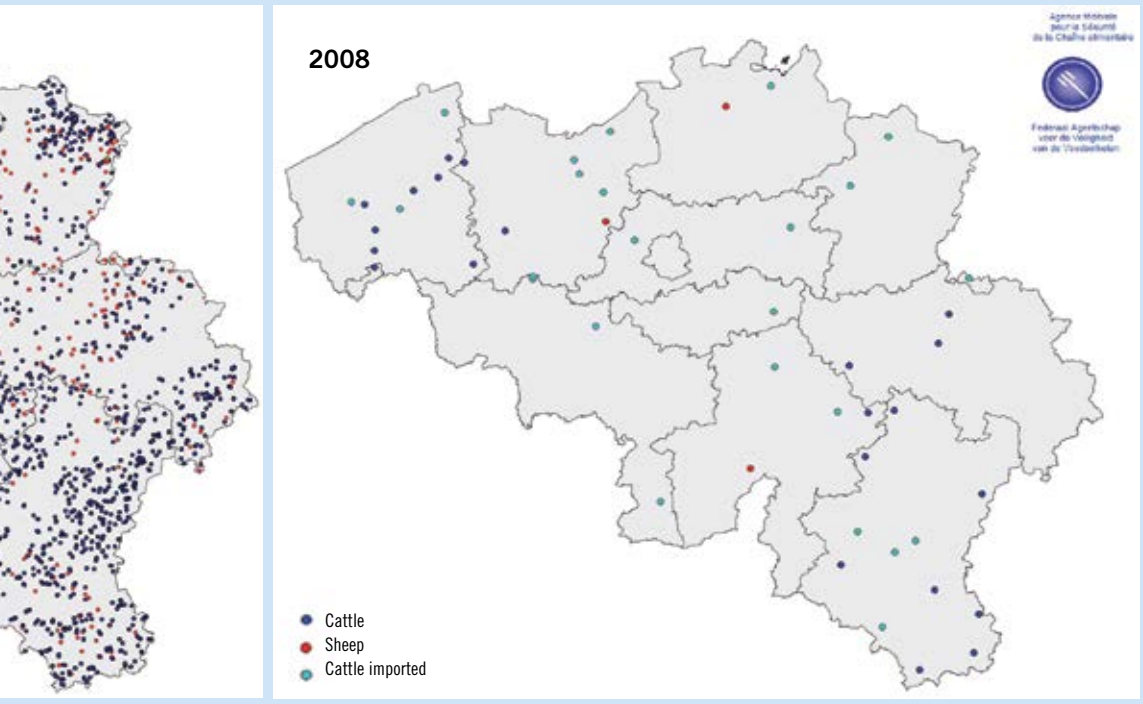
An epidemiological monitoring programme was established immediately after the emergence of the virus. The programme is based on: testing by polymerase chain reaction and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay in suspected cases (e.g. abortion); testing of young unvaccinated animals in sentinel herds; and entomological monitoring (i.e. capture and identification of insect vectors by traps scattered throughout the country).

No cases have been detected in Belgium since late 2008 and the epidemiological monitoring programme has demonstrated the absence of virus circulation in Belgian cattle since 2009.

There is an on-going programme of surveillance (compulsory notification, investigation of suspicions) and monitoring (annual testing of sentinel herds spread across the country) to identify and control any resurgence of the virus as quickly as possible. An entomological monitoring programme to monitor the presence of various disease vectors at risk sites (e.g. airports) is also in progress.

Based on the above, and on the fact that:

– more than three years have elapsed since the last case of bluetongue was detected in December 2008
– the cattle and small ruminant surveillance programme has revealed no sign of bluetongue virus circulation
– and, in accordance with Chapter 8.3., Article 8.3.3., of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (2012 edition);
the Delegate of Belgium to the OIE declares that his country recovered its freedom from bluetongue on 15 February 2012.



Self-declaration by Belgium of its freedom from Aujeszky's disease

submitted to the OIE on 24 May 2013 by Dr Pierre Naassens, Delegate of Belgium to the OIE, Director, Directorate-General for Policy Control, Animal Health and Animal Product Safety Division, Federal Food Safety Agency (AFSCA), Brussels, Belgium

Epidemiological background

Aujeszky's disease has been a notifiable disease in Belgium since 1987. Control of this disease began in 1993. Initially, it was based on compulsory vaccination with a marker vaccine and culling of infected pigs.

In 1999, it became mandatory for swine herds to obtain official Aujeszky's disease status and for blood tests to be performed three times a year in order to maintain or improve that status.

The latest clinical outbreaks of Aujeszky's disease in swine herds date back to 2002.

The Belgian control programme for Aujeszky's disease was approved by the European Commission in 2002.

This control programme helped to bring down the seroprevalence of the disease from 2.4% of herds testing positive for glycoprotein E in 2003 to eradication in 2009.

Legal provisions

Measures against Aujeszky's disease are regulated by the following European and Belgian legislation:

– Commission Decision 2008/185/EC of 21 February 2008, on additional guarantees in intra-Community trade of pigs relating to Aujeszky's disease and criteria to provide information on this disease

– the Animal Health Act of 24 March 1987

– the Royal decree of 25 April 1988 designating animal diseases subject to the application of Chapter III of the Animal Health Act of 24 March 1987

– the Royal decree of 12 October 2010 on the control of Aujeszky's disease

– the Ministerial order of 8 March 1993 on measures for the prevention and detection of Aujeszky's disease

– the Ministerial order of 21 April 1999 laying down the conditions for obtaining and maintaining Aujeszky's disease status.

Official measures

Belgium ceased preventive vaccination of its pig population in early 2009 and vaccination has been prohibited since 1 January 2011. No case of Aujeszky's disease has been detected since.

The European Commission granted Belgium Aujeszky's disease-free status on 5 October 2011.

There is an on-going programme of surveillance (compulsory notification, investigation of suspicions) and epidemiological monitoring (compulsory annual serological tests in swine herds) to identify and control any resurgence of the virus as quickly as possible. Special attention is paid to biosecurity on pig farms, in particular to prevent Aujeszky's disease from being introduced from boars living in the wild.

Based on the above, and on the fact that:
– more than five years have elapsed since the last positive serological result for Aujeszky's disease was confirmed
– vaccination has been prohibited for more than two years
– the swine surveillance programme has revealed no sign of Aujeszky's disease virus circulation for more than seven years
– and, in accordance with Chapter 8.2., Article 8.2.4. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (2012 edition),
the Delegate of Belgium to the OIE declares his country to have been free from Aujeszky's disease since 5 October 2011.

Self-declaration by Romania of its scrapie-free-zones status

submitted to the OIE on 29 April 2013 by Dr Lazar Niculae, Delegate of Romania to the OIE, Acting Director General, National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority, Bucharest, Romania

Background information

The National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (NSVFSA) is the Central Veterinary Authority responsible for the surveillance and control of animal diseases in Romania.

The NSVFSA comprises 42 Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety County Directorates (SVFSCD), which are responsible for the surveillance and control of animal diseases in the 42 administrative zones of Romania.

Romania is divided into 42 administrative territorial zones ('*județe*'), including Bucharest Municipality.

In Romania, scrapie has been a compulsory notifiable disease since 1974, according to the Animal Health Act No. 60/1974. Thus, the NSVFSA requires compulsory notification of any suspicion of scrapie by any owner or keeper of sheep and goats (susceptible animals).

The risk analysis for scrapie has shown that the following administrative zones (**județe**) in Romania are free of this disease: Arges, Bacau, Botosani, Brasov, Covasna, Dimbovita, Giurgiu, Gorj, Harghita, Maramures, Mehedinti, Neamt, Olt, Salaj, Tulcea, Vaslui, Vilcea, Vrancea and M. Bucuresti

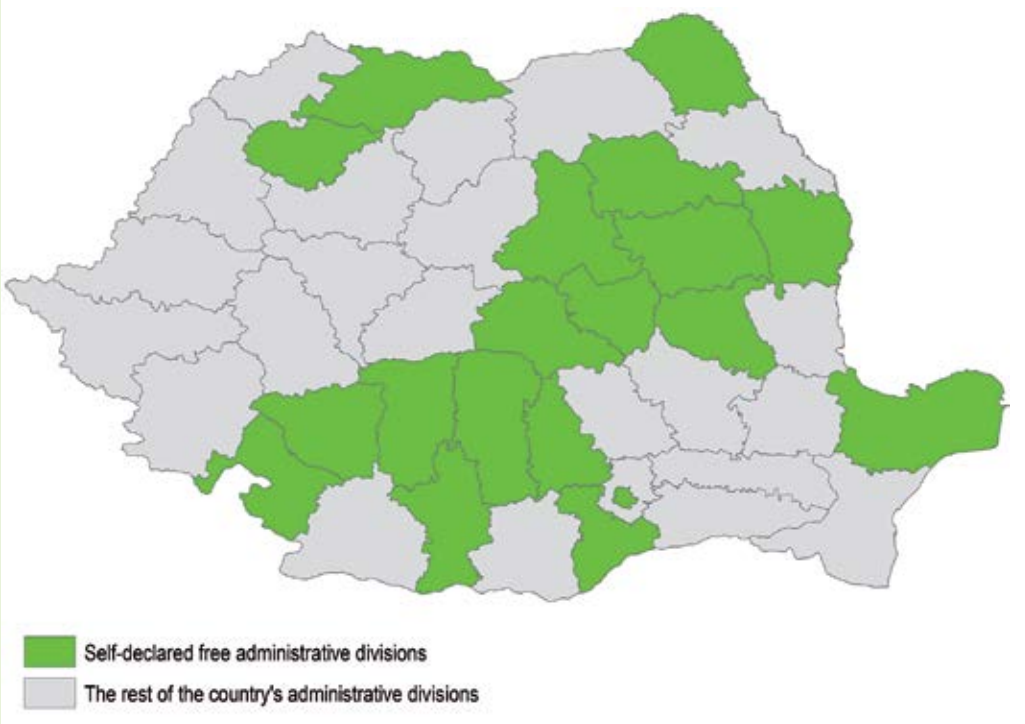
Surveillance programmes and epidemiological data

Since 1993, Romania has implemented an information/awareness programme for all those involved in the prevention, control and eradication of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), including scrapie. On the NSVFSA website, a practical guide is posted on scrapie and other TSEs in small ruminants (sheep and goats). This guide is addressed mainly to farmers (sheep and goat farms), official and private veterinarians and para-veterinarians (www.ansvsa.ro/?pag = 855).

Since 2002, within the framework of EU accession and while incorporating EU legislation into its own laws, Romania has adopted measures for the prevention, control and eradication of TSEs, in full compliance with EU legislation (Regulation EC No. 999/2001).

Since 2007, Romania has implemented annual programmes, approved and co-funded by the EC, for the surveillance, control and eradication of scrapie.

Within these programmes active surveillance is performed. This is carried out by testing healthy animals not suspected of being infected with any form of TSE. Passive surveillance is also



carried out by testing animals with clinical symptoms, notified by the owners.

Romania's national regulations are in full compliance with OIE international standards, and epidemiological data are regularly communicated to the OIE.

If positive cases of scrapie are found, movement restrictions and control and eradication measures are applied on the affected farms. These measures are in full compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001. Envisaged measures include the killing and complete destruction or slaughter of animals, followed by testing of animals over 18 months, until the official outbreak has ended, thus preventing the dissemination of disease into scrapie-free zones or farms.

Imported sheep and goats must be accompanied by health certificates attesting that they were born or reared on holdings that have never been diagnosed with scrapie. Sheep and goats for breeding must meet the requirements of subparagraph (i), paragraph (a) of Chapter A (I) of Annex VIII to Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001.

Imported semen and embryos from sheep and goats must meet the conditions set out in Annex VIII, Chapter A, Part (d) of Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001.

The scrapie surveillance programme is implemented according to the National Strategic Programme for the Monitoring, Control and Eradication of Scrapie, issued by the NSVFSA and approved by the Romanian government. The national programme is implemented in all 42 DSVSA zones.

The routine tests for scrapie are carried out by the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) and at 32 other zonal state veterinary laboratories. The confirmatory tests for scrapie diagnosis are carried out exclusively within the NRL. The methods used for TSE surveillance and confirmation are those specified in the OIE *Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines* and Regulation EC No. 999/2001.

All the records of TSE diagnostic tests and epidemiological data are kept by the SVFSCD zones (județe). The NSVFSA keeps all records for the whole Romanian territory. The data are kept for at least seven years, particularly the laboratory working notebooks and, where appropriate, paraffin blocks and immunoimpression of confirmation tests (Western blots).

The national database is a very important tool for disease surveillance and for monitoring animals and product traceability. All Romanian sheep and goats are individually identified and registered and each holding or herd has an identification code recorded in the national database (holdings and animals). All sheep and goat movements are recorded on the national database. At the end of 2012, the combined population of sheep and goats was 14,632,960 animals (12,785,235 sheep and 1,847,725 goats), according to the national database.

The total number, by zone, of sheep, goats and holdings is set out in Annex 1.

Feeding ruminants with processed animal proteins (meat, bonemeal and blood, fish, milk, milk products and any animal fat protein flours) has been banned since 1997.

The feeding of all farm animals bred for human consumption with processed animal proteins has been banned since 2005.

National sampling and laboratory tests of feedstuffs have been applied since 2003, in order to control and prevent the feeding of farm animals with animal-origin proteins. This programme is based on microscopic checks for proteins of animal origin.

Conclusions

– risk assessment has demonstrated that the measures for risk management are properly applied and in force

– the evolution of scrapie is sporadic and limited to some zones, in relation to the total number of Romanian sheep and goats

– scrapie has never been diagnosed in the following zones: Arges, Bacau, Botosani, Brasov, Covasna, Dimbovita, Giurgiu, Gorj, Harghita, Maramures, Mehedinti, Neamt, Olt, Salaj, Tulcea, Vaslui, Vilcea, Vrancea and M. Bucuresti

– scrapie has been a compulsorily notifiable disease since 1974

– the scrapie surveillance, control and eradication programme applied in Romania is in full compliance with OIE standards and EU regulations

– since 2002, 169,528 sheep samples and 6,927 goat samples have been tested under the scrapie surveillance programme

– the results of these tests show the sporadic evolution of scrapie in Romania

– the incidence of scrapie is negligible compared with the sheep and goat population – 0.002% (314 cases/ 14,632,960 sheep and goats)

– scrapie was diagnosed on 77 farms (0.02%) from a total number of 299,994 farms registered on the national database

– laboratory results for the tests performed in the scrapie-free zones are laid out in Annex 2

– Romania reports all scrapie cases to the OIE, according to World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) procedures.

Therefore, considering the above information, and,

– since it can be documented that all animals moved between holdings or to slaughterhouses come from holdings with a known health status, free of any infectious diseases

– and, according to Chapters 14.9.2. and 14.9.3. of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2012)

– and, specifically regarding the fulfilment of condition c) of Point 2) of Article 14.9.3., Romania informs the OIE that, according to their national legislation on the accreditation of holdings as being free of scrapie, as of 3 December 2012, all holdings from the zones declared free of scrapie are registered free of scrapie, after having fulfilled the requirements of article 14.9.5.

the Delegate of Romania to the OIE declares that the following zones of Romania are free of scrapie: Arges, Bacau, Botosani, Brasov, Covasna, Dimbovita, Giurgiu, Gorj, Harghita, Maramures, Mehedinti, Neamt, Olt, Salaj, Tulcea, Vaslui, Vilcea, Vrancea and M. Bucuresti.

news from partners

Cooperation between the World Organisation for Animal Health, the University of Luxembourg and 'World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health' for a new postgraduate Certificate in Production Animals

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), University of Luxembourg and World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health (WVEPAH) have decided to join forces to meet the training needs of specialists in animal production worldwide. The question was, how best to ensure the production of quality animal-based foodstuffs that meet animal welfare standards and contribute to food safety?

The answer was to design, develop and organise a postgraduate Certificate in Production Animals. This training is intended for graduates of higher education and trained veterinarians*, preferably already in practice. All courses are provided under the aegis of the University of Luxembourg.

Through its companion animal branch, WVEPAH has a proven track record in providing high-quality postgraduate training for veterinarians worldwide. WVEPAH education programmes aim to supplement, update and refine skills by giving participants a comprehensive understanding of their speciality. Each programme

*Non-veterinary professionals with university education to a high level who are currently working in a branch of animal production may take certain courses, subject to approval, although they are not eligible for any diplomas awarded by the University of Luxembourg

covers a specialist production sector, including: broilers, layers, turkeys and waterfowl.

The internationally recognised Masters courses guarantee attainment of this level. Courses generally consist of three two-week residential modules, focusing heavily on clinical work and case studies.

Advanced module 2 will include course content on international animal health and welfare standards, in Iine with OIE recommendations (OIE regulation module).

The University of Luxembourg organises examinations under its authority and issues the WVEPAH Certificate in Production Animals: Poultry Production and Health.

The OIE issues an official acknowledgement of participation for the 'Regulation' module and for the acquisition of knowledge contained in that module.

All postgraduate education programmes are identical, regardless of where they are provided, and are officially accredited by a single degree. They should lead to the establishment of a community of veterinarians who are well integrated into existing poultry production structures worldwide.

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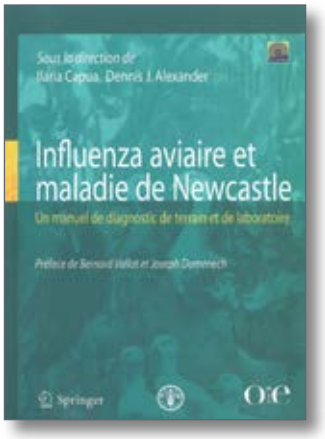
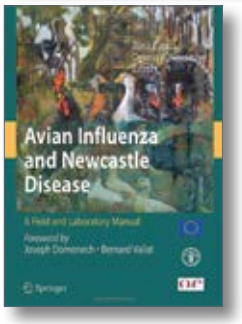
www.univ.lu – Email: lu@univ.lu
www.wvepah.org – Email: info@wvepah.org



French translation just released (2013)
212 pp.
ISBN: 978-2-287-99336-7
Springer-Verlag France
www.springer.com



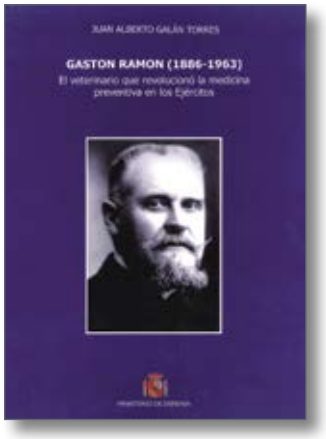
In English 2009

Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease A Field and Laboratory Manual

Editors: Ilaria Capua & Dennis J. Alexander

This book contains comprehensive and updated information on how to perform Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease diagnosis from the suspicion in the field to the characterisation of isolates. It provides guidelines to outbreak management, field investigation, necropsy techniques, sampling methods and complete laboratory diagnosis, including molecular methods. The outstanding images collected from field outbreaks, including clinical and pathological findings, and the selection of laboratory protocols make this publication unique. It will therefore be an invaluable tool for all veterinarians, scientists, animal health professionals, and public health officials involved in the management of these infections.

publications



In Spanish
2011
978-84-9781-684-7

Available from the Spanish Ministry of Defence at subpubl@oc.mde.es

Gaston Ramon (1886–1963): el veterinario que revolucionó la medicina preventiva en los ejércitos

[Gaston Ramon (1886–1963): the veterinarian who revolutionised preventive medicine in the armed forces]

Juan Alberto Galán Torres

This book about the life of eminent scientist Gaston Ramon (1886-1963) was published in 2011: a particularly opportune time since it coincided with World Veterinary Year. (Ramon also served as OIE Director General from May 1949 to May 1959.) This was a man who followed in the famous footsteps of Louis Pasteur in promoting science to an unprecedented degree, including medicine, veterinary science and other disciplines we now call the health sciences.

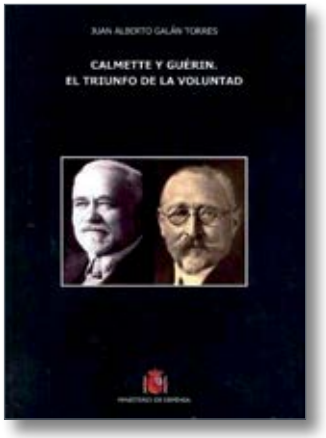
A thoughtful and unhurried reading will apprise us of the seldom appreciated but decisive veterinary work done by the military in controlling the diseases decimating livestock accompanying the operational forces. This contributed immeasurably to improving the health and effectiveness of the armed forces at all times.

There is no doubt that Gaston Ramon was an exceptional scientist whose life and work serves not only as a model for us all, but as a beacon for navigating the stormy sea of confusion currently reigning in the world of science, where the debate is divided between the essence of science and its inadequate (or downright distorting) popularisation.

It is also worth mentioning a book written in Spanish by the same author (Juan Alberto Galan Torres) and devoted to two exceptional personalities, Albert Calmette and Camille Guérin, entitled:

Calmette and Guerin: the triumph of determination
(Calmette y Guérin: El triunfo de la voluntad)

This book focuses in particular on their joint discovery of BCG vaccine to prevent tuberculosis in humans.



In Spanish
2013
978-84-9781-778-3

Available from the Spanish Ministry of Defence at subpubl@oc.mde.es

Calmette y Guérin: El triunfo de la voluntad

[Calmette and Guérin: the triumph of determination]

Juan Alberto Galán Torres

Workshop on OIE Standard-Setting

Belgrade, Serbia, 12–14 February 2013

© Dr Zoran Katrinka, Veterinary Chamber of Serbia (VSK)

Speakers at the workshop (from left to right: Dr N. Leboucq, OIE; Dr M. Klemm, DG SANCO)

This workshop on OIE standard-setting was organised and funded by the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) instrument of the European Commission, in collaboration with the Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) and the OIE, as the result of a request from the Veterinary Services of Serbia. Participants included the Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs), OIE Focal Points and staff from the central Veterinary Services of eight beneficiary countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [FYROM], Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey).

The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of these countries and encourage them to actively participate in the OIE standard-setting process by increasing collaboration, not only among these countries but also with other countries in the region, including European Union (EU) Member States.

One factor triggering the organisation of the workshop was the frequent absence of comment from the Balkan countries and Turkey on the OIE draft chapters proposed for adoption every year during the OIE General Session. Countries often lack knowledge, incentive and the financial resources to carry out the necessary in-country consultations. Moreover, for countries in the process of joining the EU, priority is given largely to the translation of EU legislation and regulation into their national legal framework.

The hoped-for aim of the workshop was to try to set up a consultation mechanism specific to Balkan countries (and Turkey), using existing sub-regional platforms for discussion if possible, and aligning it with the other mechanisms available at the regional level, namely:

– the 27 EU Member States process, coordinated by DG SANCO

– the new initiative launched during the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Fleesensee/Germany, September 2012), involving all 53 OIE Member Countries of the region.

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Group photo of the workshop participants

As a start, the Balkan countries and Turkey agreed to comment on the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* chapters concerning topics of particular importance to the region, such as classical swine fever (CSF), rabies, brucellosis and African swine fever. Given the importance of CSF in this region, the draft article on the inclusion of this disease as an OIE-listed disease, with a pathway to the recognition of official CSF-free status, could be the first to prompt a 'Balkans position'.

A follow-up meeting to this workshop will be organised by TAIEX, DG SANCO and the OIE, with the objective of encouraging the Balkan countries, and possibly Turkey, to comment on relevant draft chapters. It is expected to take place – providing funding is available – right after the release of the report from the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission in October/ November 2013.

The workshop will also serve as a model for two other similar meetings to be organised under the EU Better Training for Safer Food programme on international standard-setting bodies (namely, the ISSB, the OIE, International Plant Protection Convention and Codex Alimentarius Commission), for EU neighbouring countries of the Mediterranean (2014/Tunisia), and Eastern Europe (end of 2013, Russia).

Handover of foot and mouth disease vaccines from the OIE Regional Vaccine Bank for Asia

Luang Prabang, Laos, 2 April 2013

© Northern Region Livestock Development Project

From left to right: Dr Syseng Khounsy, Project Director, Northern Region Livestock Development Project; Dr Somphanh Chanphengsay, Deputy Director of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Dr Dirk Van Aken, Deputy OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia; Mr Tongfanh Phongsavath, Head, Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office of Luang Prabang; Dr Bouakhong Nammavong, Vice-Governor of Luang Prabang; Dr Bounkhouang Khambounheuang, Director General, Department of Livestock and Fisheries; Hon. Dr Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

To support Laos' foot and mouth disease (FMD) control programme, and at the request of its Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF), some 600,000 doses of FMD vaccine have been provided by the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (SRR-SEA), from the EU-funded OIE Regional Vaccine Bank for Asia.
A hand-over ceremony was held on 2 April 2013 in Luang Prabang, to launch this new phase in the vaccination campaign against FMD, presided over by His Excellency, Dr Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and Dr Bouakhong Nammavong, Vice-Governor of Luang Prabang. Opening remarks were made by Dr Bounkhouang Khambounheuang, Director General of the DLF; Dr Bouakhong Nammavong; Dr Dirk Van Aken, OIE SRR-SEA Deputy Representative; and Dr Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham.

Dr Bounkhouang Khambounheuang emphasised his country's active involvement in the OIE and the South-East Asia and China FMD Campaign, and praised the success of the previous vaccination campaign, also supported with vaccines from the Regional Vaccine Bank.

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Cutting the ribbon (from left to left): Dr Dirk Van Aken; Hon. Dr Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham; Dr Bouakhong Nammavong

© Dr Syseng Khounsy

In front of the vaccine cold storage at the Provincial Livestock Office, Luang Prabang. Left: Hon. Dr Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham; right: Dr Dirk Van Aken

Dr Bouakhong Nammavong, Vice-Governor of Luang Prabang, described the importance of small-scale agriculture for the economy of this province and its importance in poverty alleviation.

Dr Dirk Van Aken, OIE SRR-SEA Deputy Representative, gave the address on behalf of the SRR. He described the support provided by the OIE SRR-SEA to FMD control through vaccines delivered from the OIE Regional Vaccine Bank for Asia, part of the EU-funded Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in Asia (HPED), with additional support from the Australian government-funded Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) initiative. The total support given to Laos for its FMD vaccination campaigns through the OIE during 2012 and 2013, including this recent support for the 2013 vaccination campaign, amounts to 800,000 doses of FMD vaccines.

Dr Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham spoke about the increasing importance of cattle production to the Lao economy, especially since beef prices have doubled in the past year. The Lao government plans to formally recognise cattle as a priority commodity and strongly promote cattle production. National budget proposals will be made to provide free vaccination against animal diseases. The Vice-Minister strongly supports the establishment of an FMD-free zone in the north of the country, as this will place Laos in a stronger position in trade negotiations with neighbouring countries.

The ceremony ended with the symbolic hand-over of the vaccines and the presentation of a plaque of appreciation by the DLF to the OIE SRR-SEA.

First Ordinary General Assembly of the International Bourgelat Committee

Paris, France, 27 May 2013

The International Bourgelat Committee (IBC) was established in Paris, on Monday 21 May 2012, on the occasion of the General Session of the OIE. Under the terms of its statutes, the Association has the following objective: **the inventory and preservation of the tangible and intangible scientific and cultural veterinary heritage and its mediation to the widest possible public.**

The first Ordinary General Assembly of the IBC took place on Monday, 27 May 2013, in Paris, once again on the occasion of the OIE General Session. Brazil, Kenya, France, Iran, Tunisia and the USA were represented, while representatives from Australia, Benin and Sudan were also invited.

After a welcoming address by the President of the IBC and the Director General of the OIE, the draft versions of the international and national websites were presented and discussed. These websites will be definitively adopted at the end of June, after all comments have been received, and officially implemented at the beginning of December, at the third World Conference on Veterinary Education in Brazil.

A new Executive Committee has been nominated:
– President: Ron DeHaven (USA)
– Vice-President: Benedito Fortes de Arruda (Brazil) and Faouzi Kechrid (Tunisia)
– General Secretary: Jean-François Chary (France)
– Treasurer: Claude Grandmontagne (France).

The objective of the IBC is to have 12 members in December 2013 and at least 20 by May 2014.

From left to right: Dr C. Grandmontagne (France), Dr H. Mahmoudi (Iran), Dr C. Wanga (Kenya), Dr F. Kechrid (Tunisia), Dr K. Doyle (Australia), Dr B. Fortes de Arruda (Brazil), Dr R. DeHaven (USA), Dr L. Gnaho (Benin) and Prof. J.-F. Chary (France)

Royal Veterinary College of London: graduation day

18 July 2013

© Anny Vallat

From left to right: Colonel Neil Smith, Dr Vallat, Lord Curry of Kirkharle, Chairman of the RVC Council and Professor Stuart Reid, Principal of the RVC

This year's Royal Veterinary College (RVC) Graduation Day took place on 18 July at Freemasons' Hall near Covent Garden.

Two honorary Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees were awarded on Graduation Day. One was presented to John Webster, Emeritus Professor of Animal Husbandry at the University of Bristol. The other was awarded to Bernard Vallat, Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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Bernard Vallat (left) with Colonel Neil Smith, President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (right)

2013 agenda

October

Inter-regional Seminar (Africa and Middle East) for OIE National Focal Points on Veterinary Products
1-4 October
Algiers (Algeria)

Meeting of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
7-11 October
Geneva (Switzerland)

Regional Seminar (Asia) for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Disease Notification to the OIE
8-10 October
Bangkok (Thailand)

Regional Seminar (Europe) for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Production Food Safety
15-17 October
Belgrade (Serbia)

Regional Seminar (Americas) for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Welfare
15-16 October
Montevideo (Uruguay)

OIE Regional Conference on Animal Welfare and International Trade
17-18 October
Montevideo (Uruguay)

International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit
28 October – 1 November
Yokohama (Japan)
www.wds2013.com/eng/venue.html
wds2013@ics-inc.co.jp

November

'One Health' Symposium: Rabies and other disease risks from free-roaming dogs
5-6 November
OIE Headquarters
Paris (France)
www.wsava.org/article/wsava-partnership-oie-host-joint-symposium

Conference on Risk analysis as a tool for the control of Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in the Mediterranean Basin
5-7 November
Teramo (Italy)
www.riskanalysisconference.izs.it/

Inter-regional Seminar (Africa and Middle East) for OIE National Focal Points on Wildlife
12-15 November
Gaborone (Botswana)

28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
18-22 November
Cebu (Philippines)

Protecting human health by protecting animal health
25-27 November
European Parliament,
Brussels (Belgium)

December

Regional Seminar (Africa) for OIE National Focal Points on Veterinary Products
3-6 December
Maputo (Mozambique)

Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body 'Ensuring excellence and ethics of the veterinary profession'
4-6 December
Foz do Iguaçu (Brazil)

2014

February

OIE Regional Conference for Asia on international movement of competition horses
18-21 February
Hong Kong SAR (People's Republic of China)

March

20th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD Control in South-East Asia and China
3-7 March
Myanmar

OIE Regional Conference for the Middle East on international movement of competition horses
26-28 March
Dubai (United Arab Emirates)

May

82th General Session of the OIE
25-30 May
Maison de la Chimie
Paris (France)

September

Regional Seminar (Americas) for OIE National Focal Points on veterinary products
1-5 September
Canada

39th Congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA 2014)
16-19 September
Cape Town
(South Africa)
www.wsava2014.com

26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
23-26 September
Berne (Switzerland)

October

Conference of the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres
14-16 October
Republic of Korea

November

22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
Mexico

2015

January

OIE Conference on aquatic animals
20-22 January
Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

March

3rd International 'One Health' Congress
15-18 March
Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
http://www.iohc2015.com/Bidbook_3rd_International_One_Health_Congress_2015.pdf

questions and answers

about influenza A (H7N9)

What is avian influenza (AI)?

Avian influenza (AI) is a bird disease, caused by Type 'A' influenza viruses, which can affect several species of domestic poultry, such as chickens, turkeys, quail, guinea fowl, ducks, etc., as well as pet birds and wild birds. Avian influenza viruses have also been isolated, although less frequently, from mammalian species including rats, mice, weasels, ferrets, pigs, cats, tigers, dogs and horses, as well as humans.

There are many strains of AI viruses. They can generally be classified into two categories, according to the severity of the disease in poultry: low pathogenicity AI (LPAI), which typically causes few or no clinical signs in birds, and highly pathogenic AI (HPAI), which can cause severe clinical signs and high mortality rates.

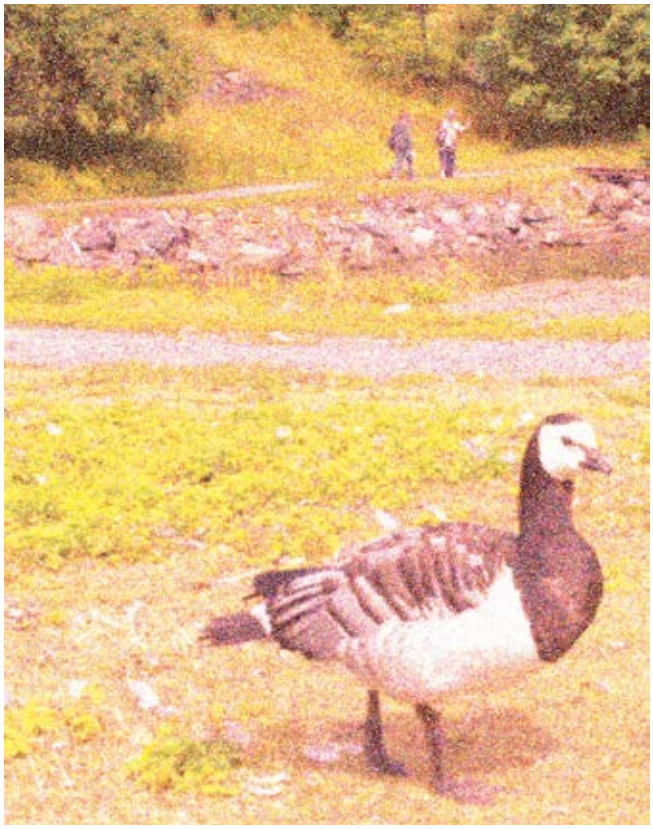
Differentiating between LPAI and HPAI is based on the results of laboratory tests, which are described in the OIE Diagnostic Manual. This characterisation of avian influenza viruses as low or high pathogenicity (severity of disease) is specific to poultry and other birds, and not necessarily to other species that can also be susceptible to avian influenza viruses, such as humans.

What is influenza A (H7N9)?

In March 2013, the Chinese Public Health Authorities reported the first human cases of disease caused by infection with a type A influenza virus of the strain H7N9. This strain of virus usually infects birds, and the report was followed by reinforced disease surveillance of bird populations in China.

On 4 April 2013, the Chinese Veterinary Authorities notified the OIE that pigeons and chickens had become infected with LPAI virus H7N9, which is thought to be very similar to the virus infecting humans.

As this LPAI virus does not cause severe clinical signs in animals, the disease was not diagnosed until specific laboratory diagnostic tests could be conducted.



What is the source of influenza A (H7N9)?

The scientific information available shows genetic similarities between the virus affecting humans and the influenza A (H7N9) virus found in birds, which was reported to the OIE by Chinese authorities on 4 April 2013. The source of the human cases has yet to be identified.

The source or possible reservoir of influenza A (H7N9) is currently being investigated by the relevant authorities, including Veterinary Services, the China Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, and the animal health services of China, as well as at the international level through the collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The OIE Reference Laboratory on avian influenza in Harbin, China, is recognised worldwide for its expertise. Fifteen other Reference Laboratories recognised by the OIE also work on animal influenza (in poultry, pigs and horses) around the world.

Have wild birds been identified as carriers of the influenza A (H7N9) virus?

Wild birds can normally carry avian influenza viruses in their respiratory or intestinal tracts but they do not commonly get sick. These wild bird populations have historically been known as reservoirs (sources) and vectors (carriers) of AI viruses. Around the world, surveillance measures have been put in place to monitor the occurrence and characteristics of AI viruses in wild birds. It is common during routine testing to find certain influenza viruses in wild birds. The majority of these viruses do not cause disease in these birds. To date, influenza A (H7N9) has not been found in wild birds in the People's Republic of China.

How is influenza A (H7N9) transmitted and spread among birds?

All AI viruses can be transmitted among birds through direct contact with secretions from infected birds, especially through faeces or contaminated feed, water, equipment or human clothing. They are readily transmitted from farm to farm by the movement of domestic live birds, people (especially when shoes or other clothing are contaminated), and contaminated vehicles, equipment, feed, and cages. Highly pathogenic viruses can survive for long periods in the environment, especially when temperatures are low.

Several factors can contribute to the spread of all AI viruses, including: the movements of people and goods, marketing practices (such as live bird markets), farming practices and the presence of the viruses in migratory wild birds.

What are the reporting requirements for influenza A (H7N9)?

As detailed in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, all cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza found in any domestic or wild bird must be notified to the OIE by the competent authorities (Veterinary Services) of the country concerned. Low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses of subtypes H5 and H7 in poultry are also notifiable to the OIE because, even though they do not cause severe disease, they have the potential to mutate readily into highly pathogenic viruses or to infect other species.

On 4 April 2013, the Chinese Veterinary Authorities notified the OIE that pigeons and chickens had been found to be infected with low pathogenicity avian influenza virus H7N9.

What are the basic requirements for worldwide AI prevention and control in animals?

All countries must try to ensure that their Veterinary Services, both the private and public sectors, comply with the OIE standards on quality, including:

– appropriate legislation

– the capacity for early detection and response in the case of biological events in animals

– an efficient mechanism for compensation

– efficient veterinary laboratories

– the use of vaccination in relevant epidemiological situations, when appropriate.

Can culling be used as a control measure?

If the infection is detected in animals, a culling policy is generally used to try to control and eradicate the disease.

Requirements include (these are described in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*):

– the humane destruction of all infected and exposed animals (according to OIE animal welfare standards)

– appropriate disposal of carcasses and all animal products

– surveillance and tracing of potentially infected or exposed poultry

– strict quarantine measures and controls on the movement of poultry and any potentially contaminated vehicles and personnel

– thorough decontamination of infected premises

– a period of at least 21 days before restocking.

In the case of low pathogenicity avian influenza, such as in the current outbreaks of H7N9 declared by China, 'stamping out' (see above) is generally applied on the infected farm or within a short radius around the infected premises when outbreaks are detected.

Does the OIE recommend vaccinating animals to control the disease?

When appropriate vaccines are available, vaccination aims to protect susceptible bird populations from potential infection. Vaccination reduces viral excretions by animals and the virus's ability to spread. Vaccination strategies can effectively be used as an emergency effort in the face of an outbreak or as a routine measure in an endemic area. Any decision to use vaccination must include an exit strategy, i.e. conditions to be met to stop vaccination.

Careful consideration must be given before putting a vaccination policy into practice and the recommendations from the OIE on vaccination and vaccines should be closely followed (www.oie.int\downld\AVIAN INFLUENZA\Guidelines on AI vaccination.pdf).

In short, vaccination should be implemented when culling policies cannot be applied, either because the disease is endemic and therefore widely present, or the infection is too difficult to detect in affected animals.

What are the OIE recommendations for trade in poultry from a country infected with influenza A (H7N9)?

The risk analysis process that should be used by importing countries to protect their territory from pathogens is very complex and is based on a long list of OIE standards.

In the case of outbreaks of LPAI of the H7 strain in countries that potentially export, the trade recommendations that apply can be found in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (Chapter 10.4.; 2013). These measures are science-based and should not result in unjustified trade barriers; they include zoning and testing the animal populations of origin.

What compensation measures should be arranged for farmers?

Systems for financially compensating farmers and producers who have lost their animals as the result of mandatory culling by national authorities vary around the world; in some countries, they may not exist at all. The OIE encourages national authorities to develop and implement compensation schemes because they are a key to early detection and transparency in reporting the occurrence of animal diseases, including avian influenza.

What are the food safety recommendations?

Animals which have been culled as the result of control measures in response to an outbreak of avian influenza, including the A (H7N9) virus, should not enter the human food chain or the animal feed chain, as a precautionary measure. This measure should be enforced by regulation.

There is no evidence to suggest that the consumption of poultry or eggs fit for human consumption could transmit the AI virus to humans.

What is the public health risk associated with avian influenza?

AI viruses are highly species-specific, but, on rare occasions, they have crossed the species barrier to infect humans. This disease should not be confused with seasonal human influenza (flu), a very common human disease (generally caused by human H1 and H3 viruses). The transmission of AI viruses to humans occurs when there is close contact with infected birds or heavily contaminated environments.

In the past, human disease has usually been related to the transmission of a highly pathogenic virus of animal origin. The current influenza A (H7N9) virus notified to the OIE by China is of low pathogenicity for poultry; investigations are being conducted to demonstrate possible links with the human cases, as the genetic similarity has already been established.

Owing to the potential for human infection, it is recommended that people working with, or in contact with, poultry suspected of being infected with AI viruses wear protective clothing, including face masks, goggles, gloves and boots.

What prevention measures are recommended on the farm?

It is essential for poultry producers to maintain biosecurity practices to prevent introduction of the virus into their flock:

– keep poultry away from areas frequented by wild fowl

– do not provide features on the property that may attract wild birds

– keep control over who and what equipment enters poultry houses

– maintain strict hygiene of property, poultry houses and equipment

– avoid the introduction of birds of unknown disease status into the flock

– report any illness or deaths of birds to the Veterinary Services

– ensure the appropriate disposal of manure and dead poultry

– vaccinate animals when appropriate.

More information

1. OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. Available at: www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/.
2. OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*. Available at: www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-manual/access-online/.
3. OIE Technical Disease Card. Available at: www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/technical-disease-cards/.
4. OIE web portal on avian influenza. Available at: www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/web-portal-on-avian-influenza/.
5. Food and Agriculture Organization. Frequently asked questions on A (H7N9) virus. Available at: www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/173704/icode/.
6. World Health Organization. Frequently asked questions on human infection with influenza A (H7N9) virus, China. Available at: www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/faq_H7N9/en/index.html.
7. OIE/FAO Network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU). Available at: www.offlu.net/.

tribute

Pierre de Kinkelin

Passed away on 10 May 2013

After graduating from France's National Veterinary School of Alfort, Pierre de Kinkelin was recruited by the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) in 1964 to work at the Continental Hydrobiology Station in Paris. In 1968, he joined INRA's new Fish Pathology Laboratory at Thiverval-Grignon (France) to work on viral haemorrhagic septicaemia. In the 1970s, he demonstrated the role of interferon in the antiviral responses of trout and was the first to develop live vaccines of the virus by selecting attenuated strains. In the 1980s, Dr de Kinkelin isolated and identified numerous pathogenic viruses infecting fish species.

In the late 1980s, he joined INRA's Molecular Virology and Immunology Unit at Jouy-en-Josas, where he continued his work in the laboratory's areas of interest, ranging from research into flavobacteria genomics to antiviral response mechanisms. In 1985, he published his *Handbook on Fish Pathology* in French (*Précis de Pathologie des Poissons*).

In 1975, Dr de Kinkelin was appointed Secretary General of the OIE Fish Diseases Commission (now the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission) and served as the Commission's President from 1988 to 1991.

After his retirement in 2001, he threw all of his energies into writing an updated and extended text on fish pathology. Dr de Kinkelin's colleagues will always remember him as an enquiring and dynamic scientist and a man of great culture, wit and drive. He will be greatly missed, and the OIE would like to extend its sincere condolences to his family and friends.

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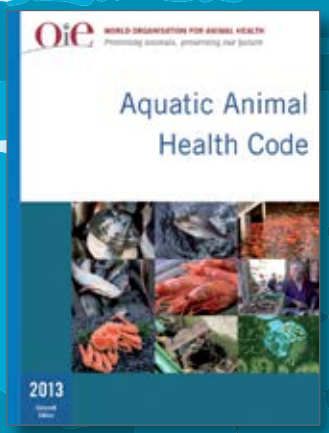
Aquatic Animal Health Code and Terrestrial Animal Health Code



The aim of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* is to contribute to improving the aquatic animal (amphibians, crustaceans, fish and molluscs) health and welfare of farmed fish worldwide, to ensure that products derived from them are safe for human consumption, and to assure the sanitary safety of international trade in aquatic animals and their products. This is achieved through the detailing of health measures in the *Aquatic Code*. The Competent Authorities of importing and exporting countries should use the OIE standards to avoid the transfer of agents pathogenic for aquatic animals or humans, while avoiding unjustified trade barriers.

The value of the *Aquatic Code* is twofold: firstly, the sanitary measures recommended are the result of consensus among the Veterinary Authorities of OIE Members, and secondly, it constitutes a reference within the WTO SPS Agreement as an international standard for animal health and zoonoses of aquatic animals. The 2013 version of the *Aquatic Code* is available on the Web site at www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/aquatic-code/access-online/.

The aim of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* is to contribute to improve animal health and welfare worldwide and to assure the sanitary safety of international trade in animals (mammals, birds and bees) and their products. This is achieved through the detailing of health measures to be used by the Veterinary Authorities of importing and exporting countries to avoid the transfer of agents pathogenic for animals or humans, while avoiding unjustified trade barriers.

The value of the *Terrestrial Code* is twofold: firstly, the sanitary measures recommended are the result of consensus among the Veterinary Authorities of OIE Members and, secondly, it constitutes a reference for terrestrial animals within the WTO SPS Agreement as an international standard for animal health and zoonoses, as well as a key standard for the prevention and control of animal diseases.

Available on the Website at: www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/.

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