

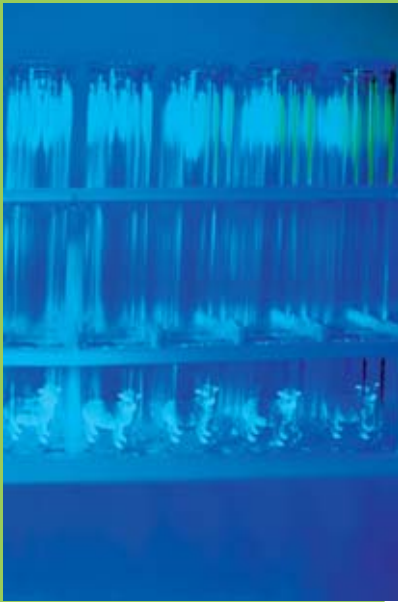
# *bulletin*

No. 2013 – 2

*Progress in technology*



**Oie**



© M. Seviliano



© Livestock and Animal Health Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Jakarta, Indonesia



# contents

## *editorial*

New technologies offer new diagnostic and therapeutic tools for disease control ..... 1

## *forum*

High-throughput sequencing in veterinary infection biology and diagnostics ..... 3  
 History of the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* ..... 8

## *OIE news*

**OIE publications** ..... 12  
**news from headquarters** ..... 13  
**regional activities** ..... 19  
**official acts** ..... 25  
**strengthening of Veterinary Services** ..... 27  
**meetings and visits** ..... 32

## *the OIE and its partners*

**epidemiology & animal disease control programmes** ..... 44  
**zoonoses** ..... 46  
**activities of reference laboratories & collaborating centres** ..... 48  
**news from Member Countries** ..... 52

## *international news*

**publications** ..... 66  
**special events** ..... 67  
**agenda** ..... 71

## New technologies offer new diagnostic and therapeutic tools for disease control

© OIE/D. Mozinski



‘New technology’ is steamrolling its way towards people and businesses worldwide, and recent advances in the medical sciences are unprecedented. The development of new technologies in the area of animal health offers new avenues for success in the way that diseases

are detected, managed, controlled and eradicated. The potential impact of these innovations extends beyond their effects upon animal health and welfare, and could significantly contribute to improved human health and food security. As pathological organisms relentlessly continue to develop new strategies for spread or survival, so must animal science continue to develop new tools as part of an effective pathogen control strategy. To ensure optimal impact, it is important not only to promote the development of new technologies to address current and future health issues, but also to make sure that the full potential of these new technologies is appropriately integrated into current animal health practices and standards. In this respect, the *OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* provides internationally agreed-upon diagnostic laboratory methods and requirements for the ongoing production and control of vaccines and other biological products.

A greater ‘One Health’-oriented interaction between these professional sectors is becoming more and more important for developing and adapting new technologies that address both animal and human disease. Innovative diagnostic methods can play an important role in the detection of new

and emerging infectious diseases at the interface between animals, humans and their environment, or indeed may facilitate the discovery of new vaccines that bridge human and animal vaccine development. The development and delivery of new veterinary vaccines and diagnostic tests is of primary importance in developing technological strategies for the future, and will provide both opportunities and challenges for animal health.

New advances in vaccine design using genomics are one part of a host of powerful new methods that have also set the stage to enhance the diagnosis, surveillance and control of infectious diseases. High-throughput sequencing (HTS), for example, uses the latest DNA sequencing platforms in the detection, identification and detailed analysis of both pathogen and host genomes. This new development makes HTS affordable in small diagnostic laboratories,

or even in the field. The resulting bioinformatics and computational genomics (BCG) data can now be generated at an unprecedented scale, speed and depth. In the context of animal health, this provides some key opportunities, such as the detection of new microorganisms and improved diagnosis of emerging or re-emerging diseases. However, as HTS-

BCG becomes more widely used, the continual detection and rapid identification of purported new infectious agents will also present challenges. It is important that the OIE ensures that HTS-BCG is fully validated and quality assured if it is to be trusted as a diagnostic tool, and to make certain that the resulting data is appropriately reported and analysed.

Such new technologies signify a new era in disease knowledge, in which discovering new information enabling more accurate predictions can lead to faster responses and greater control of potentially devastating disease crises. However, technical innovation is not

*As pathological organisms relentlessly continue to develop new strategies for spread or survival, so must animal science continue to develop new tools as part of an effective pathogen control strategy*

only about discoveries; it is also about strategically governing their application to optimise their effects upon global health and safety of international trade of animals and animal products. The OIE recognises its role in identifying the opportunities and challenges presented by new technologies and in setting international standards so that these technologies can be successfully applied to improve animal health and welfare and to enhance food security. It is also committed to ensuring good governance by supporting national Veterinary Services as they incorporate the use of such new technologies in accordance with the highest international standards.

Not all new technologies will be appropriate for all countries, and their introduction and use must also be considered in terms of the individual circumstances of the country or region concerned. The use of new technologies may be limited, due to funding or professional resources, or their implementation may indeed result in a more rational use of limited resources. In this respect, the OIE surveyed its Member Countries to assess their use of new technologies and investigate how this may influence the OIE's role in ensuring that they are incorporated with the best scientific standards. Such feedback

*Technical innovation is not only about discoveries; it is also about strategically governing their application to optimise their effects upon global health and safety of international trade of animals and animal products*

from Member Countries is essential in order to determine their Veterinary Services' needs for support in acquiring the new technologies that will be most appropriate to their disease control challenges, easily applicable, and rapidly efficacious. With this information, the OIE can establish what kind of support is needed by the Veterinary Services

of its Member Countries as they consider and adopt an appropriate use of new technologies to combat current and future disease challenges.

The animal health sector has the opportunity, not only to be a part of this technological revolution, but also to guide the appropriate application of these rapid advances in genetic engineering and computer science. The reluctance of many to adopt innovations on the basis

of philosophical, cultural or economic arguments is often based on ignorance. It is one of the key objectives of the OIE to clarify, explain, communicate and convince all players. Not to do so would be negligent or, in the words of the writer Steward Brand, 'Once a new technology rolls over you, if you're not part of the steamroller, you're part of the road'.

**Bernard Vallat**  
**Director General**





# High-throughput sequencing in veterinary infection biology and diagnostics

Sándor Belák<sup>(1, 2, 3)</sup>, Oskar E. Karlsson<sup>(1, 3)</sup>, Mikael Leijon<sup>(2, 3)</sup> & Fredrik Granberg<sup>(1, 3)</sup>

1) Department of Biomedical Sciences and Veterinary Public Health, BVF, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

2) Department of Virology, Immunobiology and Parasitology, VIP, National Veterinary Institute (SVA)

3) The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Collaborating Centre for the Biotechnology-based Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases in Veterinary Medicine, Ulls väg 2B, SE-751 89, Uppsala, Sweden

During the past few decades, the rapid development and wide application of novel molecular techniques have resulted in unprecedented advances in animal disease diagnostics. The possibility of detecting and identifying infectious agents through the presence of their nucleic acid molecules in clinical samples has been exploited by various molecular diagnostic methods, including nucleic acid hybridisation, several amplification methods and nucleotide sequencing. The OIE has actively supported the development and use of these molecular techniques in the field of veterinary medicine, not only in the OIE Reference Laboratories but also through the establishment of OIE Collaborating Centres focused on biotechnology-based diagnosis.

Since the development of DNA sequencing methods in the 1970s, efforts to improve the technology have led to the important introduction of automated multicapillary-based sequencing instruments. Recently, a major technological advance in cyclic array sequencing has enabled 'second' or 'next generation' sequencing, which today encompasses several different platforms. As a result of the rapid improvement of existing

systems and the release of completely new platforms, the efficiency and throughput of DNA sequencing are now increasing at a rate even faster than that projected by Moore's law for computing power (doubling every two years) (15, 17). This has also resulted in a dramatic reduction in the cost of DNA sequencing, making the technology more accessible to the average laboratory (Fig. 1). The recent emergence of a new generation of single-molecule sequencing technologies, termed 'third-generation sequencing', and described by Schadt *et al.*

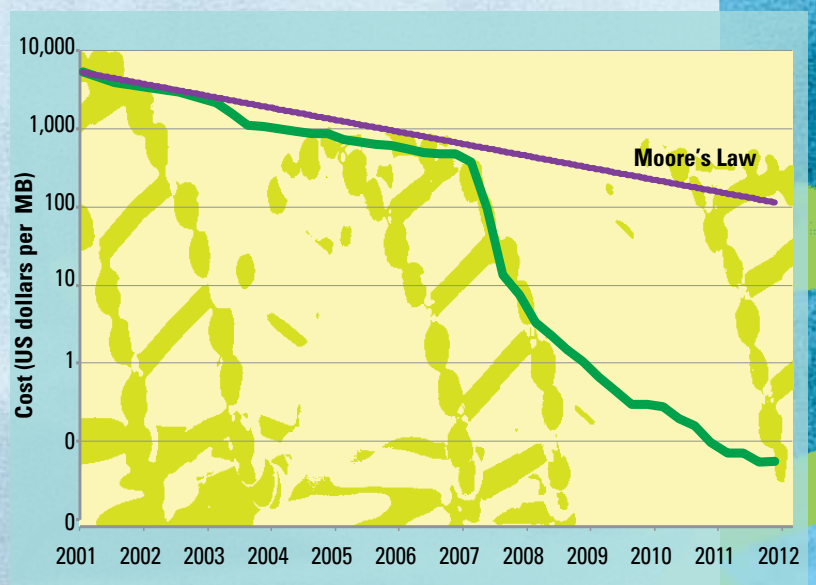


Fig. 1  
The change over time in the cost per megabase of DNA sequencing, reflecting the cost of generating raw, unassembled sequence data  
[www.genome.gov/sequencingcosts/](http://www.genome.gov/sequencingcosts/)



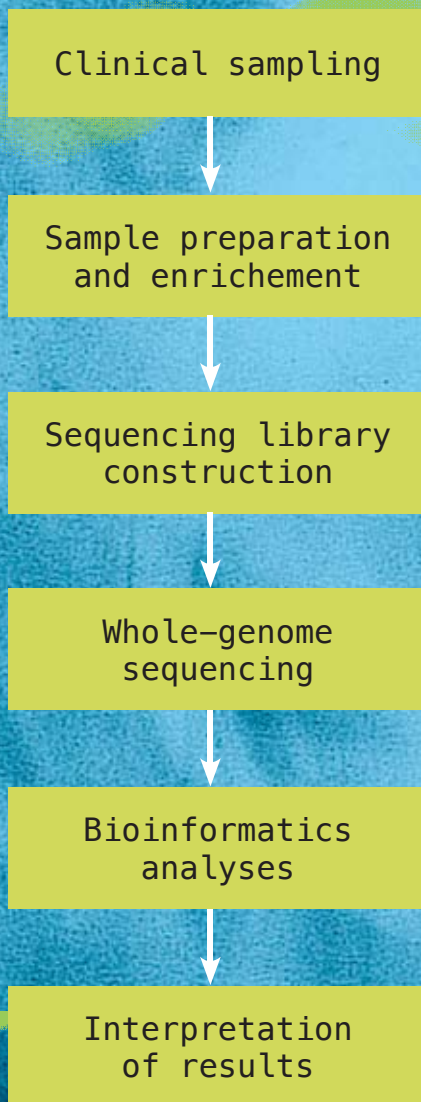


Fig. 2.  
Workflow for detecting microbes and viruses  
based on high-throughput sequencing

(2010) (18), means that it is now more appropriate to refer to all the novel sequencing approaches collectively, as 'high-throughput sequencing' (HTS).

In contrast to earlier diagnostic tools, HTS is unbiased towards the target. It detects and reports on all kinds of nucleotide sequences present in the original clinical sample.

This wide-ranging capacity allows the simultaneous and prompt detection of all microbes and viruses in a sample, including novel pathogens. However, the detection limit is still determined by the abundance of the pathogens in relation to the host background material. Recent advances in HTS technology have improved its capacity and the likelihood of detecting even low copy-number pathogens (7). Nonetheless, sampling, sample preparation and enrichment protocols have all been demonstrated to have a dramatic effect on the outcome of HTS-based diagnostics (8), and should thus be considered integrated and important steps in the overall detection scheme (Fig. 2).

Bioinformatics (the research field focusing on the study of methods for retrieving, analysing and storing biological data) is an integral part of all HTS applications, since it enables effective management of the huge amounts of data being produced (14). For a given application, it is usual to fully automate the analysis process by establishing what is known as a 'pipeline', i.e. a continuous data flow between different software programs. In the case of HTS data, the bioinformatics pipelines can contain several elements, such as: quality control, assembling 'reads' into longer contiguous sequences (contigs), homology searches against sequence databases, alignment against reference genomes and taxonomic classification of metagenomic sequences. However, in the long run, it is the rapidly increasing amounts of sequencing data generated from HTS that are expected to present the greatest challenge, not the analysis of individual samples.

High-throughput sequencing has already been applied to advanced veterinary diagnostic microbiology, with extremely significant results. A few noteworthy and representative examples within the major farm animal groups are given below.

### Diseases of cattle and sheep

Examples of the use of HTS for infections and diseases of cattle and sheep include: characterisation and phylogeny of new variants of bluetongue virus (5), an overview of the viral population diversity of foot-and-mouth disease virus (21), and the rapid detection and identification of Schmallenberg virus (SBV), an emerging and previously unknown pathogen (1, 11).



## Diseases of swine

High-throughput sequencing can be used for the detection and identification of various infectious agents involved in complex diseases, such as post-weaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (4), and identifying pathogens involved in mixed infections by characterising the porcine microbiota in diarrhoeic and healthy pigs (16, 19). Using HTS the whole virome can be detected, which can greatly aid in the identification of aetiological agents.

## Diseases of birds

Protocols have been established to use HTS for rapid whole-genome sequencing of avian influenza virus (12, 13). The inherent advantages of HTS as a screening and characterisation tool also make it ideal for use in poultry vaccine development and quality control. The process by which attenuating mutations arise during serial passage of a virulent isolate is now much better understood. This is illustrated by an experiment with gallid herpesvirus 2, which resulted in a wealth of information about the genetic changes that occurred during the attenuation process and also indicated that serial passage results in the generation of mixed populations (20). High-throughput sequencing can also be used to discriminate between vaccine strains, as demonstrated by a genome-level comparison of two live attenuated vaccines of infectious laryngotracheitis virus from the United States with an Australian vaccine strain (6).

These examples illustrate that HTS technologies have revolutionised our understanding of the pathobiology of various infections and infectious diseases in veterinary and human medicine. They show that both known and emerging new infectious agents are rapidly detected and characterised, that co-infections caused by various infectious agents can be observed, and viral populations and sub-populations mapped. Differences between 'healthy' and 'sick' animals can be investigated and complex microbiological pictures obtained, and coupled to disease scenarios and aetiology.

The power and potential of HTS techniques are best illustrated when 'unknown' emerging viruses appear and

must be detected as rapidly as possible. Applying HTS, metagenomics and bioinformatics analyses quickly and effectively can result in the rapid detection and identification of an emerging virus. However, it is very important to note that the HTS approach must be combined with classical virology. The parallel efforts of molecular and classical virology result in the availability of virus isolates shortly after molecular detection. The proper combination and synergetic activities of molecular and classical virology can lead to the prompt development of novel diagnostic tools.

Furthermore, this combination of various approaches, using molecular and classical virology, is exactly what is needed today in our world of rapid globalisation, relaxed border controls, increased human and animal traffic, climate change, and many other factors that contribute to the rapid spread of new emerging pathogens on a global scale.

High-throughput sequencing is becoming more and more affordable. Many of the HTS-based studies performed within the field of veterinary medicine were unimaginable just a few years ago. The development has been rapid and, with the recent introduction of fast and affordable bench-top sequencers, HTS is more accessible than ever. However, it is not only the sequencing platform that is important; the whole chain from sample collection to final results after bioinformatics analysis should be considered. The need for structured storage and dissemination systems before HTS-based methods are introduced into routine diagnostics should not be underestimated. The field of HTS also currently lacks clear diagnostic standards for analysing and comparing results (9).

The OIE has been prompt in recognising the importance and challenges of these powerful diagnostic and research tools. OIE Reference Centres are already using these technologies to detect and characterise various infections and co-infectious scenarios, and the complex infection biology features of many diseases in veterinary medicine. A good example



is the input of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Zoonoses in Europe, which played a pioneering role in the detection and rapid identification of SBV. The OIE Collaborating Centre for the Biotechnology- based Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases in Veterinary Medicine has also achieved interesting results by detecting a wide range of known and emerging new infectious agents in various disease scenarios in several hosts, such as bocaviruses, Torque teno sus viruses, astroviruses, rotaviruses, kobuviruses and other infectious agents in various disease complexes of pigs (2, 3, 4). This Collaborating Centre studies the infection biology of various viruses, and not only in farm animals. Indeed, HTS and metagenomic studies have recently been extended to wildlife, including aquatic diseases and diseases of insects, such as honey bees (10).

## References

1. Beer M., Conraths F.J. & van der Poel W.H. (2012). – ‘Schmallenberg virus’ – a novel orthobunyavirus emerging in Europe. *Epidemiol. Infect.*, **141** (1), 1–8.
2. Belák S., Karlsson O.E., Blomström A.L., Berg M. & Granberg F. (2013). – New viruses in veterinary medicine, detected by metagenomic approaches. *Vet Microbiol.* pii: S0378-1135(13)00074-6.
3. Blomström A.L., Belák S., Fossum C., Fuxler L., Wallgren P. & Berg M. (2010). – Studies of porcine circovirus type 2, porcine boca-like virus and torque teno virus indicate the presence of multiple viral infections in postweaning multisystemic wasting syndrome of pigs. *Virus Res.*, **152** (1–2), 59–64.
4. Blomström A.L., Belák S., Fossum C., McKillen J., Allan G., Wallgren P. & Berg M. (2009). – Detection of a novel porcine boca-like virus in the background of porcine circovirus type 2 induced postweaning multisystemic wasting syndrome. *Virus Res.*, **146** (1–2), 125–129.
5. Boyle D.B., Bulach D.M., Amos-Ritchie R., Adams M.M., Walker P.J. & Weir R. (2012). – Genomic sequences of Australian bluetongue virus prototype serotypes reveal global relationships and possible routes of entry into Australia. *J. Virol.*, **86** (12), 6724–6731.
6. Chandra Y.G., Lee J. & Kong B.W. (2012). – Genome sequence comparison of two United States live attenuated vaccines of infectious laryngotracheitis virus (ILTV). *Virus Genes*, **44** (3), 470–474.
7. Cheval J., Sauvage V., Frangeul L., Dacheux L., Guigon G., Dumey N., Pariente K., Rousseaux C., Dorange F., Berthet N., Brisse S., Moszer I., Bourhy H., Manuguerra C.J., Lecuit M., Burguiere A., Caro V. & M. Eloit (2011). – Evaluation of high-throughput sequencing for identifying known and unknown viruses in biological samples. *J. Clin. Microbiol.*, **49** (9), 3268–3275.
8. Daly G.M., Bexfield N., Heaney J., Stubbs S., Mayer A.P., Palser A., Kellam P., Drou N., Caccamo M., Tiley L., Alexander G.J., Bernal W. & Heeney J.L. (2011). – A viral discovery methodology for clinical biopsy samples utilising massively parallel next generation sequencing. *PLoS One*, **6** (12), e28879.
9. Dunne W.M. Jr., Westblade L.F. & Ford B. (2012). – Next-generation and whole-genome sequencing in the diagnostic clinical microbiology laboratory. *European J. Clin. Microbiol. Infect. Dis.*, **31** (8), 1719–1726.
10. Granberg F., Vicente-Rubiano M., Rubio-Guerri C., Karlsson O.E., Kukielka D., Belák S. & Sánchez-Vizcaíno J.M. (2013). – Metagenomic detection of viral pathogens in Spanish honeybees: co-infection



by aphid lethal paralysis, Israel acute paralysis and Lake Sinai viruses. *PLoS One.*, **8** (2), e57459

11. Hoffmann B., Scheuch M., Hoper D., Jungblut R., Holsteg M., Schirrneier H., Eschbaumer M., Goller K.V., Wernike K., Fischer M., Breithaupt A., Mettenleiter T.C. & Beer M. (2012). – Novel orthobunyavirus in cattle, Europe, 2011. *Emerg. Infect. Dis.*, **18** (3), 469–472.

12. Höper D., Hoffmann B. & Beer M. (2009). – Simple, sensitive, and swift sequencing of complete H5N1 avian influenza virus genomes. *J. clin. Microbiol.*, **47** (3), 674–679.

13. Kampmann M.L., Fordyce S.L., Avila-Arcos M.C., Rasmussen M., Willerslev E., Nielsen L.P. & Gilbert M.T. (2011). – A simple method for the parallel deep sequencing of full influenza A genomes. *J. Virol. Meth.*, **178** (1–2), 243–248.

14. Metzker M.L. (2010). – Sequencing technologies – the next generation. *Nat. Rev. Genet.*, **11** (1), 31–46.

15. Moore G.E. (1998). – Cramming more components onto integrated circuits (reprinted from *Electronics*, 19 April 1965, 114–117). *Proc. IEEE*, **86** (1), 82–85.

16. Sachsenröder J., Twardziok S., Hammerl J.A., Janczyk P., Wrede P., Hertwig S. & John R. (2012). – Simultaneous identification of DNA and RNA viruses present in pig faeces using process-controlled deep sequencing. *PLoS One*, **7** (4), e34631.

17. Sboner A., Mu X.J., Greenbaum D., Auerbach R.K. & Gerstein M.B. (2011). – The real cost of sequencing: higher than you think! *Genome Biol.*, **12** (8), 125.

18. Schadt E.E., Turner S. & Kasarskis A. (2010). – A window into third-generation sequencing. *Human Molec. Genetics*, **19**, R227–R240.

19. Shan T., Li L., Simmonds P., Wang C., Moeser A. & Delwart E. (2011). – The fecal virome of pigs on a high-density farm. *J. Virol.*, **85** (22), 11697–11708.

20. Spatz S.J. (2010). – Accumulation of attenuating mutations in varying proportions within a high passage very virulent plus strain of Gallid herpesvirus type 2. *Virus Res.*, **149** (2), 135–142.

21. Wright C.F., Morelli M.J., Thebaud G., Knowles N.J., Herzyk P., Paton D.J., Haydon D.T. & King D.P. (2011). – Beyond the consensus: dissecting within-host viral population diversity of foot-and-mouth disease virus by using next-generation genome sequencing. *J. Virol.*, **85** (5), 2266–2275.



# HISTORY of the OIE Terrestrial Manual

G. Anthony Cullen<sup>(1)</sup> & Steven Edwards<sup>(2)</sup>

1) 2, Muirfield Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 3PW, United Kingdom

2) Oak House, Vowchurch, Hereford HR2 0RB, United Kingdom

Over the past quarter-century, the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* has evolved from a collection of miscellaneous, loose-leaf appendices to the *Code* to an internationally recognised book of standards for veterinary diagnostic laboratories and vaccine manufacturers.

## up to mid-1980

The *Manual* did not exist as such, but laboratory methods or other technical issues were published as loose-leaf appendices of the *International Zoo-sanitary Code*. The standards process was similar to the one currently followed for *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* chapters:

- Norms Commission
- recommendations to the Zoo-sanitary Code Commission
- recommendations to the International Committee of the OIE (Chief Veterinary Officers of each Member Country) on the best rules and regulations for the control of those diseases
- approval at the General Session
- publication in the *International Zoo-sanitary Code*

## 1983

The number of appendices and the volume of information increased considerably

- the Norms Commission, under the Presidency of Prof. Marian Trusczyński, considered more standardised ways of writing the appendices to the *International Zoo-sanitary Code*

## 1984

The Director General, Dr Louis Blajan, proposed that the Commission should consider publishing all the appendices in a book, separate from the *Zoo-sanitary Code*. The development process was as follows:

- the Secretary of the Norms Commission, Dr Anthony Cullen, produced draft proposals for the layout of chapters and the form and content of the publication
- he circulated the proposals to OIE Member Countries
- the Norms Commission reviewed the comments, adopted a standardised layout for chapters, and decided the scope and content of the book

## 1985

The proposal for the OIE *Manual of Recommended Diagnostic Techniques and Requirements for Biological Standards* was approved by the International Committee





From the second edition onwards, reflecting the *Manual's* origins as an adjunct to the *Terrestrial Code*, those laboratory tests for individual diseases that were most suitable for health screening of animals prior to international movement were identified. These were designated 'Prescribed tests'. They were listed in a table at the front of both the *Manual* and the *Code*,

and the prescribed methods were highlighted in the chapters by printing them in a blue font. A second category of 'Alternative tests' was also listed for methods that could have some value for pre-movement testing but were less fully validated, or lacking in sensitivity or specificity compared with the prescribed methods.



1985-  
1989

Authors (who were, as often as possible, designated OIE experts) submitted their draft chapter for each disease to the Commission

- these chapters were circulated to Member Countries for comment
- the comments were considered by the Commission and returned to authors for their agreement on revisions
- the draft chapter was proposed for adoption by the International Committee of the OIE at the annual General Session, and then for publication

1989-  
1991

The first edition of the *Manual* was published as a loose-leaf folder, and was updated with additional chapters in 1990, and again in 1991. Most of the editorial work was carried out by the Secretary of the Commission and an OIE staff member, Ms Grace Townshend. Member Countries considered the concept of the *Manual* to be excellent

1992

The second edition was published as a bound book to make it more durable, as requested by Member Countries. It was printed in A5 format with soft covers, under the title: the *OIE Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines*. It was agreed that the *Manual* should be updated every four years. Much of the early work on this edition was done by Dr Y. Ozawa, the Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department at that time, before the appointment of Dr James Darbyshire of Cambridge as the first technical editor

1996

The third edition was published as an A4 book with soft covers. Since 1992, the technical editor had been Dr Anthony Cullen, previously at Weybridge, with the later assistance of Ms Sara Linnane (OIE Headquarters). The scope of the *Manual* had increased, as had the responsibilities of the Commission, now renamed the 'Standards Commission'

2000

The fourth edition, edited by Anthony Cullen and Sara Linnane, was published in A4 format, with hard covers. It included eight introductory chapters on subjects such as: Sampling Methods, Tests for Sterility and Freedom from Contamination, Human Safety in the Veterinary Laboratory and Principles of Veterinary Vaccine Production



The aim from the start has been to include chapters in the *Manual* on all the OIE-Listed Diseases of terrestrial animals, although, in some cases, these were combined under more generic headings, for example 'Salmonellosis'. In addition, a number of important but non-listed diseases were included, a measure which has been greatly appreciated by the OIE Member Countries. The Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the 'SPS Agreement') of the World Trade Organization named the OIE as the standard-setting body in the area of animal health and zoonoses, thereby raising the profile of the *Manual* as a formal compilation of laboratory standards. With this in mind, the Biological Standards Commission has put great emphasis on providing standardised methods for carrying out diagnostic tests, and for the production of vaccines. In more recent years, the topic of test validation has grown in

importance. An introductory chapter sets an OIE standard for test validation, and the aim is that tests described in the *Manual* should have been validated as 'fit for purpose'. The tests described will increasingly be accompanied by an explanation of the purposes for which they are suited. While recognising that laboratories often validate tests using specific commercial reagents or equipment, or even use complete diagnostic kits, the aim of the *Manual* is to provide generic methods so that no endorsement is given to any particular commercial product.

In parallel with the work on diagnostic methods, the Commission has worked with experts in *ad hoc* Groups to improve the vaccine sections of the disease chapters. A new template for this has been developed, taking account of the regulatory procedures in different parts of the world, and also recognising the work of the International Cooperation on



## 2002

The Commission identified the need for additional guidelines for laboratories beyond the scope of the *Manual*. It produced a companion booklet, entitled *OIE Quality Standards and Guidelines for Veterinary Laboratories for Infectious Diseases*. This was updated in a second edition in 2008, reflecting the 2005 revision of the Quality Standard ISO-17025

## 2003

The Commission, now renamed the Biological Standards Commission, continued under the presidency of Prof. Steven Edwards from 2003 to 2009. Dr James E. Pearson, retiring Head of the Scientific and Technical Department at the OIE, took over as consultant scientific editor, supported by Sara Linnane



## 2004

The fifth edition was published, retitled the *OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (mammals, birds and bees)* and expanded to a two-volume publication, still in A4 format, with soft covers and boxed. It was the first edition to be made freely available on the OIE website. From that date, all chapters adopted at the General Session between the publication of printed editions were placed on the web. The online version would become the officially definitive version



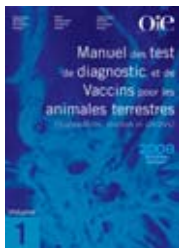


Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Products (VICH). The vaccine section sets standards for traditional methods (inactivated and live attenuated vaccines) and increasingly includes guidance on biotechnology-derived products, such as DIVA methods, recombinant vaccines and DNA vaccines (DIVA approaches typically combine a vaccine that does not express a particular viral protein with a diagnostic test that detects antibodies solely to that protein, thus enabling Differentiation between Infected and Vaccinated Animals.)

Given the rapid pace of change in biotechnology, it is expected that regular updates will continue to be required, and the intention is to continue publication on a four-year cycle, with intermediate updates to chapters in the web-based edition.

## Acknowledgements

Many people have contributed over the years to the success of the OIE *Terrestrial Manual*. Above all, we recognise the huge dedication and commitment of the in-house editors, initially Grace Townshend, then Sara Linnane. Without the OIE experts and Reference Laboratories there would be no texts to edit, while the comments received from Member Countries are helpful and constructive. The members of the Biological Standards Commission (and its predecessors) have given unfailing support, as have the successive Directors General and the Heads of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department.



# 2008

The sixth edition was published, continuing the two-volume format. This edition included new chapters on Guidelines for International Standards for Vaccine Banks, and on newly listed diseases such as turkey rhinotracheitis (avian metapneumovirus), small hive beetle infestation (*Aethina tumida*) and camelpox



# 2009

Prof. Vincenzo Caporale became President of the Commission in 2009, and his predecessor, Steven Edwards, took on the role of consultant scientific editor. In the interests of greater transparency, a new schedule for chapter revisions was adopted. Initial drafts are now circulated to Member Countries and disease experts for comment. The comments are then considered by the 'extended bureau group' of the Commission, which includes representatives of the Commission, experts on diagnostic tests and vaccines, and the editorial team. The amended chapter text is then circulated again to Member Countries before its proposed adoption at the next General Assembly

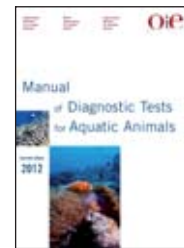


# 2012

The seventh edition was published. It included over 50 updated chapters and guidelines (including a new guideline on the application of biotechnology to the development of veterinary vaccines, and the addition of epizootic haemorrhagic disease to the bluetongue chapter). This edition had a slightly different structure from that of former editions:

**Part 1:** ten introductory chapters that set general standards for the management of veterinary diagnostic laboratories and vaccine production facilities

**Part 2:** chapters on OIE-listed diseases and other diseases of importance to international trade



**Part 3:** four guidelines that have been developed on topics such as biotechnology and antimicrobial susceptibility testing; intended to give background and guidance to their subjects

**Part 4:** the list of OIE Reference Centres at the time of publication (the list of OIE Reference Centres is updated by the World Assembly of Delegates of OIE Member Countries each year); the revised list is available on the OIE website



## OIE publications



### Trilingual publication

2013  
ISBN 978-92-9044-919-5  
Format: 21 × 29.7 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.



### Trilingual publication

2011  
ISBN 978-92-9044-836-5  
Format: 21 × 29.7 cm  
267 pp.  
Price: 60 €

### OIE Scientific and Technical Review Vol. 30 (2) **Models in the management of animal diseases**

*Co-ordinator and Editor: P. Willeberg*

The missions of the OIE include the design of surveillance and control methods of infectious transboundary animal diseases (including zoonoses), the provision of guarantees concerning veterinary public health, food safety, and the promotion of animal welfare. Moreover, in accordance with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the OIE is responsible for setting standards regarding safety of international trade in animals and animal products.

The purpose of this issue of the Review is to encourage and facilitate the worldwide improvement in the understanding of the ways in which national Veterinary Services and partners may make use of models in the prevention and control of animal diseases.



# news from headquarters

## Staff changes

### Departure

Deputy Director General of the OIE  
**Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima**



On 15 March, Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima gave up his duties as Deputy Director General of the OIE, in charge of animal health, veterinary public health and international standards. Dr Miyagishima has a medical degree and graduated from the University of Tokyo (Japan), specialising in public health. Previously Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, he joined the OIE on

1 August 2009. With this considerable professional experience, he brought to the OIE some very valuable skills, particularly in the areas of organising and managing the specialist commissions, and modernising the operating procedures of the OIE's network of Reference Centres, as decided in the Fifth Strategic Plan. His medical training has been a huge asset in launching activities and programmes linked to the implementation of the 'One Health' concept, as well as in reinforcing the OIE's partnerships with other institutions, such as WHO and the FAO. All of these contributions have been greatly appreciated by the Member Countries and the Director General.

Dr Miyagishima has rejoined WHO as Director of the Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS). In his new role, Dr Miyagishima will undoubtedly have many opportunities to keep in touch with the teams at the OIE, as well as contributing to the close collaboration between WHO and the OIE.

### Arrival

Communication Unit and Publications  
**Paloma Blandin-Parras**  
Head of the Computer-Aided Publishing Project



The OIE is happy to welcome back Madame Paloma Blandin, who took up her role as Head of the CAP Project on 15 March 2013. Having previously worked at the OIE for a decade, then becoming a consultant, Paloma has returned to

the OIE where we intend to take full advantage of her great specialist skills in computer-aided publishing (CAP). She will be sharing her abilities between communication activities (conference logos, computer graphics, promotional material for upcoming events, etc) and OIE publications (the *Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin*, etc).







## Meetings

# Activities of the Communication Unit

### Press Conference: a case of BSE in Brazil

Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, together with official representatives of Brazil, Dr Guilherme Henrique Marques, Director of Federal Veterinary Inspection, and Dr Enio Marques, Secretary for Animal and Plant Health, held a press conference to answer journalists' questions about the recent case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy detected in Brazil.

The international press agencies attended and their reporting of the situation has contributed to some very positive effects, as well as easing speculation since the notification of the outbreak.

### Agricultural shows

**Berlin, 17–27 January 2013,  
and Paris, 23 February – 3 March 2013**

For the third year in a row, the OIE was present at Grune Woche (Green Week) in Berlin and the International Agricultural Show in Paris. Continuing in the spirit of shared communication activities, the OIE took a joint stand with the European Commission (DG Sanco, the Directorate General for Health and Consumers).

The activities on the stand were intended to make children aware of the themes of food safety and animal welfare. Cooking lessons were organised by celebrity chefs.

Once again, this year, these two events were an opportunity to promote the OIE's missions to the general public.



### World Veterinary Day 2013

The theme chosen for World Veterinary Day 2013 is vaccination. The participants should do their best to communicate the necessity of vaccines to stop the spread of many infectious diseases that threaten the health and well-being of people and animals, and highlight the fundamental role of the veterinary profession in the success of vaccination campaigns and improving animal health.

The award-winner announced at the opening ceremony of the 81st General Session of the OIE in Paris, May 2013, will be invited to the World Veterinary Congress, planned for 17 to 20 September in Prague, in the Czech Republic, where he or she will receive their award.

# Activities of the Scientific and Technical Department

Summaries of the OIE *ad hoc*, Specialist Commission and Working Group meetings  
**January to March 2013**

## OIE *ad hoc* Groups

### On Antimicrobial Resistance

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 8–10 January 2013**

The Group reviewed and addressed the technical comments received from OIE Member Countries about

Chapter 6.10. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in animals.. The Group also finalised the review of the OIE list of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance.





## On Brucellosis

**OIE Headquarters,  
Paris, 9–11 January 2013**

The Group restructured the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* draft chapter on 'Infection with brucellosis', in accordance with the comments received from Member Countries, the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission. The three pathogens, *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis*, were addressed within a single chapter but the provisions in the chapter were made specific to each species. The concept of disease-free status at the country or zone level was considered for cattle, sheep and goats, camelids and cervids, but not for pigs. In the absence of an appropriate vaccine for camelids or cervids, disease-free status with vaccination was proposed only for cattle, sheep and goats. The Group also harmonised the language throughout the chapter.

## On Evaluation of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries (electronic consultations)

**31 December 2012 – 13 January 2013**

The Group evaluated a dossier submitted by a Member Country, asking to be recognised as a CBPP-free country, by correspondence.

## On Validation of Diagnostic Tests for Wildlife

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 15–17 January 2013**

The Group met for the second time and finalised the standard on 'Principles and methods for the validation of diagnostic tests for infectious diseases applicable to wildlife', taking into account Chapter 1.1.5., 'Principles and methods of validation of diagnostic assays for infectious diseases', of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*. The Group also made proposals on the draft updated version of Chapter 1.1.5., to maintain consistency between the two documents.

## On Evaluation of the African Horse Sickness Status of Member Countries

**OIE Headquarters,  
Paris, 15–17 January 2013**

The Group revised the African horse sickness (AHS) chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and addressed comments received from Member Countries. In addition, the Group established a first list of Member Countries that have historically been free from AHS by assessing the applications of 59 Member Countries. Finally, the Group assessed three dossiers from Members, asking to be recognised as being AHS-free (other than historically free).

## On Epidemiology

**Teleconference, OIE Headquarters,  
Paris, 28 January 2013**

The objective of this teleconference of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology was to consult on the surveillance articles included in the draft chapter on 'Infection with peste des petits ruminants (PPR) virus' of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. In November 2012, the *ad hoc* Group on PPR drafted new articles that would allow PPR to be added to the list of diseases for which the OIE officially recognises the disease status of countries or zones.

## OIE Specialist Commissions

### Meeting of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 4–8 February 2013**

The Commission met at OIE Headquarters under the chairmanship of its President, Dr Gideon Brückner, and addressed, among others, the following issues:

1. endorsement of the reports of the following *ad hoc* Groups on:

- antimicrobial resistance
- brucellosis
- inclusion of classical swine fever in the list of diseases with official status
- epidemiology
- evaluation of the African horse sickness disease status of Member Countries
- evaluation of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy risk status of Member Countries
- evaluation of the contagious bovine







## Activities of the Scientific and Technical Department

- Pleuropneumonia disease status of Member Countries
  - evaluation of the foot and mouth disease status of Member Countries
  - peste des petits ruminants
- 2. acceptance of two requests from Member Countries for the designation of Collaborating Centres
- 3. requests from Member Countries on scientific aspects of specific notifiable diseases; namely, on equine viral arteritis and on porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome
- 4. comments from Member Countries on the new draft chapters of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*:
  - Infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus
  - General principles on disease control
- 5. editing or development of new scientifically justified text in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (based on comments from Member Countries or scientific updates):
  - Chapter 1.6.: Questionnaire on classical swine fever and on peste des petits ruminants
  - Chapter 6.9.: Antimicrobial resistance risk assessment
  - Chapter 8.x.: Infection with brucellosis
  - Chapter 8.3.: Bluetongue
  - Chapter 8.5.: Foot and mouth disease
  - Chapter 8.12.: Rinderpest
  - Chapters 9.1.–9.6.: Bee diseases
  - Chapter 11.5.: Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
  - Chapter 12.1.: Infection with African horse sickness virus
  - Chapter 14.8.: Peste des petits ruminants
  - Chapter 15.8.: Classical swine fever
- 6. the involvement of members of the Commission and of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases in relevant *ad hoc* Groups, where wildlife plays a role in the epidemiology of the disease
- 7. prioritising the future work of the Commission: draft agendas and dates of new planned *ad hoc* Groups
- 8. possible OIE expert missions and other issues relevant to the evaluation of official country status.

Furthermore, the President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the President and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) held a joint meeting where several important items were discussed, such as the new planned *ad hoc* Group meetings on tuberculosis, harmonisation of standards for bluetongue, epizootic haemorrhagic disease and African horse sickness, Rift Valley fever and porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome; the user's guide to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*; changes to an article on rabies; and a number of *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* chapters that were then forwarded to the Code Commission.

## Meeting of the OIE Biological Standards Commission

**OIE Headquarters,  
Paris, 20–22 February 2013**

The Commission met at the OIE Headquarters under the chairmanship of its President, Prof. Vincenzo Caporale, and addressed, among others, the following issues: the designation of OIE Reference Centres, accepting six requests for the designation of OIE Reference Laboratory status and two for Collaborating Centre status. These requests were also endorsed by the OIE Council, which met shortly after the Commission. All OIE Reference Centre proposals must be adopted by the Assembly through a formal Resolution. Nine nominations for replacement experts were also approved. The Commission was informed that the OIE Council would present a Resolution in May 2013 that would formalise the role of the OIE Delegate in the procedure to replace experts at OIE Reference Laboratories. Under the proposed procedure, nominations would receive final approval by the Council at one of its three annual meetings. This would streamline the process in that the new experts could be approved and the on-line list of OIE Reference Laboratories updated after each Council meeting, rather than waiting for approval at the General Session in May of each year. The Council would also present Resolutions for both the designation and the withdrawal of Reference Centres.





## Activities of the Scientific and Technical Department

The Commission endorsed the reports of the following *ad hoc* Groups on:

- classical swine fever, 4–6 September 2012
- Rift Valley fever, 9–11 October 2012
- brainstorming on new approaches to diagnosis: applied genomics, 10–12 December 2012
- validation of diagnostic tests for wildlife, 15–17 January 2013.

In regard to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, 21 chapters were approved for circulation to the Member Countries as the final versions that would be proposed for adoption in May 2013.

The Commission finalised the programme and speakers for the one-day OIE Seminar on 'New approaches to diagnosis: applied genomics', which will be held on 7 June 2013 during the 16th World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WAVLD) Symposium, in Berlin, Germany, and invited all those interested in this topical subject to come to Berlin and support the seminar.

The Commission also discussed various activities; in particular, evaluation of the mandated activities of OIE Reference Laboratories.

Last but not least, the Commission endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Surveillance Panel on Equine Influenza Vaccine Composition on the make-up of equine influenza vaccines for 2012 (see 'Epidemiology and Animal disease control programmes' in this *Bulletin*, page 44).

## Activities of the International Trade Department

Summaries of the OIE Working Group  
and *ad hoc* Group Meetings  
*January to March 2013*

### **Ad hoc Group on Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production Systems** **OIE Headquarters,** **Paris, 8–10 January 2013**

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production Systems held its first meeting at the OIE Headquarters in January 2013.

The *ad hoc* Group drafted a new chapter for the *Terrestrial Code* on animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems. The new chapter was structured along the lines of Chapter 7.9., 'Animal welfare and beef cattle production systems'.

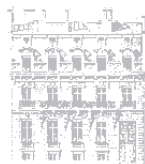
This draft chapter was then considered by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission at its February 2013 meeting and circulated for Member Country comments as part of the Commission's February meeting report.

### **Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission** **OIE Headquarters,** **Paris, 19–28 February 2013**

The Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission reviewed Member Country comments on the texts circulated after the Commission meeting in September 2012, together with the reports of OIE *ad hoc* Groups (Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production Systems, Veterinary Legislation and Porcine Cysticercosis) and the OIE Animal Production and Food Safety Working Group. The Commission also reviewed several new or revised draft chapters received from the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases.

The Commission will propose the following new or revised chapters for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013: the Glossary, Notification of diseases and epidemiological information; Criteria for listing diseases; Procedures for self declaration and for official recognition by the OIE; Evaluation of Veterinary Services; Veterinary legislation, Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen; Collection and processing





## Activities of the International Trade Department

of *in vivo* derived embryos from livestock and horses; Biosecurity procedures in poultry production; Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine; Zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates; Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare; Use of animals in research and education; Animal welfare and beef cattle production systems; a new draft chapter on Animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems; Infection with *Echinococcus granulosus*; a new draft chapter on Infection with *Echinococcus multilocularis*; Infection with *Trichinella* spp.; Infection with rabies virus; Rinderpest; Official health control of bee diseases; Infestation of honey bees with *Acarapis woodi*; Infection of honey bees with *Paenibacillus larvae* (American foulbrood); Infection of honey bees with *Melissococcus plutonius* (European foulbrood); Infestation with *Aetina tumida* (small hive beetle); Infestation of honey bees with *Tropilaelaps* spp.; Infestation of honey bees with *Varroa* spp. (varroosis); Infection with avian influenza viruses; Newcastle disease; Bovine spongiform encephalopathy; Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia; Infection with African horse sickness virus; Infection with equine arteritis virus; Infection with *Chlamydothrix abortus*; Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus; Infection with classical swine fever virus. In addition, chapters on vesicular stomatitis and on swine vesicular disease will be proposed for deletion in accordance with their proposed de-listing.

The Commission also decided to circulate the following revised or new draft chapters for Member comments: User's guide; Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in animals; Animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems; Slaughter of animals; Killing of animals for disease control purposes; Infection with foot and mouth disease virus; Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *melitensis*, and *suis*; Infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus; General principles for animal disease control. Member Country comments on these texts will be reviewed at the Commission's next meeting in September 2013.

## Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission OIE Headquarters, Paris, 11–15 March 2013

The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission addressed Member Country comments on texts circulated as part of the Commission's October 2012 meeting report. The Commission also reviewed a number of existing *Aquatic Code* and *Manual* chapters and drafted a new chapter.

The Commission will propose amended texts for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013. In the *Aquatic Code*, these chapters are: Glossary; Notification of diseases and epidemiological information (Chapter 1.1.); Criteria for listing aquatic animal diseases (Chapter 1.2.); Diseases listed by the OIE (Chapter 1.3.); Risk analysis (Chapters 2.1., 2.2. and 5.X.); Killing for disease control purposes (Articles 7.4.2., 7.4.3., and 7.4.4.); Epizootic ulcerative syndrome (Chapter 10.2.); and Infectious salmon anaemia (Chapter 10.5.).

In the *Aquatic Manual*, they include: Epizootic ulcerative syndrome (Chapter 2.3.2.); Infectious salmon anaemia (Chapter 2.3.5.); Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (Chapter 2.3.11.); and Infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1 (Chapter 2.4.9.).

The Commission has also developed a new text for 'Criteria for determining susceptibility of aquatic animals to specific pathogenic agents' (new Chapter X.X.) and this was circulated in the Commission's March 2013 report for comments from Member Countries. These comments will be reviewed by the Commission at its next meeting in October 2013.



# regional activities

Asia – Pacific

## Staff movements

### Arrival



**OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia**  
**Dr Agnès Poirier**

Dr Agnès Poirier joined the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia in December 2012 as Programme Coordinator of the European Union-funded Regional

Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging and re-emerging Diseases in Asia (HPED). This project aims to strengthen Veterinary Services in selected Asian countries through national and regional workshops for OIE delegates and Focal Points, implementation of the OIE PVS pathway and the establishment of regional vaccine banks to control foot and mouth disease, rabies and other highly pathogenic emerging and re-emerging diseases.

Agnès has a DVM degree from the Veterinary College of Toulouse, France (1981), and Master's Degrees in fisheries and economics. She has worked in both French and European institutions and has considerable experience in project management in several African countries.

Before joining the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia, Agnès worked in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a desk officer in charge of livestock and sanitary and phytosanitary matters, and worked closely with the OIE on following up many global and regional animal health programmes, such as the Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) and the 'One Health' initiative. It's a pleasure to welcome her into the OIE fold.

### Departures



**Deputy OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific**  
**Dr Kenji Sakurai**

Dr Kenji Sakurai, Deputy OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, left the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, based in Tokyo, on 31 January 2013.

Dr Sakurai first joined the Representation in May 2008, after working at the Japanese Embassy in Uruguay. As a Deputy Regional Representative, Dr Sakurai's duties were many and varied but we particularly want to note his contribution towards building the capacity of the Veterinary Services in the region, as well as promoting the OIE's work and visibility. It is, in great part, through his dedication that the OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) Programme for Strengthening Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Control in Asia has been so successfully implemented over the last five years.

Dr Sakurai has returned to the Veterinary Authority of the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The OIE wishes him every success in his new role and hopes to have the opportunity of working with him again.





## Asia – Pacific

### OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia Dr Andrew Davis



Dr Andrew Davis completed his assignment with the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia in Bangkok in December 2012 to return to his post with the Australian Government at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL).

Dr Davis was a Programme Coordinator with responsibility for

implementing the OIE's activities for the IDENTIFY project within the USAID-funded Emerging Pandemic Threat programme. This included leading a multi-country laboratory strategic planning initiative, general laboratory capacity-building and networking, and assisting in the development and piloting of the new Laboratory Mission within the OIE PVS Pathway.

Dr Davis is now working in a position that will allow him to collaborate with the OIE in the future (with AAHL being a designated OIE Reference Laboratory and Collaborating Centre), and hopes to maintain the much-valued personal and professional relationships that he has developed with his OIE colleagues over the past two years. We hope to work with him again soon, and wish him all the very best.



### OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia Ms Quyen Tran

Ms Quyen Tran ended her time with the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (SRR SEA) in Bangkok in March 2013.

Ms Tran was responsible for implementing the Sub-Regional Representation's activities under the Highly Pathogenic Emerging and re-emerging Diseases (HPED) Programme. With her wide range of skills, she also made a significant contribution to improving the SRR-SEA's administration and financial systems. This included the development of the SRR SEA's accounting system, project management system and the regional website.

Ms Tran is now relocating with her family to Beijing, China, where she hopes to continue to extend her career and professional abilities. We wish them every happiness in their new life.

## Africa

### Departures

#### Ms Mouna Bousseh

After spending nearly three years as Administrative and Financial Assistant of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa, Ms Mouna Bousseh left the OIE in October 2012 and has rejoined the private sector. We are sorry to say goodbye but wish her all the best in her new challenges.



## Staff movements

### Africa

#### Dr Patrick Bastiaensen moves from Gaborone to Nairobi

After five years with the OIE Sub-Regional Representation (SRR) for Southern Africa, based in Gaborone, Botswana, as Programme Officer, Dr Patrick Bastiaensen has taken up a new position with the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern and the Horn of Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. He was back on duty with renewed vigour at his new station on 21 January 2013. It has been a privilege for the SRR Southern Africa to have Patrick Bastiaensen (affectionately known as 'Bas') among us. The Representation, his colleagues and all his friends in the sub-region will miss Bas and we wish him all the best in his new posting. He has played a large part in many of the achievements of the SRR Southern Africa and is a remarkably resourceful person, as his new colleagues will soon discover. He leaves a good legacy behind, including solid relationships with many other regional organisations. Bas can consider this sub-region and Gaborone his home and we believe he felt at home while he was with us. We know he will take to the Nairobi office all the cheerful good nature, skills and achievements that he shared so freely with us.

Thank you, Bas.



Dr Patrick Bastiaensen at his farewell party, with the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Botswana, Dr M. Letshwenyo



Dr Patrick Bastiaensen with his daughter Amber

#### Dr Florência Massango Cipriano is temporarily based in Gaborone



The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa, in Gaborone, welcomed the arrival of Dr Florência Massango Cipriano, Deputy Regional Representative for Africa from Bamako, Mali, on 1 February 2013.

Dr Cipriano's move – though temporary – is very welcome indeed, at a

time when our staff have been reduced by the departure of Dr Bastiaensen to our sister office in Nairobi.

Dr Cipriano will continue to work with the Regional Representation in Bamako, in addition to her duties at the Gaborone office. Her input and influence are already being appreciated by her new colleagues and she has lost no time in establishing good relations with other organisations within the sub-region. 'I will continue to serve the region and, now that the Regional Representation is closer to southern Africa, you should use this advantage!' said Dr Cipriano, during a courtesy call to the OIE Delegate of Botswana.





## Meetings

### Role and Objectives of the OIE Sub-Regional Foot and Mouth Disease Coordination Unit for OIE/Gulf Cooperation Council Member Countries and Yemen

The main objective of establishing a Sub-Regional Coordination Unit for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Control in a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Member Country is to implement an action plan to control and eradicate FMD, in line with the Global Strategy adopted in Bangkok, Thailand, on 28 June 2012.

As envisaged by the plan, this unit would coordinate national FMD control programmes in Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Yemen, using a common strategy to maximise the efficacy of the campaign throughout the region, for a period of eight years. These seven countries endorsed the plan at the meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, on 26 April 2012, in Dubai, UAE. It is proposed that the unit be established in one GCC country, with the aim of facilitating and promoting international trade in animals and animal products by creating an FMD-free region in the Gulf.

A Progressive Control Pathway for FMD (PCP/FMD) has been developed by the OIE and FAO to assist countries where FMD is still endemic (for example, in the Middle East), to progressively reduce the impact of FMD and the FMD virus load. The PCP/FMD forms the backbone of the Global FAO/OIE Strategy for the control of FMD worldwide.

The role of the Sub-Regional Coordination Unit would be to follow up the progress of these countries in their implementation of the measures required for the FMD Pathway. The unit officers would be responsible for organising yearly national and regional meetings, workshops and training courses relevant to the FMD Pathway. They would help with national FMD control activities in the countries concerned, as well as with bilateral negotiation along national borders, the development of national campaign strategies, the harmonisation of techniques and laboratory diagnostic capabilities, obtaining additional support for national activities, and liaising with the FMD Reference Laboratories.

In addition, the unit would be able to assist in the parallel surveillance and control of other transboundary animal diseases that are important in GCC countries, such as peste des petits ruminants.

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is endemic among ruminants in the Middle East, but periodic and devastating epidemics do occur, spreading rapidly across national and regional borders.

### Timetable of activities for FMD:

#### 2013–2014

- Progress from Stage I to Stage II: implementation of an action plan
- End of 2014: meeting for assessment

#### 2015–2016

- Progress from Stage II to Stage III: capacity-building in FMD surveillance and control and diagnostic analysis
- End of 2016: meeting for assessment: regional conference on FMD

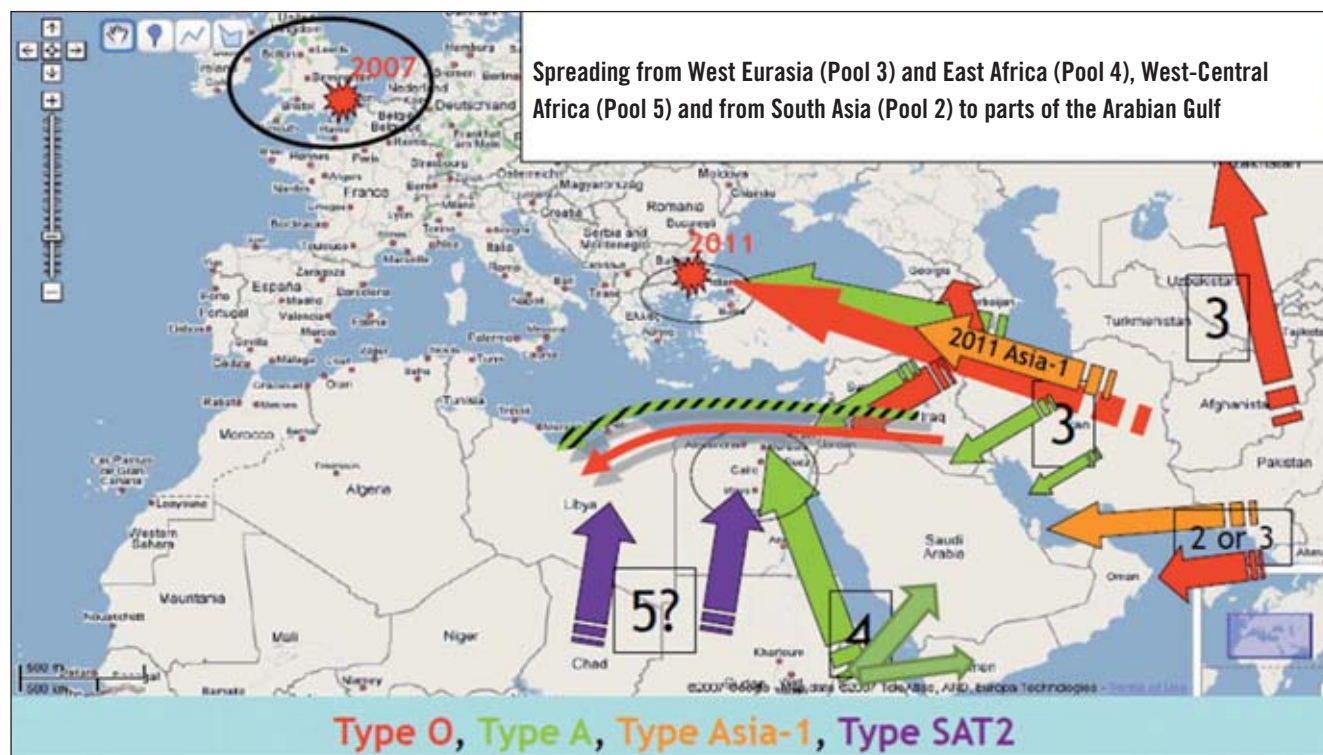
#### 2017

- Progress towards Stage III
- End of 2017: an application for official recognition of the FMD control programme by the OIE

#### 2018–2020

- Progress towards Stages IV and V
- End of 2020: a declaration of freedom from FMD without vaccination, the final eradication of FMD.





Foot and mouth disease virus strains which emerge from Central Asia, passing through the Middle East to West Eurasia, with a clear pathway of spread along defined routes, are known as ‘waves of infection’, since the appearance of the A22 strain from 1964 to 1972. Links between virus isolates from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Turkey suggest that FMD probably spreads westwards from South-Central Asia, along what has been called ‘Ruminant Street’.

Studies on the geographical distribution and density of livestock populations in South Asia and the Middle East have identified areas of continuous livestock density between the Mediterranean Basin and southern Asia, which create a narrow, east-west connection just south of the Caspian Sea and act as a corridor for the spread of pathogens.

Foot and mouth disease is the most contagious disease of domesticated and wild cloven-hoofed animals, and is caused by a virus of the Aphthovirus genus in the Picornaviridae family. The FMD virus exists as seven different serotypes (O, A, C, Southern African Territories [SAT] 1, SAT 2, SAT 3 and Asia 1), which are not uniformly distributed across the globe. Four out of the seven serotypes have been recorded in the Middle East and Asia (O, A, C, Asia 1).



## OIE Seminar on Veterinary Legislation

*Cotonou, Benin, 15–17 January 2013*



Group photograph

A regional OIE Seminar on Veterinary Legislation, targeting countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), was held in Cotonou, Benin, with the support of the European Commission 'Vet-Gov' project and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).

A total of 57 participants from the region attended the January seminar, including representatives of Veterinary Services, the private sector, and the Legal Unit of the National Government. Three observers from the International Regional Organisation for Animal and Plant Health (OIRSA) also took part, with a view to organising a similar event in Central America in the near future.

The seminar focused on how to develop quality veterinary legislation, based on the newly adopted OIE standards set out in Chapter 3.4. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. It also highlighted the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme under the OIE global initiative of the PVS Pathway, which provides technical assistance to Member Countries who want to modernise their veterinary legislation to meet OIE standards on animal health and welfare.

Through a series of technical presentations provided by OIE experts and two break-up sessions (a case study and a drafting exercise involving actual veterinary legislation), the participants explored the factors that must be considered when developing high-quality veterinary legislation and agreed that the OIE standards on veterinary legislation should be the basis for developing or modernising their own legislation.

The seminar's conclusions are available on the OIE regional website for Africa ([www.rr-africa.oie.int/en/news/20130118\\_2.html](http://www.rr-africa.oie.int/en/news/20130118_2.html)).



Dr Yacouba Samaké (OIE) and Dr Soumana Diallo (UEMOA) present certificates of attendance

## Appointment of permanent Delegates

**1 January 2013**

### **Kazakhstan**

**Dr Mereke Taitubayev**

Head, Veterinary and Food Safety,  
Ministry of Agriculture

**5 January 2013**

### **Mongolia**



**Dr Baatar Togoonyam**

Deputy Director,  
Veterinary and Animal  
Breeding Agency,  
Ministry for Industry and  
Agriculture

**7 January 2013**

### **Cameroon**

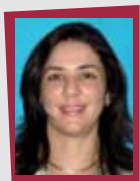
**Dr Gaston Djonwe**

Directeur, Services  
vétérinaires, Ministère de  
l'élevage, des pêches et des  
industries animales

**15 January 2013**

### **Dominican Republic**

**Dr Nimia Lissette Gómez Rodríguez**



Directora, Dirección de  
Sanidad Animal, Dirección  
General de Ganadería  
(DIGEGA), Ministerio de  
Agricultura

**16 January 2013**

### **Mexico**

**Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez**



Director General de Salud  
Animal, Servicio Nacional  
de Sanidad, Inocuidad y  
Calidad Agroalimentaria  
(SENASICA), Secretaría  
de Agricultura, Ganadería,  
Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación,

Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería,  
Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación

**17 January 2013**

### **Jordan**



**Dr Munther Al-Refai**

Chief Veterinary Officer,  
Ministry of Agriculture

**21 January 2013**

### **Gabon**

**Dr Bruno Franck Mihindou**



Directeur général adjoint  
de l'élevage, Ministère  
de l'agriculture, de  
l'élevage, de la pêche et du  
développement rural

**22 January 2013**

### **Sweden**

**Dr Ingrid Eilertz**



Chief Veterinary Officer  
Director and Head, Swedish  
Board of Agriculture,  
Department for Animal  
Welfare and Health,  
Ministry for Rural Affairs

**1 February 2013**

### **Myanmar**

**Dr Myint Than**



Director General,  
Livestock Breeding and  
Veterinary Department,  
Ministry of Livestock  
and Fisheries

**1 February 2013**

### **Iceland**

**Dr Sigurborg Daðadóttir**



Chief Veterinary Officer,  
Icelandic Food and  
Veterinary Authority,  
Ministry of Industries  
and Innovation

**26 February 2013**

### **Mozambique**

**Dr José Libombo Jr.**

National Director, Veterinary Services,  
Ministry of Agriculture

**4 March 2013**

### **Chinese Taipei**

**Dr Ping-Cheng Yang**



Director, Animal  
Technology Institute  
Taiwan, Ministry of  
Agriculture

**12 March 2013**

### **Serbia**

**Dr Zorica Novaković**



Acting Chief Veterinary  
Officer, Veterinary  
Directorate, Ministry of  
Agriculture, Forestry and  
Water Management

## Appointment of permanent Delegates

**14 March 2013**

### Zimbabwe

**Dr Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu**



Director, Livestock and Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development

**17 March 2013**

### Yemen

**Dr Yasser Aleryani**



Director General, Directorate General of Animal Health and Veterinary Quarantine, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

**25 March 2013**

### Albania

**Dr Gani Moka**



Director, Food Safety and Consumer's Protection Policies, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Consumer Protection

**29 March 2013**

### Canada

**Dr Martine Dubuc**



Chief Food Safety Officer, Vice-President, Science Branch, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food

# A new OIE Representation in Moscow!

The vital role played by the OIE Representations in implementing the strategic plan needs no further demonstration. The Representations ensure close relationships with Member Countries and aid in the adoption of international standards by national Veterinary Services, especially in the areas of quality and good governance. A particular responsibility is providing programmes to extend the skills of national policy-makers. This is why the current network, already 11 Representations strong, has been consolidated by the establishment of an office in Moscow (Russia). The hosting agreement was signed by Dr Vallat, Director General of the OIE, and the Russian authorities on 6 March 2013, in Moscow. Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas has been named the OIE Representative in Moscow.

**First meeting in Berlin (14 January 2013) ratifying the Headquarters Agreement with the Russian authorities, which was signed by Dr Vallat, Director General of the OIE, on 6 March 2013 in Moscow**



From left to right: Mr Nikolai Fiodorov, Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, and Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov, OIE Delegate of Russia, Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance, Ministry of Agriculture



From left to right: Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, OIE Representative, and Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE



# strengthening of Veterinary Services

OIE PVS Pathway for efficient Veterinary Services



## PVS Evaluation missions

*State of Play – as at 15 May 2013*

OIE Region	OIE Members	Requests received	Missions completed	Reports available for distribution to donors and partners
Africa	52	53	49	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>84</b>

## 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 Príncipe, 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



## PVS Gap Analysis missions

*State of Play – as at 15 May 2013*

OIE Region	OIE Members	Requests received	Missions completed	Reports available for distribution to donors and partners
Africa	52	40	34	21
Americas	29	14	10	9
Asia and the Pacific	32	14	10	7
Europe	53	8	6	2
Middle East	12	8	4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>39</b>

## Legislation missions

*State of Play – as at 15 May 2013*

OIE Region	OIE Member	Requests received	Missions completed
Africa	52	25	17
Americas	29	6	4
Asia and the Pacific	32	5	5
Europe	53	3	2
Middle East	12	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>32</b>

## Legislation missions

### • Africa (25)

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

### • Americas (6)

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

### • Africa (40)

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, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia.

### • Americas (14)

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

### • Asia-Pacific (14)

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



### Basic Workshop on the Second Version of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) for recently appointed National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE OIE Headquarters, Paris, France, 9–11 October 2012

A basic workshop on the second version of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) for recently appointed National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE was held in Paris, from 9 to 11 October 2012. It was organised by the Animal Health Information Department at OIE Headquarters, with the help of the OIE's Regional Activities Department.

The training session aimed to familiarise recently appointed National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification with the most recent version of WAHIS, and consisted of both theoretical and practical components. Thirty-one participants, representing 29 countries from all over the OIE regions, attended the workshop, as well as an OIE staff member from the Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia. All National Focal Points had been newly nominated, and some of them had never used WAHIS before.

The introductory session covered several topics, including a rebriefing on the structure and objectives of the OIE, the rights and responsibilities of Permanent Delegates and the role of National Focal Points, with special emphasis on those dealing with disease notification to the OIE.

During the training, Animal Health Information Department staff gave detailed presentations on the components of WAHIS and its Web interface, WAHID (the World Animal Health Information Database): immediate notifications and follow-up reports, six-monthly reports and annual reports. These presentations focused on improving the quality of the data entered, and how best to display these data in the new interface. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of timely notification. Attendees were also introduced to the new functions in this second version of WAHIS, such as the division of information for terrestrial and aquatic animal species into two separate six-monthly reports, new occurrence codes, the potential to send information to the OIE on a monthly basis, and improvements for notifying OIE-listed diseases in wild species (identifying the correct host animal by family name, scientific name [Latin name] and common name, among other new functions).

One important component of the training was complementing the theoretical presentations with *ad hoc* practical exercises, which exposed participants to real scenarios where they faced potential difficulties while filing WAHIS reports. They were able to work with WAHIS live through a specially designed training application, which was, however, completely disconnected from the WAHIS official application (for obvious reasons). Of course, the staff of the OIE Animal Health Information Department were always at hand to lend their support. These practical exercises, along with the help provided by the Animal Health Information Department staff, were noted as highlights of the workshop in



Group photo





## Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Welfare

*Teramo, Italy, 5–7 March 2013*

the evaluation questionnaire filled in by participants at the end of the session.

In all, this workshop provided an excellent opportunity for the participants and their OIE trainers to exchange views and insights, as well as strengthening communication between OIE Headquarters and Member Countries. As always, the aim is to constantly improve the reporting of animal diseases. Over all, participants showed enthusiasm and motivation, and even suggested increasing the number of training events for National Focal Points.



At the seminar, speaking: Ms Barbara Alessandrini (Training, IZSAM). On the podium, from left to right: Dr Fernando Arnolfo (Director General, IZSAM), Dr Monique Eloit (Deputy Director General, OIE), Dr Piergiuseppe Facelli (Ministry of Health, Italy), Dr Derek Belton (Head, OIE International Trade Department)

Forty OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare were welcomed to a regional seminar in Teramo, Italy, in March, as part of the OIE capacity-building programme to strengthen Veterinary Services around the world. This important task (Strategic Objective V of the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan 2011–2015) saw all 53 Focal Points for Animal Welfare invited to the forum. While not all were able to attend, those who did were joined by representatives from several regional organisations and NGOs. Focal Points are assigned to help the OIE Delegate with the OIE's standard-setting process, in their specific area of competence, by organising within-country consultations, establishing networks, promoting communication between countries (often between

two or more Competent Authorities), and preparing comments on the draft Chapters of the OIE *Codes* and *Manuals*.

This Regional Seminar for National Focal Points on Animal Welfare was held in Teramo from 5 to 7 March 2013, funded by the European Commission (as part of Contribution Agreement EU-OIE 2012-2013) and organised by the OIE, with the support of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise 'G. Caporale' (IZSAM) – an OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare.

The 'Teramo seminar' was the third seminar on animal welfare in the region, and came as a follow-up to the first two, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in July 2009 and in Kiev, Ukraine, in March 2012,

respectively. The 'Kiev seminar' was an important milestone, as it was at that meeting that the idea for an OIE Regional Platform for Animal Welfare first emerged. The idea became even more of a reality during the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Fleesensee, Germany, September 2012), when the 53 Delegates of the region discussed the technical activities of the proposed platform and its governance.

An important part of this discussion was the implementation of OIE animal welfare standards, illustrated by the practical experiences of the Member Countries and stakeholders. The European Commission (DG SANCO) and ISZAM also presented an overview of their main animal welfare activities in the region.

### The objectives of the 'Teramo seminar' were to:

- a) provide participants with information on the role, commitments and responsibilities of OIE National Focal Points in the OIE standard-setting process
- b) provide an overview of OIE international standards on animal welfare, as well as of its present work programme in that area, including the recommendations of the Third Global Conference on Animal Welfare (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, November 2012)
- c) raise awareness of the OIE Improved Animal Welfare Programme (IAWP), which aims to train trainers
- d) encourage OIE Member Countries to embark on the OIE PVS Pathway to strengthen their Veterinary Services, based on OIE international standards, and
- e) allow the countries and stakeholders of the region to share their experiences and join in discussion.



Dr Monique Eloit and Dr Fernando Arnolfo at the official inauguration of the new, state-of-the-art conference room 'F. Gramenzi' of the International Centre for Veterinary Training and Information (CIFIV), Teramo, Italy

### The seminar was also another opportunity to discuss the OIE Regional Platform for Animal Welfare, and to:

- a) confirm the most pressing topics confronting the platform; namely, transport, slaughter and managing stray dog populations
- b) identify national needs and gaps (in legislation, communication, training and education, human resources, research, best practice, etc.) that might hinder the implementation of OIE standards on these three topics
- c) invite three non-European Union Member Countries to join, on a voluntary basis, the Steering Group of the Platform by the end of March.

The membership of the Steering Group is expected to be confirmed at the next meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in May 2013. The participation of other stakeholders (mainly industry associations and NGOs) in the Steering Group will be explored at a later date. It is hoped to hold the first meeting of the Steering Group in autumn 2013, and the platform is expected to become operational in 2014.

Finally, the six OIE Member Countries of Europe which have not yet nominated their National Focal Points on Animal Welfare were encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

# meetings and visits

## Names and positions of OIE permanent staff who participated in meetings or visits: January to March 2013

OIE Headquarters			
<b>General Directorate</b>			
Bernard Vallat	Director General	Natalja Lambergeon	Animal Health Information Technician
Alex Thiermann	Technical Adviser and President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission	Paula Cáceres	Veterinary Epidemiologist
		Lina Awada	Veterinary Epidemiologist
Etienne Bonbon	Adviser of the Director General	Simona Forcella	Chargée de mission
Glaieul Mamaghani	Acting Head of the Communication Unit	Aziza Yassin Mustafa	Chargée de mission
Julie Strat	Chargée de mission	Vera Cecilia Ferreira de Figueiredo	Chargée de mission
Monique Eloit	Deputy Director General (Administration, Management, Human Resources and Regional Actions)	Margarita Alonso	Translation/Editing Assistant
Alain Dehove	Coordinator of the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund	<b>International Trade Department</b>	
Julie Macé	Project Officer – World Animal Health and Welfare Fund	Derek Belton	Head of Department
Emily Tagliaro	Project Officer – World Animal Health and Welfare Fund	Gillian Mylrea	Deputy Head of Department
Victoria Wong	Project Officer – World Animal Health and Welfare Fund	Rastislav Kolesar	Animal Welfare Coordinator
Alix Weng	Head of the Budget and Financial Unit	Masatsugu Okita	Chargé de mission
Jean-Pierre Croiziers	Head of the Human Resources Unit	Mariela Varas	Chargée de mission
Gilles Seigneurin	Head of the Accounts Unit	Dietrich Rassow	Chargé de mission
Marie Bonnerot	Administrative and Budgetary Technician	<b>Scientific and Technical Department</b>	
Romain Lemesnager	Accounts Assistant	Kazuaki Miyagishima	Head of Department (until 15 March 2013)
Kazuaki Miyagishima	Deputy Director General (Animal Health, Veterinary Public Health and International Standards) (until 15 March 2013)	Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel	Deputy Head of Department (until 15 March 2013) and Acting Head of Department (from 15 March 2013)
<b>Administration, Logistics and Publications Department</b>			
Daniel Chaisemartin	Head of Department	Joseph Domenech	Chargé de mission
Marie Teissier	Documentalist	Kokoé Sodji	Bilingual Secretary
Bertrand Flahault	1st Deputy Head of Department and Head of the Systems Management and Events Unit	Alessandro Ripani	Chargé de mission
Ingrid Contreras Arias	Conference Coordinator	Susanne Münstermann	Chargée de mission
Irène Jeutner	Bilingual Assistant Travel Manager	Bernardo Todeschini	Chargé de mission
Annie Souyri	2nd Deputy Head of Department and Head of the Publications Unit	Kiok Hong	Chargé de mission
Tamara Benicasa	Marketing and Sales Manager	François Diaz	Chargé de mission
<b>Animal Health Information Department</b>			
Karim Ben Jebara	Head of Department	Keith Hamilton	Chargé de mission
Manuel José Sánchez Vázquez	Deputy Head of Department	Laure Weber-Vintzel	Officer in charge of the Recognition of Countries' Animal Disease Status
Marija Popovic	Chargée de mission	Nicola Brink	Technical Assistant
		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
		<b>Regional Activities Department</b>	
		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)	Kenji Sakurai	Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (Tokyo, Japan) <b>(until 31 January 2013)</b>
Florência Cipriano	Deputy Regional Representative for Africa (temporarily in Gaborone, Botswana)	Chantane Buranathai	Regional Project Coordinator (Tokyo, Japan)
Daniel Bourzat	Adviser to the Regional Representative for Africa (Bamako, Mali)	Hnin Thidar Myint	Regional Veterinary Officer (Tokyo, Japan)
Youma N'Diaye	Accountant (Bamako, Mali)	Noriko Tesaki	Accountant (Tokyo, Japan)
Mariam Minta	Secretary (Bamako, Mali)	Takako Hasegawa Shimizu	Secretary (Tokyo, Japan)
Aïssata Bagayoko	Secretary (Bamako, Mali)	Kazue Akagawa	Secretary (Tokyo, Japan)
Alou Sangaré	Administrative Assistant (Bamako, Mali)	Yuka Fay	Secretary (Tokyo, Japan)
Neo Mapitse	Sub-Regional Representative for the Countries of the Southern African Development Community (Gaborone, Botswana)	Chiharu Izumi	Secretary (Tokyo, Japan)
Patrick Bastiaensen	Programme Officer (Gaborone, Botswana) <b>(until 20 January 2013)</b>	Ronello Abila	Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia and SEACFMD Regional Coordinator (Bangkok, Thailand)
Mpho Mantsho	Administrative and Financial Assistant (Gaborone, Botswana)	Dirk Van Aken	Deputy Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)
Nomsa Thekiso	Secretary (Gaborone, Botswana)	Agnès Poirier	Chargée de mission (Bangkok, Thailand)
Rachid Bouguédour	Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa (Tunis, Tunisia)	Quyen Tran	Project Officer (HPED) (Bangkok, Thailand)
Vincent Brioude	Programme Officer (Tunis, Tunisia)	Mary Joy Gordoncillo	Project Officer (STANDZ) (Bangkok, Thailand)
Antonio Petrini	Programme Officer (Tunis, Tunisia)	Karanvir Kukreja	Project Officer (SEACFMD) (Bangkok, Thailand)
Inès Guitouni	Secretary (Tunis, Tunisia)	Cecilia Dy	'M&E' and Communication Officer (Bangkok, Thailand)
Walter Masiga	Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa (Nairobi, Kenya)	Patitta Angvanitchakul	Secretary (Bangkok, Thailand)
Patrick Bastiaensen	Programme Officer (Nairobi, Kenya) <b>(from 21 January 2013)</b>	Melada Ruengjumroonath	Office Assistant (Bangkok, Thailand)
Grace Omwega	Administrative and Financial Assistant (Nairobi, Kenya)	<b>Eastern Europe</b>	
Loise Ndungu	Secretary (Nairobi, Kenya)	Nikola T. Belev	Regional Representative for Eastern Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria)
<b>Americas</b>		Rina Kostova	Secretary (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Luis Osvaldo Barcos	Regional Representative for the Americas (Buenos Aires, Argentina)	Stanislav Ralchev	Technical Assistant (Sofia, Bulgaria) <b>(until 14 March 2013)</b>
Martín Minassian	Technical Assistant (Buenos Aires, Argentina)	Valentyna Sharandak	Technical Assistant (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Alicia Palmas	Secretary (Buenos Aires, Argentina)	Nadège Leboucq	Sub-Regional Representative (Brussels, Belgium)
Leandro Barcos	Administrative Assistant (Buenos Aires, Argentina)	Stéphane de La Rocque	Animal Health Specialist (Brussels, Belgium)
Filiberto Frago Santamaría	Sub-Regional Representative for Central America (Panama City, Panama)	Stanislav Ralchev	Technical Assistant (Brussels, Belgium) <b>(from 15 March 2013)</b>
Alina Gutiérrez Camacho	Secretary (Panama City, Panama)	<b>Middle East</b>	
<b>Asia and the Pacific</b>		Ghazi Yehia	Regional Representative for the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon)
Tomoko Ishibashi	Acting Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (Tokyo, Japan)	Mustapha Mestom	Consultant (Beirut, Lebanon)
		Rita Rizk	Secretary (Beirut, Lebanon)
		Khodr Rejeili	Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)
		Mahmoud Ghaddaf	Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)

## Names and positions of experts who represented the OIE in meetings or visits

Gideon Brückner	President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases	Gérard Moulin	OIE Expert, OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products (Fougères, France)
Cédric Colmar	Veterinary Pharmacovigilance Expert for the ANMV, OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products (Fougères, France)	Gardner Murray	OIE Special Adviser
Carlos A. Correa Messuti	Past President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates and OIE Delegate of Uruguay	Jean-Pierre Orand	OIE Expert, OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products (Fougères, France)
Anthony R. Fooks	OIE Expert, OIE Reference Laboratory for Rabies (Weybridge, United Kingdom)	Martial Petitclerc	OIE Project Manager and Lead Expert on the Veterinary Legislation Programme
Kazimieras Lukauskas	OIE Expert	Herbert Schneider	OIE Expert
Bothe Michael Modisane	Member of the OIE Council and OIE Delegate of South Africa	Karin Schwabenbauer	President of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates and OIE Delegate of Germany
		Michel Thibier	OIE Expert

### List of abbreviations

ACGL	BNVL	COTASA	EFSA	EUWeNet
ASEAN Communication Group on Livestock	Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory	Andean Technical Committee on Agricultural Health	European Food Safety Authority	Coordinated European Animal Welfare Network (project co-financed by the European Commission)
AHPNS	CALLISTO	CSF	EID	FAO
Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Syndrome	Companion Animals multisectorial interprofessional and Interdisciplinary Strategic Think tank On zoonoses	Classical swine fever	Emerging Infectious Diseases	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
AHVLA	CAN	DAH	EIO	FAVA
Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency	Andean Community of Nations	Department of Animal Health (Vietnam)	Engaging Intergovernmental Organizations	Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations
AI	CBD	DG SANCO	EMA	FEI
Avian influenza	Convention on Biological Diversity	Directorate General for Health and Consumers of the European Commission	European Medicines Agency	International Equestrian Federation
ANMV	CBRN	Discontools	EMS	FMD
French Agency for Veterinary Medicinal Products	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear	Disease Control Tools Project	Early Mortality Syndrome	Foot and mouth disease
APHCA	CCFICS	DURC	ENSV	FP7
Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems	Dual-Use Research of Concern	National School of Veterinary Services	European Seventh Framework Programme
ASEAN	CDC	EC	ESVAC	GALVMed
Association of South-East Asian Nations	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	European Commission	European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption	Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines
AU	CODA-CERVA	ECTAD	ETPGAH	GF-TADs
African Union	Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre (Belgium)	FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases	European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health	FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
AU-IBAR	CoE	EDENext	EU	GLEWS
African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources	Centres of Excellence	Biology and control of vector-borne infections in Europe	European Union	Global Early Warning System
AU-PANVAC			EuFMD	
African Union-Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre			European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease	

## List of abbreviations

GREASE Management of Emerging Risks in South-East Asia	ILRI International Livestock Research Institute	OIE World Organisation for Animal Health	SASA Andean Agricultural Health System	TVMA Thai Veterinary Medical Association
HPAI Highly pathogenic avian influenza	IMED International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance	OIRSA Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health	SEACFMD South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign	UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
HPED European Union-funded cooperation programme on highly pathogenic and emerging and re-emerging diseases in Asia	INC Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee	OPCW Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	SMP-AH Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health	VET-GOV Project 'Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa'
HRH His/Her Royal Highness	IPA Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance	PAHO Pan-American Health Organization	SPC Secretariat of the Pacific Community	VICH International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products
IAMZ Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza	ISGP Institute on Science for Global Policy	PMAC Prince Mahidol Award Conference	SPS Sanitary and phytosanitary measures	VPVGS Veterinary Pharmacovigilance for Global Food Security
IATA International Air Transport Association	ISIRV International Society for Influenza and other Respiratory Virus Diseases	PPR Peste des petits ruminants	SSAFE Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere	VSF Veterinarians Without Borders
ICVS International Conference on Veterinary Sciences	JRC Joint Research Centre (the European Commission's in-house science service)	PVMA Philippine Veterinary Medical Association	STANDZ Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses	WHO World Health Organization
IDENTIFY Laboratory Capacity Building and Networking Project	JTF Japan Trust Fund	RAWS Regional Animal Welfare Strategy	STDF Standards and Trade Development Facility	WTO World Trade Organization
IETS International Embryo Transfer Society	M&E Monitoring & Evaluation	REEV-Med Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education	TADs Transboundary animal diseases	
IHR International Health Regulations	OFFLU Joint OIE/FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of animal influenzas	RVF Rift Valley fever	TAIEX Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument	

## meetings and visits

## January 2013

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
17th FAVA Congress	Taiwan (Chinese Taipei)	4-5 January	Dr R. Abila
Review of the implementation process for the 'PPR' pilot project	Burkina Faso, Ghana and France	7 January – 2 February	Dr J. Domenech, Dr D. Bourzat & Mr A. Sangaré
3rd Preparatory mission for the organisation of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa	Lome (Togo)	8-10 January	Ms N. Monsalve & Dr Y. Samaké
Meeting with DG SANCO	Brussels (Belgium)	9 January	Dr N. Leboucq
CALLISTO Project – Meeting of the Expert Advisory Group on Policy Action	Brussels (Belgium)	10 January	Dr N. Leboucq
Meeting with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia	Bangkok (Thailand)	11 January	Dr C. Buranathai



## meetings and visits

## January 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Official visit at the invitation of the Saudi Authorities	Riyadh and Jeddah (Saudi Arabia)	12-15 January	Dr B. Vallat & Dr G. Yehia
5th INC/UNEP session to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury	Geneva (Switzerland)	13-15 January	Dr K. Miyagishima & Dr S. Münstermann
ETPGAH/Discontools: 12th meeting of the Project Management Board	Brussels (Belgium)	14 January	Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel
International Influenza Networks Meeting	Scottsdale (United States)	14-16 January	Dr K. Hamilton & Dr G. Pavade
Efficiency Study after FMD Vaccination in Laos, under the OIE/JTF Project on FMD Control in Asia	Vientiane (Laos)	14-17 January	Dr C. Buranathai
Inaugural meeting of the Technical Working Group, under the SMP-AH Project	Naivasha (Kenya)	14-18 January	Dr F. Cipriano
IAMZ/OIE/FAO Training Course on: 'Current and future diagnostic methodologies in animal health'	IAMZ Headquarters, Zaragoza (Spain)	14-18 January	Dr A. Petrini
Meeting with HRH Princess Haya, President of the FEI, and signing of the FEI/OIE Agreement	Lausanne (Switzerland)	15 January	Dr B. Vallat
OIE Seminar on Veterinary Legislation	Cotonou (Benin)	15-17 January	Dr M. Okita, Dr M.E. González, Dr Y. Samaké, Ms Y. N'Diaye, Dr V. Brioudes & Dr M. Petitclerc
Meeting on reform of veterinary education in Japan (Ministry of Education)	Tokyo (Japan)	16 January	Dr T. Ishibashi
Meeting with officials from the Iran Veterinary Services and the Equestrian Federation	Kish Island (Iran)	16-17 January	Dr G. Yehia
38th ICVS hosted by TVMA	Pak Kret and Nonthaburi (Thailand)	16-18 January	Dr R. Abila & Dr K. Kukreja
Mission for AI Surveillance Programme in Vietnam, under the OIE/JTF Project for Strengthening HPAI Control in Asia and meetings with the Director General of the DAH of Vietnam, the WHO Representative for Vietnam and the Senior Technical Coordinator of ECTAD for FAO-Vietnam	Hanoi (Vietnam)	17-18 January	Dr K. Sakurai
International Green Week 2013	Berlin (Germany)	17-25 January	Dr K. Schwabenbauer, Dr B. Vallat, Ms G. Mamaghani, Ms I. Jeutner, Dr D. Rassow, Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel, Dr S. Münstermann & Ms N. Brink
Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation	Berlin (Germany)	18-19 January	Dr K. Schwabenbauer, Dr B. Vallat & Ms G. Mamaghani
39th IETS Annual Conference	Hanover (Germany)	18-23 January	Prof. M. Thibier
Meeting with officials from the United Arab Emirates to discuss on OIE regional activities	Abu Dhabi and Dubai (United Arab Emirates)	20-21 January	Dr G. Yehia
European Parliament Symposium: 'Preventing human pandemics by improving animal health'	Brussels (Belgium)	22 January	Dr B. Vallat, Dr E. Bonbon, Ms G. Mamaghani, Dr A. Dehove & Dr N. Leboucq

## meetings and visits

## January 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
3rd Meeting of the Project on: 'Cross Border Trade and TADs Risk Reduction (with a special focus on FMD) between China, Mongolia and Russia (TCP/RAS/3306 B04)'	Vladimir (Russia)	22-25 January	Dr C. Buranathai
FAO/OIE/WHO IDENTIFY Project Meeting	OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)	23 January	Dr L. Awada & Dr S. Corning
2nd Scientific Committee Meeting of the GREASE Network	Bangkok (Thailand)	23-24 January	Dr R. Abila & Dr A. Poirier
Consultation meetings on the strategy for equality between women and men	Bangkok (Thailand)	23-25 January	Dr R. Abila, Dr D. Van Aken, Dr A. Poirier, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Dr K. Kukreja, Ms C. Dy, Ms P. Angvanitchakul & Ms M. Ruengjumroonnath
National Animal Health Prize Award Ceremony and 40th Anniversary of the Ministry of Agricultural Development of Panama	Santiago (Panama)	25 January	Dr F. Frago Santamaría
Wrap-up meeting of AI surveillance programme with Hokkaido University (OIE Reference Laboratory for HPAI in Japan)	Sapporo (Japan)	25 January	Dr K. Sakurai
Workshop and debate on: 'Reducing Risks at the Animal-Human-Environment Interface: Lessons for Framing our Future Approach', organised by the World Bank (activities prior to the PMAC 2013)	Bangkok (Thailand)	28 January	Dr A. Dehove & Dr S. de La Rocque
Consultative meeting of Epidemiology Consortium for EID and TADs in South-East Asia	Bangkok (Thailand)	28 January	Dr R. Abila & Dr K. Kukreja
17th Asian Regional Meeting and Conference of Commonwealth Veterinary Association	Bangalore (India)	28-31 January	Dr A.R. Fooks
PMAC 2013: 'A world united against infectious diseases: cross-sectoral solutions'	Bangkok (Thailand)	28 January – 2 February	Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Thiermann, Dr A. Dehove, Dr R. Abila, Dr D. Van Aken, Dr A. Poirier, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Dr K. Kukreja, Ms C. Dy, Ms M. Ruengjumroonnath, Dr S. de La Rocque, Dr G. Murray & Dr H. Schneider
EFSA Expert Knowledge Elicitation Workshop on the risk of introduction of RVF virus into the Southern Mediterranean Countries through import of infected animals from infected areas (part 2)	Parma (Italy)	29-30 January	Dr A. Petrini
Meeting of an Expert Group to discuss the coordination of EU Member States on the OIE European initiative for animal welfare	Brussels (Belgium)	30 January	Dr E. Bonbon & Dr N. Leboucq
Veterinary Education Establishments Workshop on Improved Animal Welfare Programme in Indonesia	Bogor (Indonesia)	30-31 January	Dr R. Kolesar
Animal welfare workshop	Jakarta (Indonesia)	30-31 January	Ms P. Angvanitchakul
Meeting on dissemination of FP7 project results entitled: 'Improve tools and strategies for the prevention and control of CSF'	CODA-CERVA Headquarters, Brussels (Belgium)	31 January	Dr D. Rassow & Dr S. Münstermann



### January 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Meeting with the Chief Veterinary Officers of the CAN, in order to exchange views on an agreement with the OIE related to work on FMD at borders between countries in the region	Lima (Peru)	31 January – 1 February	Dr L.O. Barcos
COTASA meeting of the SASA	Lima (Peru)	31 January – 1 February	Dr L.O. Barcos

### meetings and visits

#### February 2013

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Teleconference on the CALLISTO Project	Brussels (Belgium)	1 February	Dr N. Leboucq
Virtual conference: update on shrimp EMS/AHPNS	Panama City (Panama)	4 February	Dr F. Frago Santamaría
OIE/FAO/WHO – GLEWS Task Force Meeting	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	5 February	Dr D. Chaisemartin, Dr K. Ben Jebara & Dr S. de La Rocque
Coordination meeting with VET-GOV staff (AU-IBAR)	Nairobi (Kenya)	5 February	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
Courtesy visit to the Department of Veterinary Services of Kenya	Kabete, Nairobi (Kenya)	5 February	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
Visit of students from ENSV to OIE Headquarters	OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)	6 February	Dr S. Forcella
Meeting with the OIE Focal Points of Cambodia	Phnom Penh (Cambodia)	6 February	Dr R. Abila, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Dr K. Kukreja, Ms C. Dy & Dr G. Murray
19th FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Annual Meeting	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	6-7 February	Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Dehove, Dr D. Chaisemartin, Dr K. Ben Jebara, Dr K. Miyagishima, Dr J. Domenech & Dr S. de La Rocque
G8 Global Partnership Biosecurity Sub-Working Group Meeting	Wilton Park (United Kingdom)	6-7 February	Dr K. Hamilton
Launching workshop for TCP/SFC/3401: Developing a regional legislation on animal health safety in Central Africa	N'Djamena (Chad)	6-7 February	Dr F. Cipriano
Stakeholder Consultation on the National FMD Control Plan of Cambodia	Phnom Penh (Cambodia)	7-8 February	Dr R. Abila, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Dr K. Kukreja, Ms C. Dy & Dr G. Murray
19th Meeting of the GF-TADs FMD Working Group	Rome (Italy)	8 February	Dr J. Domenech & Dr N. Leboucq
Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia	Phnom Penh (Cambodia)	8 February	Dr R. Abila & Dr K. Kukreja
Meeting of the Technical Group on Shrimp of the National Technical Commission for Aquatic Species (Ministry of Agriculture of Panama)	Panama City (Panama)	8 February	Dr F. Frago Santamaría
Meeting with the small international organisations that have their Headquarters in Paris	Paris (France)	11 February	Dr M. Eloit



## meetings and visits

## February 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Launching meeting of the 'Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation' Project: 'Vaccine Standards and Pilot Approach to PPR Control in Africa'	AU Headquarters, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)	11-12 February	Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Dehove, Dr J. Domenech, Dr Y. Samaké, Dr D. Bourzat, Dr N. Mapitse, Dr R. Bouguedour, Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
Workshop on Laboratory Networking, organised within the framework of the Multi-beneficiary Programme to support the control and eradication of animal diseases in the Western Balkans, under the IPA to the EU	Belgrade (Serbia)	11-12 February	Dr V. Sharandak
WHO technical meeting on a costing tool for IHR implementation	Geneva (Switzerland)	11-13 February	Ms E. Tagliaro, Dr M. Edan & Dr S. de La Rocque
Workshop on OIE Standard-Setting Process, organised by TAIEX in collaboration with DG SANCO Unit G2 and the OIE	Belgrade (Serbia)	12-14 February	Dr E. Bonbon & Dr N. Leboucq
Meeting with the Dean of Chulalongkorn University	Bangkok (Thailand)	13 February	Dr R. Abila & Dr D. Van Aken
FAO-EuFMD/EC/OIE Tripartite Group Meeting on control of FMD and other exotic diseases in the Southern Balkans	Chania, Crete (Greece)	13 February	Dr A. Petrini
Gender Strategy Development Workshop	Bangkok (Thailand)	13-14 February	Dr R. Abila, Dr D. Van Aken, Dr A. Poirier, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Dr K. Kukreja, Ms C. Dy, Ms P. Angvanitchakul & Ms M. Ruengjumroonnath
85th Session of the EuFMD Executive Committee	Chania, Crete (Greece)	14-15 February	Dr J. Domenech & Dr A. Petrini
4th International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance (IMED 2013)	Vienna (Austria)	16-17 February	Dr B. Vallat
PVMA Meeting	Manila (Philippines)	18-19 February	Dr R. Abila
28th VICH Steering Committee Meeting and 2nd VICH Outreach Forum Meeting	Washington, DC (United States)	18-21 February	Dr S. Münstermann & Dr J.-P. Orand
20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa	Lome (Togo)	18-22 February	Dr K. Schwabenbauer, Dr B. Vallat, Dr M. Eloit, Dr K. Ben Jebara, Dr J. Domenech, Ms K. Sodji, Dr F. Caya, Ms N. Monsalve, Dr Y. Samaké, Dr F. Cipriano, Dr D. Bourzat, Ms Y. N'Diaye, Ms M. Minta, Ms A. Bagayoko, Dr N. Mapitse, Dr R. Bouguedour, Dr V. Brioude, Dr A. Petrini, Dr W. Masiga, Dr P. Bastiaensen & Dr B.M. Modisane
20th session of the CCFICS	Chiang Mai (Thailand)	18-22 February	Dr T. Ishibashi
Preparation for rabies vaccination and signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Rabies	Manila (Philippines)	20-23 February	Dr R. Abila
Visit to the APHCA Secretariat and the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for discussion of collaborative activities for 2013	Bangkok (Thailand)	21 February	Dr T. Ishibashi & Dr M.J. Gordoncillo
WHO Health Security and Environment Meeting	Geneva (Switzerland)	21-22 February	Dr K. Miyagishima
International Workshop on: 'Veterinary Pharmacovigilance for Global Food Security' (VPVGFS 2013)	Chennai (India)	21-22 February	Dr C. Colmar
Stakeholders' open debate on a possible revised EU legislative framework for animal welfare	Brussels (Belgium)	22 February	Dr A. Dehove & Dr N. Leboucq
International Exhibition of Agriculture	Paris (France)	23 February – 3 March	Dr B. Vallat, Dr E. Bonbon, Ms G. Mamaghani, Ms J. Strat, Ms J. Macé, Ms T. Benicasa, Dr P. Cáceres, Dr S. Forcella, Dr L. Weber-Vintzel, Dr M.E. González & Ms N. Monsalve

## meetings and visits

## February 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Launching meeting of the OIE capacity-strengthening grant to AU-PANVAC for ensuring the quality control of PPR vaccines made in Africa	Dakar (Senegal)	25-27 February	Dr J. Domenech & Dr Y. Samaké
1st Training Session of Improved Animal Welfare Programme in Philippines	Manila (Philippines)	25-28 February	Dr R. Kolesar
2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Communication Group on Livestock (ACGL)	Johor Bahru (Malaysia)	26 February	Ms C. Dy
3rd Meeting of Joint FAO/OIE Advisory Committee on Rinderpest	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	26-27 February	Dr K. Hamilton
OIE Council	OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)	26-28 February	Dr B. Vallat, Dr M. Eloit, Dr A. Thiermann & Dr K. Miyagishima
WHO Informal Consultation on DURC	WHO Headquarters, Geneva (Switzerland)	26-28 February	Dr G. Pavade
Meeting with the OIE National Focal Points	Vientiane (Laos)	27 February	Dr R. Abila, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo & Dr K. Kukreja
Courtesy visit to the Director General of the ILRI	Nairobi (Kenya)	27 February	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
JRC/WHO/OPCW/OIE/FAO Round Table on CBRN risk mitigation through the CoE Initiative	Brussels (Belgium)	28 February	Dr A. Dehove, Dr K. Hamilton & Dr N. Leboucq
Sub-Regional Workshop on Lumpy Skin Disease and other vector-borne diseases	Larnaca (Cyprus)	28 February	Dr J. Domenech
Stakeholder Consultation on the National FMD Control Plan	Vientiane (Laos)	28 February – 1 March	Dr R. Abila, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Dr K. Kukreja & Ms C. Dy
'One Health' Workshop for the Caribbean: 'From Ideas to Action'	Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago)	28 February – 1 March	Dr M. Minassian

## March 2013

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species	Rome (Italy)	1 March	Dr M. Okita
2nd FAO/OIE Sub-Regional Meeting on GF-TADs for SPC Region	Nadi (Fiji)	4-6 March	Dr C. Buranathai
59th Ordinary Meeting of the OIRSA Technical Commission	El Salvador	5-6 March	Dr F. Frago Santamaría
Signing of the Agreement between the OIE and the Russian Federation regarding the establishment of an OIE Regional Representation in Moscow, Speech to the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Round Table on: 'Emergency diseases situation and control in the territory of the EU and the customs union'	Moscow (Russia)	5-7 March	Dr B. Vallat, Prof. Dr N.T. Belev & Dr K. Lukauskas
Regional Seminar (Europe) for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare	Teramo (Italy)	5-7 March	Dr M. Eloit, Dr D. Belton, Dr R. Kolesar, Dr M. Varas, Dr N. Leboucq, Dr S. Ralchev & Ms R. Kostova

## meetings and visits

## March 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Mission to carry out visibility activities with regard to the regional vaccine bank for rabies in Asia, and National Rabies Awareness Month	Manila (Philippines)	5-8 March	Dr A. Poirier & Ms C. Dy
Engaging Intergovernmental Organizations (EIO) 2013	OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)	6 March	Dr A. Thiermann, Ms G. Mamaghani, Dr A. Dehove, Dr K. Ben Jebara, Dr G. Mylrea & Dr M. Okita
Bilateral EU/China Seminar on Antimicrobial Resistance and Public Health	Beijing (People's Republic of China)	6-7 March	Dr J.-P. Orand
Visit of students from the Royal Veterinary College (United Kingdom) to OIE Headquarters	OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)	7 March	Ms G. Mamaghani, Dr S. Forcella, Dr M. Okita & Dr L. Weber-Vintzel
1st EUWeNet Advisory Board Meeting	Brussels (Belgium)	7-8 March	Dr A. Dehove & Dr N. Leboucq
2nd ISIRV International Symposium on Neglected Influenza Viruses	Dublin (Ireland)	7-8 March	Dr K. Hamilton
1st CBD Meeting on: 'Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management'	Bangkok (Thailand)	10 March	Dr T. Ishibashi
Courtesy visit to the Director of the AU-IBAR	Nairobi (Kenya)	11 March	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
1st Coordination Meeting between FAO-ECTAD for Eastern Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa	Nairobi (Kenya)	11 March	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
2nd Meeting of the GF-TADs PPR Working Group	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	11-12 March	Dr J. Domenech, Dr S. Münstermann & Dr N. Leboucq
SSAFE Directors' Board Meeting	Paris (France)	13 March	Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Thiermann & Ms E. Tagliaro
Meeting with DG SANCO	Brussels (Belgium)	13 March	Dr N. Leboucq
OIE Global Conference on the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents for animals: 'International solidarity to fight against antimicrobial resistance'	Paris (France)	13-15 March	Dr K. Schwabenbauer, Dr C.A. Correa Messuti, Dr B. Vallat, Dr M. Eloit, Dr A. Thiermann, Ms G. Mamaghani, Ms J. Strat, Ms E. Tagliaro, Dr D. Chaisemartin, Ms I. Contreras Arias, Ms T. Benicasa, Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel, Dr S. Münstermann, Dr F. Diaz, Dr Y. Samaké, Dr N. Mapitse, Dr R. Bouguedour, Dr V. Brioude, Dr W. Masiga, Dr L.O. Barcos, Dr M. Minassian, Dr H. Thidar Myint, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Prof. Dr N.T. Belev, Dr V. Sharandak, Dr S. de La Rocque & Dr G. Yehia
7th IATA World Cargo Symposium	Doha (Qatar)	13-15 March	Dr D. Belton
VIV Asia 2013 Exhibition and FAVA Seminar	Bangkok (Thailand)	13-15 March	Dr R. Abila, Dr D. Van Aken, Ms C. Dy, Ms P. Angvanitchakul & Ms M. Ruengjumroonath



## meetings and visits

## March 2013 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Signing of the Headquarters Agreement between Belgium and the OIE and inauguration of the new offices of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels	Brussels (Belgium)	14 March	Dr B. Vallat, Dr E. Bonbon, Dr N. Leboucq & Dr S. de La Rocque
ESVAC Stakeholders Meeting 2013	London (United Kingdom)	18 March	Dr F. Diaz & Dr G. Moulin
Symposium on global risk management of animal diseases	Tokyo (Japan)	18 March	Dr T. Ishibashi
SEACFMD Steering Committee Meeting	Singapore	18 March	Dr F. Caya, Dr C. Buranathai, Dr R. Abila, Dr D. Van Aken, Dr A. Poirier, Dr K. Kukreja, Ms C. Dy & Dr G. Murray
WTO-STDF Working Group Meeting	Geneva (Switzerland)	18-19 March	Dr D. Belton & Dr M. Okita
ISGP Meeting on: 'Emerging and Persistent Infectious Diseases: Focus on Antimicrobial Resistance'	Houston (United States)	18-22 March	Dr A. Thiermann
ESVAC Annual Network Meeting 2013	London (United Kingdom)	19 March	Dr F. Diaz & Dr G. Moulin
STANDZ Steering Committee Meeting	Singapore	19 March	Dr A. Dehove, Dr F. Caya, Dr R. Abila, Dr D. Van Aken & Ms C. Dy
WHO Technical Consultation on event-based surveillance	Lyons (France)	19-21 March	Dr S. de La Rocque
19th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for SEACFMD Campaign	Singapore	19-22 March	Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Dehove, Dr F. Caya, Dr T. Ishibashi, Dr C. Buranathai, Dr R. Abila, Dr D. Van Aken, Dr A. Poirier, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Dr K. Kukreja, Ms C. Dy, Dr G. Murray & Dr G. Brückner
EDENext Annual General Meeting	Barcelona (Spain)	19-22 March	Dr M. Martínez Avilés
Closing meeting of the twinning between BNVL and AHVLA for AI and Newcastle disease	Gaborone (Botswana)	20 March	Dr N. Mapitse
20th Meeting of the GF-TADs FMD Working Group	OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)	20-21 March	Dr J. Domenech, Dr B. Todeschini & Dr N. Leboucq
56th WTO-SPS Committee Meeting and two Informal Meetings	Geneva (Switzerland)	20-22 March	Dr D. Belton
GALVMed Board Meeting	Edinburgh (United Kingdom)	20-22 March	Dr K. Hamilton
Courtesy visit from the Director of the VSF Germany in Kenya	Nairobi (Kenya)	21 March	Dr W. Masiga & Dr P. Bastiaensen
Meeting of the DG SANCO Animal Health Advisory Committee	Brussels (Belgium)	22 March	Dr E. Bonbon & Dr N. Leboucq
Meeting on the WHO-PAHO cooperation strategy on food safety for Panama	Panama City (Panama)	25 March	Dr F. Frago Santamaría
Meeting on RVF with the OIE Delegate of Morocco, within the framework of the FAO/OIE project on RVF in Maghreb	Rabat (Morocco)	25 March	Dr A. Petrini

## meetings and visits

## March 2013 (cont.)

<b>Title of the event</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Participants</b>
1st Regional Seminar (Asia-Pacific) for OIE National Focal Points on Communication	Beijing (People's Republic of China)	25-27 March	Ms G. Mamaghani, Dr T. Ishibashi, Dr H. Thidar Myint & Ms C. Dy
Discussion with EMA on VICH Training	London (United Kingdom)	26 March	Dr S. Münstermann
5th Meeting of the RAWs Coordination Group for Asia, the Far East and Oceania	Bangkok (Thailand)	26-27 March	Dr C. Buranathai, Dr R. Abila, Dr K. Kukreja & Ms P. Angvanitchakul
Training and feed-back workshop on PPR inter-laboratory testing in Maghreb, within the framework of the FAO project TCP/RAB/3302 (Prevention and control of PPR in Maghreb countries)	Rabat (Morocco)	26-28 March	Dr A. Petrini
Meeting with the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute (OIE Collaborating Centre for Zoonoses)	Beijing (People's Republic of China)	27 March	Dr T. Ishibashi
GF-TADs Management Committee Meeting	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	28 March	Dr M. Eloit, Dr D. Chaisemartin & Dr F. Caya
REEV-Med Executive Committee Meeting	Tunis (Tunisia)	28-29 March	Dr R. Bouguedour & Dr V. Brioudes
Symposium on Career Paths for Female Veterinarians, in conjunction with the 155th Meeting of the Japanese Society of Veterinary Science	Tokyo (Japan)	30 March	Dr T. Ishibashi
Myanmar Veterinary Association Conference	Yezin (Myanmar)	30-31 March	Dr H. Thidar Myint, Dr R. Abila, Dr M.J. Gordoncillo, Dr K. Kukreja & Ms C. Dy

# epidemiology & animal disease control programmes

## OIE Expert Surveillance Panel on Equine Influenza Vaccine Composition

4 March 2013, OIE Headquarters, Paris, France

### Conclusions and Recommendations

#### Influenza activity in 2012

During 2012, individual animal cases and outbreaks of equine influenza were reported by Argentina, Chile, France, Germany, Ireland, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States of America (USA).

#### Sources of viruses characterised during 2012

Equine influenza A (H3N8) viruses were isolated and/or characterised from outbreaks in Argentina, Chile, France, Germany, Ireland, the UK, Uruguay and the USA. In quarantine stations equine influenza viruses were isolated and/or characterised from horses recently imported from Uruguay into Dubai, and from Belgium into Japan.

#### Field data

Equine influenza virus infections were confirmed in both vaccinated and unvaccinated horses. Vaccination breakdowns were observed in Thoroughbred yearlings in Kentucky, sport horses in France and racehorses in Ireland, as well as the horses imported into Dubai and into Japan. More than 150 fully vaccinated horses were affected in three linked outbreaks in the Calvados area of France.

The viruses identified in the vaccine breakdowns belonged to both the Florida clade 1 and clade 2 lineages. Horses vaccinated with different vaccines were affected, including those updated in accordance with the 2004 recommendation to incorporate an A/eq/South Africa/04/2003-like virus. These vaccines had not been updated in accordance with the recommendations of 2010 and 2011 to include a virus from clade 2 for optimum protection.

Fatalities associated with influenza A virus infection were reported in France and Uruguay.

#### Characterisation of viruses isolated in 2012

Viruses isolated/identified in 2012 from outbreaks/cases in Argentina, Chile, Dubai, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the UK, Uruguay and the USA were characterised genetically by sequencing of the haemagglutinin 1 (HA1) gene. Viruses isolated in Argentina, Dubai, Germany, Ireland, the UK and the USA were also characterised antigenically by the haemagglutination inhibition (HI) assay, using post-infection ferret antisera.





## OIE Expert Surveillance Panel on Equine Influenza Vaccine Composition

### Genetic characterisation

All HA1 sequences obtained from viruses were of the American lineage (Florida sub-lineage). The viruses identified in Argentina, Chile and the USA were characterised as clade 1 viruses, as was a virus associated with an outbreak in Germany. All other viruses identified in France, Germany, Ireland and the UK were characterised as clade 2 viruses. The virus detected in a Belgian horse in a Japanese quarantine facility was characterised as a clade 2 virus. Influenza A viruses isolated in the quarantine facility in Dubai from horses imported from Uruguay were characterised as clade 1 viruses.

Novel HA amino acid substitutions were observed in viruses of both clades, compared with isolates from 2011.

### Antigenic characteristics

Haemagglutination inhibition data and antigenic cartography analyses of HI data available for viruses isolated in 2012 indicate that the two clades of the Florida sub-lineage continue to co-circulate and evolve but are currently antigenically closely related to the recommended vaccine strains of that lineage.

### Conclusions

No Eurasian viruses were isolated in 2012. Viruses isolated and characterised were from both clade 1 and 2 of the Florida sub-lineage. There was an evident lack of vaccine effectiveness, against both clade 1 and clade 2 viruses. The detection of clade 1 and clade 2 viruses in quarantine facilities in Dubai and Japan illustrates the continuing risk of international influenza spread by infected vaccinated horses, the need for optimum protection and the requirement for vaccines to be updated with strains from both clades.

### Level of surveillance and updating vaccines

The panel continues to emphasise the importance of increased surveillance and investigation of vaccination breakdown in different countries. Rapid submission of viruses to reference laboratories is essential if antigenic and genetic drift is to be monitored effectively on a global basis.

Vaccines should contain epidemiologically relevant viruses.

The updating of vaccines in a timely manner is necessary for optimum protection.

### Recommendations

It is not necessary to include an H7N7 virus or an H3N8 virus of the Eurasian lineage in vaccines as these viruses have not been detected in the course of recent surveillance and are therefore presumed not to be circulating.

Vaccines for the international market should contain both clade 1 and clade 2 viruses of the Florida sub-lineage.

Clade 1 is represented by A/eq/South Africa/04/2003-like or A/eq/Ohio/2003-like viruses.

Clade 2 is represented by A/eq/Richmond/1/2007-like viruses.

A panel of viruses covering both clades is available from the OIE Reference Laboratories.

Manufacturers producing vaccines for a strictly national market are encouraged to liaise with reference laboratories. This will ensure the use of reference reagents, when selecting viruses for inclusion in vaccines, that induce cross-reactive responses that are immunogenically relevant to the equine influenza viruses circulating nationally.

### Reference reagents

Freeze-dried post-infection equine antisera to A/eq/Newmarket/1/93 (American lineage H3N8) and A/eq/South Africa/4/2003 (Florida clade 1, sub-lineage of the American lineage) are available from the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines. These sera have been assigned single radial haemolysis values through an international collaborative study and can be used as primary reference sera for the assay.

Recent virus strains and small quantities of ferret sera for antigenic characterisation are available from the OIE reference laboratories.

## Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus – a challenge for public health

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV) causes a zoonotic disease in many countries of Asia, Africa, the Middle East and south-eastern Europe. Given global trade and the effects of climate change, it may even spread to Central Europe. This fever is transmitted primarily by ticks of the genus *Hyalomma*. The virus circulates in a life cycle of tick-vertebrate-tick, but can also be transmitted horizontally and vertically within the tick population (Fig. 1). Endemic areas can only become established where suitable tick vector populations are present. *Hyalomma* ticks infest a wide spectrum of wildlife species, e.g. deer and hares, as well as free-ranging livestock, e.g. goats, cattle and sheep. These animals play a crucial role in the life cycle of ticks, and in the transmission and amplification of the virus. Since infected animals do not develop clinical signs, CCHFV infections have no effect on livestock production. However, human infections often result in a severe disease, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (Fig. 2). Every year, more than 1,000 human CCHF cases are reported from Albania, Bulgaria, Kosovo and Turkey. In other

**M. Mertens<sup>(1)</sup>, K. Schmidt<sup>(1)</sup>, M.H. Groschup<sup>(1)</sup> & Z. Vatansever<sup>(2)</sup>**

(1) Institute for Novel and Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, Südufer 10, 17493 Greifswald – Insel Riems, Germany

(2) Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey

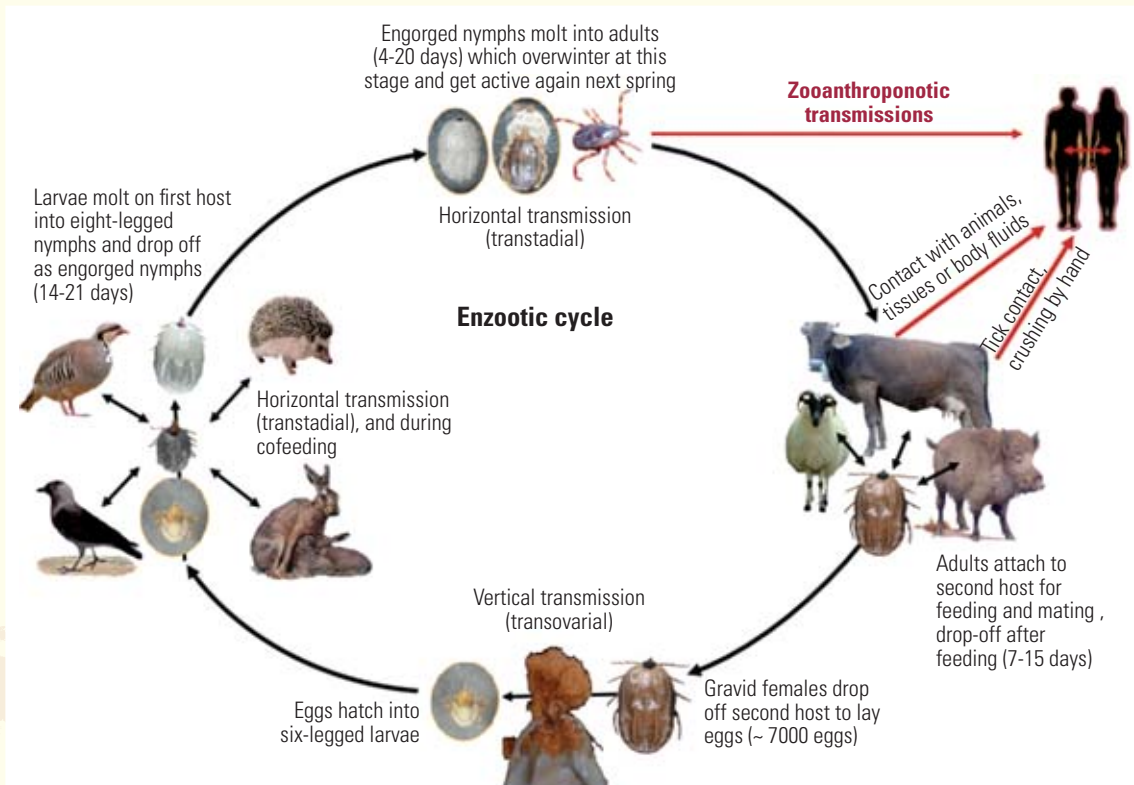
countries, infection rates and case numbers are largely unknown. Case fatality rates of 5% (in Turkey) to 80% (in China) have been reported and may depend on the virus strain, the awareness and knowledge of the local population and the effectiveness of public health interventions. Most people become infected through tick bites and by crushing infected ticks, but infection is also possible through contact with the blood and other body fluids of viraemic animals. Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever can also be transmitted directly from human to human, causing a nosocomial infection. There is no validated CCHF vaccine available at present and therapy is restricted to treatment of the symptoms. In affected countries, individual precautions (e.g. personal protection measures, general avoidance of infection risks) and communal measures (information campaigns, early detection and diagnosis, medical care units) are used to protect public health by

mitigating the risks of exposure (for a review see Mertens *et al.*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.antiviral.2013.02.007>).

Knowledge of the endemic areas is crucial for a focused and targeted implementation of public health measures. Serological screening of ruminants for CCHFV can identify these affected areas, as the antibody prevalence in animals is a valuable indicator of local virus circulation. Trade restrictions on seropositive animals or animal products are inappropriate since the antibody response leads to virus clearance, according to current understanding. Treatment with tick repellents can help to reduce the tick infestation of animals.

EDENext (a research project on the biology and control of vector-borne infections in Europe, funded by the European Commission: [www.edenext.eu](http://www.edenext.eu)) plans to conduct a large-scale serological study of CCHF in close collaboration with the Veterinary Authorities





**Fig. 1**  
**Transmission cycle of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus**

The virus circulates in an enzootic tick-vertebrate-tick cycle. A wide range of wild and domestic animals participate in the life cycle of ticks, playing a crucial role in the transmission and amplification of CCHFV. Ticks at immature stages preferentially infest small wildlife species, e.g. hares, hedgehogs, foxes and birds, as first hosts, whereas adult ticks seek large wild and domestic animals for feeding, e.g. sheep, cattle, deer and wild boar. Ticks become infected when feeding on a viraemic host. They not only act as vectors for virus transmission, but also as natural reservoirs, since CCHHV can be transmitted transstadially and transovarially, or by the venereal route during co-feeding on the same host. Humans become infected by tick bites, which constitute the main infection route. Contact with the body fluids, tissue or blood of a viraemic animal and crushing an infected tick also pose a risk of infection.

The copyright of this image is owned by the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Isle of Riems, Germany

in affected countries and countries at risk in the Balkan region. The overall aim is to assist these authorities to initiate and

implement effective public health strategies to protect the human population from infection.



**Fig. 2**  
**Haemorrhagic manifestation in a patient with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever**

Haemorrhages vary greatly among patients, ranging from petechiae to large haematomas. This picture has been kindly provided by Prof. Hurrem Bodur, Ankara University, Turkey

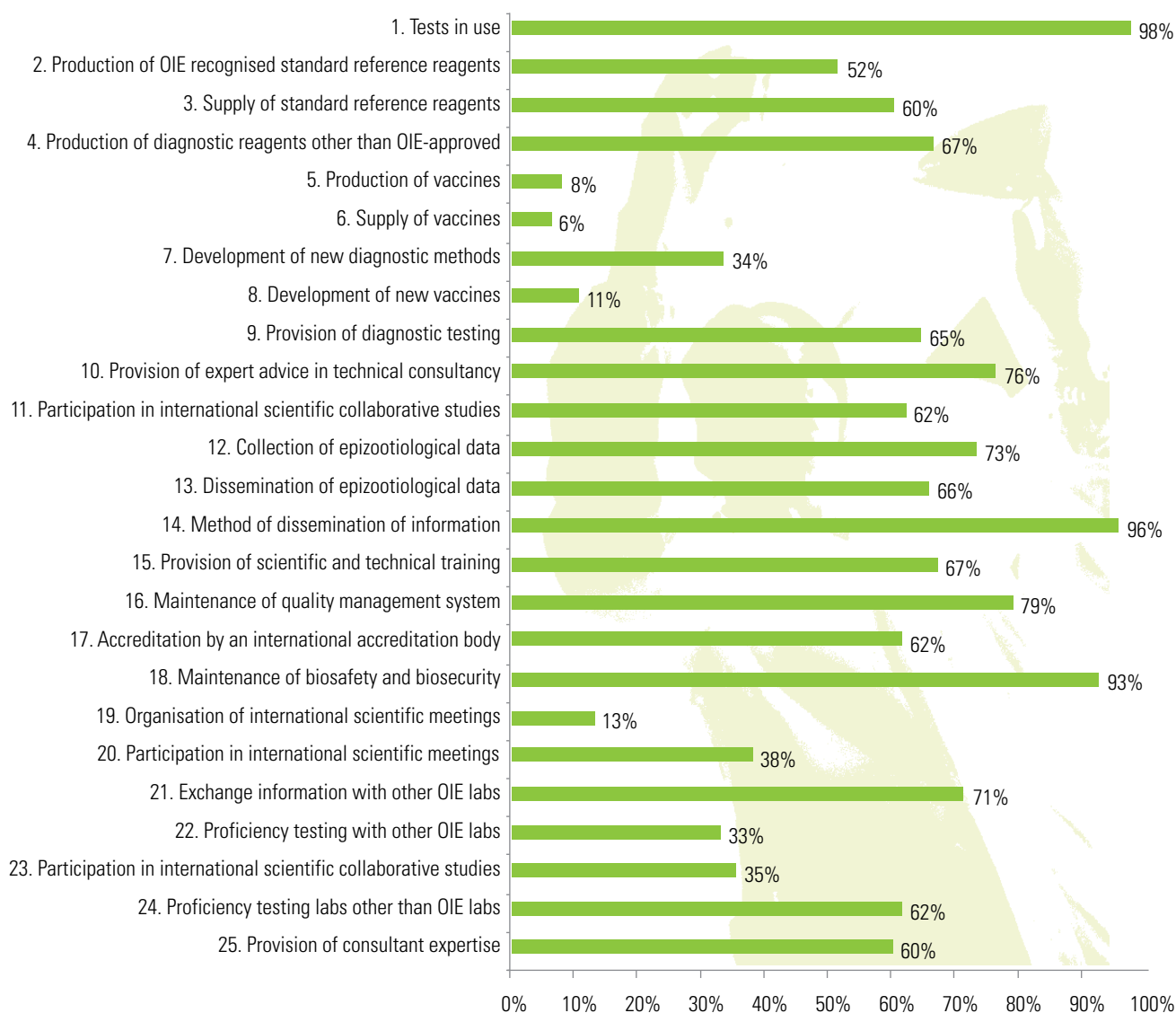


# activities of reference labora

## Annual reports of Reference Centre activities for 2012

Reports were received from 187 out of 193 Reference Laboratories and 36 out of 39 Collaborating Centres for terrestrial animal diseases or topics. The international activities relevant to the work of the OIE are summarised in the following graphics:

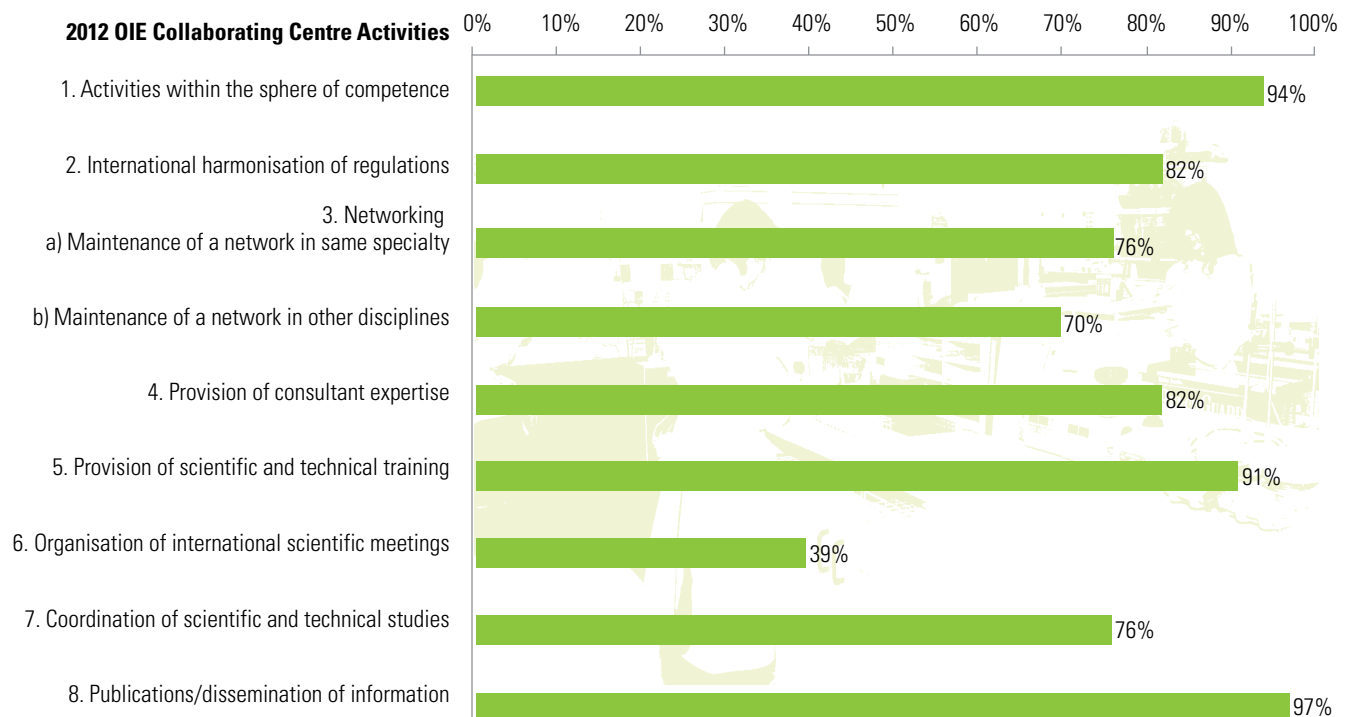
### 2012 OIE Reference Laboratory Activities



# activities & collaborating centres

During 2012, the joint OIE-FAO network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU) held two Executive Committee meetings to review and coordinate the progress of ten technical activities. One of the technical activities achieved its objective by developing a universally usable RNA for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays targeted at H5 avian influenza virus. The OFFLU network contributed 118 H5 sequences and 17 H9 sequences to help WHO in pandemic preparedness. An OFFLU swine influenza virus group paper on a 'Review of influenza A

virus in swine worldwide' was accepted for publication in the journal *Zoonoses and Public Health*. An editorial highlighting the OFFLU research agenda is also due for publication in the journal *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses*. In addition, OFFLU has developed a modus operandi document detailing the terms of reference for the various committees and different positions within its structure, and the OFFLU *Annual Newsletter* for 2012, compiling the network's achievements for the year, has been prepared.



# What's in an OIE Reference Laboratory?

*Thehorse.com*

25 January 2013

**S**pecialising in a particular equine disease can make laboratories like the Department of Veterinary Science's Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center at the University of Kentucky highly reputable. But when that particularity is recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in Paris, France, that high reputation equates with worldwide responsibility.

The OIE names a handful of research laboratories 'OIE reference laboratories' for specific diseases. These laboratories – always led by a recognised expert – research, investigate, innovate, develop, store, test, consult, and advise on the diseases they're responsible for, all in the name of the OIE. It's an honour, a privilege, and above all a major commitment and responsibility. Across the planet there are 236 OIE reference laboratories covering 112 animal diseases. The Gluck Equine Research Center is one of them. It alone covers three animal diseases – all specifically equine-related.

Peter Timoney, PhD, FRCVS, Professor and former Department Chair and Director of the Gluck Center, is an OIE-recognised expert on equine viral arteritis (EVA) as well as equine rhinopneumonitis; and Thomas Chambers, PhD, Professor of Veterinary Virology at the Gluck Center, is an OIE-recognised expert on equine influenza.

'Diseases are international in their circulation, and the [OIE] reference labs provide focal points of expertise that countries can turn to for assistance as the needs arise,' Chambers explained.

By collaborating with related OIE reference laboratories across the globe (currently, three others for equine influenza, three for rhinopneumonitis, and one for EVA), Chambers and Timoney contribute to a better understanding of these diseases to help improve prevention, detection, and treatment, as well as more effective worldwide management in controlling disease spread.

'The reference labs need to be multiple, because the world is a big place and our individual reach is small,' Chambers said. 'Our networking synergises our individual efforts.'

Gluck first became an OIE reference lab more than 20 years ago, said Timoney. He was named an OIE expert for EVA in 1991, and that same year the late George Allen, PhD, a Professor at the Gluck Center, was named an OIE expert for equine rhinopneumonitis. In 1993, Chambers became an OIE expert for equine influenza. When Allen died in 2008, Timoney was nominated to replace him, and the OIE approved his appointment.

An institution's qualification as an OIE reference laboratory is linked to its disease experts, Timoney said. When an institution's expert dies or retires, that institution does not necessarily continue as an OIE reference laboratory. The institution's director is invited to propose a new expert candidate who must go through the OIE's approval process – verification of the candidate's expertise by the OIE's Biological Standards Commission – and receive ratification by the OIE's General Assembly.





The country's Chief Veterinary Officer does the nominating of candidate experts to the OIE, Timoney added. This was the case for all three of Gluck's experts as well as when Timoney was nominated to replace Allen in 2008.

An OIE reference laboratory's list of obligations is extensive. The full list can be found on the OIE's website, but some primary examples are listed here:

- to use, promote, and disseminate diagnostic methods validated according to OIE standards
- to recommend the prescribed and alternative tests or vaccines as OIE standards
- to develop reference material in accordance with OIE requirements, and implement and promote the application of OIE standards,
- to store and distribute to national laboratories biological reference products and any other reagents used in the diagnosis and control of the designated pathogens or diseases.

These obligations can be 'time-consuming, laborious, and even onerous at times,' said Timoney. The labs not only provide testing for specific infectious diseases but they are also required to submit a detailed annual report of their activities as a reference laboratory. Furthermore, all this is done on a voluntary basis.

'Labour of love?' says Timoney. 'I certainly don't feel obligated to do it. I wouldn't do it if I didn't feel it was worthwhile.'

Both Timoney and Chambers said this work is just a part of their commitment to better our understanding and control of equine diseases – not to mention their 'societal obligation' as qualified experts, Timoney said. And working with other committed experts throughout the world is a major benefit. 'Our working relationship has been very rewarding, and I can't imagine what we would do without it,' Chambers said, in particular of his collaboration with experts at the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket, the United Kingdom, and at the Irish Equine Centre in Johnstown, Ireland.

As one of the very few institutions specialising uniquely in equine infectious diseases – which can be traced back to work conducted in the department since the early 20th Century, according to Timoney – the Gluck Equine Research Center is a logical choice as an OIE reference laboratory. Even so, the label brings with it a stamp of international approval.

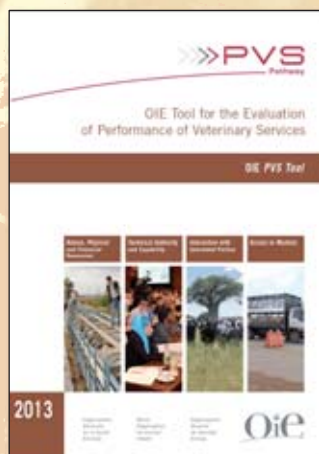
**'The OIE reference laboratory designation is a sign of expertise,'** said Chambers.

# news from Member Countries

## The benefits of the PVS Pathway for Veterinary Services: the experience of one Member Country

**Daouda Bangoura**

Technical Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, and Guinea Delegate to the OIE, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Guinea



### Organisation of Veterinary Services

The National Directorate of Veterinary Services is one of three technical directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture, and preserves a single chain of command for animal health. Representatives of the Director of Veterinary Services are present in the eight Regional Directorates of Agriculture, 33 Prefectoral Directorates of Agriculture, the five municipal communes for the region of Conakry and 337 agricultural stations at the level of sub-prefectures and municipal communes.

In addition, the National Directorate of Veterinary Services manages the related services listed below:

- the Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
- the Vaccine Production Laboratory of Kindia
- Veterinary Services Border Control
- Veterinary Services Abattoir Inspection
- the Trypanosomosis Control Centre at Dabola
- two mobile animal health units at Kankan and Labé.

These related services come under the authority of the National Director of Veterinary Services and make up the operational units of the three divisions of the National Directorate of Veterinary Services.

The Higher Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Science (ISSMV) at Dalaba, a self-governing, public establishment in charge of training veterinary doctors, fisheries engineers and technology engineers, should also be mentioned here. This institute comes under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Technical Education and Professional Training are the National Agricultural Colleges of Koba (in Boffa), of Tolo (in Mamou), of Bordeaux (in Kankan) and Sérédou (in Macenta), in charge of training para-professionals.







## **Evaluation of the performance of the Veterinary Services of Guinea, using the PVS Tool of the OIE**

The PVS Tool is a method of auditing the quality of Veterinary Services with a global reach. It aims to evaluate the performance of the Veterinary Services of a given country against the international standards published in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. It also provides a framework and justification for governments and donors to strengthen the capacity of their Veterinary Services and improve their compliance with OIE standards.

### **General methodology of the missions**

These general steps make up the mission:

- the initiation of the mission through a request by the Minister of Agriculture to the Director-General of the OIE for support
- discussion and approval of the relevant dates and list of experts
- the appointment of a Focal Point for the mission as the main contact
- the establishment of an Organising Committee to welcome and prepare for the mission
- planning for the mission in collaboration with the head of the team of experts
- communication from the Minister of Agriculture, in consultation with other Ministers, after the preliminary information has been sent, in writing, from the Prime Minister and partnering Ministries
  - a press release for national radio
  - the collection and sending of any information and documents requested by the head of the team of experts
  - the arrangement of meetings (appointment setting) with partnering Ministries and technical and financial partners
  - the welcome and accommodation of the team of experts
  - a courtesy visit to the Minister of Agriculture and the practical organisation of meetings and field visits
  - an opening meeting is held, followed by technical working sessions, according to the adopted timetable
  - a closing plenary meeting with the authorities and Prime Minister
  - a press conference with the experts and journalists from the country's private and public radio and television stations
  - the discussion and approval of the final report
  - the request to finance the five-year programme.

### **The missions and main results**

On the basis of requests from the Guinean government, a series of evaluation missions, gap analyses and a programme of sustainable capacity-building for the Guinean Veterinary Services, to enable them to comply with OIE standards, was undertaken by OIE-certified experts from May 2007 to September 2012.



**In May 2007**, two experts led a mission whose aim was to evaluate the Guinean Veterinary Services' level of compliance with OIE standards, according to the PVS Tool.

During the mission, a handbook summarising the conclusions and preliminary recommendations of the mission was presented to the Minister of Agriculture. Afterwards, a closing meeting and a press conference were held. Lastly, a final mission report, approved by both parties, was published at the request of the government of Guinea.

**In April 2008**, as laid out in the PVS Pathway, the first gap analysis mission was undertaken, also led by a team of two (different) experts. This mission was to determine the desired level of advancement for each critical competency in a five-year, capacity-building programme.

During this mission, an evaluation report was completed to take into account the new competencies of the PVS Tool into account (which had grown from 31 to 40), as well as the general recommendations of the evaluation. During this mission, the experts identified a certain number of activities to be undertaken and the ways in which to implement them but these could not be put into practice as envisaged by the Veterinary Services as a result of the political situation in the country, which did not allow the Guinean Delegation to attend the OIE's General Sessions in 2008 or 2009.

**June 2009** saw a second gap analysis mission, composed of three experts, including the first two. The goal of this mission was to plan, over five years, a sustainable capacity-building programme to enable the Guinean Veterinary Services to comply with the quality standards of the OIE, which are adapted to national priorities and constraints, up until 2015.

This second mission enabled:

- the definition, with the Veterinary Services, and in accord with national priorities and constraints, of the desired and expected result (level of advancement) for each of the 40 critical competencies in the PVS Tool, with a deadline of five years
- decisions to be taken on which activities should be carried out to achieve the expected results for the 40 critical competencies
- and decision-making on the tasks and means required (human, physical and financial resources) to implement these activities and ensure that the Guinean Veterinary Services function adequately.

**In February 2012**, a follow-up mission, carried out by the adviser of the OIE Regional Representative for Africa, confirmed that the political and economic situation in Guinea had changed since 2009 and that a new gap analysis mission would be appropriate.

**In September 2012**, a third gap analysis mission, led by a team of three, OIE-approved, independent experts visited the country, with the aim of redefining, together with the Veterinary Services and national authorities, Guinea's national priorities and to check the desired level of advancement for each of the 40 critical competencies of the PVS Tool, before suggesting appropriate strategies and activities that should be implemented.

During this last mission, the experts prepared a five-year programme of sustainable capacity-building for the Veterinary Services, in line with the OIE's international quality standards and in accord with national priorities, which has been adopted by the Guinean authorities.



## Benefits gained by the Veterinary Services of Guinea from the process

In Guinea, the PVS Pathway has enabled, among other things:

- The Veterinary Services to inform the political authorities and Guinean society in general about, and to raise their awareness of, on the one hand, the existence of international quality standards with which their Veterinary Services should comply and, on the other hand, of a global tool (the OIE PVS Tool) to evaluate their Veterinary Services' performance.

### The following can be cited as direct consequences:

- the organisation of a national workshop in Conakry and two regional workshops in Kindia and Kissidougou on the PVS Evaluation Tool and the quality of Veterinary Services
- conferences were held (one for the teaching body and one for the students) on the quality of Veterinary Services and the OIE PVS Evaluation Tool at the Higher Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Sciences en Dalaba, which trains the future veterinary doctors of this country;
- A considerable improvement in the political authorities' 'will to listen'. Today, they see the necessity of having Veterinary Services which are able to prove, by their organisation, their equipment and their working methods, that they fulfil their mission according to the international standards defined by the OIE.

### Direct effects of this 'will to listen' include:

- the President of the Republic's decision to equip the Veterinary Services with:
  - motorcycles (including maintenance) for the 337 national agricultural stations, which enable the Guinean Veterinary Services to cover the entire national territory
  - emergency stocks of veterinary medicines within the framework of animal health emergencies
- the government's designation of two hectares in Kagbelen (Dubréka) and land in the five communes of Conakry as sites for the Ministry of Agriculture to construct a new modern refrigerated abattoir and municipal butchers' shops; the aim being to improve slaughterhouse and sale conditions and to ensure the quality, hygiene and safety of meat for the population of Conakry and neighbouring towns
- government financing in 2012 of an emergency plan to control lumpy skin disease in Moyenne-Guinée (the first);
- The decision to equip the VSG with a bankable, five-year programme, approved by the government and integrated into the National Plan of Agricultural Investment and Food Safety. Discussions are taking place with technical and financial partners to organise a round table, with a view to raising the necessary finance to put this plan into operation.
- The Veterinary Services to be well ahead in the Programme of State Reform and Modernisation of Administration for Guinea, led by the High Commission for State Reform.

## Conclusion

The Guinean authorities have fully invested in these various missions, both in terms of listening to, providing support to and being available to the expert teams as well as in making the effort to take on board the PVS initiative, the gap analysis and the principal conclusions of the various reports.

In Guinea, the PVS Pathway has helped the Veterinary Services to identify, justify and present their specific needs during the preparation of the National Plan of Agricultural Investment and Food Safety (PNIASA) 2013-2017.

## Self-declaration

*Other than for foot and mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, African horse sickness, classical swine fever\* and bovine spongiform encephalopathy, 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 N°21 adopted at the 81th OIE General Session in May 2013

## Self-declaration from Nigeria on its disease-free status from notifiable avian influenza

submitted to the OIE on 25 January 2013 by Dr Joseph Nyager, Delegate of Nigeria to the OIE, Director, Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Abuja, Nigeria

### Background information

As stated in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, notifiable avian influenza (NAI) is defined as an infection of poultry caused by any influenza A virus of the H5 or H7 subtypes, or by any AI virus with an intravenous pathogenicity index (IVPI) greater than 1.2 (or, as an alternative, at least 75% mortality), as described below. Notifiable AI viruses can be divided into highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza (HPNAI) and low pathogenicity notifiable avian influenza (LPNAI):

- HPNAI viruses have an IVPI in six-week-old chickens greater than 1.2 or, alternatively, cause at least 75% mortality in four-to-eight-week-old chickens infected intravenously. H5 and H7 viruses that do not have an IVPI of greater than 1.2 or cause less than 75% mortality in an intravenous lethality test should be sequenced to determine whether multiple basic amino acids are present at the cleavage site of the haemagglutinin molecule (HA0). If the amino acid motif is similar to that observed for other HPNAI isolates, the isolate being tested should be considered as HPNAI;

- LPNAI comprise all influenza A viruses of H5 and H7 subtype that are not HPNAI viruses.

The poultry population of Nigeria is estimated at approximately 166 million, of which 25% are kept in commercial production systems, 15% in semi-commercial and 60% in backyard/rural poultry systems.

### Epidemiological information on the first occurrence of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N1 virus in Nigeria

The highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus of the H5N1 subtype was first detected in Nigeria in February 2006, in chickens on a commercial poultry farm in Kaduna State, northern Nigeria. This was the first confirmed outbreak of HPAI (H5N1) in Africa. The infection spread and persisted until 24 July 2008, and a fatal human case was reported (1). A total of 1,525 suspected cases were officially reported by the Federal Government of Nigeria from 97 local government areas in 32 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Of these suspected cases, 300 were confirmed as positive in 25 states and the FCT. About 1,264,191 birds were culled, and the compensation paid to affected poultry farmers and farms was estimated at about 631 million Naira (US\$5.43 million).

In reaction to the outbreaks of HPAI in Asia, in 2005, Nigeria brought together a group of eminent scientists to prepare an Emergency Preparedness Plan, which showed that the risk of introduction of AI into the country was moderate but the risk of spread, once introduced, was high.

After the index case of AI in the country, the Government of Nigeria banned the importation of poultry and eggs, set up Steering and Technical Committees,





and obtained a World Bank loan to control the infection. An holistic, concerted and collaborative containment strategy was implemented, with the assistance of development partners and organisations including the OIE, FAO, USDA, USAID, AU-IBAR, etc.

Control measures taken by the Veterinary Services included the following:

- quarantine and movement restrictions
- investigation of all suspected cases
- modified stamping out, based on case definition
- environmentally friendly disposal (burial) of poultry carcasses
- disinfection of premises and fomites
- commensurate and timely compensation for culled birds
- a veterinary stockpile of essential inputs
- a public education campaign
- intensification of active/passive disease surveillance and reporting
- improvements in technical and laboratory diagnostic capacities.

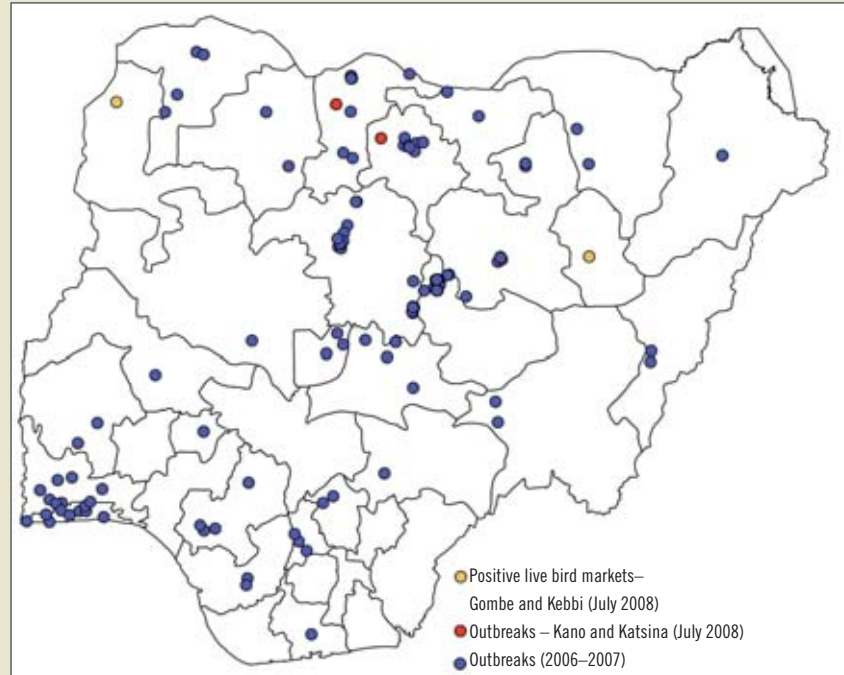
## A surveillance programme for notifiable avian influenza set up in Nigeria

### Active surveillance

Active surveys of NAI were carried out in Nigeria from 2007 to 2010 in accordance with OIE guidelines. For instance, from a targeted survey of live bird markets, a virus isolate from Gombe State was identified as a new sub-lineage of clade 2.2.1 (sub-lineage III), which was new to the African continent (1, 3). In the wetlands, AI viruses of the H5N2 subtype were detected by means of molecular tests in free-living and apparently healthy white-faced whistling ducks (*Dendrocygna viduata*) and spur-winged geese (*Plectropterus gambensis*) (2). These survey results demonstrate the ability of the Nigerian disease surveillance system to detect NAI.

### Passive surveillance

In Nigeria, passive surveillance activities for NAI are ongoing. In July 2008, HPAI virus isolates were obtained from outbreaks in Kano and Katsina States belonging to clade 2.2, which had been previously reported in Nigeria. Other suspected outbreaks reported since then have been investigated and found negative for AI. Nigeria has not had any reported NAI outbreak since July 2008, and accordingly notified the OIE of the cessation of AI outbreaks on 3 March 2009.



Map of Nigeria showing outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza

## Nigeria gains its NAI-free status

Therefore, and considering the information stated above:  
 – and that more than a year has elapsed since the last outbreak was resolved on 24 October 2008  
 – and in accordance with Chapter 10.4.2. and Chapter 10.4.3. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*;  
 the Delegate of Nigeria to the OIE self-declares that his country has regained its disease-free status for NAI.

## References

1. Fusaro A., Joannis T., Monne I., Salviato A., Yakubu B., Meseko C., Oladokun T., Fasina S., Capua I. & Cattoli G. (2009). – Introduction into Nigeria of a distinct genotype of avian influenza virus (H5N1). *Emerg. Infect. Dis.*, **15** (3), 445-447.
2. Gaidet N., Cattoli G., Hammoumi S., Newman S.H., Hagemeijer W., Takekawa J.Y., Cappelle J., Dodman T., Joannis T., Gil P., Monne I., Fusaro A., Capua I., Manu S., Micheloni P., Ottosson U., Mshelbwala J.H., Lubroth J., Domenech J. & Monicat F. (2008). – Evidence of infection by H5N2 highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses in healthy wild waterfowl. *PLoS Pathog.*, **4** (8), e1000127. Available at: [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2503949/pdf/ppat.1000127.pdf](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2503949/pdf/ppat.1000127.pdf) (accessed on 4 March 2013).
3. Joannis T.M., Meseko C.A., Oladokun A.T., Ularanu H.G., Egbuji A.N., Solomon P., Nyam D.C., Gado D.A., Luka P., Ogedengbe M.E., Yakubu M.B., Tyem A.D., Akinyede O., Shittu A.I., Sulaiman L.K., Owolodun O.A., Olawuyi A.K., Obishakin E.T. & Fasina F.O. (2008). – Serologic and virologic surveillance of avian influenza in Nigeria, 2006–7. *Euro. Surveill.*, **13**, 42.

## Self-declaration from Italy on the recovery of its rabies-free status

submitted to the OIE on 31 March 2013 by Prof. Romano Marabelli, Delegate of Italy to the OIE, Head of Department, Veterinary Public Health, Food Safety and Collegial Bodies for Health Protection, Ministry of Health, Rome, Italy

### Background information

After an absence of more than ten years, rabies re-emerged in 2008 and spread through wild foxes in the regions of north-eastern Italy. Between January and September 2009, to control infection and to minimise the risk of human exposure, three oral vaccination campaigns in foxes were carried out by the manual distribution of baits, and four emergency oral rabies vaccination (ORV) campaigns were conducted in foxes by aerial distribution in the affected regions, starting in December 2009. Ordinary aerial ORV campaigns followed in spring and autumn of 2011 and 2012, although no cases were detected after February 2011, either in wild or domestic animals. Both the course of the epidemic and the promptly implemented control measures are summarised below.

### Description of the event

On 17 October 2008, the National Reference Centre identified a rabid fox in the municipality of Resia, located in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region (FVG) of north-eastern Italy. This was the first case of wildlife rabies in Italy for 13 years. Partial sequencing of the isolated rabies virus (RABV) strains showed a 100% sequence identity with RABV isolates in Slovenia, Croatia and other West Balkan countries. Immediate notification was sent to the OIE on 21 October 2008. After detection of the disease in foxes and its rapid spread, three oral vaccination campaigns were carried out in FVG by manually distributing vaccine baits. Despite these efforts, the disease spread westwards to the Veneto region in November 2009, eventually reaching the autonomous provinces of

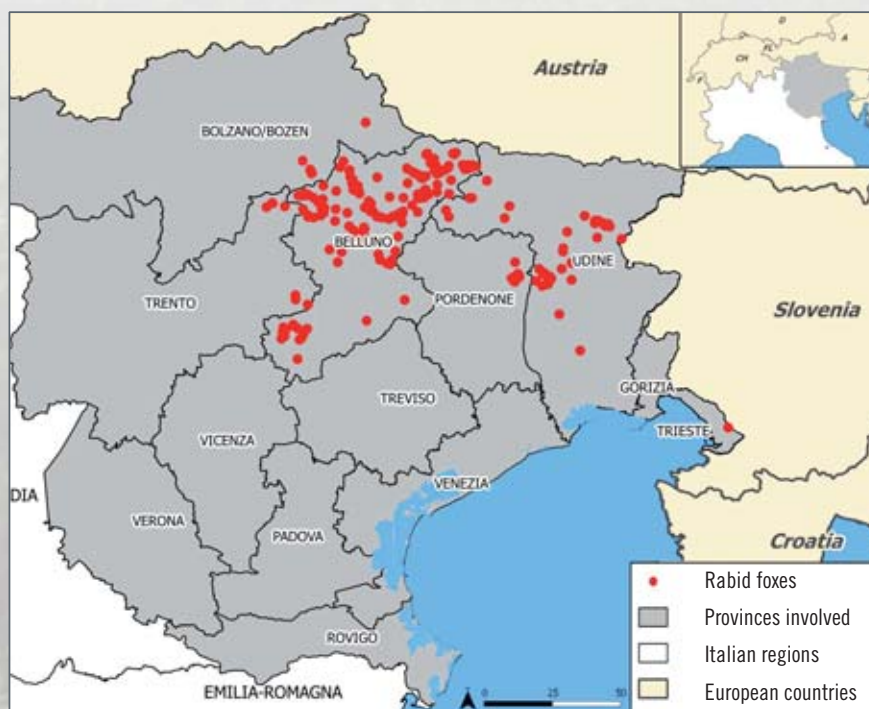


Fig. 1  
Geographical distribution of rabid foxes during the 2008 to 2011 rabies outbreak in Italy

Trento and Bolzano in February and April 2010, respectively. Up until February 2011, a total of 287 cases had been diagnosed in domestic and wild animals, of which 242 (84.3%) were red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*). Italy provided regular follow-up reports as the situation evolved. The geographic distribution of the rabid red foxes is shown in Figure 1. After the last rabid foxes were detected in February 2011, no further cases of rabies were diagnosed (Fig. 2). The last outbreak occurred on 14 February 2011 and was resolved by 31 March 2011. The Italian Veterinary Services sent a final report to the OIE on 24 December 2012, stating that the event had been resolved on 31 March 2011.

### Legal provisions

Surveillance and control measures for rabies in Italy are regulated by the following national legislation:

- the Presidential Decree n. 320 of 8 February 1954 (D.P.R. 08/02/1954 n. 320), Regulation of Veterinary Law, which ratifies the compulsory notification of rabies, and defines control measures for rabid animals
- the Ministerial Decree of 26 November 2009, and its further modifications and additions, containing measures to prevent rabies spreading in the north-eastern regions of Italy.

Oral rabies vaccination campaigns in foxes were defined according to the Report of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare of the European Commission – ‘The oral vaccination of foxes against rabies’, adopted on 23 October 2002.

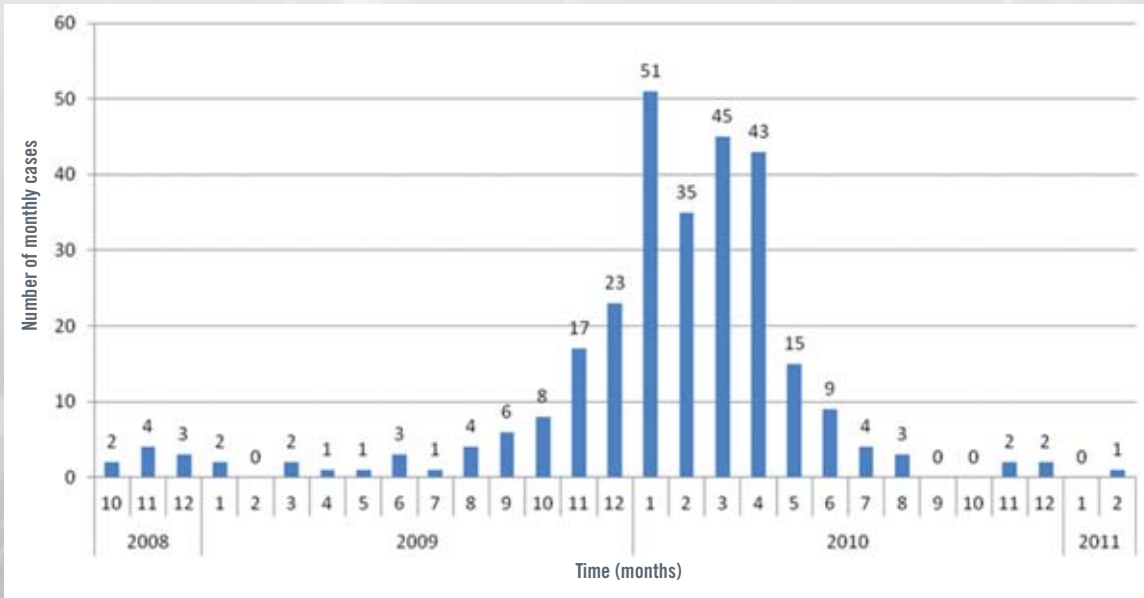


Fig. 2  
Number of rabid foxes per month during the 2008 to 2011 Italian rabies outbreak



Fig. 3  
Geographical extension of the ordinary aerial vaccination areas

Emergency vaccination campaigns were approved by the EU Commission with Commission Decision 2010/657/EU of 28 October 2010, on the financing of emergency measures concerning rabies in North-East Italy.

### Oral rabies vaccination campaigns

Between December 2009 and December 2010, four emergency ORV campaigns were carried out in foxes, according to European Union guidelines and Commission Decision 2010/657/EU. Oral vaccination of foxes was combined with the mandatory vaccination of dogs and domestic livestock in the areas at risk.

In 2011 and 2012, ordinary aerial ORV campaigns were conducted twice a year, in spring and autumn.



**Table I**  
**Efficiency and efficacy of the aerial oral rabies vaccination campaigns in foxes**

ORV campaign	Type	Bait uptake <sup>(1)</sup>	95% C.I.	Herd immunity <sup>(2)</sup>	95% C.I.
December 2009 – January 2010	emergency	71.1%	64.6%-77.6%	75.9%	69.4%-81.6%
May-June 2010	emergency	63.2%	59.7%-66.9%	69.1%	65.1%-73.0%
August-September 2010	emergency	82.5%	79.3%-85.6%	46.2%	40.8%-51.5%
November-December 2010	emergency	91.8%	88.3%-95.3%	77.8%	73.8%-81.4%
April-May 2011	ordinary	67.7%	61.7%-73.6%	74.6%	70.7%-78.3%
November-December 2011	ordinary	86.5%	82.3%-90.6%	46.3%	42.3%-49.3%
April-May 2012	ordinary	92.7%	89.5%-96.0%	60.1%	56.1%-64.1%

(1) Detection of biomarker in bones

(2) Percentage of tested animals with antibody titres > 0.5 UI/ml

The ordinary vaccination campaigns covered the same areas as the previous two emergency campaigns (Fig. 3).

Thirty days after the completion of each vaccination campaign, the efficacy and efficiency of the ORV campaigns were estimated by testing the level of bait uptake and antibody titration, respectively (Table I).

**Therefore, considering the information given above, and:**

- the fact that more than two years have elapsed since the last case of rabies was detected on 14 February 2011 and resolved on 31 March 2011
- that no cases have been detected in the monitoring programme for rabies in foxes
- in accordance with Article 8.10.2. of Chapter 8.10. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (2012), the Delegate of Italy to the OIE declares that his country has regained its rabies-free status, as of 31 March 2013.

# Self-declaration by Chile of freedom from caprine and ovine brucellosis caused by *Brucella melitensis*

submitted to the OIE on 1 February 2013 by Dr Óscar Videla Pérez, Delegate of Chile to the OIE, Head of the Livestock Protection Division, Agriculture and Livestock Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Santiago, Chile

## Background

The Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) is Chile's official Veterinary Service, which is responsible for animal health nationwide. It has been evaluated on a continuing basis by a number of countries and the OIE, all of which have confirmed its compliance with fundamental ethical, organisational, legislative, regulatory and technical principles.

The earliest Chilean studies recording caprine brucellosis in Chile date back to 1933, all recording negative results for the presence of the disease agent.

Brucellosis caused by *Brucella melitensis* has been a notifiable disease in Chile since 1961.

Chile has never permitted vaccination against *B. melitensis*.

The first recorded occurrence of brucellosis in goats took place in 1935, in a mountainous area of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago, and was later confirmed by bacteriological isolation of the agent.

The first human cases of undulant fever to be described in Chile were in 1935, most of which shared the same source of infection: consumption of raw (goats') milk or cheese.

Between 1954 and 1961, brucellosis control and eradication programmes were launched with the aim of declaring the country free from the disease. Vaccination was never considered part of the strategy.

The last time the agent was isolated was in 1975.

The Chilean Veterinary Service has a thorough knowledge of the country's agro-ecological structure and goat and sheep production, as well as the characteristics of the production system for breeding both species.

Chile has a passive surveillance system targeting morbidity and mortality in goats, with no evidence of cases compatible with *B. melitensis*.

Between 1993 and now, epidemiological monitoring has been carried out nationwide to detect *B. melitensis* in sheep and goats, in order to obtain the necessary information for certifying the health of internationally traded livestock products.

Between 1993 and 2011, risk zones and herds were defined and targeted statistical sampling plans were produced for each, using the criterion of exotic disease surveillance.

In the case of goats, the sample population consisted mainly of herds located in the area between the Coquimbo and Biobío regions, where most goat farming is concentrated, while, for sheep, the focus was on the southern zone.

The criterion of expected prevalence used to calculate sample sizes ranged between 0.02% and 10%, depending on the time and animal species concerned, but always with the same power (80%) and confidence level (95%).

Under the current active surveillance programme, 112,856 sheep samples and 7,456 goat samples were analysed between 1993 and 2011, all of which tested negative for *B. melitensis*.

Imports of sheep and goats, sheep and goat semen, sheep and goat embryos and sheep and goat dairy products are regulated by specific health requirements and current quarantine standards. Where applicable, these standards include regulations for *B. melitensis*.

Illegally imported sheep and goats are stamped out and there is a targeted surveillance programme for animals herded in bordering mountain areas.

Chile has applied the procedures described in Chapter 14.1. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* to secure official recognition as a country free from caprine and ovine brucellosis caused by *B. melitensis*.

## Self-declaration

Therefore, by virtue of the above, and in compliance with the requirements of Article 14.1.2., paragraphs 1(a), 1(b) and 1(d), of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (version 2012) of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Delegate of Chile to the OIE declares that his country is free from caprine and ovine brucellosis, caused by *Brucella melitensis*, throughout its national territory, as from the date of publication of Resolution 498 of the Ministry of Agriculture's Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) of 23 January 2013, published in Chile's official gazette on 31 January 2013.





## Self-declaration from Romania on the recovery of its disease-free status from classical swine fever

submitted to the OIE on 7 February 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

Classical swine fever (CSF) was an endemic disease in Romania for a relatively long period. Data on the evolution of this disease in Romania were regularly and transparently reported to the OIE. With the accession of Romania to the European Union (EU) in 2006, the country began to successfully implement annual programmes for the surveillance, control and eradication of CSF.

Improvements in the Romanian Veterinary Services, supported by the EU Commission and experts from the EU Member States, have resulted in no new cases of CSF being diagnosed since 2007. This has been confirmed through laboratory test results. Furthermore, the data obtained by the annual surveillance programmes in 2011 and 2012 demonstrate that, to this date, there is no evidence of CSF virus circulation in domestic pigs and wild boar.

### Surveillance programmes and epidemiological data

Between 2006 and 2012, Romania launched CSF control and eradication programmes, approved and co-financed by the EU Commission. These administrative and financial efforts have produced excellent results, since Romania may now issue documented proof of the absence of CSF virus circulation within its national territory. The efficacy of these programmes was annually evaluated by the Evaluation Mission of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), which concluded that the

© T. Benicasa



implementation of these programmes has produced favourable results in Romania.

At present, the epidemiological situation in Romania is as follows. In the beginning of 2004, the circulation of live pigs from Romania was banned on the EU market. In 2006, by means of Commission Decision 802/2006/CE, the first monitoring, control and eradication plan for CSF in domestic and wild pigs in Romania was approved. This plan was implemented each year, and:

- the last outbreak of CSF was diagnosed on 9 October 2007 and resolved in January 2008
- no new case of infection has been registered since 2007
- vaccination against CSF in domestic pigs was stopped on 30 November 2009
- vaccination against CSF in wild boar was stopped on 31 December 2011
- the results of serological and virological tests obtained in recent years from domestic pigs and wild boar are favourable and demonstrate the absence of CSF virus circulation.

### Official controls and traceability issues

In Romania, CSF is a disease which must immediately be notified. Legislative provisions are in force that provide for the compulsory notification of the first signs or suspicion of disease by any person who owns or cares for pigs. This is in accordance with the provisions of Article 15.2.2. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, as well as the enforced EU legislation on CSF control written into Romanian legislation.

In Romania, domestic pigs are adequately identified and traceability is assured from farm to fork. The hunting grounds are inventoried to determine the numbers of wild boar and the evolution of the population in each hunting ground. Annual hunting programmes take place during legally approved seasons.



In addition, some hunting programmes targeting the young are carried out all year long.

In commercial holdings, rigorous biosafety measures are enforced and these are evaluated annually by the officials of the Veterinary Authority of Romania. Animal movements throughout Romanian territory are certified by veterinary authorities for all domestic live pigs, from both commercial and backyard holdings. The feeding of domestic pigs with swill of animal origin is forbidden.

Despite the favourable results achieved by annual programmes in previous years, in 2013 Romania continues to apply a rigorous surveillance programme throughout its entire territory, both for domestic pigs and wild boar.

Romania can provide documented proof of the results obtained by the surveillance programme to the OIE and to interested countries.

**Therefore, considering the information detailed above, and:**

- that more than five years have elapsed since the last diagnosed case of CSF in Romania
  - that vaccination against CSF ended in domestic pigs in 2009
  - that no vaccinated pigs remain in pig holdings
  - that a stamping-out policy is applied in the event of detection of any outbreak of CSF
  - that, as a result of the CSF surveillance programme, there is no evidence of virus circulation in Romanian territory
  - in accordance with the defined requirements of Article 15.2.3. of Chapter 15.2. on CSF of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* (2012);
- the Delegate of Romania to the OIE declares that his country has regained its CSF-free status, as of 1 February 2013.**

## Self-declaration from Romania on the recovery of its Newcastle disease-free status

**submitted to the OIE on 18 February 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

In Romania, Newcastle disease is immediately notifiable and a stamping-out policy is applied in the event of any outbreak.

### Epidemiological data

The last outbreak of Newcastle disease, which occurred in backyard holdings in Brasov County, was notified to the OIE by Romania on 12 October 2012. Follow-up reports were provided as the outbreak evolved. A final report, stating that the event had been resolved on 13 November 2012, was provided to the OIE on 14 November 2012. Disinfection of all affected backyards was carried out and no new outbreaks have been reported since November 2012.

### Surveillance programme

In the meantime, Romania has carried out a sustained surveillance programme during this three-month period, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 10.9.22. to 10.9.26. of Chapter 10.9. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

**Therefore, considering the above information, and:**

- that three months have elapsed since the Newcastle disease event was resolved and no new case has been diagnosed
  - that Romania applies a stamping-out policy in the event of the detection of an outbreak of Newcastle disease
  - that Romania continues to deploy surveillance programmes for Newcastle disease and there is no evidence of virus circulation on its territory
  - in accordance with Articles 10.9.22. to 10.9.26. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* (2012);
- the Delegate of Romania declares that his country has regained its Newcastle disease-free status, as of 14 February 2013.**

## Compartmentalisation

*In this section of the Bulletin on compartments, the OIE may, upon official request of an OIE Member Country, publish the URL of an official website or a self-declaration providing information on the establishment of one or several compartments for a disease or diseases in that country. The country must indicate in its official request that the compartment has been established in accordance with the OIE standards, notably the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapters 4.3. and 4.4. and the Aquatic Animal Health Code Chapters 4.1. and 4.2. for terrestrial and aquatic animals, respectively.*

*Implementation and evaluation must be conducted in accordance with the principles defined in the Codes. The Member Country must demonstrate that the compartmentalisation is supported by a robust and clear biosecurity plan, and that it was developed in close partnership between the Veterinary Authority and the relevant private sector. The self-declaration of a compartment is the full responsibility of the Member Country concerned.*

*In addition, the OIE does not take responsibility for the content of websites at the quoted URL address which can be updated or modified at any time, or a self-declaration, without the OIE's knowledge. This is the responsibility of the Member Country concerned and all enquiries should be directed to the contact provided by the Member Country.*

## Self-declaration from the production company PT Bibit Unggul (Global Gen) of freedom from nine OIE-listed or regionally important penaeid shrimp (crustacean) pathogens

submitted to the OIE on 3 May 2013 by Dr Syukur Iwantoro, Delegate of Indonesia to the OIE, Director General of Livestock and Animal Health Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Jakarta, Indonesia

### Background information

PT Bibit Unggul (Global Gen) is a Pacific white shrimp (*Penaeus [Litopenaeus] vannamei*) shrimp-breeding (Fig. 1) and broodstock production company located on the island of Lombok, Nusa Tenggara Barat Province (NTB), Indonesia. The Global Gen Nucleus Breeding Center (NBC) and Broodstock Multiplication Centers (BMCs) (Fig. 2) satisfy the conditions of a 'compartment', as described in Chapters 4.1. and 4.2. of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the 'Aquatic Code') 2012. These breeding and broodstock multiplication centres (Fig. 3) consist of newly constructed facilities on two sites, separated by approximately 12 km (Figs 4 and 5).

Global Gen established a selective breeding and broodstock multiplication programme in 2007. Basic biosecurity measures, in accordance with the *Aquatic Code*, were put into place.

### Surveillance programme and contents

In 2008, a pathogen-surveillance programme was initiated. Health screenings were conducted twice yearly by the University of Arizona OIE Reference Laboratory for Penaeid Shrimp Diseases, according to the OIE *Aquatic Manual* (OIE 2006 and 2009), for hepatopancreatic parvovirus (HPV) and necrotising hepatopancreatitis (NHP), employing peer-reviewed, published methods, particularly polymerase chain reaction (PCR).



**Fig. 1**  
PT Bibit Unggul (Global Gen) *Penaeus (Litopenaeus) vannamei* broodstock

Population sampling was conducted for PCR testing, assuming a pathogen prevalence of 2%. All PCR tests were negative for white spot disease, infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus, monodon baculovirus, HPV, baculovirus penaei, NHP, infectious myonecrosis virus, yellowhead disease virus, and Taura syndrome virus.

In 2010, 2011 and 2012 the PT Bibit Unggul breeding and broodstock multiplication facilities were inspected by the Delegate of Indonesia to the OIE (the Director General of Livestock and Animal Health Services) and certified as meeting the biosecurity requirements set by the government of Indonesia and as being



**Fig. 2**  
Nucleus Breeding Center



**Fig. 3**  
**Broodstock multiplication module**

specific-pathogen-free for nine OIE-listed or regionally important pathogens of penaeid shrimp. In 2010, the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia officially recognised *P. vannamei* shrimp being produced by PT Bibit Unggul as a 'new variety', fit for export and free of nine specific OIE-listed or regionally important penaeid shrimp pathogens.

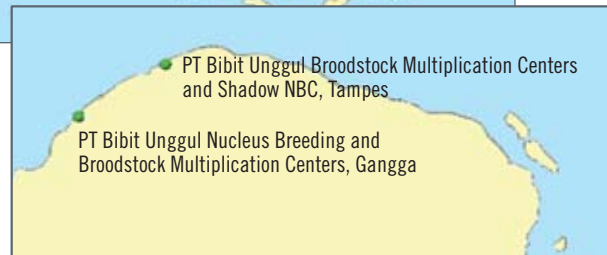
PT Bibit Unggul is an approved *P. vannamei* broodstock supplier to the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia. The competent authorities of Indonesia (the exporting country) have agreed to cooperate with the competent authorities of those countries wishing to import PT Bibit Unggul live shrimp broodstock. PT Bibit Unggul initiated and organised a meeting and discussion between the competent authorities in Indonesia and those of Vietnam, resulting in an agreement between the two countries on health screening, quarantine and health certification requirements for the export of *P. vannamei* shrimp from Indonesia to Vietnam, based on OIE guidelines. Consequently, the Vietnamese competent authorities have officially approved PT Bibit Unggul as a supplier of *P. vannamei* shrimp.

PT Bibit Unggul is initiating discussion between the competent authorities of other countries in the Asian region, in the hope of establishing regional cooperation over procedures for the recognition of disease-free status (according to OIE guidelines) and facilitating international trade in live shrimp, as has been achieved between Indonesia and Vietnam.

In preparation for a self-declaration of freedom from disease, PT Bibit Unggul



**Fig. 4**  
**Lombok island, Indonesia**



**Fig. 5**  
**Location of Nucleus Breeding Center (NBC) and Broodstock Multiplication Centers, and Shadow NBC**

(Global Gen) facilities were audited by Dr Donald Lightner (the University of Arizona OIE Reference Laboratory for Crustacean Diseases) and were found to meet 'basic biosecurity conditions', as defined by the *Aquatic Code*.

A dossier with supporting documents for this self-declaration of freedom from disease is available upon request. Included in the dossier are documents detailing the biosecurity plan for the compartment; its standard operating procedures; reports from an OIE Reference Laboratory for penaeid shrimp (crustacean) diseases showing negative test results over more than two years of testing for nine OIE-listed or regionally important pathogens; an inspection certificate from the Indonesian Delegate to the OIE (Director General of Livestock and Animal Health Services, Ministry of Agriculture); agreements between the competent authorities of Indonesia and of the Philippines, Malaysia and Vietnam to permit importation of PT Bibit Unggul *P. vannamei* stocks; and a report of a biosecurity audit by the director of an

OIE Reference Laboratory for penaeid shrimp (crustacean) diseases.

## Self-declaration

Therefore, considering the information given above, the Delegate of Indonesia to the OIE declares that the breeding and broodstock facilities of production company PT Bibit Unggul (Global Gen), which satisfy the conditions of a 'compartment', as described in Chapters 4.1. and 4.2. of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, are free of disease for nine OIE-listed or regionally important pathogens of penaeid shrimp, as of 21 February 2013.



# international news publications



**English-French**  
Format 17 x 24 cm  
672 pp.  
ISBN 978-2-35403-078-0  
www.medcom.fr

## **Bilingual Dictionary of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery**

**R. Mack & E. Meissonnier**  
Ed. MED'COM

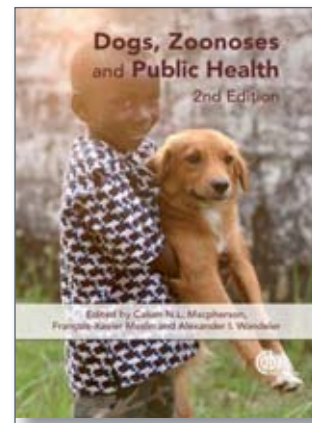
This bilingual dictionary (English-French) fills a gap in the world of reference works on veterinary medicine. Its 719 pages are devoted to the primary disciplines of the veterinary domain, with two separate indexes, each containing 25,000 terms, describing the principal technical terms and expressions of 'classical' veterinary science, within context, accompanied by their definitions and synonyms, if necessary.

The authors, both doctors who are well known in the profession for their work in publishing and veterinary research, have also listed a considerable number of new terms or those belonging to related disciplines: anatomy, bacteriology, virology, immunology, oncology, pharmacology, statistics and genetic engineering, to better respond to the greater information needs of today's veterinary students and practitioners.

All terms are accompanied by their Latin name, where one exists. The writers have also gone to the trouble of indicating all the diseases listed by the OIE with an acronym, for easy identification.

Finally, this dictionary, whose compact format makes it very easy to use, includes an alphabetical list of French and English acronyms for the diseases, syndromes, diagnostic methods, viruses, etc, most often cited in scientific publications, as well as a list of the main linguistic differences between British English and American English.

These features make it a useful reference for all those who come into contact with veterinary science in the course of their studies, practice or research; not forgetting translators and interpreters who will also find it a very valuable work aid.



**In English**  
2nd edition, 2013  
ISBN 978-1-84593-835-2  
288 pp.  
orders@cabi.org

## **Dogs, Zoonoses and Public Health**

**C.N.L. Macpherson, F.X. Meslin  
& A.I. Wandeler**

Zoonotic diseases are at the forefront of public health problems throughout the world. Addressing a little-studied area of veterinary and medical science, this book covers the viruses, bacteria and protozoan and helminth parasites that can be transmitted between dogs and people. It discusses population management, control of disease agents and human-dog relationships. Fully updated throughout, this new edition includes two new chapters on the benefits of the relationship between dogs and people, as well as non-infectious disease issues. It is a valuable resource for researchers and students of veterinary and human medicine, microbiology, parasitology and public health.



# special events

## A united front against infectious disease: cross-sectoral solutions

*Bangkok, Thailand, 28 January–2 February 2013*



© Prince Mahidol Award Conference

Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), delivered a keynote speech on behalf of the Tripartite Alliance – formed by the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the OIE – at the prestigious Prince Mahidol Award Conference, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from January 28th to

2nd February 2013. His Majesty, the King of Thailand, established the award in 1992 to commemorate the centenary of his father, Prince Mahidol's birth. Since Prince Mahidol is regarded as the 'father of modern medicine and public health in Thailand', the award is given each year to an individual or institution for an outstanding performance and/or research that has had a global impact in the field of medicine and public health.

This year's conference focused on sharing information and debating the topic: 'A world united against infectious disease: cross-sectoral solutions'. Speaking on behalf of the tripartite alliance, Dr Vallat argued the case for more active cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination at the national, regional and international levels.

In today's context of globalisation, points of contact between humans, animals and ecosystems are more numerous than ever before, creating a myriad of opportunities for the global spread of infectious disease.

Since more than 60% of human pathogens originate in animals (the influenza virus H5N1, anthrax, SARS, HIV-AIDS, leptospirosis, rabies and Nipah virus being just a few examples), taking action to thwart potential bio-hazards is best achieved by actively preventing and managing infectious diseases at their animal source.

The unprecedented increase in the movement of people and commodities worldwide; the ever-increasing interactions of humans with the environment; deforestation, climate change; urbanisation; the intensification of animal production in response to growing global demands for proteins of animal



© Prince Mahidol Award Conference

## PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE

origin, such as meat, milk and eggs; economic development; and the international trade in exotic pets are just some of the factors that have provided greater opportunities for the transmission of pathogens between animal species and humans.

All these factors and more have changed the eco-biology of infectious agents, increasing vector-borne disease spread and resulting in pathogens crossing the species barrier between wildlife, domestic animals and humans. This, in turn, leads to increased threats to protected species and biodiversity, as well as to the health of domestic animals and humans.

One risk factor not always mentioned is the use of animal pathogens as bio-weapons because of their potential impacts on human health, agriculture and food security. Animal pathogens have been used as bio-weapons throughout history. About 80% of the pathogens that could potentially be used in bioterrorism are of animal origin and many have a proven link with wildlife.

Direct contact with animals is greater in rural developing areas of the world, where animals constitute a source of capital income, dietary protein such as milk and eggs, clothing and transport; and are also used for agricultural purposes, including traction in harvesting, land preparation, and the sustainable production of manure for cultivation. Untreated or undiagnosed infected animals can be a source of contamination of the environment and of food and water.

By targeting control measures at the animal source, we can prevent or greatly reduce the occurrence of a wide range of diseases in humans. It is frustrating to see that, in the 21st Century, millions of people continue to contract zoonoses, often fatal, with significant socio-economic global impacts. It is surprising that so many countries spend their scarce resources on the treatment of human infections only, and neglect to invest a portion of their budget in the cheaper option of preventing zoonotic diseases at their animal source.

Animal diseases continue to restrict the availability of an affordable and safe food supply and can severely affect food security, a key component of public health and social stability. Veterinary Services play an important role in stabilising society because they support a healthy and productive agricultural sector, and a nutritious and safe food supply. They also contribute in a significant way to the protection of biodiversity and the environment.

Given this situation, activities directed at improving animal health must be recognised as a global public good, which contributes equally as much to public health. There should be no gaps between actions oriented towards public health and those directed at animal health.





Opening speech by Col. Ouro Kura Agadazi, Togolese Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries



Opening remarks by Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, President of the OIE



View of the conference hall (opening ceremony)

© P. Bastiaensen (OIE) 2013

## 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

*Lomé, Togo, 18–22 February 2013*

At the kind invitation of the Government of Togo, the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa was held in Lomé from 18 to 22 February 2013. The OIE would like to express its gratitude to the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and the Minister of Health, and all their staff, for the support provided to this important event for the African region. It was a great pleasure to be able to welcome both Ministers to the opening ceremony. His Excellency, Prof. Charles Kondi Agba, Minister of Health, attended the opening as the personal representative of the Togolese Head of State while His Excellency, Colonel Ouro Koura Agadazi, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, chaired the Conference.

The OIE expresses special thanks to the Members of the Veterinary Services of Togo, represented by Dr Batassé Batawui, Delegate of Togo to the OIE, accompanied by all OIE Focal Points, for all the time and energy that they devoted to the preparation of the Conference.

The Conference was thought to be both constructive and relevant, judging by the responses of the participants. A total of 104 took part, including OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 26 Members, one observer country, and senior officers from

11 regional and international organisations. Also in attendance were Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General; Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany and President of the OIE; Dr Marosi Molomo, Delegate of Lesotho and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa; Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General; Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa; Dr Neo Mapitse, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa; Dr Walter Masiga, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa; Dr Rachid Bouguedour, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa; Dr François Caya, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department; and Dr Karim Ben

Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department.

Two technical items were discussed during this Conference. Dr Adrien Mankor presented **Technical Item I**, entitled 'Promoting intra-Africa trade of animals and animal products', while Dr Mohammed Msigara Bahari presented **Technical Item II**: 'The importance of integrating animal welfare, environmental health and veterinary legislation in



The signing of an agreement between the OIE and Uganda for a technical assistance programme on veterinary legislation.

From left to right: Col. Ouro Kura Agadazi, Togolese Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE; Dr Nicholas Kauta, Delegate of Uganda to the OIE; and Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa

© Amny Vallat (OIE) 2013



improving food security and contributing to agricultural Gross Domestic Product in Africa’.

An update on the OIE vision was presented by Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General. Dr Eloit commented on the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan 2011–2015 and highlighted the key concepts and tools used by the OIE during this period, reminding us that the Fifth Strategic Plan provides continuity with the historic objectives of the OIE.

Dr Bernard Vallat explored the modernisation of veterinary education in the region, pointing out that high-quality veterinary education, together with effective Veterinary Statutory Bodies, formed the foundation of good governance of Veterinary Services.

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, examined the OIE mandate in Africa, highlighting the links between the Fifth OIE Strategic Plan and the four pillars of the African Union’s Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

Dr Joseph Domenech gave a presentation on the situation of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Africa. He noted that the OIE was implementing a programme funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, ‘Vaccine standards and pilot approach to peste des petits ruminants (VSPA/PPR) control in Africa’, which involves the creation of a regional PPR vaccine bank, among other tasks.

Other relevant topics discussed included the animal health situation of



**The speaker for Technical Item I (with questionnaire), Dr Adrien Mankor**

Member Countries from the region during the year 2012 and issues of interest in regard to the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission. Member Countries also had the opportunity to hear from the Delegates of Togo and Guinea about their countries’ experiences with the OIE PVS Pathway, and the benefits produced so far.

The Conference was also the opportunity for the signing of an agreement between the OIE and the Government of Uganda for ‘Technical Support to Bring Veterinary Legislation in Uganda into Closer Compliance with OIE Standards and Guidelines’.

Two recommendations were adopted in regard to the technical items, and a final report was presented, detailing all presentations and comments made during the



**The speaker for Technical Item II, Dr Mohamed Bahari**

Conference. Both the recommendations and the report were discussed in a plenary session and will be presented to the World Assembly of OIE Delegates in Paris, in May 2013, for endorsement.

The Delegate of Morocco expressed his country’s willingness to host the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in February 2015. The exact dates will be discussed during the next meeting of the OIE Regional Commission at the General Session in May 2013.



**Detail of group photo showing guests of honour**

© P. Bastiaensen (OIE) 2013

© P. Bastiaensen (OIE) 2013

# agenda

# 2013

## July

### *36th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*

1-5 July  
Rome (Italy)

### *2013 American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Annual Convention and 150th Anniversary of the AVMA*

19-23 July  
Chicago (United States of America)  
[www.avma.org/events/convention/pages/default.aspx](http://www.avma.org/events/convention/pages/default.aspx)

## August

### *Regional Seminar (Middle East) for OIE National Focal Points on Aquatic Animals*

13-15 August  
Byblos (Lebanon)

### *10th IVIS – International Veterinary Immunology Symposium*

28 August – 1 September  
Milan (Italy)  
[ivis2013@mvcongressi.it](mailto:ivis2013@mvcongressi.it)  
[www.ivis2013.org](http://www.ivis2013.org)

## September

### *31st World Veterinary Congress and 150th Anniversary of the World Veterinary Association (WVA)*

17-20 September  
Prague (Czech Republic)  
[www.wvc2013.com/en/welcome](http://www.wvc2013.com/en/welcome)  
[wvc2013@guarant.cz](mailto:wvc2013@guarant.cz)

### *12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East*

22-26 September  
Amman (Jordan)

## 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 (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](http://www.wds2013.com/eng/venue.html)  
[wds2013@ics-inc.co.jp](mailto:wds2013@ics-inc.co.jp)

## November

### *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*

19-22 November  
Philippines

## 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 Iguazu (Brazil)

# 2014

## May

### *82th General Session of the OIE*

25-30 May  
Maison de la Chimie  
Paris (France)

## September

### *39th Congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA 2014)*

16-19 September  
Cape Town (South Africa)  
[www.wsava2014.com](http://www.wsava2014.com)

### *26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe*

23-26 September  
Berne (Switzerland)





# Oie members (178)

AFGHANISTAN  
ALBANIA  
ALGERIA  
ANDORRA  
ANGOLA  
ARGENTINA  
ARMENIA  
AUSTRALIA  
AUSTRIA  
AZERBAIJAN  
BAHAMAS  
BAHRAIN  
BANGLADESH  
BARBADOS  
BELARUS  
BELGIUM  
BELIZE  
BENIN  
BHUTAN  
BOLIVIA  
BOSNIA AND  
HERZEGOVINA  
BOTSWANA  
BRAZIL  
BRUNEI  
BULGARIA  
BURKINA FASO  
BURUNDI  
CAMBODIA  
CAMEROON  
CANADA  
CAPE VERDE  
CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.  
CHAD  
CHILE  
CHINA (PEOPLE'S  
REP. OF)  
CHINESE TAIPEI  
COLOMBIA  
COMOROS  
CONGO  
CONGO  
(DEM. REP. OF THE)  
COSTA RICA  
CÔTE D'IVOIRE  
CROATIA  
CUBA

CYPRUS  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
DENMARK  
DJIBOUTI  
DOMINICAN REP.  
ECUADOR  
EGYPT  
EL SALVADOR  
EQUATORIAL GUINEA  
ERITREA  
ESTONIA  
ETHIOPIA  
FIJI ISLANDS  
FINLAND  
FORMER YUG. REP.  
OF MACEDONIA  
FRANCE  
GABON  
GAMBIA  
GEORGIA  
GERMANY  
GHANA  
GREECE  
GUATEMALA  
GUINEA  
GUINEA BISSAU  
GUYANA  
HAITI  
HONDURAS  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
INDIA  
INDONESIA  
IRAN  
IRAQ  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY  
JAMAICA  
JAPAN  
JORDAN  
KAZAKHSTAN  
KENYA  
KOREA (DEM  
PEOPLE'S REP. OF)  
KOREA (REP. OF)  
KUWAIT

KYRGYZSTAN  
LAOS  
LATVIA  
LEBANON  
LESOTHO  
LIBYA  
LIECHTENSTEIN  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MADAGASCAR  
MALAWI  
MALAYSIA  
MALDIVES  
MALI  
MALTA  
MAURITANIA  
MAURITIUS  
MEXICO  
MICRONESIA  
(FEDERATED  
STATES OF)  
MOLDOVA  
MONGOLIA  
MONTENEGRO  
MOROCCO  
MOZAMBIQUE  
MYANMAR  
NAMIBIA  
NEPAL  
NETHERLANDS  
NEW CALEDONIA  
NEW ZEALAND  
NICARAGUA  
NIGER  
NIGERIA  
NORWAY  
OMAN  
PAKISTAN  
PANAMA  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
PARAGUAY  
PERU  
PHILIPPINES  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
QATAR  
ROMANIA

RUSSIA  
RWANDA  
SAN MARINO  
SAO TOME AND  
PRINCIPE  
SAUDI ARABIA  
SENEGAL  
SERBIA  
SEYCHELLES  
SIERRA LEONE  
SINGAPORE  
SLOVAKIA  
SLOVENIA  
SOMALIA  
SOUTH AFRICA  
SPAIN  
SRI LANKA  
SUDAN  
SURINAME  
SWAZILAND  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
SYRIA  
TAJIKISTAN  
TANZANIA  
THAILAND  
TIMOR-LESTE  
TOGO  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
TUNISIA  
TURKEY  
TURKMENISTAN  
UGANDA  
UKRAINE  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
UNITED KINGDOM  
UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA  
URUGUAY  
UZBEKISTAN  
VANUATU  
VENEZUELA  
VIETNAM  
YEMEN  
ZAMBIA  
ZIMBABWE



# New!

## *Scientific and Technical Review*

Vol. 32 (2)

### Coordinating surveillance policies in animal health and food safety 'from farm to fork'


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.

Reserve now!

# 15%

off all upcoming books  
ordered via the OIE  
Online Bookshop

**ORDER ONLINE NOW! [www.oie.int/boutique](http://www.oie.int/boutique)**



Foz do Iguazu (Brazil)  
4-6 December 2013

Ensuring  
excellence  
and **ethics** of the  
Veterinary  
**Profession**



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH  
*Protecting animals, preserving our future*