



# *bulletin*

No. 2010 - 1

*Veterinary  
medicinal products*

**Oie**

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## Veterinary medicinal products and vaccines: indispensable tools for any effective animal health and welfare policy



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Appropriate prevention and control of animal diseases depends first of all upon policies of good veterinary governance.

These policies must be underpinned by legislation inspired by OIE standards but they must also be backed up

the necessary resources for its enforcement, in particular by the Veterinary Services<sup>1</sup> supported by their public and private sector components working together in a clearly defined partnership. Among the many aspects of this partnership, one of the most important concerns conditions governing the use of veterinary products by private veterinarians and other animal health stakeholders.

It should be remembered that the control of threats to the health and welfare of animals such as bacteria, viruses, parasites and other pathogens cannot be achieved without the judicious use of drugs, vaccines and other veterinary products that act upon the health of animals, regardless of whether they are farmed, used for recreational purposes or kept as companion animals.

However, these important factors of health are not innocuous products. It is acknowledged worldwide that their use must be strictly supervised, for in the absence of public sector controls, the risks associated with their imprudent use may far exceed any potential benefit.

The control of veterinary products begins with legally adopted definitions of the various products used (vaccines, antibiotics, disinfectants, vitamins, antiparasitics, etc.) and the regulations governing their importation, or indeed their

manufacture if they are produced within the country. This is why veterinary products have to be officially registered before they can receive marketing approval. To this end, the OIE works closely with VICH<sup>2</sup>, which is the only international body that adopts and issues guidelines on technical requirements relating to the registration of veterinary medicinal products.

This work should be encouraged as the measures published by VICH ensure guidelines of safety and efficacy for all those countries that adopt them, while avoiding cumbersome national procedures which can cause precious years to be lost before innovations in the field of therapeutics or preventive medicine can be adopted. As soon as VICH guidelines have gained sufficient recognition

by the international community, the OIE will in turn submit them to its Members for adoption as OIE standards. In the meantime, as a sign of OIE/VICH cooperation, the VICH General Assembly and the 4th VICH Global Conference will be held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris in June 2010.

Moreover, the OIE is already involved in the preparation of standards on diagnostic assays and their official validation, as well as on conditions governing the production of high quality veterinary vaccines.

These standards are published in the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* and *Aquatic Manual* and updated annually by the World Assembly of the Delegates of the OIE.

In addition to national or regional registration of veterinary products, the conditions governing their distribution and use are also key factors in limiting the risks associated with their inappropriate use. The conditions governing the prudent use of antibiotics and certain antiparasitics are therefore one of the priority factors of the control procedures that need to be implemented.

*It is acknowledged worldwide that [the] use [of veterinary medicinal products] must be strictly supervised, for in the absence of public sector controls, the risks associated with their imprudent use may far exceed any potential benefit*

1- According to the official OIE definition, the Veterinary Services include public and private sector components relating to mechanisms and stakeholders involved in animal disease prevention and control.

2- International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products.

All these control procedures may differ widely from one country to another, but the OIE wishes to draw its Members' attention to the following recommendations:

- the higher the level of risk that a product poses to animal health or public health, the greater the need to ensure that its users' professional qualifications are appropriate and their initial and continuing training suitably adapted so as to minimise this risk;
- the presence of a national veterinary network enabling surveillance of animal populations in all countries throughout their territory must be guaranteed by all governments to effectively detect and control diseases as soon as they occur, and in so doing prevent biological disasters. The revenue that private veterinarians receive from supplying products, especially in remote or inhospitable areas, provides them with an indispensable supplementary income, thereby helping to maintain the nationwide veterinary network needed in all countries of the world;
- lastly, the OIE places strong emphasis on the importance of keeping national legislation on veterinary products up to date. The Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, due to take place in Tunis from 7 to 9 December 2010, will include detailed coverage of legislative issues relating to veterinary products.

The OIE has also recommended that each of its Members appoint a focal point to be responsible at the national level for relations with the OIE in the field of veterinary products. The OIE regularly invites these officials throughout the world to take part in training programmes to help them, with the

support of its Collaborating Centres such as the one in Fougères (France), to obtain the appropriate international and technical information. The focal points of the 175 OIE Members thus form a worldwide network of experts that can help to bring about the harmonisation of policies in the field of veterinary products with the aim of improving national animal health policies.

It is now clear just how great an impact actions to promote animal health can have in helping to improve food security and food safety, reduce poverty and increase access

to lucrative markets for animals and animal products. Yet, in most cases, actions in favour of animal health depend on the availability and appropriate use of good quality veterinary products.

It is also clear that the irresponsible use of veterinary products can have harmful consequences, not only for animal health but also for public health.

That is why the Codex Alimentarius and its parent organisations, FAO and WHO, are key partners of the OIE in the field of recommendations for veterinarians and livestock producers, and in particular on conditions governing the use of veterinary products in animals for human consumption, risk analysis of residues of veterinary drugs in food products derived from animals and methods for the analysis of these residues.

All actions relating to these fields must be a constant concern on the part of the Veterinary Services of all countries of the world, with the permanent support of the OIE, which considers all these issues as one of its priorities.

*To this end, the OIE works closely with VICH, which is the only international body that adopts and issues guidelines on technical requirements relating to the registration of veterinary medicinal products*

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



## The necessity for veterinary medicines



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Veterinary medicines have been available since time immemorial but the need for such important tools to control and prevent disease in animals and protect animal welfare has never been greater. The emergence of new diseases, climate change, the spread of existing diseases to new geographical areas and a greater understanding of the convergence of human and animal health ('One World, One Health' concept) are just a few of the challenges which demand greater availability of safe, effective high-quality veterinary medicines throughout the world. These developments, coupled with the prediction that the global demand for livestock production is expected to double by 2050, require ever more effective control of animal diseases, underpinned by the need for a positive environment for investment and innovation

in the development of new medicines and support for those already authorised.

*require ever more effective control of animal diseases, underpinned by the need for a positive environment for investment and innovation in the development of new medicines and support for those already authorised*

The research and development of medicines for animals is a lengthy and costly business and the number of research-based companies has decreased in the past few years. Opinion is sometimes divided about the reasons for this apparent decline in the animal health business, but there is agreement that the ever-increasing demands of the regulatory systems around the world for authorising new medicines and maintaining the licences of existing ones, have proved to be a disincentive to investment in new research and technology.

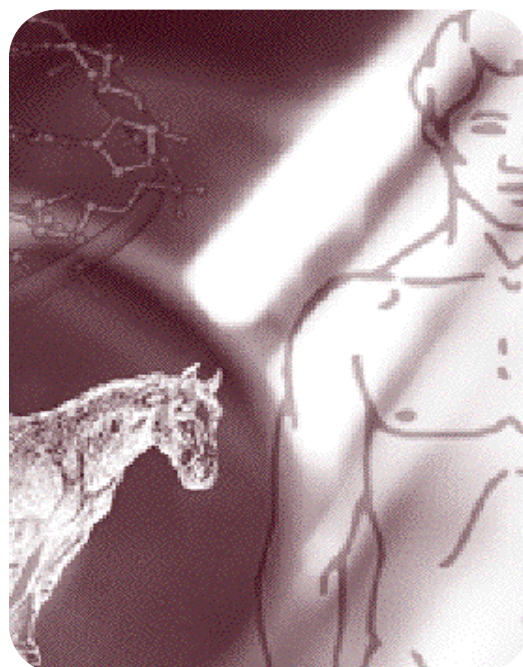
The latest advances in vaccine development based on recombinant DNA technology offer very exciting opportunities for the prevention of diseases that have in the past been hugely difficult to control, and which have decimated livestock production in many countries especially the poorer ones. In some countries, however, their authorisation is being stifled by a risk-averse attitude by policy-makers, often based on ignorance and poor communication of the scientific principles involved in their development. The scientific community has to work with legislators and regulators alike to improve the transparency of the risk assessment process for these new medicines to provide assurances to the public about their safety and, importantly, their benefits. The two biggest critical success factors for the animal health industry are time-to-market, and development costs. It was therefore a concern that a recent survey of the regulatory procedures in some of the major markets demonstrated that, in the 15 years prior to the survey, regulatory requirements had resulted in an escalation of drug development costs by 150% and development time by 4 to 5 years.

New medicines are also expensive and their costs may restrict their availability in certain parts of the world, especially in developing countries, and so the supply of safe, efficacious, generic copies is therefore important. However, whilst the regulatory and legislative framework should encourage the generic industry to thrive, this must be balanced by guarantees that the research-based companies are also accorded the necessary data protection for new and innovative products so they can recoup their investment costs.

*The scientific community has to work with legislators and regulators alike to improve the transparency of the risk assessment process for these new medicines to provide assurances to the public about their safety and, importantly, their benefits*

Whilst the obstacles to ensuring the supply of effective, safe and affordable medicines in all parts of the globe may appear daunting there is now real cause for optimism borne out of a better understanding of the need for these products. Many regulatory authorities have worked hard to streamline the regulatory process to optimise the authorisation process without compromising safety and efficacy. An excellent example of such an initiative has been the International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH), a trilateral programme between the United States of America, Japan and the European Union aimed at harmonising the technical requirements for veterinary product registration and strongly supported by the OIE, which is working to extend the benefits of such harmonisation to its Member Countries. At the time of writing the European Union is also undertaking a review of its legislative and regulatory requirements for veterinary medicines in recognition of the need to advance and improve the regulatory process in all its Member States.

The OIE has also recognised the growing need for a better supply and safe use of veterinary medicines in certain regions where such provision was not always adequate. The holding of two key conferences, in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2008



and in Damascus, Syria, in December 2009, will help to advance the harmonisation and improvement of registration, distribution and control of veterinary medicines in Africa and the Middle East and is to be applauded. In addition the authorities in these and other regions are being encouraged, as described by the Director General of the OIE in his editorial (in this *OIE Bulletin*, page 1), to optimise the standard of Veterinary Services in their respective countries, to provide for the effective use and control of medicines. There is no doubt that proper veterinary governance embracing effective regulatory and control systems for medicinal products can encourage research and investment and increase availability to achieve the benefits of improved animal health and welfare that we are all working towards.

*with over 60% of infections in humans being zoonotic in nature, the impact on animal and human health may be significant and the ability to contain such outbreaks will depend to a great extent on veterinary medicines; their need undoubtedly continues to grow*



In conclusion, whilst we may be witnessing a better understanding of the necessity for an adequate global supply of veterinary medicines, such progress brings additional responsibilities for those using such products. Whilst we strive to insist that animals need medicines too, all parties involved in animal health must implement measures to ensure their careful and prudent use, especially in the case of antimicrobials where the concern about resistance transfer from animals to humans is an ever present threat. It is difficult to predict what the next new disease entity in animals will be and where it will appear, but with over 60% of infections in humans being zoonotic in nature, the impact on animal and human health may be significant and the ability to contain such outbreaks will depend to a great extent on veterinary medicines; their need undoubtedly continues to grow.

**Peter Jones**  
**Director, Jones P. Consulting Ltd.**  
**United Kingdom**



## OIE Discussion Paper for the IATA Live Animals and Perishables Board

*Montreal,  
20-22 October 2009*

The purpose of this discussion paper is to commence a dialogue between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) on the serious problems currently impacting the international transport of research animals by air, and to identify options for collaboration in finding solutions to these problems.

The establishment of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Laboratory Animal Welfare (GLAW) in 2007 provided the foundation for leadership by the OIE in setting standards for the use of animals in research. The serious problems currently impacting the international transport of research animals by air has been

producers have developed ground transportation systems and well-tested containers to reliably and safely transport animals to their destinations. For air transport of research animals, IATA Regulations prescribe the conditions of transport, including containers, inspection and certification.



raised during discussions between the GLAW and international laboratory animal science organisations such as the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) and the International Association of Colleges of Laboratory Animal Medicine (IACLAM), resulting in the strong recommendation at two GLAW meetings that the OIE should lend its support to addressing this problem.

Research animals may need to be transported between research institutions and commercial animal breeders for a number of reasons. Where relatively short distances are involved, for example animals produced in breeding facilities being transported to research institutions in the same country,

Furthermore, over the last two decades there have been increasing numbers of specialised animals (almost exclusively rodents) bred in small colonies in research institutes and universities that have unique genotypes and phenotypes produced primarily through tailored genetic alteration. These colonies increasingly have been an important source of supply of research animals, both nationally and internationally, either as a small commercial enterprise at the research institution or for use in important collaborative research studies. Unlike large commercial producers of laboratory animals, the numbers of institutionally produced animals that must be transported may be relatively small for any given institution,





but in the aggregate, can represent a substantial number of journeys and this is a critically important element in internationally recognised high quality research.

Carriage by air is usually the most rapid, practical and humane option for those groups of animals for which



economic or welfare considerations preclude the use of ground transportation (e.g. due to distance or geographical isolation).

A relatively small number of species are routinely used in research, with rats and mice representing by far the greatest numbers. Other species, including guinea pigs, gerbils, hamsters, rabbits, cats, dogs, pigs, nonhuman primates (consisting of only a few species), and fish (principally zebra fish), are also essential but are used in relatively small numbers. Dogs and nonhuman primates used in research present important issues with regard to international transportation. Many dogs used in laboratories are obtained from breeding colonies in the United States of America and nonhuman primates are imported from breeding colonies in Asia and Mauritius. These animals are air freighted to research institutes and are of critical importance in regulatory testing, particularly with regard to the final approval of human medicinal products, and in some special research fields (e.g. infectious diseases). In most cases it is not possible to replace these species by other testing methods or models and access to these animals is critically important to maintaining progress in advancing human medicine.

## The problem and its causes

The shrinking availability of research animal transport by air worldwide has become a growing threat to animal-based research, including safety testing of new medicines and disease diagnosis, and therefore to human and animal health and welfare.

Economically, politically and practically, transport of research animals has become unattractive for airlines, both

nationally and internationally, while the complexities in current systems for such transport result in inefficiencies that can lead to failure of the animals to arrive, or their arrival in a state of compromised health or welfare. Only forty per cent of the commercial air fleet has the appropriate environmental

controls to carry animals but the problem is more one of policy than practicality. Airlines do not need to carry research animals and many choose not to for a number of reasons.

- It is a very small trade – live animals, most of which are companion animals or production animals, make up less than 0.1% of all cargo transported by air.
- It requires specialised environmental controls and consolidations and cutbacks within the airline industry have led to fewer suitable cargo planes being in service.
- Complex transport regulations and documentation requirements increase the likelihood of errors causing delays to shipments and potentially jeopardizing animal health and welfare.
- Some airlines have come under pressure from animal rights organisations to adopt a policy of refusing to transport certain species of research animals (e.g. nonhuman primates, cats and dogs). These are often the larger carriers with the most diverse route systems, which exacerbates the problem. Such policies have tended to spread throughout the industry as amalgamation of airlines has also led to harmonisation of policies.

An additional factor that has a bearing on the decisions of airline companies is the provision of inspection facilities to handle incoming shipments of live animals at the major airports. Where a need for significant investment to upgrade airport facilities is identified, the willingness of airlines and airport operators to invest is unclear and individual operators may be unwilling to take the lead in addressing the problems identified.

As a result of these factors, it is becoming both more difficult and more expensive to obtain animals for research.

This situation has the potential to reduce the ability to carry out research that is critically important for human and animal health worldwide. The risks from inadequate testing of biological products are immeasurable while the lack of availability of research animals could result in delays in vital medical and veterinary research.

### Proposed action

Transporters and government agencies must become fully apprised of the importance of air transportation of research animals and be encouraged to take steps to support the capacity to transport these animals internationally and to make

health. The OIE should, in consultation with IATA, develop and disseminate materials on this topic.

The development of an electronic system for constructing required documents for national and international transport of laboratory animals would help to reduce documentation errors and consequent problems with individual shipments.

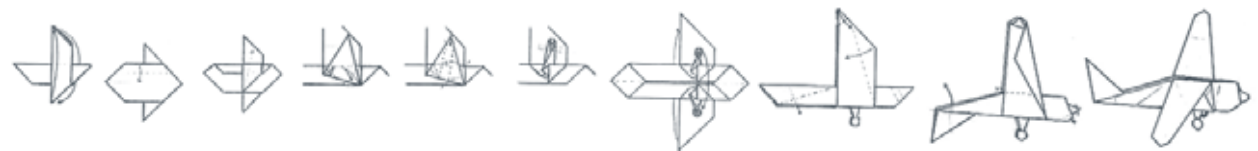
In relation to border inspection posts (BIPs), the problem of airport infrastructure is complex and will require collaboration between the private and the public sector if it is to be resolved. Through communication with its Members, the OIE should promote support for the development of adequate infrastructure to facilitate international air transport under conditions that assure the health and welfare of research



the transport system more practical and economic.

Dialogue between transporters, the science community, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and governmental bodies should take place to share awareness of the vital role that research animals play in maintaining human and animal

animals. Within governments, multiple agencies are involved in the regulation and control of airports and air transport. Therefore, collaboration across government agencies is needed to address this problem.



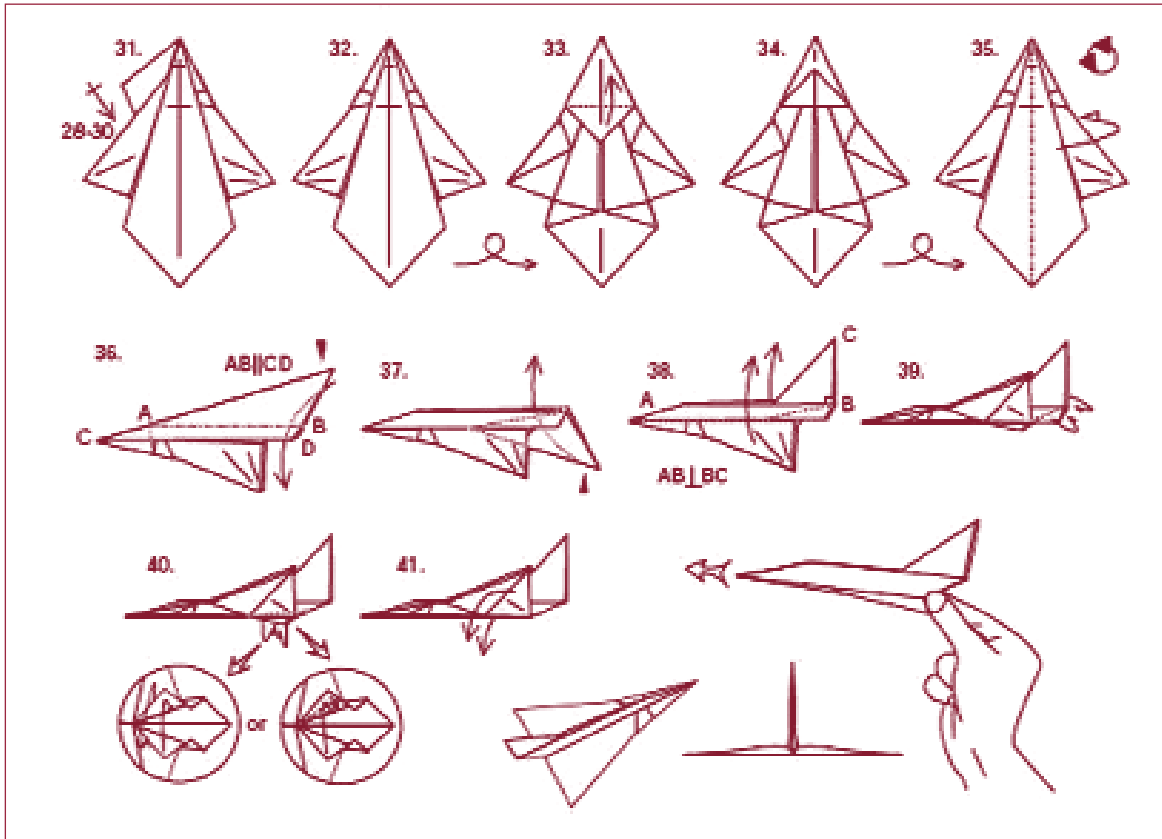
### Recommendations

The OIE has identified the following actions for discussion with the IATA Live Animals and Perishables Board:

1. Alert IATA and its members to this issue and explain the importance of urgently taking steps to maintain the ability to transport research animals worldwide;
2. Alert OIE Members to the need to address the problems of infrastructure of international airports and veterinary inspection arrangements to facilitate air transport of research animals.
3. Continue to work with NGOs and the public to explain the need for research animals and the need to move them between institutions.
4. OIE to continue to work on establishing global standards for the use of animals in research and education.
5. In liaison with IATA, to review and update as needed the current IATA Regulations for air transport of research animals.
6. Provide support for IATA's work on electronic certification for live animals, including research animals.

The OIE thanks Dr Virginia Williams (New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) for assistance in drafting this discussion paper and acknowledges two articles published by

Dr William J. White, President of IACLAM: 'Decreasing availability of transportation for laboratory animals' and 'Transportation and a mouse passport'.



# Support of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to VICH: an international initiative to harmonise technical requirements for registration of veterinary medicinal products

**Dr Patrick Dehaumont, OIE  
Collaborating Centre for Veterinary  
Medicinal Products**

Veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) are key tools for both public and animal health and need, therefore, to be of high quality, safe and efficacious.

As far as registration is concerned, the national competent authorities have to handle the scientific assessment of the dossiers on the basis of sound science and robust and reliable methodologies. In this respect, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) strongly supports the VICH initiative aiming to harmonise technical requirements for registration of veterinary medicinal products.



## What is VICH?

VICH is a trilateral (European Union [EU]-Japan-United States of America [USA]) programme aimed at harmonising technical requirements for veterinary product registration. Its full title is the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products. Australia, New Zealand and Canada participate in VICH as observers, with one delegate representing governmental authorities and one representing industry associations. VICH was officially launched in April 1996.

## Background and history

The initiative to begin the harmonisation process came in 1983 when the first International Technical Consultation on Veterinary Drug Registration was held. Thereafter, a series of government and

industry initiatives was developed, culminating in the formation of VICH.

The first International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) was held in Brussels, Belgium, in November 1991. The meeting brought together regulators and industry representatives from the USA, the EU and Japan to address quality, safety and efficacy requirements in the three regions.

Meetings on harmonisation of veterinary biologicals were held in Ploufragan, France, in January 1992, in Arlington, USA, in 1994 and in Singapore in 1995.

In January 1993 the Global harmonisation of standards (GHOST) discussion document was published by FEDESA (European Federation of Animal Health). It set out a programme for the international harmonisation of registration requirements for veterinary pharmaceuticals and biologicals.

Following these discussions and OIE conferences, the OIE set up an

*ad hoc* Group on Harmonisation of Veterinary Medicinal Products in 1994.

## The birth and scope of VICH

Preparatory work for the establishment of VICH was carried out by this OIE *ad hoc* Group. Two meetings were held in 1994 and in 1995 at which the scope of veterinary harmonisation was discussed and the membership and objectives of VICH proposed.

On the subject of food safety standards, it was decided that VICH should complement the work of Codex and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. Issues related to good laboratory practices and good manufacturing practices which are already the subject of mutual agreements will not normally come within the remit of VICH. Issues related to biologicals were considered appropriate to fall within the scope of VICH.

Fundamental to the selection of priority topics for consideration by VICH was the discussion document prepared by the World Animal Health Industry





Confederation (COMISA) for the Steering Committee. This report:

- assesses existing ICH guidelines which could be adapted to the VICH programme;
- defines in detail areas of non-harmonisation between the EU, the US and Japan and provides a series of ‘concept papers’ on key topics; and
- puts forward preliminary suggestions for priority topics.

### ***The objectives of VICH***

The objectives of VICH are along the same lines as those of ICH.

VICH will:

- provide a forum for a constructive dialogue between regulatory authorities and the veterinary medicinal products industry on the real and perceived differences in the technical requirements for product registration in the EU, Japan and the USA, with the expectation that such a process may

a more economical use of human, animal and material resources, without compromising safety;

- make recommendations on practical ways to achieve harmonisation in technical requirements affecting registration of veterinary products and to implement these recommendations in the three regions. Once adopted the VICH recommendations should replace corresponding regional requirements. These recommendations should focus

## ***International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products***

With all the ground-breaking work completed, the Steering Committee of the VICH held its first meeting in April 1996, at which the membership and the working procedures were agreed and a work programme established.

serve as a catalyst for a wider international harmonisation;

- identify areas where modifications in technical requirements or greater mutual acceptance of research and development procedures could lead to

on the essential scientific requirements needed to address a topic and should eliminate unnecessary or redundant requirements;

- VICH should be conducted in a transparent and cost-effective manner

and should provide the opportunity for public comment on recommendations at the draft stage.

### **The future of VICH**

The VICH Organisational Charter clearly states in its objectives that as well as establishing and implementing harmonised regulatory requirements for veterinary medicinal products in the VICH Regions, the programme should 'work towards providing a basis for wider international harmonisation of registration requirements'.

VICH has re-iterated this objective of wider international harmonisation in the objectives set out in its Work Programme 2006–2010.

should play a pivotal role in disseminating the VICH Guidelines to those OIE Members that are not already active participants in VICH.

The VICH 4 Conference, which will take place on 24 and 25 June 2010 at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, will provide the opportunity to address in detail the VICH initiative of 'VICH global outreach' and to report on the progress achieved so far.

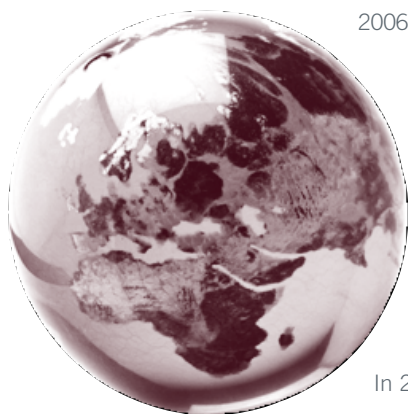
### **Objective of the VICH global outreach**

The objective of the VICH global outreach is to encourage the wider harmonisation of registration requirements and efficient use of resources in regions/countries that are

available in the veterinary sector. To maximise use of available resources it is proposed to further strengthen the interaction and cooperation between VICH and the OIE, using the existing OIE structure and network, and actively assisting OIE in its endeavours to improve the governance of VMPs. The existing regional cooperation initiatives are of particular importance considering the specificities of the global animal health sector.

Viewed in the broad global context of animal and public health, the ultimate goal of the VICH global outreach is to enable broad access to good quality veterinary medicinal products for all livestock producers in all parts of the world, and in particular in Africa, Asia and South America.

*The VICH 4 Conference, which will take place on 24 and 25 June 2010 at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, will provide the opportunity to address in detail the VICH initiative of 'VICH global outreach' and to report on the progress achieved so far*

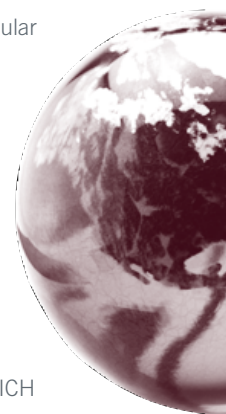


In 2008, the VICH Steering Committee endorsed in principle the proposal to improve the outreach of VICH but considered that there is a need to balance resources, to ensure that the needs of the regions are taken into account, and that OIE is fully engaged. The Steering Committee considered further that any VICH initiative similar to the existing ICH Global Cooperation Group needed to recognise the difference between the human and veterinary sectors and maximise the link with the OIE. The OIE

not members of VICH. In this way VICH will become an important part of the toolbox facilitating the governance of VMPs globally.

To achieve this, it is important to take into account the global context of the governance of VMPs and to assess the needs and expectations of non-VICH countries regarding training and capacity building. Moreover, it is necessary to define and implement an efficient information, communication and training strategy, in accordance with all existing regional initiatives and considering the limited resources

For this to be successful the VICH global outreach initiative has to be positioned as a logical final step in a sequence of strategic OIE activities targeted at good governance of VMPs at a global level. This includes establishing and further developing the appropriate legal framework, regulatory systems and resources required to ensure the development, registration, distribution and appropriate control of safe, efficacious and good quality VMPs. At the same time, conscious of the limited resources, OIE recommends its Members to develop regional



cooperation for harmonisation of the regulatory framework and to implement OIE standards.

OIE will continue to collaborate with and provide full support to VICH as the reference body regarding the technical requirements for registration of veterinary medicinal products.

Further information may be found on the VICH Web sit ([www.vichsec.org](http://www.vichsec.org)).

# new OIE publications



## Invasive species Part 1: General aspects and biodiversity Part 2: Concrete examples

*Coordinated by Paul-Pierre Pastoret & François Moutou*

Vol. 29 (1) & (2) April and August 2010.

ISBN: 978-92-9044-802-0 (Vols. 1 & 2)

ISBN: 978-92-9044-780-1 (Vol. 1)

ISBN: 978-92-9044-781-8 (Vol. 2)

Format: 29.7 x 21 cm

Approx. 525 pp altogether

Price: 120 €/sold together

Price: 60 €/issue

Trilingual

Invasive 'alien' species may compete with already existing local biodiversity and domestic animals, introduce infectious transboundary diseases (often emerging), and have a detrimental effect on the environment. Invasive animal species may belong to any species, including molluscs, arthropods, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds or mammals. Moreover, invasive plants can have an impact on the animal kingdom.

Natural 'alien' species invasions, notably through migrations, have always occurred, and there have also been accidental or intentional introduction by man, often with deleterious effects. Livestock or companion animals, have accompanied man during his own historical migrations.



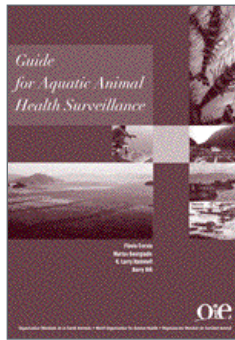
### **Scientific and Technical Review Vol. 28 (3), 2009 Plurithematic issue**

December 2009  
ISBN 978-92-9044-762-7  
Format: 21 × 29,7 cm  
Approximately 300 pp.  
Price: **55 €**  
**Trilingual**

Volume **28** (3) of the *Scientific and Technical Review* contains 28 articles submitted by experts from all parts of the world. The articles describe different animal disease surveillance strategies and the control and elimination of important animal diseases. Other topics dealt with include organisation of Veterinary Services, diagnosis, vaccines and pharmaceuticals, and various aspects of animal welfare.

The *Review* also provides a unique opportunity to publish reports on the situation of various animal diseases in the world, in particular in countries whose animal health situation would otherwise receive little or no publicity.

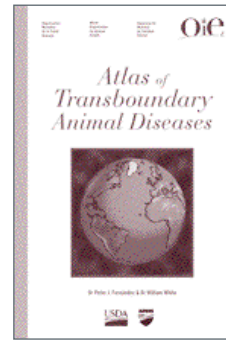
Every year, the OIE also publishes two issues of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* on specific topics.



### **Guide for Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance**

**Coordinated by: Flavio Corsin,  
Marios Georgiadis,  
K. Larry Hammell & Barry Hill**  
2009  
ISBN 978-92-9044-767-2  
Format: 21 × 29.7 cm  
126 pp.  
Price: **50 €**  
**In English**

Efficient and reliable surveillance systems generate sound evidence for disease incidence, prevalence and distribution, or for demonstrating disease absence. Science-based decisions regarding the health of aquatic animals rely on the information generated by surveillance programs. This practical handbook about surveillance is intended to be used mainly by Veterinary Services or other Competent Authorities, their staff and experts, for designing, implementing, and evaluating surveillance systems for diseases of relevance for aquatic animals in their country.



### **Atlas of Transboundary Animal Diseases**

**Coordinated by Dr Peter J. Fernández  
& Dr William White**  
2010  
ISBN 978-92-9044-804-4  
Approximately 350 pp.  
Price: **60 €**  
**In English**

The *Atlas of Transboundary Animal Diseases* is intended to assist Veterinary Service field staff involved in animal disease surveillance and diagnostics in identifying important transboundary diseases of livestock. The publication replaces the 1988 two-volume reference, *Illustrated Manual for the recognition and diagnosis of certain animal diseases*, which is no longer available. The focus of this new publication is on key images of clinical signs and post mortem lesions associated with 29 OIE-listed animal diseases supplemented by basic disease information from the OIE technical disease cards. Input for this consolidated reference volume comes from the OIE's global network of veterinary epidemiologists and experts and is published with the support of the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS).



# meetings and visits

## Name and position of OIE permanent staff who participated in meetings or visits: October to December 2009

### Headquarters

<b>General Directorate</b>		<b>Scientific and Technical Department (cont.)</b>	
Bernard Bernard Vallat	Director General	Keith Hamilton	OFFLU (Joint OIE/FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of animal influenza) Coordinator
Monique Eloit	Deputy Director General (Administration, Finance and Staff Management)	François Diaz	Officer in charge of validation of diagnostic assays
Alex Thiermann	Adviser to the Director General and President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission	Lea Knopf	Officer in charge of the recognition of countries' animal disease status
Maria Zampaglione	Head of the Communication Unit	Sara Linnane	Scientific Editor
Glaïeul Mamaghani	Deputy Head of the Communication Unit	<b>Regional Activities Department</b>	
Martin Nissen	Legal Adviser	Gastón Funes	Head of Department
Alain Dehove	Co-ordinator of the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund	Mara Elma González Ortiz	Deputy Head of Department
Margarita Gómez-Riela	Project officer – World Animal Health and Welfare Fund	Marie Edan	Chargée de mission
Jennifer Sheahan	Project officer – World Animal Health and Welfare Fund	Nilton Antônio de Morais	Chargé de mission
Jean-Pierre Croiziers	Head of the Human Resources and Budget Management Unit	Nathaly Monsalve	Bilingual Secretary
Marie Bonnerot	Assistant to the Head of the Human Resources and Budget Management Unit	<b>Administration and Management Systems Department (until 30 November 2009)</b>	
Alix Weng	Head of the Accounts Unit	Daniel Chaisemartin	Head of Department
<b>Animal Health Information Department</b>		Bertrand Flahault	Deputy Head of Department
Karim Ben Jebara	Head of Department	Alejandra Torres-Balmont	Conference Coordinator
Francesco Berlingieri	Deputy Head of Department	<b>Publications Department (until 30 November 2009)</b>	
Laure Weber-Vintzel	Chargée de mission	Paul-Pierre Pastoret	Head of Department
Mariela Varas	Chargée de mission	Annie Souyri	Deputy Head of Department
Alessandro Ripani	Chargé de mission	Tamara Benicasa	Sales and Marketing Agent
<b>International Trade Department</b>		Marie Teissier	Documentalist
Sarah Kahn	Head of Department	Saraï Suarez	Bilingual Secretary
Yamato Atagi	Deputy Head of Department	<b>Administration, Logistics and Publications Department (from 1 December 2009)</b>	
Leopoldo Stuardo	Chargé de mission	Daniel Chaisemartin	Head of Department
Wim Pelgrim	Chargé de mission	Paul-Pierre Pastoret	Scientific Adviser
Gillian Mylrea	Chargée de mission	Marie Teissier	Documentalist
<b>Scientific and Technical Department</b>		Bertrand Flahault	1st Deputy Head of Department and Head of the Systems Management and Events Unit
Kazuaki Miyagishima	Head of Department	Alejandra Torres-Balmont	Conference Coordinator
Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel	Deputy Head of Department	Annie Souyri	2nd Deputy Head of Department and Head of the Publications Unit
Kate Glynn	Chargée de mission	Tamara Benicasa	Sales and Marketing Agent
Yong Joo Kim	Chargé de mission		

### OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations

<b>Africa</b>		<b>Africa (cont.)</b>	
Abdoulaye Bouna Niang	Regional Representative for Africa (Bamako, Mali)	Vincent Brioudes	Chargé de mission (Tunis, Tunisia)
Yacouba Samaké	Deputy Regional Representative for Africa (Bamako, Mali)	Antonio Petrini	Chargé de mission (Tunis, Tunisia)
Daniel Bourzat	Counsellor to the Regional Representative for Africa (Bamako, Mali)	Bonaventure J. Mtei	Sub-Regional Representative for the Southern African Development Community (Gaborone, Botswana)
Mariam Minta	Secretary (Bamako, Mali)	Patrick Bastiaensen	Chargé de mission (Gaborone, Botswana)
Aissata Bagayoko	Secretary (Bamako, Mali)	Nomsa Thekiso	Secretary (Gaborone, Botswana)
Youma N'Diaye	Accountant (Bamako, Mali)	Mpho Mantsho	Administrative and financial assistant (Gaborone, Botswana)
Faouzi Kechrid	Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa (Tunis, Tunisia)		

## meetings and visits

### OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (cont.)

#### Americas

Luis Osvaldo Barcos	Regional Representative for the Americas (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Alicia Susana Palmas	Secretary (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Marina Cozzarin	Assistant (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Leandro Barcos	Technical Assistant (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
José Joaquín Oreamuno	Sub-Regional Representative for Central America (Panama City, Panama)
Yolanda P. De Conte	Secretary (Panama City, Panama)

#### Asia and the Pacific

Teruhide Fujita	Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (Tokyo, Japan)
Itsuo Shimohira	Senior Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (Tokyo, Japan)
Kenji Sakurai	Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (Tokyo, Japan)
Ikuo Koike	Technical Consultant (Tokyo, Japan)
Matasuke Yamage	Technical Consultant (Tokyo, Japan)
Than Hla	Technical Consultant (Tokyo, Japan)
Sayuri Tagawa	Regional Veterinary Officer (Tokyo, Japan)
Takako Shimizu	Secretary (Tokyo, Japan)
Kazue Akagawa	Secretary (Tokyo, Japan)
Ronello C. Abila	Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)
John Stratton	PSVS (OIE/AusAID Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services) Programme Coordinator (Bangkok, Thailand)

#### Asia and the Pacific (cont.)

Alexandre Bouchot	Chargé de mission (Bangkok, Thailand)
Sharie Michelle Razo Aviso	Project Officer (Bangkok, Thailand)
Jaruwan Angvanitchakul aka Ning	Secretary (Bangkok, Thailand)
Khun Chutikarn Dheebhasit	Secretary (Bangkok, Thailand)

#### Eastern Europe

Nikola T. Belev	Regional Representative for Eastern Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria) and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
Rina Kostova	Secretary (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Stanislav Raichev	Technical Assistant (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Anatoly Vlasov	Expert (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Caroline Planté	Sub-Regional Representative (Brussels, Belgium)
Jean-Pierre Vermeersch	Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) Project Manager (Brussels, Belgium)

#### Middle East

Ghazi Yehia	Regional Representative for the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon)
Pierre Primot	Chargé de mission (Beirut, Lebanon)
Mustapha Mestom	Consultant (Beirut, Lebanon)
Rita Rizk	Secretary (Beirut, Lebanon)
Hani Imam	Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)
Khodr Rejeili	Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)
Mahmoud Gaddaf	Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)

### Name and position of experts who represented the OIE in meetings or visits

Hassan Aidaros	Member of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases	Hiroshi Kida	OIE Reference Laboratory for Highly and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (poultry) (Sapporo, Japan)
Kassem Al-Qahtani	President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and OIE Delegate of Qatar	Michel Lombard	OIE Expert
David Bayvel	Chairman of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare	Stuart MacDiarmid	Member of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
Gideon Brückner	President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases	Jill Mortier	OIE Focal Point for Animal Production Food Safety, Animal Welfare, Veterinary Products and Wildlife (Canberra, Australia)
Davinio Catbagan	Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and OIE Delegate of Philippines	Gardner Murray	OIE Consultant
Carlos A. Correa Messuti	President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates and OIE Delegate of Uruguay	Barry O'Neil	Past President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates and OIE Delegate of New Zealand
Patrick Dehaumont	OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products	Martial Petitclerc	OIE Project Manager
Stuart K. Hargreaves	Member of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and OIE Delegate of Zimbabwe	Sen Sovann	Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of Cambodia to the OIE
Barry J. Hill	President of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission	Cristobal Zepeda	OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Disease Surveillance Systems and Risk Analysis
Huang Jie	Member of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission	Zhang Zhongqiu	Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and OIE Delegate of the People's Republic of China
William B. Karesh	President of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases		
Toshiro Kawashima	President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and OIE Delegate of Japan		

## meetings and visits

### September 2009 (see also *Bulletin No. 4-2009*)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
CDAT-Schaub Group Director's Conference	Brussels (Belgium)	21 September 2009	Dr C. Planté
Meeting with Dr Daniel López, newly appointed Chief Veterinary Officer and Delegate of Paraguay to the OIE	Asunción (Paraguay)	23-24 September 2009	Dr L.O. Barcos

### October 2009

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
National Veterinarian Meeting 2009 (RNV) Veterinarian students Meeting 2009 (REV)	Nice (France)	1-2 October 2009	Ms T. Benicasa
OIE-SEAFMD (South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign) Laboratory Network Meeting	Pakchong (Thailand)	1-2 October 2009	Dr R.C. Abila & Dr S.M. Razo Aviso
Meeting on Alliance for Rabies Control organised by Institut Pasteur	Paris (France)	2 October 2009	Dr K. Miyagishima
10th Meeting of the Inter-American Committee for Avian Health (CISA) and Poultry Latinamerican and Caribbean Congress	Cuba	4-9 October 2009	Dr J.J. Oreamuno
2nd Steering Committee of the Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-Setting Organizations Project (PAN-SPSO)	Nairobi (Kenya)	5 October 2009	Dr M.E. González Ortiz
'Foot and Mouth Disease week' organised by the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (EuFMD): FAO-EuFMD/EC/OIE Tripartite Group meeting on control of foot and mouth disease (FMD) and other exotic diseases in the southern Balkans/Aegean region	Istanbul (Turkey)	5-6 October 2009	Dr L. Knopf, Prof. Dr N.T. Belev & Dr C. Planté
Southern African Development Community (SADC) Working Group on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (SADC Laboratories Sub-Committee)	Gaborone (Botswana)	5-7 October 2009	Dr B.J. Mtei & Dr P. Bastiaensen
'Foot and Mouth Disease week' organised by EuFMD: 78th Session of the EuFMD Executive Committee	Istanbul (Turkey)	6-7 October 2009	Dr L. Knopf, Prof. Dr N.T. Belev & Dr C. Planté
Joint FAO/OIE/WHO meeting – CDC/USAID Emerging Pandemic Threats Program – Laboratory Assessment Meeting (CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention USAID: United States Agency for International Development)	Atlanta (United States of America)	6-7 October 2009	Dr A. Thiermann, Dr A. Dehove & Dr K. Glynn
International Symposium on WTO-SPS Agreement (World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures)	Jakarta (Indonesia)	6-8 October 2009	Dr T. Fujita
21st Latin American Congress on Poultry Farming	Havana (Cuba)	6-9 October 2009	Dr L.O. Barcos & Dr J.J. Oreamuno
Preparatory meetings for the OIE Regional Workshop on Risk Analysis for Import, Distribution and Handling of Animal Vaccines, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 3 to 5 November 2009, and the FAO/OIE Sub-Regional Meeting of GF-TADs (FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) in the ASEAN +3 (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 7 to 8 December 2009	Jakarta (Indonesia)	6-9 October 2009	Dr I. Shimohira
Meeting of the <i>ad hoc</i> Group on 'VICH Global Outreach' (VICH: International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products)	Washington DC (United States of America)	7-8 October 2009	Dr P. Dehaumont
'Foot and Mouth Disease week' organised by EuFMD: West Eurasia Roadmap for FMD control	Istanbul (Turkey)	7-9 October 2009	Dr L. Knopf, Prof. Dr N.T. Belev & Dr C. Planté
2nd OIE/AusAID/PSVS Regional Workshop on Emergency Preparedness and Response (AusAID: Australian Agency for International Development PSVS: OIE/AusAID Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services)	Bangkok (Thailand)	7-9 October 2009	Dr S. Tagawa, Dr R.C. Abila, Dr A. Bouchot, Dr J. Stratton & Dr G. Murray
Concepts of Animal Welfare: 'Interdisciplinary Perspectives'	Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler (Germany)	8-9 October 2009	Dr W. Pelgrim
Conference of the European Commission (EC) – Delivering Animal Welfare and Quality: Transparency in the Food Production Chain	Uppsala (Sweden)	8-9 October 2009	Dr S. Kahn & Dr D. Bayvel
International Meeting of the Gelatine Manufacturers of Europe (GME)	Rome (Italy)	9 October 2009	Dr A. Thiermann

## meetings and visits

## October 2009 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
2nd Agricultural Forum on 'Sustainable improvement of agriculture and livestock production and the economization of water use in the Sultanate of Oman'	Salalah (Oman)	10-14 October 2009	Dr G. Brückner
High-Level Expert Forum on 'How to Feed the World in 2050?'	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	12-13 October 2009	Dr A. Dehove
OIE Global Conference on 'Evolving Veterinary Education for a safer world'	Paris (France)	12-14 October 2009	Dr C.A. Correa Messuti, Dr B. Vallat, Dr M. Eloit, Dr A. Thiermann, Dr A. Dehove, Dr D. Chaisemartin, Ms A. Torres-Balmont, Dr S. Kahn, Dr Y. Atagi, Dr L. Stuardo, Dr W. Pelgrim, Dr G. Funes, Prof. P.-P. Pastoret, Ms S. Suarez, Ms T. Benicasa, Prof. Dr N.T. Belev, Dr L.O. Barcos, Dr A.B. Niang, Dr Y. Samaké, Dr D. Bourzat, Dr B.J. Mtei, Dr P. Bastiaensen, Dr F. Kechrid, Dr T. Fujita, Dr G. Yehia, Dr B. O'Neil, Dr G. Brückner, Dr G. Murray, Dr M. Petitclerc, Dr D. Bayvel, Dr W.B. Karesh & Dr C. Zepeda
3rd Session of the <i>ad hoc</i> Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance	Jeju (Republic of Korea)	12-16 October 2009	Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel
Continental Plan meeting on classical swine fever and OIRSA Technical Commission meeting (OIRSA: International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health)	Dominican Republic	12-16 October 2009	Dr J.J. Oreamuno
Preparatory meetings for organising the 4th OIE/FAO-APHCA (Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific) Regional Workshop and Working Group Meeting on BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) and other prion diseases, to be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 24 to 26 February 2010	Seoul (Republic of Korea)	13-14 October 2009	Dr K. Sakurai
FAO/OIE High-Level Meeting on Aquatic Biosecurity Framework for Southern Africa: a Scoping Meeting of Regional Fisheries and Veterinary Authorities	Windhoek (Namibia)	13-14 October 2009	Dr M.E. González Ortiz, Dr B.J. Mtei & Ms N. Thekiso
Joint Intercountry Workshop on Hendra, Nipah, and Reston Ebola viruses: Public Health and Research	Brisbane (Australia)	13-16 October 2009	Dr K. Glynn
ADILVA Annual Meeting (ADILVA: French Association of Directors and Executives of Public Analytical Veterinary Laboratories)	Toulouse (France)	15 October 2009	Dr F. Diaz
Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) Facility Advisor Board	Brussels (Belgium)	15 October 2009	Dr A. Dehove
SEAFMD Stakeholder Survey as part of the AusAID Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) Programme	Hanoi (Vietnam)	18-21 October 2009	Dr S.M. Razo Aviso
Trainer Training on Outbreak Investigation, Management and Geographical Information System (GIS) Training	Quezon City (Philippines)	18-23 October 2009	Dr R.C. Abila & Dr A. Bouchot
Meeting within the framework of the 'Vet2011' project	Maisons-Alfort (France)	19 October 2009	Dr M. Eloit
AU-IBAR/SPINAP meeting on 'Regional Coordination Mechanisms for Avian and Human Influenza, and other Transboundary Diseases' (AU-IBAR: African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources) SPINAP: Support Programme to Integrated National Action Plans)	Naivasha (Kenya)	19-21 October 2009	Dr M. Edan & Dr A. Dehove
BSE Legislative Frame – 17th General Assembly of the Pan-American Dairy Federation (FEPALE) – Official Authorities meeting	Guatemala	19-26 October 2009	Dr J.J. Oreamuno
FVE/TAIEX Workshop on 'One Health: Training on Zoonotic Diseases' (FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe/TAIEX: Technical Assistance and Information Exchange)	Becici (Montenegro)	20 October 2009	Dr S. Ralchev
23rd Annual Meeting of the Live Animals and Perishables Board (LAPB) of the International Air Transport Association (IATA)	Montreal (Canada)	20-22 October 2009	Dr S. Kahn
National Meeting of Animal Health Protection – ENDESA 2009: 1st Meeting of the Brazilian Veterinary Services	João Pessoa (Brazil)	20-22 October 2009	Dr L.O. Barcos
SADC SFMDP (Southern African Development Community Foot and Mouth Disease Project) training course on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) management in Southern Africa (recognition of disease freedom)	Gaborone (Botswana)	21-23 October 2009	Dr P. Bastiaensen



## meetings and visits

**October 2009 (cont.)**

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
WTO Specialised Course on SPS Agreement for Spanish-speaking countries	Geneva (Switzerland)	21-23 October 2009	Dr L. Stuardo
Meeting on veterinary education at the National Veterinary School of Alfort	Maisons-Alfort (France)	22 October 2009	Dr A. Dehove
Compendium Programme Development Consortia Workshop hosted by CABI (Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International)	Wallingford (United Kingdom)	22-23 October 2009	Dr W. Pelgrim
FAO/OIE Coordination Meeting on the Regional Animal Health Centre in Tunis and the Mediterranean Network for Animal Health (REMESA)	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	23 October 2009	Dr M. Eloit, Dr F. Kechrid & Dr V. Brioudes
Inauguration of the first OIE Reference Laboratory for Equine Influenza in Ireland	Kildare (Ireland)	23 October 2009	Ms S. Linnane
1st Technical day on paratuberculosis (paraTB) organised by the European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security (FESASS)	Brussels (Belgium)	23 October 2009	Dr C. Planté
USDA-APHIS (United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) Workshop on the WTO SPS Agreement	Doha (Qatar)	25 October 2009	Dr G. Yehia, Dr P. Primot, Ms R. Rizk, Mr H. Imam & Mr K. Rejeili
Technical Meeting on Equine Health Status and the Movement of Horses in the Middle East	Doha (Qatar)	25 October 2009	Dr G. Yehia, Dr P. Primot, Ms R. Rizk, Mr H. Imam & Mr K. Rejeili
IABS (International Association for Biologicals) International Scientific Workshop on 'Viral Safety and Extraneous Agents Testing for Veterinary Vaccines'	Annecey (France)	25-27 October 2009	Prof. P.-P. Pastoret
10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East	Doha (Qatar)	25-29 October 2009	Dr B. Vallat, Dr G. Funes, Ms N. Monsalve, Dr K. Ben Jebara, Dr G. Yehia, Dr P. Primot, Ms R. Rizk, Mr H. Imam, Mr K. Rejeili, Dr K. Al-Qahtani & Dr H. Aidaros
4th Congress of the Asia Pig Veterinary Society	Tsukuba (Japan)	25-29 October 2009	Dr R.C. Abila
TAIEX Workshop on: 'Assessment of European Union Standards for Veterinary Teaching Establishments'	Stara Zagora (Bulgaria)	26 October 2009	Dr S. Ralchev
OIE Regional Workshop on Communication	Singapore	26-27 October 2009	Dr T. Fujita, Dr S. Tagawa, Ms T. Shimizu, Dr J. Stratton & Dr T. Kawashima
2nd Real-time Evaluation (RTE) of FAO's work on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)	Nairobi (Kenya)	26-27 October 2009	Dr B.J. Mtei
33rd Session of FAO-APHC and Regional Workshop on Animal Productivity Enhancement in APHC Countries	Pokhara (Nepal)	26-28 October 2009	Dr I. Shimohira
3rd Workshop on Cost/Benefit Analysis of the Veterinary Services	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	27-28 October 2009	Dr L.O. Barcos
Meeting on the FAO Global Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture	Rome (Italy)	27-30 October 2009	Dr G. Mylrea
1st meeting of the EC Steering Group for ADIS project	Brussels (Belgium)	28 October 2009	Dr D. Chaisemartin & Dr J.-P. Vermeersch
46th SPS Committee Meeting and STDF (Standards and Trade Development Facility) Workshop on using economic analysis to inform SPS decision making	Geneva (Switzerland)	28-29 October 2009	Dr S. Kahn
45th Plenary Meeting of the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) Animal Health and Animal Welfare Panel (AHAW)	Parma (Italy)	28-29 October 2009	Dr C. Planté
CDC Consultation on 'Framework for Harmonization of International Support for Laboratory Strengthening in Resource-limited Setting'	Atlanta (United States of America)	28-30 October 2009	Dr A. Dehove
European Commission meeting: 'Meeting with Stakeholders on novel influenza A (H1N1) in pigs and poultry'	Brussels (Belgium)	29 October 2009	Dr K. Glynn
European Commission meeting: 'Influenza at the interface between humans and animals'	Brussels (Belgium)	30 October 2009	Dr M. Eloit & Dr K. Glynn

**November 2009**

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Regional Workshop on the WTO SPS Agreement, co-sponsored by WTO, OIE and FAO	Accra (Ghana)	1-7 November 2009	Dr D. Bourzat

## meetings and visits

## November 2009 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
WTO/OECD Workshop on the Economic and Trade Implications of Policy Responses to Societal Concerns (OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)	Paris (France)	2-3 November 2009	Dr M. Eloit, Dr A. Thiermann, Dr S. Kahn & Dr L. Stuardo
1st Meeting of Researchers on Animal Welfare in the Americas	Valdivia (Chile)	2-4 November 2009	Dr L.O. Barcos
OIE Regional Workshop on Risk Analysis for Import, Distribution and Handling of Animal Vaccines, in collaboration with the Malaysian Department of Veterinary Services	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	3-5 November 2009	Dr T. Fujita, Dr S. Tagawa, Dr T. Hla & Dr M. Lombard
WTO Regional Workshop on the SPS Agreement for English-speaking African countries	Accra (Ghana)	3-6 November 2009	Dr Y. Atagi & Dr D. Bourzat
1st OIE Regional Workshop (Europe) for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife	Lyons (France)	4-6 November 2009	Dr M.E. González Ortiz, Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel, Dr A. Ripani, Ms M. Bonnerot, Prof. Dr N.T. Belev & Dr C. Planté
SADC Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) meeting	Gaborone (Botswana)	4-6 November 2009	Dr A.B. Niang, Dr B.J. Mtei, Dr P. Bastiaensen & Dr S.K. Hargreaves
23rd VICH Steering Committee Meeting	Kobe (Japan)	5-6 November 2009	Dr P. Dehaumont
Conference 'Transboundary and Emerging Animal Diseases in a Globalized Environment', hosted by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Umbria e delle Marche	Perugia (Italy)	6 November 2009	Dr K. Glynn
Meeting of the Animal Health Advisory Committee (AHAC) – Working Group of the Advisory Group on the Food Chain, Animal and Plant Health	EC Headquarters, Brussels (Belgium)	9 November 2009	Dr A. Dehove & Dr C. Planté
Scientific Committee meeting for 2nd Verona Technical Consultation on Avian Influenza and other Zoonoses at the Animal-Human Interface	Verona (Italy)	9-10 November 2009	Dr A. Thiermann & Dr K. Glynn
Visit and inauguration of the new offices of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) – Meeting with the authorities of Botswana, the Delegation of the European Union in Botswana and the authorities of SADC	Gaborone (Botswana)	9-10 November 2009	Dr M. Eloit, Dr B.J. Mtei & Dr P. Bastiaensen
14th Meeting of the ALive Executive Committee: 'Partnership for Livestock Development, Poverty Alleviation & Sustainable Growth'	Gaborone (Botswana)	9-11 November 2009	Dr M. Eloit, Dr D. Bourzat, Dr A.B. Niang, Dr B.J. Mtei & Dr P. Bastiaensen
3rd Workshop on Animal Welfare during Transport and Related Operations, organised by Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise within the framework of the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF), programme of the European Commission (DG Sanco)	Perugia (Italy)	10-13 November 2009	Dr C. Planté
SEAFMD Stakeholder Survey as part of the AusAID M & E Programme	Yangon (Myanmar)	10-14 November 2009	Dr S.M. Razo Aviso
International Workshop on Improving Cooperation under Article X for Disease Surveillance, Detection, Diagnosis and Containment (Biological Weapons Convention)	Brussels (Belgium)	11-12 November 2009	Dr K. Hamilton
OIE Workshop for advanced training on the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and on the World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID) for OIE National Focal Points for Disease Notification	Tunis (Tunisia)	11-13 November 2009	Dr K. Ben Jebara, Dr L. Weber-Vintzel, Dr Y. Samaké, Ms Y. N'Diaye, Dr F. Kechrid, Dr A. Petrini & Dr V. Brioudes
Visit to Intervet	Boxmeer (Netherlands)	12 November 2009	Dr A. Dehove
OIE Gap Analysis Mission	Kuwait	15-25 November 2009	Dr P. Primot
OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services	Shanghai (People's Republic of China)	16 November 2009	Dr C.A. Correa Messuti, Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Dehove, Dr G. Funes, Dr M.E. González Ortiz, Ms N. Monsalve, Dr F. Berlingieri, Dr T. Fujita, Dr I. Shimohira, Dr S. Tagawa, Ms T. Shimizu, Dr R.C. Ábila, Dr J. Stratton, Dr A. Bouchot, Dr B. O'Neil, Dr G. Brückner, Dr G. Murray, Dr T. Kawashima, Dr D. Catbagan, Dr Z. Zhongqiu, Dr S. Sovann, Dr J. Mortier & Dr H. Kida

## meetings and visits

## November 2009 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
World Summit on Food Security	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	16-18 November 2009	Dr K. Miyagishima
26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania	Shanghai (People's Republic of China)	16-20 November 2009	Dr C.A. Correa Messuti, Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Dehove, Dr G. Funes, Dr M.E. González Ortiz, Ms N. Monsalve, Dr F. Berlingieri, Dr T. Fujita, Dr I. Shimohira, Dr S. Tagawa, Ms T. Shimizu, Dr R.C. Abila, Dr J. Stratton, Dr A. Bouchot, Dr B. O'Neil, Dr G. Brückner, Dr G. Murray, Dr S. MacDiarmid, Dr H. Jie, Dr T. Kawashima, Dr D. Catbagan, Dr Z. Zhongqiu, Dr S. Sovann, Dr J. Mortier & Dr H. Kida
41st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	San Diego (United States of America)	16-20 November 2009	Dr G. Mylrea
General Assembly of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI)	Copenhagen (Denmark)	16-20 November 2009	Dr M. Eloit & Dr G. Yehia
WHO (World Health Organization) Expert Consultation on the Public Health Research Agenda for Influenza: 'One framework. Five streams. Sharing solutions'	Geneva (Switzerland)	17-20 November 2009	Dr K. Glynn
Rabies Serology 1-day Meeting organised by the Laboratory of AFSSA Nancy (AFSSA: French Food Safety Agency)	Nancy (France)	18 November 2009	Dr F. Diaz
Veterinary Medicine Congress	Costa Rica	18-20 November 2009	Dr J.J. Oreamuno
Seminar on 'Risk communication: a challenge for veterinary medicine', organised by ANMVI (National Association of Italian Veterinarians)	Cremona (Italy)	20 November 2009	Ms M. Zampaglione
Informal coordination meeting of the AusAID/OIE PSVS Project	Shanghai (People's Republic of China)	20 November 2009	Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Dehove, Dr R.C. Abila, Dr J. Stratton, Dr G. Murray & Dr J. Mortier
Preparatory meeting for the OIE Regional Hands-on Training Workshop on Genetic Analysis (Sequencing) of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Viruses	Kathmandu (Nepal)	21-28 November 2009	Dr I. Koike & Dr T. Hla
WAEMU (West African Economic and Monetary Union) High Level Meeting	Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)	22-26 November 2009	Dr A. Dehove
EFSA meeting on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs)	Brussels (Belgium)	23 November 2009	Dr L. Knopf
Preparatory meeting with the Department of Animal Health (DAH), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam, for discussion on the implementation of the Programme on 'Surveillance on Wild Birds and Domestic Animals in conjunction with Avian Influenza along Migratory Flyways', under the OIE/Japan Trust Fund Project for Strengthening HPAI Control in Asia	Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)	23 November 2009	Dr K. Sakurai
8th Meeting of the Lower Mekong Working Group (LMWG) for FMD Zoning and Animal Movement Management	Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)	23-25 November 2009	Dr K. Sakurai, Dr R.C. Abila, Dr J. Stratton, Dr A. Bouchot & Dr G. Murray
Participation in the General Assembly and Management Board Meeting of the GIP-ENSV (Public Interest Group-French National School of Veterinary Services)	Marcy-l'Etoile (France)	24-25 November 2009	Dr M. Eloit
WHO-ASEAN Meeting on Public Health Measures at International Points of Entry: new role under the new international health regulations	Manila (Philippines)	24-26 November 2009	Dr Y. Atagi
1st OIRSA Animal Welfare meeting	El Salvador	24-27 November 2009	Dr J.J. Oreamuno
1st Meeting of the Pan-American Foot and Mouth Disease Center Working Group to elaborate a proposal for a Regional Project on Technical Cooperation on FMD	Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)	25-26 November 2009	Dr L.O. Barcos
Meeting with the new-elected UNESCO Secretary General (UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)	Paris (France)	25-27 November 2009	Dr B. Vallat, Dr M. Eloit & Prof. Dr N.T. Belev
Meeting with Dr Hoang Van Thang, Director of Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (CRES)	Hanoi (Vietnam)	26 November 2009	Dr K. Sakurai



## meetings and visits

## November 2009 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Preparatory meeting with the Department of Animal Health (DAH), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam, for discussion on the implementation of the Programme on 'Surveillance on Wild Birds and Domestic Animals in conjunction with Avian Influenza along Migratory Flyways', under the OIE/Japan Trust Fund Project for Strengthening HPAI Control in Asia	Hanoi (Vietnam)	26-27 November 2009	Dr K. Sakurai
Meeting with the Swiss Authorities	Bern (Switzerland)	30 November 2009	Dr A. Dehove
2nd OIE PSVS Regional Workshop on Animal Health Communication	Manila (Philippines)	30 November – 1 December 2009	Dr K. Sakurai, Dr R.C. Abila, Dr J. Stratton & Dr S.M. Razo Aviso
2nd Real-time Evaluation (RTE) of FAO's work on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)	Bangkok (Thailand)	30 November – 1 December 2009	Dr A. Bouchot
Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) – Rinderpest virus and vaccine sequestration	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	30 November – 2 December 2009	Dr K. Miyagishima & Dr L. Knopf

## December 2009

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Seminar on 'History and Sociology of Veterinary Public Health' organised by RiTME Unit (RiTME: Risque, Travail, Marchés, Etat) of INRA (French National Institute for Agricultural Research)	Ivry-sur-Seine (France)	1 December 2009	Ms M. Teissier
Meetings with Department of Livestock Development (DLD), Thailand and FAO-APHC, Bangkok, respectively, on future collaboration with OIE Asia-Pacific in the field of animal health	Bangkok (Thailand)	1 December 2009	Dr T. Fujita
4th Inter-American Committee for Aquatic Animal Health	Costa Rica	1-3 December 2009	Dr J.J. Oreamuno
Pan-African Meeting for National Codex Contact Points to review draft Codex documents of interest to Africa	Nairobi (Kenya)	1-4 December 2009	Dr D. Bourzat
Inaugural OIE PSVS National Consultative Seminar on PVS (Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services) Pathways	Manila (Philippines)	2 December 2009	Dr R.C. Abila, Dr J. Stratton & Dr S.M. Razo Aviso
3rd Meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Americas	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	2-3 December 2009	Dr L.O. Barcos & Dr J.J. Oreamuno
OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in the Middle East: 'Towards harmonisation and improvement of registration, distribution and quality control'	Damascus (Syria)	2-4 December 2009	Dr B. Vallat, Dr D. Chaisemartin, Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel, Dr F. Diaz, Ms A. Torres-Balmont, Ms M. Bonnerot, Dr G. Yehia, Dr P. Primot, Mr K. Rejeili, Ms R. Rizk & Mr H. Imam
8th Meeting of the Asia Regional Advisory Group (AG) on Aquatic Animal Health (AGM-8), organised by NACA (Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific)	Bangkok (Thailand)	2-4 December 2009	Dr K. Ben Jebara, Dr T. Fujita, Dr S. Tagawa & Prof. B.J. Hill
Meeting of the WHO Leptospirosis Burden Epidemiology Reference Group	Geneva (Switzerland)	2-4 December 2009	Dr A. Thiermann
Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) – Joint FAO/OIE Committee on global rinderpest eradication	FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)	3 December 2009	Dr B. Vallat & Dr K. Miyagishima
Meetings with Department of Livestock Development (DLD), Thailand and FAO-APHC, Bangkok, respectively, on future collaboration with OIE Asia-Pacific in the field of animal health	Bangkok (Thailand)	5-7 December 2009	Dr T. Fujita
Discontools: 5th meeting of the Project Management Board (PMB) and 22nd meeting of the ETPGAH (European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health) Executive Board	Brussels (Belgium)	7 December 2009	Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel
FAO/OIE Sub-Regional Meeting on GF-TADs for ASEAN +3 in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat	Jakarta (Indonesia)	7-8 December 2009	Dr I. Shimohira, Dr T. Hla & Dr A. Bouchot
Workshop on 'New Technologies, the future?' organised by Discontools	Brussels (Belgium)	8 December 2009	Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel
Symposium on animal pain organised by INRA	OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)	8 December 2009	Dr M. Eloit



## meetings and visits

## December 2009 (cont.)

Title of the event	Place	Date	Participants
Matra Training for European Cooperation (MTEC) Animal Health and Welfare Seminar	Wageningen (Netherlands)	8 December 2009	Dr C. Planté
Workshop on laboratory diagnosis and surveillance for animal influenza in Asia, co-organised by the FAO Bangkok Regional Office, Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) and Murdoch University (Western Australia)	AAHL Headquarters, Geelong (Australia)	9-11 December 2009	Dr K. Hamilton
Preparatory meeting for 'Vet2011'	Brussels (Belgium)	10 December 2009	Ms M. Zampaglione
1st Workshop of European Union Community Reference Laboratories for Dourine	Maisons-Alfort (France)	10 December 2009	Ms S. Linnane
STDF Working Group Meeting	Geneva (Switzerland)	10 December 2009	Dr D. Chaisemartin
STDF Policy Committee Meeting	Geneva (Switzerland)	11 December 2009	Dr A. Thiermann & Dr D. Chaisemartin
United Kingdom Government Department for International Development (DFID) Technical Workshop: 'Potential for policy interventions to minimise the risk from zoonoses as livestock systems respond to growing demand'	London (United Kingdom)	11 December 2009	Dr K. Glynn
Meeting-debate organised by CIIA/FAO/CIAA: 'Food-processing companies and global food security' (CIIA: International Commission for Food IndustriesCIAA: Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries of the European Union)	Paris (France)	11 December 2009	Dr K. Miyagishima
WHO Emerging and Dangerous Pathogens Laboratory Network (EDPLN) – Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network – Diagnostics Working Group Meeting	Geneva (Switzerland)	14-16 December 2009	Dr K. Glynn
Annual Meeting of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives	OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)	15-18 December 2009	OIE Headquarters' staff and OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives
Consultation for OIE National Hands-on Training Workshop on Diagnosis of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Viruses with a Real-Time PCR System	Kandy (Sri Lanka)	16-17 December 2009	Dr I. Koike
Avian Influenza (AI) study mission for the implementation of AI surveillance on wild birds and domestic animals	Vientiane (Laos)	22-24 December 2009	Dr K. Sakurai



# news from headquarters

## Staff changes

### Departures

#### Regional Activities Department

##### Dr Gastón Funes



Dr Gastón Funes left the OIE in November 2009, after serving the Organisation for three and a half years.

Before joining the OIE, Dr Funes spent 13 years working for the Argentinean Veterinary Services, where he occupied various

positions, including Head of a Local Office at field level and, subsequently, several posts at national Headquarters, the last as Director of Epidemiology. He participated in many activities related to the OIE, including as Argentinean focal point for animal disease information.

At the OIE, Dr Funes served as Deputy Head of the Regional Activities Department from June 2006 to January 2008 and as Head of the Department from February 2008 until his departure in November 2009. He carried out his tasks actively, with a high personal and professional commitment. Besides coordinating the work and activities of all the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, under the guidance of the Director General, he was also very supportive in other areas and was a skilled team player and collaborator in any joint work with other Departments at the OIE Headquarters.

As Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, Dr Funes handled the organisation of Conferences of the OIE Regional Commissions in all five regions, with the support of the respective Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. These included the Conferences of the following Regional Commissions: Europe (Lithuania, September 2008), the

Americas (Cuba, November 2008), Africa (Chad, February 2009), the Middle East (Qatar, October 2009) and Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Pop. Rep. of China, November 2009). On these occasions, he interacted strongly and created good relations with the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions as well as with most of the OIE Delegates.

Dr Funes was deeply involved in the development and implementation of the OIE global programme for the strengthening of Veterinary Services. This involved coordinating the organisation of OIE-PVS training sessions, OIE-PVS evaluation and Gap Analysis missions and Legislation missions. He was also responsible for the organisation of various Regional Seminars on Good Governance of Veterinary Services. Dr Funes was also a member of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of Veterinary Services and participated in several of the Group's meetings.

During his work at the OIE, Dr Funes successfully represented the Organisation and the Director General in many regional and international forums, platforms and projects, such as the GF-TADs<sup>(1)</sup> programme (at both the global and regional level), the STDF<sup>(2)</sup> and SPS<sup>(3)</sup> Committees of the World Trade Organization, the Alive<sup>(4)</sup> Platform and the SEAFMD<sup>(5)</sup> Campaign, thereby strengthening coordination and collaboration with the OIE's international and regional partner organisations.

Dr Funes always stressed that his various missions to represent the OIE around the world gave him a very broad vision of animal health problems, both from a global and a regional perspective, and on a person level were culturally and socially enriching experiences.

It is widely agreed that Dr Gastón Funes has made a significant contribution towards the accomplishment of the OIE objectives.

With his warmth and sense of humour, Dr Funes also had a beneficial effect on the working environment at the OIE Headquarters, helping to ensure friendly relations among OIE staff. In this respect, he will always be remembered for the barbecues he organised with Argentinean beef and wine.

The OIE staff wishes Dr Funes every success in his new position as Minister Counsellor on Agricultural Affairs at the Argentinean Embassy to the European Union in Brussels.

(1) - GF-TADs: FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases  
(2) - STDF: Standards and Trade Development Facility  
(3) - SPS: World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards  
(4) - Alive: Partnership for Livestock Development, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Growth in Africa  
(5) - SEAFMD: South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign

## A new department: the Administration, Logistics and Publications Department



The Director General of the OIE has reorganised the OIE Headquarters' organisation chart to take into account the OIE's evolving missions and the resulting changes in workload as well as the altered circumstances of some members of staff.

As a result, the Publications Department has been aggregated

with the Administration and Management Systems Department to form a new Administration, Logistics and Publications Department, with Dr Daniel Chaisemartin as Head of Department. Prof. Paul-Pierre Pastoret is now Scientific Adviser to the Head of Department for matters relating to publications.

The Department comprises three units:

- the Systems Management and Events Unit, with Mr Bertrand Flahault as Head of the Unit and 1st Deputy Head of Department;
- the Publications Unit, with Mrs Annie Souyri as Head of the Unit and 2nd Deputy Head of Department; and
- the Logistics and Maintenance Unit, placed under the responsibility of Mr Quentin Mirgon.

Mrs Marie Teissier, Documentalist, reports directly to the Head of Department.

The new Department's main responsibilities are as follows:

- logistics for meetings, workshops, conferences and the General Session;
- management of travel arrangements for Headquarters staff, experts invited to OIE meetings and realising missions for the OIE, participants sponsored by the OIE and invited speakers at conferences and workshops;
- management of visa applications;
- logistic support for the hotels used by OIE staff, and in some cases experts on mission;
- management of information systems and the Web site;
- general services related to information technology (IT);
- rental of OIE rooms;

- purchase and management of IT material;
- OIE procedures;
- general services relating to the logistics and maintenance of the Headquarters building;
- production of the *Scientific and Technical Review*;
- production of the *Bulletin* in the OIE's three working languages;
- proposal of covers for OIE publications;
- placing orders for external printing and photocopying services;
- management of agreements with publications' distributors and bookshops;
- management of joint publication agreements with other institutions or international organisations;
- promotion and sale of OIE publications;
- management of OIE stands at conferences;
- management of the OIE's archives.

The staff of the Administration, Logistics and Publications Department are as follows:

**Daniel Chaisemartin**, Head of the Administration, Logistics and Publications Department

Reneylde Boulat, Bilingual Secretary

Paul-Pierre Pastoret, Scientific Adviser for Publications

Marie Teissier, Documentalist

**Bertrand Flahault**, 1st Deputy Head of Department, Head of the Systems Management and Events Unit

Alejandra Balmont, Conference Coordinator

Alejandro Cruz, Travel Manager

Adeline Bichet, Computer Project Manager

Giuseppe Manzi, Webmaster/Developer/Technical Support

Elizabeth Boucaud, Conference Assistant

**Annie Souyri**, 2nd Deputy Head of Department, Head of the Publications Unit

Séverine Bègue, Bilingual Secretary

Tamara Benicasa, Sales and Marketing Agent

Alexandra Moran, Copy Editor

**Quentin Mirgon**, Logistics and Maintenance Manager

Alex Ginzburg, Receptionist

Gérard Bègue, Printer

Joël Yabut, Janitor

(please see the photo in colour page 73)



# Activities of the Communication Unit

## The OIE welcomes multimedia

As already announced, the OIE, through its Communication Unit, is now using multimedia materials. During the World Conference on Veterinary Education, held in Paris in October 2009, the first filmed interviews were placed on the OIE Web site. These short videos are in response to the growing appeal of on-line audiovisual media and give Internet users a chance to put a face to the people working every day at the OIE.

In a similar vein, the Unit has been working closely with the Scientific and Technical Department to create an OIE Web space devoted entirely to the pandemic H1N1 2009 virus. The core aim of this work is to provide the media and other interested parties with a compilation of the scientific and health information available elsewhere in different sections of the Web site. This corresponds to one of the principal missions of communication, namely to facilitate and rationalise access to information. The new Web space can be consulted on-line at the following address: [www.oie.int/eng/press/h1n1/en\\_h1\\_n1.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/press/h1n1/en_h1_n1.htm).



The third year running traditional greetings at an informal breakfast for the press



The Web space can be consulted on-line at: [http://www.oie.int/eng/press/h1n1/en\\_h1\\_n1.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/press/h1n1/en_h1_n1.htm).

To celebrate the start of 2010, the Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, presented his traditional greetings at an informal breakfast for the press. For the third year running this event served to illustrate the Organisation's growing reputation among the media. This mark of trust strengthens still further the OIE's commitment to transparency and scientific credibility.



# Activities of the Scientific and Technical Department

Summaries of *ad hoc* Group and Specialist Commission meetings: October to December 2009

## OIE/FAO/WHO Consultative *ad hoc* Group on Collaborative Activities on Antimicrobial Resistance

**OIE Headquarters, Paris,**

**30 September – 1 October 2009**

Antimicrobial resistance is a global human and animal health concern that is impacted by both human and non-human antimicrobial usage. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) agreed on the importance of working in collaboration on this important issue. The OIE/FAO/WHO Consultative *ad hoc* Group on Collaborative Activities on Antimicrobial Resistance met on 30 September and 1 October 2009, with the aim of finding common areas for cooperation and maintaining good communication between FAO, OIE and WHO in this field. After mapping out the areas where antimicrobial resistance may arise, the *ad hoc* Group identified five main areas of activities currently addressed by the three organisations:

- (1) Guidelines, standards and harmonisation;
- (2) Legislation, inspection/control;
- (3) Data collection and surveillance;
- (4) Capacity building; and
- (5) Communication.

In addition, the *ad hoc* Group also identified additional areas (environment, pets and plants), for which it was not aware of ongoing work. A draft work plan was agreed by the *ad hoc* Group for common and joint activities between the organisations in the short, medium and long term.

## OIE *ad hoc* Group on Vaccines in Relation to New and Emerging Technologies

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 17-19 November 2009**

This *ad hoc* Group met from 17 to 19 November 2009.

The main purpose of the meeting was to review and finalise the new introductory chapter for the *Terrestrial Manual* on the application of biotechnology to the development of veterinary vaccines, and the four disease-specific chapters identified by the Group at the last meeting for priority update based on new vaccine technology (foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, Newcastle disease, and Nipah/Hendra). The Group also discussed terms of reference for a 1-day meeting that will be devoted to the assessment of food safety in relation to the use of recombinant vaccines and to which experts from WHO and FAO will be invited.

## The *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 17-19 November 2009**

The *ad hoc* Group dedicated the majority of its time to the development of a concept paper on the livestock–wildlife interface, following the terms of reference elaborated by the Scientific Commission.

The Group assessed the advantages and disadvantages of the different approaches of animal health measures proposed in the *Terrestrial Code* for recognition of disease status for those diseases where wildlife plays a role in the epidemiology of the disease. The Group analysed 13 diseases where wildlife is involved epidemiologically. The diseases selected for this study included highly and medium infectious diseases, as well as vector-borne and directly transmitted diseases. The *ad hoc* Group also discussed potential performance indicators for the successful implementation of compartmentalisation projects.



## The *ad hoc* Group on Brucellosis

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 24-26 November 2009**

The *ad hoc* Group was requested to thoroughly review the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on bovine, ovine & caprine and porcine brucellosis considering also the approach used for the chapter on bovine tuberculosis, adopted by the World Assembly of the Delegates of the OIE in May 2009. The provisions on bovine brucellosis free status of countries, zones or herds addressed two strategies, namely with or without vaccination. The experts concluded that a separate chapter addressing brucellosis in camelids was recommended as soon as more scientific data on brucellosis in camelid species was available. The *ad hoc* Group decided to pursue its work on the revision of the remaining brucellosis chapters by correspondence.

## Meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on evaluation of FMD status of Members

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 15-16 December 2009**

Five applications for recognition of a zone or country free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) were evaluated in accordance with the *Terrestrial Code* 2009 Edition. Two requests for recovery of FMD free status, as well as a request for establishment of a containment zone were analysed. The experts were also asked to draft a technical strategy on the best approaches for tackling global control of FMD, taking into account the international framework, regional differences and various aspects relating to the quality of vaccines, the Veterinary Services and surveillance systems.

# Activities of the International Trade Department

## *Ad hoc* Group on Private Standards

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, June 2009**

In June 2009 an expert *ad hoc* Group on Private Standards for sanitary safety and animal welfare was convened. The OIE asked this *ad hoc* Group to propose an OIE strategy to help Members avoid or minimise the current or potential negative effects of private standards. In order to better understand the concerns of Members, the *ad hoc* Group defined private standards as 'commercial requirements developed, owned and implemented by non-governmental entities, with which suppliers must comply to have access to specific markets for animals and animal products. They sometimes include sanitary safety and animal welfare issues'.

The *ad hoc* Group concluded that private standards are a fact and it is probably beyond the power of governments to abolish them and that developing countries have concerns

about the impact of private standards on their international trade interests and these should be addressed by the OIE. For sanitary safety, where the mandate of the OIE and other international standard-setting organisations is clearly recognised under the World Trade Organization SPS Agreement<sup>1</sup>, the role of private standards should be limited to supporting the implementation of official standards.

The *ad hoc* Group developed a questionnaire seeking information on the negative (and/or positive) effects of private standards for sanitary measures and for animal welfare on the trading interests of OIE Members. The questionnaire was sent to national Delegates and to relevant organisations having an official agreement with the OIE.

In total, 68 Members (39% of the 175 OIE Members) and eight international or regional organisations replied to the questionnaire. An analysis of the questionnaire returns

1- SPS Agreement: Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures



revealed significant differences between the views of developed countries and those of developing countries. The analysis also confirmed the difference in OIE Members' attitude towards private standards for sanitary safety and towards private standards for animal welfare. The Executive Summary of the report is available on the OIE Web site ([www.oie.int/eng/normes/en\\_executive%20summary.pdf](http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/en_executive%20summary.pdf)).

The report was discussed at the November 2009 meeting of the *ad hoc* Group. The report of this meeting, together with the complete report on the responses to the questionnaire will be presented to the *Terrestrial Animal Code* Commission when it meets in February 2010.

### **Ad hoc Group on Trade in Terrestrial Animal Products**

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 15 October 2009**

The *ad hoc* Group on Trade in Terrestrial Animal Products (Commodities) held its second meeting at the OIE Headquarters in Paris on 15 October 2009. The *ad hoc* Group discussed a technical report by an OIE Reference Laboratory on the FMD risk factors associated with international trade in deboned beef: 'Qualitative assessment of the commodity risk factor for spread of foot and mouth disease associated with international trade in deboned beef'.

The Group held fruitful discussions and validated the report, which is available on the OIE Web site ([www.oie.int/eng/normes/ENG\\_DFID\\_paper\\_fin.pdf](http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/ENG_DFID_paper_fin.pdf)).

### **Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety**

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 3-5 November 2009**

The Working Group, which includes experts from the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), met from 3 to 5 November 2009.

At the meeting the following issues were discussed:

- review of the Working Group's terms of reference and *modus operandi*;
- prioritisation of pathogens involved in food-borne disease for future standard setting at the OIE;
- revised draft Chapter 6.4. Biosecurity Procedures in Poultry Production;
- revised *Aquatic* and *Terrestrial Code* chapters on Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed;
- antimicrobial resistance;
- biotechnology;
- development of the Work Plan for 2010.

### **Ad hoc Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services**

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 11 December 2009**

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services met at the OIE Headquarters in Paris on 11 December 2009. Following the recommendation of the PVS feedback session held on 9 and 10 December 2009, the *ad hoc* Group discussed further improvement of the OIE PVS Tool to reflect the experiences of OIE PVS experts. The Group also discussed a pilot mission for aquatic animal health services (AAHS) and recommended that the Tool for AAHS be published separately. The revised OIE PVS Tool will be endorsed by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission in February 2010 and will be published reflecting any relevant modifications made at the next OIE General Session.



# Activities of the Animal Health Information Department

Accurate, rapid and transparent dissemination of official information is a key element of OIE communication policy on animal diseases.

To improve the timeliness of animal disease information exchange among OIE Members, especially for early warning purposes, the OIE long ago established an electronic mailing list for OIE Delegates.

## The OIE-info distribution list

In 2002, the OIE established an open distribution list for any institution or person interested in receiving near real-time information on epidemiologically significant animal disease events. Information is distributed in the OIE's three official languages and comprises alert messages and the announcement of the release of the OIE's Weekly Disease Information publication. Thousands of stakeholders from a wide variety of sectors have subscribed to this list.

The OIE has recently added a new function to the OIE-Info distribution list to better address subscribers' specific needs. They can now choose which types of animals and diseases they wish to receive information on. This is intended to reduce the number of unnecessary e-mails and to better target alerts according to users' choices. Subscribers can select from among the following categories: mammals, birds, bees, aquatic animals, wild animals and zoonoses.

## OIE introduces RSS Feeds to enable users to track exceptional disease events more easily

RSS ('really simple syndication') is a format for delivering regularly changing web content. Many news-related sites and other online publishers provide their content as an RSS feed to whoever wants it. Subscribing to RSS feeds allows users to be alerted whenever changes are made to specific parts of a web site.

In addition to receiving alerts by e-mail, subscribers to the OIE-Info distribution list can now subscribe to RSS feeds for immediate notifications and/or follow-up report. This means they will be immediately alerted as soon as a notification or report has been validated and published on the OIE Web site through WAHID.

The OIE launched this RSS feeds function on 11 June 2009 (23rd week of the year). The data for 2009 have been analysed so as to assess the impact of this function since its launch. Figure 1 illustrates a constantly growing interest among new subscribers in obtaining information via RSS feeds. Overall, 25.45% of new subscribers since week 23 (i.e. since the launch of RSS feeds) have requested to receive information by RSS feeds. Previously registered subscribers were asked to indicate if they wanted to receive RSS feeds.

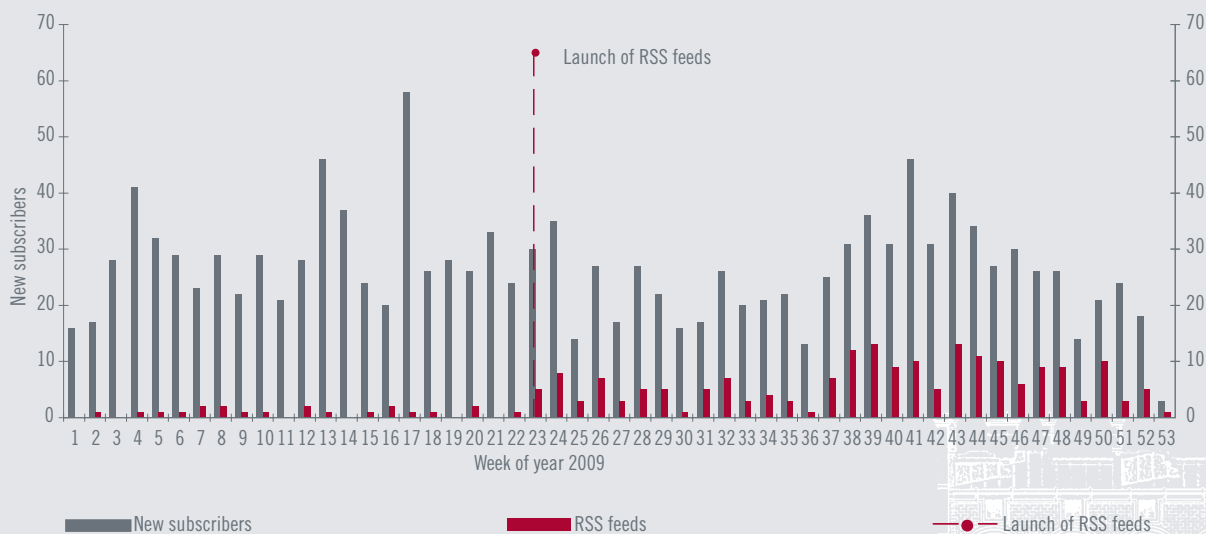


Fig. 1

Number of new subscribers per week to OIE-Info and subscribers to RSS feeds in 2009

To subscribe to the OIE-Info distribution list, please access the following page:  
[www.oie.int/eng/info/en\\_listserv.htm?e1d5](http://www.oie.int/eng/info/en_listserv.htm?e1d5).

**Analysis of OIE-Info distribution list subscribers**

The following analysis identifies the overall trend in the number of OIE-Info distribution list subscribers by year and their selected categories of interest.

A total of 6,512 subscribers were registered in the OIE-Info distribution list database as of 31 December 2009. Figure 2 shows the trend in the number of subscribers from 2002 to 2009. The graph clearly shows a constant increase in the number of subscribers since 2002, even allowing for those who unsubscribed during this period of time.

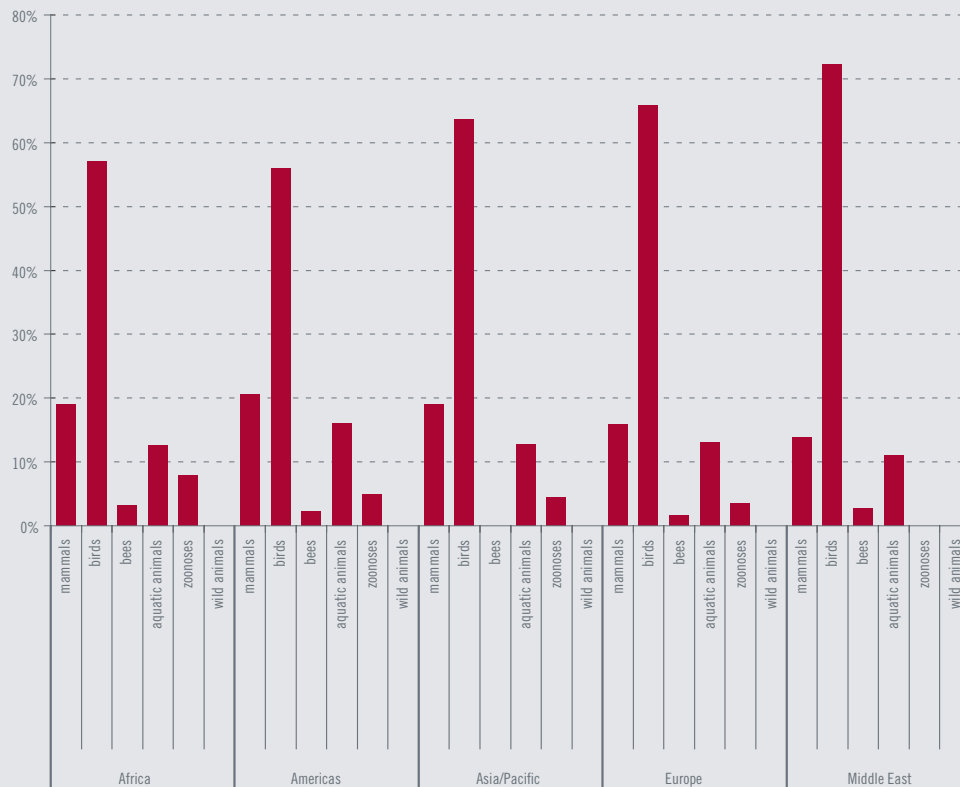
In the period from 2002 to 2009, the highest number of new subscribers was in 2009 (with 1,396 new subscribers) and the average number of new subscribers per year was 814. There was a constant number of new subscriptions since 2005,



**Fig. 2**  
**Trend in the number of subscribers by year**

even though there was a decline in 2008. Since 2008, the database has been constantly checked in order to ensure that all email addresses are functional.

Figure 3 shows the percentage of subscribers by category of interest and by region at 31/12/2009. Only subscribers who chose a single category are included in the analysis. Two main points emerge from the chart: avian diseases are by far the most frequent topic of interest and the same pattern exists in all regions.



**Fig. 3**  
**Percentage of subscribers per category and by region**

## Advanced Workshop on the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and Database (WAHID) for Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification

11-13 November 2009, Tunis, Tunisia

This workshop was organised by the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa, Tunis, with the support of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa.

It was run by Drs Karim Ben Jebara and Laure Weber-Vintzel from the OIE Animal Health Information Department.

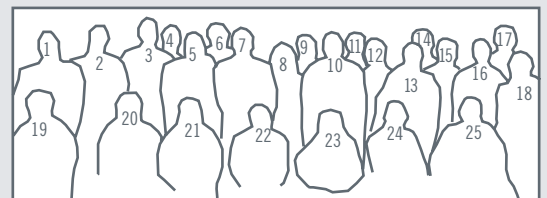
Focal points or their representatives from 17 African countries participated in this workshop. Half of the participants had already received basic training on WAHIS, had some experience in using it but now wished to perfect their knowledge of WAHIS and the relevant OIE notification requirements. The others were newly nominated focal points and in some cases had never used WAHIS.

The presentations made during this workshop focused on improving the quality of the data entered into WAHIS through immediate notifications and follow-up

reports, and six-monthly and annual reports, and on how to display the data in WAHID interface. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of timely notification and the need to rectify the lack of aquatic animal disease information provided by certain countries. The importance of strengthening communication and collaboration between focal points for animal disease notification and focal points for aquatic animal diseases and for wildlife diseases at the national level was also stressed. Those participants who were not yet registered in WAHIS, were requested to remind their Delegates to register them as nominated focal points in WAHIS so as to have them stored in the same database.

The Workshop provided an excellent opportunity for a lively exchange of views between the participants and the OIE trainers and the feedback on the OIE disease notification system, WAHIS and WAHID was generally positive.

(please see the photo in colour page 73)



### Trainers and participants at the OIE Workshop

**De From left to right** – standing: 1- Mahamoud Hassan Ali (Somalia), 2- Nassirou Elh Inguini (Niger), 3- El Hadji Youssou Ndiaye (Senegal), 4- Vincent Brioudes (OIE, Tunis), 5- Abdullatif Beshia (Libya), 6- Elhadji Mahamat Souleymane (Chad), 7- Karim Ben Jebara (OIE), 8- Zeineb Marrakchi (Tunisia), 9- Slim Berrabi (Tunisia), 10- Yacouba Samake (OIE Bamako), 11- Mohamed Oussama El Hafi Lotfi El Baari (Tunisia), 12- Fouzi Kechrid (OIE Tunis), 13- Hilaire Kandikandi (Burundi), 14- Khayli Mounir (Morocco), 15- Simon Herve Laurette (Seychelles), 16- Nahom Nagassi (Eritrea), 17- Antonio Petrini (OIE Tunis), 18- Sahada Rassoul (Comoros)  
**– seated:** 19- Margaretha De Klerk (South Africa), 20- Laure Weber-Vintzel (OIE), 21- Heba Mahrous (Egypt), 22- Francia Rakotondramanana (Madagascar), 23- Amel Abbas (Sudan), 24- Fatima Ouadahi (Algeria), 25- Ndiaye Youma Diawara (OIE Bamako)

# regional activities

## News from the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

### Departure of Dr Teruhide Fujita



Dr Teruhide Fujita retired from his OIE activities at the end of December 2009, after 10 years' service as OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

In 1992, Dr Fujita was appointed Chief Veterinary Officer at Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and Delegate of Japan to the OIE. Prior to this, he had served for four years as Director of the International Research Division at the Ministry, devoting himself to research activities in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, in particular for the development of international linkage and collaboration in research and development.

In 1994, he was assigned to the position of Director of the Animal Production and Health Division, at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), where he was deeply involved in restructuring all the programmes and budgetary matters related to livestock sector development worldwide, including animal health. During his term of office, he placed special emphasis on collaboration and coordination between the FAO and the OIE as well as the World Health Organization (WHO), for global animal health including the control of zoonotic diseases.

After leaving FAO, he was appointed Managing Director of the Japan Animal Health Guidance Association, Executive Director of the Japan Livestock Technology Association (JLTA), Board Member of the Bioscience Research Foundation, and visiting professor/lecturer at the National Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology.

From 2000 to 2006 Dr Fujita also worked as a Board Member of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI, with its Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya), which included

research work on animal health topics such as trypanosomosis (especially genetic tolerance) and East Coast fever.

In 2000, Dr Fujita joined the OIE as Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, based in Tokyo. His activities were extended to the broader areas of animal health in the Region. The control and prevention of highly pathogenic avian influenza, following the start of the epizootic in Asia, was one of the areas in which he was most heavily involved, working with infected OIE Members and the relevant partners, including international and regional organisations. On 1 January 2010, Dr Fujita was replaced by Dr Itsuo Shimohira, former Senior Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

Dr Fujita carried out excellent and highly relevant work for the OIE and his work and professional experience and scientific knowledge contributed to improving capacity building of the Veterinary Services and the visibility of the OIE.

Dr Fujita will continue to work for JLTA and serve both nationally and internationally to promote the development and improvement of livestock and animal health.



**Dr Itsuo Shimohira,**  
**new OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific**



Dr Itsuo Shimohira, new OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific as from 1 January 2010, replacing Dr Teruhide Fujita, first joined the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific in November 2008 as Senior Deputy Regional Representative.

Itsuo Shimohira graduated from Tottori University (Japan) in 1976 and obtained a Master's Degree in Veterinary Medicine in 1978. Soon after, he joined Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). In 1995, he was awarded a PhD by Tohoku University.

For more than 25 years Dr Shimohira was involved in administrative as well as research

work on animal production and health at the MAFF and at the National Livestock Breeding Center (NLBC) and in particular was engaged in the development of new technology for animal reproduction. During this period he also gained experience in technical cooperation in several developing countries (South-East Asia and South America) as a short-term expert.

From 2003 to 2008, as a long-term expert of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Dr Shimohira worked on projects devoted to livestock development and animal health improvement in Vietnam and Indonesia, including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) control.

Since his arrival at the OIE Regional Representation, Dr Shimohira has been involved in the OIE/Japan (Special) Trust Fund Project for strengthening HPAI Control in Asia as well as the organisation of several workshops/seminars for the region.

**Dr Tomoko Ishibashi**  
**new Senior Deputy**  
**Regional Representative**



Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, who previously worked at the OIE Headquarters for four years (2004-2008), first in the International Trade Department and then as Deputy Head of the Scientific and Technical Department, has been appointed as the new Senior Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, replacing Dr Itsuo Shimohira (appointed as Regional Representative), as from 1 January 2010.

Serving at Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and in governmental institutions such as the National Livestock Breeding Center (NLBC) for nearly 23 years, Dr Ishibashi held wide-ranging responsibilities both in the science and technology area and in government administration, much of it in international contexts.

In addition to two degrees in veterinary science from Tokyo University, Dr Ishibashi holds an MBA from the University of Toronto and an MSc in international political economy from the London School of Economics.

# OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa



An OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa has been established in Tunis (Tunisia), following the signing of an agreement between the OIE and the Tunisian Government on 13 January 2009. Its headquarters are located in a building placed at the disposal of the OIE by the Ministry of Agriculture of Tunisia.

The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa has been set up to cover the five OIE Members in the sub-region (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia), in relation with the OIE Regional Representation for Africa, based in Bamako (Mali), and the Arab-Maghreb Union (AMU), which has its headquarters in Rabat, Morocco. For certain activities relating to GF-TADs<sup>1</sup>, the RAHC<sup>2</sup> and REMESA<sup>3</sup>, Egypt is also involved.

The Sub-Representation's specific aim is to provide Members in the sub-region with suitably adapted local services in order to strengthen animal disease surveillance and control. The Sub Regional Representation will thereby help to improve the quality of information on animal diseases and promote the harmonisation of disease control methods, working closely with national and international animal health services in the region. It will also be involved in implementing within the North Africa region, recommendations, strategies and action plans validated by the OIE's higher authorities.

## Human resources

**Dr Faouzi Kechrid**, Sub-Regional Representative

**Dr Vincent Brioude**, Chargé de mission

**Dr Antonio Petrini**, Chargé de mission

**Sra. Mouna Bousseh**, Administrative and Financial Assistant

**Sra. Imen Kammoun**, Administrative and Financial Assistant



**Ms. Imen Kammoun and Ms. Mouna Bousseh**

## Dr Faouzi Kechrid,

### OIE Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa

Dr Faouzi Kechrid has been recruited as the OIE Sub-Regional Representative for the new OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa.

Dr Kechrid previously worked in the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture, then in the Ministry of the Interior, where he was in charge of sanitary inspection of meat, animals for slaughter, fishery products, food products and establishments open to the public, and also acted as veterinary inspector for the wholesale market in Tunis. He was appointed in turn Head of Department then Deputy Director of Sanitary and Animal Inspection at the Ministry of the Interior, and Veterinarian in Chief and Advisor to the Directorate General for Trade, where he was responsible for running the hygiene and quality control services. In 2005, he was promoted to the rank of Divisional Veterinary Inspector at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Dr Kechrid has worked as a consultant with the World Bank, the OIE and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the control of highly pathogenic avian influenza. He has also acted as a consultant for the World Health Organization (training missions in the Gulf States, in the Middle East and in North Africa). In 2007, he was recruited on a competitive basis by FAO and thereafter worked during two years as Coordinator of the FAO Regional Animal Health Centre for North Africa in Tunis.

Dr Kechrid also holds important positions in numerous associations; these include: Vice President of the World Veterinary Association, President of the Euro-Arab Veterinary Association, founder and President of the *Syndicat africain et arabe de l'industrie du médicament vétérinaire et de la santé animale* (African and Arab union of the veterinary medicinal products and animal health industry), founder and President of the African Veterinary Medical Association, Vice-President of the World Union of Professions and First Vice-President of the African Microbiology and Food Hygiene Association.

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

2- RAHC: Regional Animal Health Centre

3- REMESA: Mediterranean animal health network



**From left to right:**

**Antonio Petrini, Faouzi Kechrid and Vincent Brioudes**

## **Dr Vincent Brioudes**

Dr Vincent Brioudes has been appointed chargé de mission to the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa since 18 May 2009 and is on secondment from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After qualifying as a veterinarian at the Veterinary School in Nantes (France) in 1999, with specialisation in animal production and aquaculture (especially tilapias), Dr Brioudes passed an entrance exam to train as a Veterinary Public Health Inspector at the National Veterinary Services School in Lyons.

Before being seconded to Tunisia, he held various positions in the French Ministries of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, at a central level (international cooperation and development), and also worked in the Dominican Republic (regional cooperation on the epidemiological surveillance of animal diseases) and Chad (in the Veterinary Services Directorate).

Having been recruited to the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for a renewable period of two years, Dr Brioudes' tasks are to give OIE Members in North Africa technical advice and support, especially in the field of epidemiology and the management of networks (REMESA). In this way he will contribute to the programme to strengthen the capacities of OIE Delegates in their region and their respective teams (focal points for notifying animal diseases to the OIE, for animal production food safety, for wildlife, for animal welfare, for aquatic animals and for veterinary medicinal products).

## **Dr Antonio Petrini**

After qualifying as a veterinarian (1995) and obtaining a Master's degree in animal health, production and breeding (1999) at the University of Bologna (Italy), Dr Antonio Petrini managed the local unit of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise 'G. Caporale' (IZS A&M) in Pescara (Italy) from 1998 to 2000.

In 2001 he was appointed coordinator for activities relating to brucellosis (serology, microbiology, molecular biology and epidemiology) in various laboratories in the Italian Reference Centre for brucellosis (IZS A&M).

From 2002 to 2008, Dr Petrini was seconded by his administration to the OIE Headquarters in Paris, where he worked initially in the International Trade Department as Project Officer. His activities were in the field of animal welfare. In this context, he helped to organise the First World Conference on Animal Welfare (Paris, 23-25 February 2004) and contributed to the production of four chapters for the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, relating to transport of animals by land and by sea, slaughter of animals for human consumption and killing of animals for disease control purposes. Thereafter, Dr Petrini worked in the OIE Animal Health Information Department as Deputy Head of Department (2006-2008).

From March 2008 to November 2009, Dr Petrini worked as coordinator for the activities of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare at the IZS A&M.

Since November 2009, Dr Petrini has been appointed chargé de mission at the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa.

### **Contact OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa**

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**Tunis, Tunisia**

**Postal address: Boîte postale n° 267, Cité Mahrajène,**

**1082 Tunis, Tunisia**

**Tel.: +216-71 237 400**

**Fax: +216-71 237 339**

**E-mail: [rsr.afriquedunord@oie.int](mailto:rsr.afriquedunord@oie.int)**



## New offices for the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa

The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa, along with FAO-ECTAD<sup>1</sup> and AU-IBAR<sup>2</sup>, its partner organisations in the Regional Animal Health Centre for Southern Africa (RAHC-SA)<sup>3</sup>, moved on 12 October 2009 to new offices within the premises of the Botswana Ministry of Agriculture.



A few weeks later, the OIE Deputy Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, led the official handover ceremony of the keys to the new premises. On 10 November 2009, the Deputy Director General received the keys to the new offices from the representative of the Minister of Agriculture of Botswana, Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, in the presence of representatives of the two partner organisations: FAO and AU-IBAR. The former was represented by the FAO's Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Juan Lubroth, and the latter by the Director of AU-IBAR, Dr Ahmed El-Sawalhy. In her acceptance speech, Dr Eloit thanked the Government of Botswana for its generous offer to host the OIE Representation and its partners within the Ministry's walls and expressed the wish that the physical proximity of the Ministry and the Representation would lead to enhanced cooperation and synergistic efforts for the benefit of animal health and welfare in Botswana and southern



**Ceremony of the keys with Dre M. Eloit and Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo**



**Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Dr Abdoulai Bouna Niang, Dre M. Eloit and Dr Mtei Bonaventure**

Africa. She specifically thanked Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, who, as previous Delegate of Botswana to the OIE and currently Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, had been instrumental in brokering this hosting arrangement.

The Sub-Regional Representation now benefits from a modern and conducive working environment with spacious offices, ample parking space and up-to-date telecommunication, networking and multi-media services, along with a meeting room able to accommodate 30 persons which it shares with Ministry staff.

### **Human resources**

The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa began its activities in January 2006, with only Dr Bonaventure J. Mtei, Sub-Regional Representative, and Ms Nomsa Thekiso, Secretary.

In 2007, Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer, was seconded to the OIE by the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs ('France Coopération Internationale').

The team was further strengthened in June 2009 with the recruitment of Ms Mpho Mantsho, a full-time Administrative and Financial Assistant, thereby bringing the number of staff to four.

1- FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; ECTAD: Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases

2- AU: African Union; IBAR: Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources

3- In February 2009, the FAO/OIE Agreement to establish the Regional Animal Health Centre for Southern Africa was signed by the Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, and the Assistant Director-General of the FAO, Dr Modibo Traoré.



A Deputy Sub-Regional Representative is due to be recruited in January 2010.

**The new address is:**

**OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa**

**Ministry of Agriculture, Plot 4701**

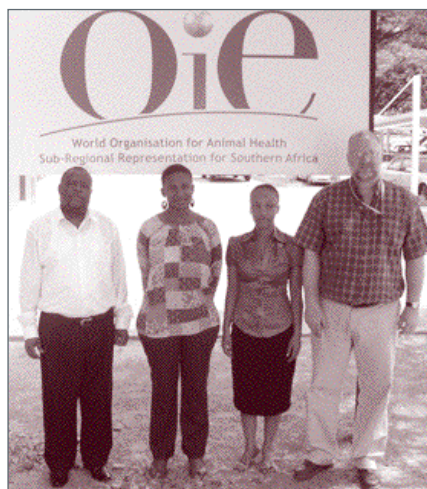
**Mmaraka Road, P.O. Box 25662**

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**Tel.: (+267) 391 4424**

**Fax: (+267) 391 4417**

**E-mail address: [srr.southern-africa@oie.int](mailto:srr.southern-africa@oie.int)**



From left to right: Dr Bonaventure J. Mtei, Ms. Nomsa Thekiso, Ms. Mpho Mantsho and Dr Patrick Bastiaensen

## Training Workshops for OIE National Focal Points

During the 76th General Session in May 2008, the OIE International Committee (now the World Assembly of the Delegates of the OIE) reiterated the importance of Focal Points for animal disease notification and requested that additional focal points be designated to ensure the optimal collection and submission of data in the following fields:

- wildlife
- veterinary products
- animal production food safety
- animal welfare
- aquatic animals.

The OIE developed Terms of Reference for the OIE National Focal

Points for each of these fields, defining their activities and their rights and obligations. From a legal perspective, the OIE considers that a Member's permanent Delegate to the OIE remains the unique representative of the country or territory. Information supplied to the OIE by a Focal Point is therefore considered to have been supplied under the responsibility of the Delegate.

Twelve training workshops have already been conducted in the various OIE regions since 2008 in order to provide Focal Points nominated by OIE Delegates with

information on the role and responsibilities of the Veterinary Services concerning animal disease notification, wildlife, veterinary products, animal production food safety, animal welfare and aquatic animals, and to present the relevant OIE standards in these fields, with the aim of harmonising the activities of the Veterinary Services with regard to the OIE.

Some of these workshops are described below to illustrate the efforts being made by the OIE to train these professionals for the important work they perform in association with the OIE Delegates.



## Training Workshops for OIE National Focal Points

### For Animal Welfare (Europe)

*Istanbul, Turkey, 16-17 July 2009*

This workshop was attended by more than 100 participants from the OIE Europe region, including European Union Member States, and all relevant sectors: government, industry, academia, research and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The main goal of the workshop was to train OIE Focal Points and to support Members in the implementation of OIE international animal welfare standards. Another important outcome of the workshop was the identification of key needs and tools to help to strengthen Members' capacities to implement OIE standards through good governance, infrastructure and veterinary legislation. Participants agreed on the need to develop an OIE Regional Strategy for



**Dr Sarah Kahn, Head,  
OIE International Trade  
Department**

Animal Welfare with coordination by the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, based on the successful model developed by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Other important issues discussed at the workshop were: the importance of awareness and education for stakeholders and the general public; the need to include animal welfare in the veterinary undergraduate curriculum and the potential conflict of OIE international standards and private animal welfare standards.

### For Wildlife (Americas)

*Panama City, Panama, 8-10 September 2009*

This workshop was held at a hotel deep in the Panamanian rainforest, surrounded by wildlife.

A total of 18 countries of the Americas were represented by their respective Focal Points for Wildlife (Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico,

Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay); three countries sent other representatives (Guatemala, Peru, United States of America). In addition, eight institutions were also represented (FAO, WHO-PAHO, IICA, OIRSA, CAN, SCWDS, WCS, WCO)<sup>1</sup>.

OIE speakers provided OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife with information on their role and the

responsibilities of the Veterinary Services concerning wildlife, while the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC), OIE Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Disease Surveillance and Monitoring, Epidemiology and Management, presented specific training on topics related to wildlife and coordinated a group exercise to encourage experience-sharing on

1- FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; WHO-PAHO: World Health Organization – Pan American Health Organization; IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture; OIRSA: Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health; CAN: Andean Community; SCWDS: South eastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (University of Georgia, USA); WCS: Wildlife Conservation Society; WCO: World Customs Organization

## Training Workshops for OIE National Focal Points



**Participants in the Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife, held in Panama**

(please see the photo in colour page 73)

legislation and implementation of wildlife controls and to design a programme for surveillance and notification of wildlife diseases. Each group presented its results, highlighting common and different approaches among countries. The workshop provided the OIE and CCWHC with useful information on problems relating to wildlife in Latin America as an input to define assistance to countries, in particular for the OIE Collaborating Centre.

### For Animal Production Food Safety (Africa)

**Yaoundé, Cameroon, 24-26 September 2009**

More than 50 professionals, representing 31 African countries (Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Zimbabwe) and representatives of several regional organisations (CEMAC-CEBEVIRHA, CEDEAO, WAEMU)<sup>2</sup> attended the workshop. The workshop was received in a friendly

and hospitable way by the host country, Cameroon. The Cameroon Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries opened the workshop.

This was the first workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Food Safety in the Africa region. The objective of the workshop was to train OIE Focal Points in implementing OIE international food safety standards. During the first two days of the workshop, presentations were given on various food safety related topics and OIE recommendations. On the last day, the specific problems related to food safety in the African region were discussed.



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**Opening address by Dr Aboubakary Sarki, Cameroon Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries**

2- CEMAC: Central African Economic and Monetary Community; CEBEVIRHA: Economic Commission of Livestock, Meat and Fishery Resources; WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

## Training Workshops for OIE National Focal Points

### For Wildlife (Europe)

*Lyons, France, 4-6 November 2009*

This was the first workshop organised for national focal points for wildlife in the Europe region. The objectives were:

- to explain the importance of wildlife issues, and the need for Veterinary Services to be actively involved in this domain;
- to present the role and activities of the OIE with regard to wildlife: the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS); improvement of wildlife reporting; standards; and support for the Veterinary Services;
- to provide information on their role and responsibilities as national focal points to assist OIE Delegates to comply with OIE standards, in particular with

regard to the monitoring of wildlife diseases and the provision of animal health information to the OIE on such diseases, as well as to participate more effectively in the standard-setting process; and

- to allow for experience sharing in the region.

A total of 19 participants, from 14 Eastern European countries and four

European Union Member States, attended the workshop. Most of the participants were the focal point in their country.

The workshop included general presentations on the OIE and specific presentations on wildlife diseases, their impact, epidemiology, monitoring, surveillance and control strategies, given by wildlife experts.



**Participants in the Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife, held in Lyons**

(please see the photo in colour page 73)

### For Animal Disease Notification (Africa)

*Tunis, Tunisia, 11-13 November 2009*

Details of this workshop are provided on page 32.



# 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the

*Doha (Qatar), 26-29 October 2009*



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At the kind invitation of the Government of Qatar, the 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East was held in Doha, Qatar, from 26 to 29 October 2009. A total of 69 participants attended the Conference. Among the participants were senior government officials of 16 OIE Member Countries in the Middle East as well as representatives of international, regional and national organisations. The Hon. Abdullah bin Mubarak bin Ibboud Al-Moudadi, Minister of Environment of Qatar, welcomed the participants. The Conference was chaired by Dr Kassem Nasser Al Qahtani, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Qatar to the OIE, with the support of the OIE Headquarters and the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East.

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented a summary of the animal health situation in the Middle East with regard to the following diseases: bluetongue, bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis (due to *Brucella abortus*), classical swine fever, Crimean Congo

haemorrhagic fever, foot and mouth disease, peste des petits ruminants, rabies, and sheep pox and goat pox. Animal disease contingency plans in the region and simulation exercises carried out were also reviewed.

Prof. Elham Atta Mohamed El-Ebiary, Director of the Central Laboratory for Evaluation of Veterinary Biologics, Abbasia, Cairo, Egypt presented a Technical Item on 'Capabilities of veterinary laboratories in the region – Needs to improve animal disease diagnostic'. Prof. El Ebiary remarked on the role of bioscience research, biotechnology, biochemical and clinical laboratories. She reported that most of the laboratories in the region would be interested in participating in a twinning project with existing OIE Reference Laboratories. The Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, clarified that the OIE twinning procedure is open to all and explained that applications from the Middle East would be considered a priority given the present very low number of OIE Reference Laboratories in the region.

## Other items on the agenda were as follows:

- Activities of the OIE Regional Commission and Regional Representation for the Middle East;
- 5th OIE Strategic Plan and OIE Global Programme of Strengthening Veterinary Services (including PVS and GAP Analysis in the Middle East Region);
- Updated information on aquatic animal health activities by the OIE;
- Updated information on the OIE Terrestrial Code Commission.
- GF-TADs for the Middle East;
- Regional Animal Health Centre;
- Outcome of the 5th FMD Round Table;
- Legislation and implementation of animal welfare in the Middle East.

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Prof. Vincenzo Caporale, Director of the *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise* and President of the OIE Biological Standards Commission, presented a Technical Item on 'An approach to developing coordinated and harmonised actions for the control of brucellosis'. Prof. Caporale stated that brucellosis is one of the most important zoonoses in the Mediterranean and Middle East regions. He issued a strong reminder of the relevance of brucellosis with regard to the animal-human interface. Referring to the control strategy options, he stressed that the establishment of a surveillance system and the control of animals movements are key factors.

Reports on both Technical Items will be published by the OIE in its *Compendium of Technical Items* – 2009.

## Qatar's Oryx reserve



# official acts

## Appointment of permanent Delegates

### 1 September 2009 United Arab Emirates

**Eng. Sumaia Al Rais**



Head of Animal and Plant Health, Ministry of Environment and Water

### 3 November 2009 Madagascar

**Dr Lanto Tiana Razafimanantsoa**



Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Livestock

### 21 September 2009 Papua New Guinea

**Dr Nime Kapo**

Chief Veterinary Officer, National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration

### 4 November 2009 Myanmar



**Prof. Myint Thein**  
Director General, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Ministry of

Livestock and Fisheries

### 31 October 2009 Germany

**Dr Karin Schwabenbauer**



Head of the Directorate 'Animal Health and Food Hygiene' and Chief Veterinary

Officer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

### 1 December 2009 Thailand

**Mr Tritsadee Chaosuancharoen**

Deputy Director General, Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives



# strengthening of veterinary services

## The OIE PVS Pathway for efficient Veterinary Services: the PVS Gap Analysis step

In what seems like an age ago, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) carried out a pilot project, co-financed by the USDA<sup>1</sup> and the World Bank, aimed at:

- (i) evaluating the performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) within 15 countries in three regions and
- (ii) completing a gap analysis mission in 10 countries.

Now, just three years later, the OIE has received official requests for a PVS evaluation from 101 countries, 91 PVS evaluations missions have been completed, and this has already generated 42 official requests from countries for a PVS Gap Analysis based on the country's PVS Report.

The PVS Pathway for efficient Veterinary Services was thus born and is now a fully-fledged worldwide project mainly co-financed by the European Union (EU)<sup>2</sup>, the World Bank, the USA (USDA and CDC<sup>3</sup>), Switzerland (FVO<sup>4</sup>), Japan, Italy, France, Canada (CIDA<sup>5</sup>) and Australia (AusAID and DAFF<sup>6</sup>).

### What is the OIE PVS Tool?

The OIE has developed an Evaluation Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool) based on the chapters of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the OIE Codes) relating to the quality of Veterinary Services and adopted by all OIE Member Countries. The fourth edition of the OIE PVS Tool, issued in August 2009 is currently used. A fifth edition (scheduled for release in 2010) is in preparation and among the new additions it will include critical competencies for:

- a) management systems;
- b) animal welfare; and
- c) evaluation of the performance of Aquatic Animal Health Services (as part of a PVS evaluation of Veterinary Services, or as an independent exercise).

The OIE PVS Tool is designed to assist Veterinary Services and/or Aquatic Animal Health Services (AAHS) to establish their current level of performance, to identify gaps and weaknesses in their ability to comply with OIE international standards, guidelines and recommendations, consistent with the agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), to form a shared vision with stakeholders (including the private sector) and to establish priorities and carry out strategic initiatives, including international or national financial applications for investment. Active participation and investment by both the public and private sector is required in order to facilitate the strengthening of Veterinary Services and their compliance with OIE international standards for quality and evaluation.

In light of growing technical requirements, consumer expectations and opportunities for international trade, Veterinary Services/AAHS should adopt an appropriate mandate and vision and provide services that respond to the needs and expectations of stakeholders. This will entail stronger alliances and closer cooperation with stakeholders, trading partners and other countries, national governmental counterparts and relevant intergovernmental organisations (in particular the OIE, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the WTO SPS Committee).



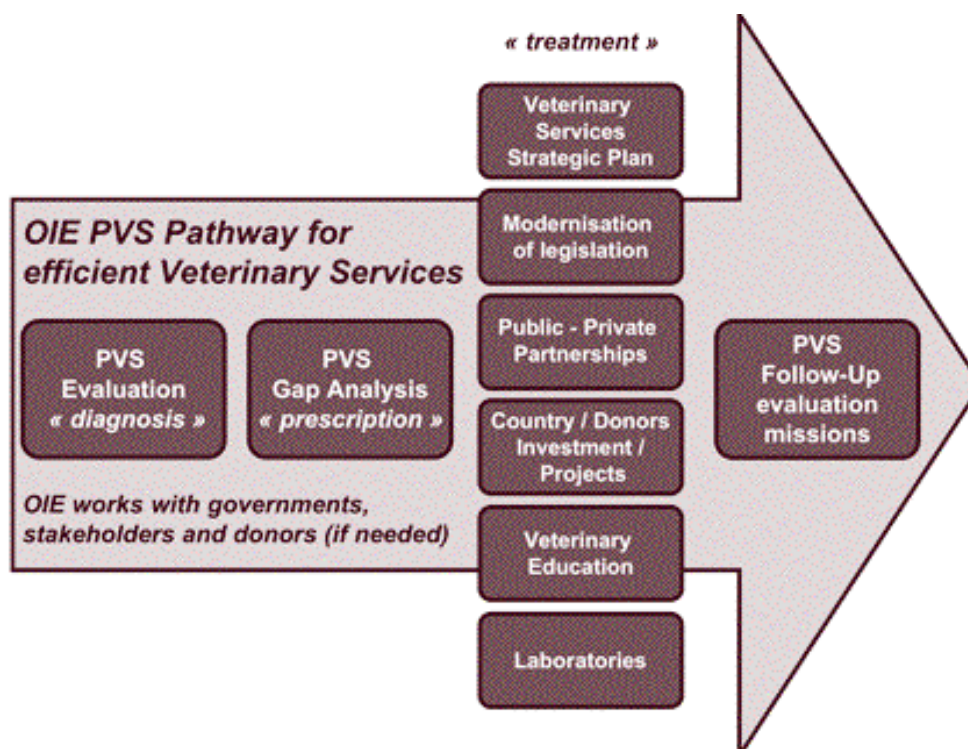
- 1- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- 2- European Commission (through DG SANCO in Africa and AIDCO in Asia)
- 3- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- 4- Federal Veterinary Office (FVO)
- 5- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- 6- Australian Government Overseas Aid Program (AusAID) and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

For animal health and zoonoses<sup>7</sup>, the OIE is recognised as the reference organisation for standards, guidelines and recommendations relating to international trade in animals and animal products. The implementation of OIE standards, including standards on quality and evaluation<sup>8</sup> of Veterinary Services/AAHS<sup>9</sup>, is the best way to facilitate safe and fair international trade.

OIE PVS Evaluations and PVS Gap Analyses are carried out by OIE-certified PVS experts.



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## The PVS Pathway for efficient Veterinary Services

### Step 1

The first step of the PVS process is the initial Evaluation of the Performance of Veterinary Services (using the OIE PVS Tool<sup>10</sup>); this is a voluntary process which enables any country to determine its level of advancement and compliance in terms of 40 different critical competencies grouped in four fundamental components. This corresponds to a qualitative PVS evaluation: *the diagnosis*.

All OIE-certified PVS experts and peer reviewers use the same PVS Manual for Assessors, the same procedures and the same indicators.

All PVS evaluation reports are reviewed by an independent OIE-accredited peer reviewer.

The output of this activity is the Country PVS Evaluation Report. Once accepted by the country and depending on the decision of the country, this PVS report can either:

- (i) remain confidential for internal use within the country;
- (ii) be made available, with the agreement of the country, for transmission to Donors and Partners;
- (iii) be published on the OIE Web site<sup>11</sup>.

Countries are encouraged to share their report with Donors and Partners and to allow its publication on the OIE Web site. The country PVS reports are written in one of the three OIE official languages (English, French or Spanish).

### Step 2

The second step of the PVS process is the identification of needs and priorities of the Veterinary Services of the country, based on a dialogue with the country and on the Country PVS Evaluation Report. This process paves the way towards the preparation of a strategic plan to strengthen Veterinary Services' compliance with OIE quality standards: *the prescription*.

The output of this activity is a quantitative assessment of the needs of the Veterinary Services of the country: an OIE PVS Gap Analysis document/report. This report includes a five-year indicative budget<sup>12</sup> which is submitted to pre-appraisal reviews/

7- Article 3(b) of Annex A to the SPS Agreement

8- Chapters 3.1. and 3.2. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* provide the legal base for OIE quality requirements for Veterinary Services and for PVS evaluation and follow up activities.

9- Chapter 3.1. of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* provides a legal base for OIE quality requirements for AAHS.

10- [www.oie.int/eng/oie/organisation/ENG\\_PVS%20TOOL\\_2009.pdf](http://www.oie.int/eng/oie/organisation/ENG_PVS%20TOOL_2009.pdf)

11- [www.oie.int/eng/oie/organisation/en\\_oie\\_pvs\\_eval\\_reports.htm?e1d2](http://www.oie.int/eng/oie/organisation/en_oie_pvs_eval_reports.htm?e1d2)

12- Only in very exceptional circumstances do the final PVS Gap Analysis documents not include a five-year indicative budget.



## The PVS Pathway for efficient Veterinary Services

complementary studies and confirmed by the establishment of new national budgets or by external donors willing to use it.

### Step 3

Different PVS follow-up activities are possible, including reviewing the Country Strategic Plan on functional Veterinary Services, modernisation of animal health legislation, etc.

### Step 4

Periodic use of the PVS Tool (every two or three years) provides an effective way of measuring and monitoring in absolute terms the progress that countries have made in sustainably improving their compliance with the OIE quality standards set out in the OIE *Codes*. Use of the PVS Tool also provides a framework to complete or update the PVS Gap Analysis or the Country Strategic Plan. Donors and Partners have the possibility of being involved in this exercise.

### Some prerequisites

- In many cases, compliance with standards of quality, as diagnosed by the PVS evaluation, can only be implemented in a sustainable manner after modernisation of the country's veterinary legislation.
- As the PVS Gap Analysis is partly based on the Country PVS Report, a PVS Gap Analysis can only be performed when the final version of the Country PVS Report is available (after peer review and acceptance by the country).
- Similarly, as a general diagnosis of the Performance of Veterinary Services is necessary, technical assistance from OIE experts to improve the animal health legislation of the country will only be made available, and missions regarding the modernisation of veterinary legislation will only be organised, if the final version of the Country PVS Report is available.
- However, there is no sine qua non condition between missions on the modernisation of veterinary legislation and a PVS Gap Analysis.
- Similarly, there is no sine qua non condition between PVS follow-up evaluation missions and a PVS Gap Analysis (a country may use the PVS Evaluation Tool for self-evaluation purposes or may wish to monitor progress without requesting a PVS Gap Analysis).



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### The Prescription: the PVS Gap Analysis

Sustainably improving a country's Veterinary Services' compliance with OIE standards is essential for improving animal health and public health, at both the national and the international level.

It should be borne in mind that Veterinary Services are a global public good and consequently eligible for appropriate national or international public funding and support.

For developed countries, ways to strengthen their compliance in a sustainable manner may well be obvious in light of the findings and general recommendations of a PVS evaluation. However, for many in-transition or developing countries, which face budgetary constraints and have many different major national priorities, the procedures for sustainably strengthening compliance often require specific independent expert assistance, based on the methodological framework developed by the OIE.

The key objective of an OIE PVS Gap Analysis mission is to define a five-year programme for the sustainable strengthening of a country's Veterinary Services'

compliance with OIE quality standards, **suitably adapted to national constraints and priorities**. The specific objectives of the expert mission are therefore:

- to help the Veterinary Services define, *in accordance with national priorities* and constraints, the expected result (level of advancement as defined in the OIE PVS Tool) for each relevant critical competency in the OIE PVS Tool at the end of the five-year period;
- to determine in *a participatory manner* the activities to be carried out to achieve the expected results potentially for the maximum number of critical competencies among the current 40 PVS critical competencies;
- to determine, with the help of information, data and interviews, including with the private sector, the tasks and means (human, physical and financial resources) needed to implement these activities to enable the Veterinary Services to function appropriately and sustainably.

The aim of the five-year programme is to prompt the government and funding agencies to support the capacity building of the Veterinary Services. The programme must therefore be established with the full participation and approval of the Veterinary Services. It serves as the basis for discussion with:

- the Ministries responsible for the Veterinary Services and the Ministry in charge of the Budget, and in some cases with the national Parliament, to justify the resources needed to meet the priority objectives defined by the country;
- international funding agencies, when requesting their support for all or some of the priority activities or investments defined in the programme.

The programme must prioritise structural and sustainable strengthening of Veterinary Services' compliance with OIE standards, while taking into account the country's policy priorities and all the constraints arising from the country's current context and any foreseeable developments.

The indicators and expected levels of competence are set out in the OIE PVS Tool and are therefore totally transparent for potential Donors and Partners. They provide the means of evaluating the sustainability of the results of the strategic plan rather than being simply indicators that the activities have been implemented. They also support the conduct of regular follow-up evaluations using the OIE PVS Tool. The OIE will propose to play a key role in the subsequent evaluation of the implementation of the programme (via further OIE PVS follow-up evaluations in the country, with which Donors and Partners can be associated).

## PVS Gap Analysis missions

A Country PVS Gap Analysis cannot be done by desk work alone based on the final country PVS Report. It should include work in the country and meeting(s) with the relevant authorities and representatives of the private sector in the country, to reach a consensus on the priorities and levels to be achieved.

PVS Gap Analysis missions are necessary for the preparation of programmes with national Veterinary Services after desk work on PVS Gap Analysis based on OIE PVS Reports (standardised and with justified findings).



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This is important for:

- (i) dialogue with the country;
- (ii) country appropriation;
- (iii) validation of choices and priorities with the country;
- (iv) possibility of consulting the different ministries and stakeholders involved.

A PVS Gap Analysis is only carried out at the request of, and with the agreement and active participation of, the country concerned.

Each PVS Gap Analysis mission will involve a minimum of two experts, at least one of whom is an OIE-certified PVS expert and preferably, wherever possible, a member of the team that carried out the initial PVS evaluation of the country. Other experts, for instance from the EU, the World Bank, FAO and other appropriate Partners, may be involved when necessary.

In accordance with the OIE procedure, the country concerned is invited to finance/provide in kind the cost of local transportation for the PVS Gap Analysis team, as well as translation/interpretation costs where necessary. This is also part of the appropriation of the process by the country (i.e. partial cost sharing). Furthermore, the country's Delegate to the OIE is expected to designate a national focal point funded by the beneficiary country to facilitate the preparation of the mission and accompany the team.

#### A PVS Gap Analysis mission has three main phases:

##### **Phase 1 – Before the mission:**

- organisation of the mission (selection of the team of experts, choice of dates, logistics, validation with the country);
- collection of existing data (Country PVS Evaluation Report, etc.) to prepare the mission;
- information requests are sent to the designated national focal point.

##### **Phase 2 – During the mission (there are 6 distinct steps):**

- opening meeting, preferably including high level national authorities, to identify the country's priorities, canvass views and obtain details of actions undertaken since the PVS evaluation mission;
- identification of the expected results and the main activities to be developed;
- definition of the necessary tasks and necessary means;
- a discussion and validation of the proposals put forward by the experts;
- finalisation of the budget;
- closing meeting.

##### **Phase 3 – After the mission:**

- drafting the final report;
- validation of the report with and by the country.
- where appropriate, and with the country's agreement, the report may subsequently be distributed to interested organisations/Donors and Partners.

#### The benefits and outcomes of following the PVS Pathway

The benefits and outcomes of using the OIE PVS Tool include:

- providing the basis for carrying out a process of verifying compliance with the OIE standards and assessments of Veterinary Services/AAHS by external and independent bodies under the guidelines and auspices of the OIE;
- an indication of the overall performance for each of the four core components and a relative performance rating within each of the critical competencies;





- a basis for comparing the performance of the Veterinary Services/AAHS with that of other relevant government services in the region or globally, in order to explore areas for cooperation or negotiation;
- obtaining an indication of the specific actions needed to modernise the veterinary legislation in compliance with OIE recommendations by carrying out an OIE Legislation Mission;
- a specific follow up (i.e. an OIE PVS Gap Analysis) helps countries to identify priorities and present justifications when applying for national and/or international financial support (loans and/or grants) from national governments or international donors;
- providing a basis for establishing routine monitoring and a follow up mechanism on the overall level of performance of the Veterinary Services/AAHS over time;
- providing a basis for import/export trade negotiations (e.g. confidence in the quality of certification);
- helping to determine the benefits and costs of investing in Veterinary Services/AAHS and, through the conduct of specific follow up activities, identifying the actions and securing the investments that are needed to help improve compliance with the OIE standards for good governance.

### **Country Strategic Plan**

The Country Strategic Plan can be updated and completed on the basis of the PVS Gap Analysis, which includes a five-year budget and takes into account the Country PVS Evaluation Report and the country's priorities.

This has already been requested by several countries, and the World Bank is clearly encouraging countries to do so in some regions. The PVS Gap Analysis and the Country Strategic Plan can become the foundations for a five-year rolling programme for the sustainable strengthening of a country's Veterinary Services' compliance with OIE quality standards, suitably adapted to national constraints and priorities.

At a country's request, the OIE will provide experts to help it to upgrade its Country Strategic Plan. Ideally, one of the experts who participated in the PVS Gap Analysis mission to the country concerned should participate in this work.

### **Round tables with Donors and Partners**

In partnership with Donors, Regional Economic Communities, and International Organisations, round tables with Donors and Stakeholders may be organised by the country to present the outcome of the PVS Gap Analysis (and the revised Strategic Plan, where relevant).

There are already cases where several donors have joined forces to co finance necessary investments. Two such examples are as follows:

*In the case of the Kyrgyz Republic*<sup>13</sup>, the World Bank indicated that on the basis of the Country PVS Report (available for Donors and Partners) it had quantified the country's needs at USD 42m while preparing the country Strategic Plan on animal health services. When the PVS Gap Analysis documents became available, the Plan was revised to USD 25m, and was used for advocacy talks at Ministerial level, with the Prime



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13- Initial PVS Evaluation completed in January 2007; PVS Gap Analysis completed in March 2009.



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Minister's Office, the President's Administration and with parliamentary committees. Parliamentary discussions on a New Veterinary Law were initiated in December 2007. In May 2009, new Donor support for the Kyrgyz Republic's animal health services was announced (mainly by the EU, the World Bank, USAID and Switzerland) and already totals more than USD 25m. Canada has also announced a major project.

*In the case of Mali<sup>14</sup>*, the World Bank indicated during the last quarter of 2009 that a significant project would be earmarked on the basis of the outcome of the PVS Gap Analysis.

Now that more than 90 PVS evaluations have been completed worldwide, there are more and more initiatives to analyse country PVS reports available for a particular region (when reports are available for Donors and Partners), in order to identify gaps and investment priorities at regional or continental level (e.g. WAEMU/UEMOA<sup>15</sup>; AU-IBAR<sup>16</sup>, the World Bank, etc.).

### **Support for the preparation of investment programmes/pre-appraisal of projects**

Countries may wish to use PVS Reports and PVS Gap Analyses for discussion with Ministries of Finance, Financial Commissions of National Parliaments or with Parliaments themselves. Countries may also wish to prepare national investment programmes based on PVS Evaluation Reports and PVS Gap Analysis outputs. It is also possible to conduct surveys to prepare the terms of reference for calls for tender, e.g. for laboratory equipment.

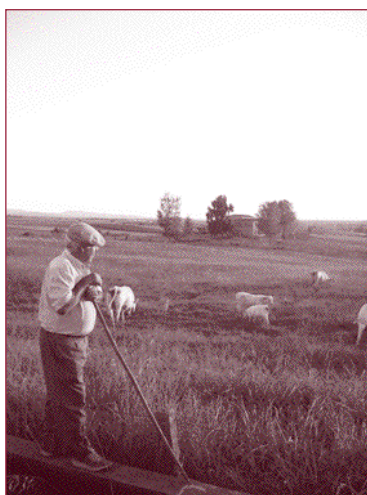
In an international context, PVS Evaluation Reports and PVS Gap Analyses may be used by Donors and International Organisations for their pre-appraisal reviews and for the preparation of specific investment programmes and projects.

### **PVS follow-up evaluation missions**

The concept of 'PVS follow-up evaluations' was developed right from the outset as a means of ensuring a continuous monitoring and improvement process. These PVS follow-up evaluation missions should be conducted by OIE-certified experts at the request of the country in question, in order to monitor implementation of the steps taken by the country to progressively improve compliance with international standards on quality.

This may also lead to a country's self-evaluation of the performance of its Veterinary Services at the national or sub-national level.

Let us now hope that governments, private stakeholders, donors and other international partners will pursue their efforts and investments to support the capacity building of the Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, thereby enabling them to improve animal health and deal effectively and rapidly with emerging and re-emerging diseases, including those that are transmissible to humans.



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14- Initial PVS Evaluation completed in December 2007; PVS Gap Analysis completed in April 2009

15- West African Economic and Monetary Union/*Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine*

16- African Union – Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)



# OIE PVS Global Programme

State of Play – as of 20 January 2010

OIE Regions	OIE Members	Requested received	PVS missions done	Reports available for restricted distribution to Donors and Partners
Africa	51	44	39	31
Americas	28	17	17	12
Asia and the Pacific	31	15	13	10
Europe	52	11	11	3
Middle East	13	13	11	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>59</b>

## OIE-PVS missions

### • Africa (44)

Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, 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, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

### • Americas (17)

Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay.

### • Asia-Pacific (15)

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

### • Europe (11)

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

### • Middle East (13)

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

In red:  
completed missions

# PVS - Gap Analysis

State of Play – as of 20 January 2010

OIE Regions	OIE Members	PVS Gap Analysis Missions - Request received	PVS Gap Analysis Missions done	PVS Gap Analysis document available
Africa	51	24	11	9
Americas	28	6	0	0
Asia-Pacific	31	8	1	0
Europe	52	3	2	2
Middle East	13	3	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>

## Gap Analysis missions

- **Africa (24)**  
Benin, Burkina Faso, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia.
- **Americas**  
Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama.
- **Asia-Pacific (8)**  
Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Dem. People's Rep. of Korea, Mongolia, Philippines, Sri Lanka
- **Europe (3)**  
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan.
- **Middle East (3)**  
Kuwait, Lebanon, Turkey.

In red:  
completed missions

## Legislation missions

State of Play – as of 20 January 2010

OIE Regions	OIE Members	Legislation Missions requested received	Legislation Missions done	Legislation document available
Africa	51	13	4	3
Americas	28	0	0	0
Asia-Pacific	31	3	3	3
Europe	52	2	1	1
Middle East	13	4	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>

This table does not include the missions to Botswana and South Africa nor the first mission carried out in Zambia since the project was in pilot phase

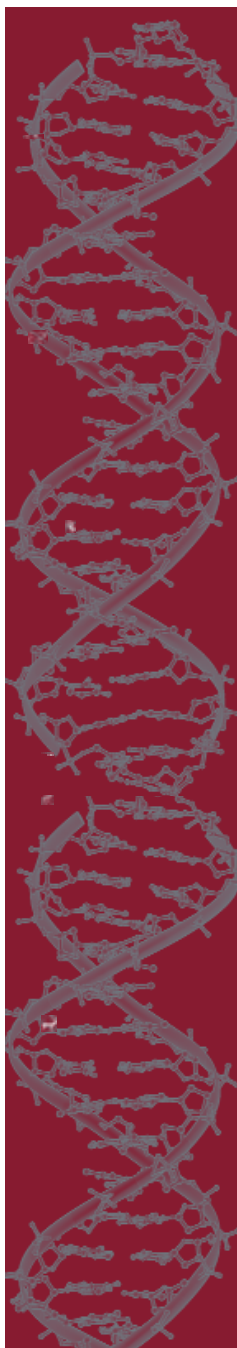
## Legislation missions

- **Africa (13)**  
Benin, Burkina Faso, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, Zambia.
- **Asia-Pacific (3)**  
Bhutan, Cambodia, Vietnam.
- **Europe (2)**  
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan.
- **Middle East (4)**  
Afghanistan, Kuwait, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates.

In red: completed missions

# epidemiology & animal disease control programmes

## Advances in animal genomics



Genomics continues to make progress in animal health and production.

The genomic sequences of the main domestic animal species have now been unravelled.

On 6 November 2009, the journal *Science* reported the sequencing of the genome of the horse (*Equus caballus*), mankind's 'most noble conquest'. The history of the domestication of the horse has gone hand in hand with the history of human societies. The era of the horse lasted several thousand years, and only came to an end in the latter part of the twentieth century.

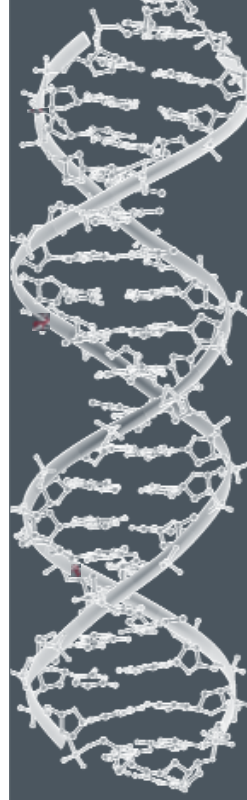
However, despite their declining numbers in developed countries, horses remain one of mankind's favourite companions.

Horses are members of the order Perissodactyla. Analysis of their genome has revealed a new centromere on chromosome 11 with the properties of an immature centromere but fully functional and devoid of centromeric satellite sequences. Taken together, these studies clarify the nature of the genetic diversity within and between the various breeds of horses, and suggest that the domestication of the horse originally involved a small number of stallions but a large number of mares.

Mapping of the equine genome will allow the identification of mutations in the genes involved in morphology, immunology and metabolism, with potential benefits for human medicine. More than 90 hereditary diseases could serve as models for similar conditions in humans, such as infertility, inflammatory diseases and muscular disorders (Hurtley, 2009; Wade *et al.*, 2009).

A first article published in the same journal reported the genomic sequencing of a Hereford cow (*Bos taurus*), the result of a study carried out by an international consortium. The knowledge acquired as a result of this sequencing will help to improve the selection of bovine populations and the identification of mutations implicated in some diseases of cattle (Poutrel, 2009; Bovine Genome Sequencing and Analysis Consortium *et al.*, 2009).





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Science has also published news of a study on the sequencing of the genome of the silkworm (*Bombyx mori*) (Normile, 2009). Archaeological findings suggest that domestication of the silkworm most likely began some 5,000 years ago. The authors of the study in question sequenced the genome of 29 domesticated silkworms from around the world and 11 wild silkworms (*Bombyx mandarina*) collected in China. They tried to identify the genes that could be associated with domestication and selection; 354 genes were thus identified. Domestic silkworms were bred and selected for the size of cocoon, rate of reproduction and digestive efficiency. Domestic silkworms tolerate being handled by humans and have lost the ability to fly; they no longer recognise the threat posed by predators and would therefore be unable to survive in the wild.

However, geneticists do not intend to stop there; they are trying to set up a sequencing project for 10,000 vertebrates, with at least one species per genus.

Since the sequencing of the human genome, researchers have been trying to sequence other genomes so as to compare the results with those of the analysis of human DNA.

A first meeting was organised in April 2009 with 50 participants from the United States of America, Canada, Latin America, Europe and Asia. Proponents of the project consider it will provide useful information for the study of the human genome and fundamental biological knowledge. This project will also provide insight into the evolution of genomes and speciation from an evolutionist perspective.

One of the participants, Prof. Olivier Hanotte, a conservation biologist from the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom, has insisted on endangered species being included in the list, on the grounds that in 20 years time it may be too late (Pennisi, 2008a, 2009).

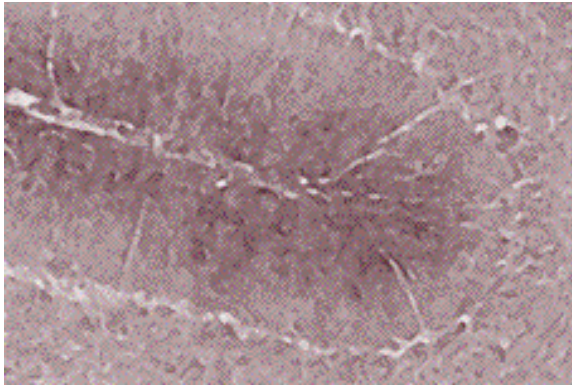
Lastly, one should also note the emerging field of epigenomics, which studies the complex relationship between genotype and phenotype. This new discipline promises exciting new insights (Katz, 2006; Pennisi, 2008b).



# A case of atypical scrapie/Nor 98 reported in New Zealand

New Zealand has long been widely recognised as a country free from scrapie of sheep and goats (11, 16) and, for this reason, has been a source of assured scrapie-free brain tissue for use in research (13, 16).

However, in late 2009 a case of so-called 'atypical scrapie', or Nor 98, was detected in one of 1,000 sheep brain samples provided to the European Commission's Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements, Geel, Belgium (13).



The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Code*) does not cover atypical scrapie/Nor 98 because, it states, the condition '... is clinically, pathologically, biochemically and epidemiologically unrelated to 'classical' scrapie, may not be contagious and may, in fact, be a spontaneous degenerative condition of older sheep' (22). The condition meets none of the *Code's* criteria for listing diseases. For this reason, this finding does not meet the criteria to be notified immediately to the OIE, as a reoccurrence of a listed disease in a country.

## Atypical scrapie/Nor 98 is widely distributed

Although relatively uncommon, an examination of the epidemiology of atypical scrapie/Nor 98 suggests that it has been present, and widely distributed, in Europe for a long time (2, 7, 9). Cases have also been reported from the United States of America, Canada and the Falkland Islands (13). The fact that nearly all 'cases' have been found in clinically normal animals partly explains why this condition was not detected earlier; it causes no significant wastage amongst livestock and hence its presence would not have

been noticed. Recent examination of archival material in the United Kingdom has shown that atypical scrapie has been present in that country since at least 1987 (20).

## Atypical scrapie/Nor 98 is unrelated to classical scrapie

Atypical scrapie/Nor 98 is not simply a variant of classical scrapie. It is a distinct condition, clinically, epidemiologically, histopathologically and biochemically (7, 9, 18). An OIE *ad hoc* group on atypical scrapie stated that 'There is currently no epidemiological evidence of an association between classical and atypical scrapie' (21). Atypical scrapie/Nor 98 tends to occur in genotypes that are associated with resistance to infection with classical scrapie (9, 12, 14).

## Atypical scrapie/Nor 98 is an uncommon condition

Atypical scrapie/Nor 98 is uncommon, as demonstrated by the results of the extensive surveillance programmes undertaken in the European Union. For example, in the United Kingdom in 2006, out of 87,912 sheep samples from five different surveillance streams, 223 were diagnosed as classical scrapie cases and 60 as atypical scrapie/Nor 98 cases. That is, a total of 0.08% tested positive for atypical scrapie/Nor 98 (4). European Union-wide surveillance in 2006 involved testing 1,035,065 sheep for scrapie (5). That surveillance detected scrapie in 3,507 sheep (0.34%) and only 365 of these (0.03%) were atypical scrapie/Nor 98. Luhken and colleagues (14) observed that 'one of the most striking aspects of atypical scrapie is that only a single scrapie-positive sheep per affected flock was identified in most cases.'

The very low incidence of atypical scrapie/Nor 98 means that it cannot be considered a significant source of livestock wastage. Indeed, the evidence from various studies suggests that the age at onset of clinical signs for atypical scrapie is much later than the commercial life-span of a sheep (15).

## Atypical scrapie/Nor 98 is probably not contagious and is possibly spontaneous

It appears that sheep affected with atypical scrapie/Nor 98 may not excrete the agent and atypical scrapie/Nor 98 is probably not transmissible naturally between sheep (3, 6, 8, 10, 19).

Experimentally, it has been transmitted by intracerebral inoculation but this is no indication that it is contagious. In fact, a number of researchers have postulated that atypical scrapie/Nor 98 may arise 'spontaneously', in the same way that sporadic CJD of humans occurs (1, 3, 9, 15, 17).

## Conclusion

So-called 'atypical scrapie', or Nor 98, is not a source of significant livestock wastage and is probably not contagious. Given that many researchers consider that the condition probably arises spontaneously in older sheep of particular genotypes, it is highly likely that atypical scrapie/Nor 98 occurs in all sheep-rearing countries, even those, like New Zealand, historically recognised as free from 'classical' scrapie.

Because the condition probably arises spontaneously in all sheep populations, the detection of a case of atypical scrapie/Nor 98 should not be a reason to impose any sanitary measures on ovine products traded internationally. The imposition of sanitary measures would be illogical and technically unjustified.

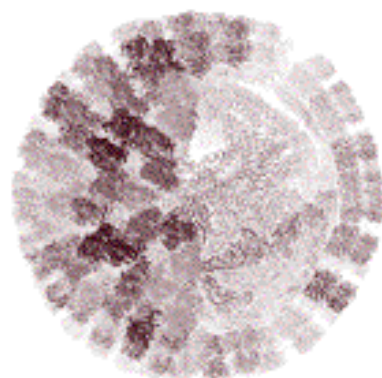
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Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry  
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Wellington  
New Zealand

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## Qualitative assessment of the commodity risk factor for spread of foot and mouth disease associated with international trade in deboned beef



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### Summary

The risk that imported livestock and their products may introduce foot and mouth disease virus (FMDV) restricts trade in these commodities from parts of the world where FMDV has not been eradicated. This reduces investment and development of the livestock sector in many developing countries as well as export trade opportunities and global food supply. This review focuses on the risks associated with trade in deboned beef (DB) from foot and mouth disease infected cattle, countries or zones. A definition of DB is provided along with a description of the procedures required for its preparation within abattoirs. A review of the available evidence is presented for circumstances under which DB can be contaminated with FMDV and some figures are provided for the amount of this commodity that has been traded from FMDV-infected regions. Additional mitigating measures to reduce the risk of FMDV contamination of DB are discussed, particularly pre-slaughter

*This review focuses on the risks associated with trade in deboned beef (DB) from foot and mouth disease infected cattle, countries or zones*

measures, such as surveillance, quarantine and vaccination. It is clear that a combination of pre-slaughter and slaughterhouse measures has resulted in a commodity (DB) with a negligible risk of transmitting FMD. Nevertheless, it is concluded that the current evidence does not provide absolute assurance that abattoir procedures for producing deboned beef can on their own result in a commodity with a negligible risk of transmitting FMDV without complementary measures to reduce the likelihood of slaughtering infected cattle. The main areas of uncertainty are the amounts of residual FMDV-harboring tissues within DB, and our understanding of what constitutes a safe level of contamination. More detailed guidance should be developed to specify what mitigating measures are needed in support of the export of DB from regions that are not officially FMD-free. Generic or ambiguous guidance that leads to differences in interpretation can give rise to obstacles to trade and should be avoided. Further data to evaluate the safety of DB might be provided by a study of the amounts of residual lymph node and bone marrow tissues within DB.

The whole document will be published as a *Technical Series* that should be release in 2011.

# activities of reference laboratories & collaborating centres

## Activities of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products

Integrated into the French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA), the **French National Agency for Veterinary Medicinal Products (AFSSA-ANMV)** is responsible for granting marketing authorisations for veterinary medicinal products, controlling veterinary pharmaceutical establishments, controlling

the quality of veterinary medicinal products and conducting pharmacological monitoring. The Agency is located at Fougères (France). It participates in European and international activities relating to veterinary pharmacy. It is currently the only OIE Collaborating Centre for veterinary medicinal products.



The OIE considers veterinary medicinal products as a major tool contributing to the improvement of both animal health and public health. Within the framework of its role as OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products (OIE CCVMP), AFSSA ANMV is therefore prepared for the anticipated changes in governance relating to veterinary products, stemming from Resolution No. 25 'Veterinary products', adopted by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates at the General Session of the OIE in May 2009, and due to be incorporated in the future OIE Fifth Strategic Plan (2011-2015).

In its capacity as the OIE CCVMP, the ANMV is strongly involved in this process and supports OIE Member Countries in their initiatives, adopting a core approach that includes the various activities that contribute to governance of veterinary medicinal products. Thus, when OIE Members embark on the development of a public policy of governance for veterinary medicinal products, this aim can be achieved through a number of successive steps, for which the OIE CCVMP offers assistance.

OIE Member Countries must provide themselves with a suitable body of legislation and regulations. The field of activities covered must be as extensive as possible, from the creation of a veterinary medicinal product until its eventual use, including any effects it may induce. It must also provide for the setting up of an authority for official evaluation, authorisation, control and surveillance. Lastly, it is essential for the system to be binding, with, as a minimum, administrative actions to correct any anomalies with potential health consequences. As an example, the OIE CCVMP was strongly involved in setting up the body of legislation for the registration of veterinary medicinal products in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU).

The next step is to implement this legal mechanism, while ensuring the quality of administrative management, technical and scientific evaluation, inspection and control and lastly surveillance. Returning to the example of WAEMU, the OIE CCVMP provides support for the implementation of administrative procedures leading to the granting of marketing authorisation for veterinary medicinal products, and also





expertise, in particular through training for experts tasked with evaluating marketing authorisation applications. It participates in the operational implementation of WAEMU's network of veterinary product quality control laboratories, to enable the Union to envisage an action plan at the regional level. It is also carrying out an evaluation of the inspection systems of WAEMU Member States with a view to proposing an effective and suitably adapted system within the Union.

Ultimately, the credibility of the competent authority rests on clearly defined organisation and responsibilities and a means of measuring its effectiveness, along the lines of the OIE PVS Tool for the evaluation of the performance of Veterinary Services.

To help the OIE achieve its objectives in the field of veterinary medicine, the OIE CCVMP has undertaken a variety of actions:

- Contribution to the training of OIE Focal Points for Veterinary Medicinal Products. At the 76th General Session of the OIE in 2008, a decision was taken to set up a system of focal points specifically for veterinary medicinal products. The OIE embarked on a training programme for these focal points, a programme in which the Collaborating Centre has played an active part.
- A twinning arrangement, under the auspices of the OIE, with LACOMEV (Laboratory for the Control of Veterinary Medicinal Products, Dakar, Senegal). The aim of this twinning arrangement is to help LACOMEV to strengthen its competencies and reliability and to optimise its capacities in the quality control of veterinary medicinal products, so that in future it will be able provide support for the WAEMU network of laboratories, to which it already belongs.
- Participation in VICH. The International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Products (VICH) was created under the auspices of the OIE more than ten years ago. VICH is a trilateral programme (European Union–Japan–United States of

America) set up with a view to harmonising technical requirements for the registration of veterinary products. Its aim is to harmonise, and thereby facilitate and speed up, the procedure for registration of veterinary medicinal products in the participating countries, while ensuring product safety. This initiative is strongly supported by the OIE and could serve as a tool to develop and improve international and regional cooperation in the field of veterinary medicinal products and harmonisation for countries not parties to VICH. The OIE communicates information on VICH to its Members through its network of Delegates and focal points.

Such are the activities of the OIE CCVMP designed to help States implement good governance in the sphere of veterinary medicinal products. However, the OIE CCVMP carries out other activities in connection with the OIE, for example by providing expertise in various fields such as antimicrobial resistance and by representing the OIE at meetings of the Codex Committee for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF).

Lastly, the Collaborating Centre has contributed to two OIE conferences on veterinary medicinal products, in Africa (Dakar, Senegal, in March 2008) and in the Middle East (Damascus, Syria, in December 2009).

Good governance relating to veterinary medicinal products is part of a much wider area of good governance, covering animal health, animal welfare and public health. The activities developed by AFSSA-ANMV in its capacity as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products contribute to the OIE's strategy for the coming five years. By providing support in terms of institutional capability, by acting as a centre of excellence and by disseminating methodologies to facilitate the harmonisation of regulations on veterinary medicinal products, the OIE CCVMP implements the activities provided for in the mandate that the OIE gives its Collaborating Centres.



## agenda

# 2010

### April

**Workshop for OIE  
National Focal Points  
for Animal Welfare**  
6-8 April  
Bangkok (Thailand)  
regactivities.dept@oie.int

**Workshop for New OIE  
Delegates of Asia-Pacific**  
8-9 April  
Bangkok (Thailand)  
regactivities.dept@oie.int

**International  
Symposium  
on Foot and Mouth  
Disease (FMD)**  
12-14 April  
Melbourne (Australia)  
FMD2010@meetingplanners.  
com.au

**International  
Ministerial Conference  
on Avian Influenza**  
19-21 April  
Hanoi (Vietnam)

**OIE Regional Seminar  
on Communication  
(Middle East)**  
20-21 April  
Oman  
regactivities.dept@oie.int

**Workshop for OIE  
National Focal Points for  
Aquatic Animal Diseases**  
21-23 April  
Dubrovnik (Croatia)  
regactivities.dept@oie.int

**XII Conference  
on Cell Culture**  
25-30 April  
Banff Springs  
Alberta (Canada)  
CEE-XII@UDEL.EDU

### May

**OWOH (One World,  
One Health) Conference**  
4-6 May  
Atlanta, Georgia  
(United States  
of America)

**5th International  
Conference on  
Antimicrobial Agents  
in Veterinary  
Medicine (AAVM)**  
11-15 May  
Tel Aviv (Israel)  
Aavm2010@targetconf.com  
www.aavmconferences.com

**Meeting of  
the OIE Council**  
20-21 May  
OIE Headquarters  
Paris (France)  
oie@oie.int

**Workshop for New OIE  
Delegates of the Americas  
and the Middle East**  
23 May  
Paris (France)  
regactivities.dept@oie.int

**78th OIE General Session**  
23-28 May  
OIE, Maison  
de la Chimie,  
Paris (France)  
oie@oie.int

**Conference on  
Animal Genomics  
for Animal Health**  
31 May – 2 June  
Maison  
de la Chimie  
Paris (France)  
[https://colloque.inra.fr/  
agah2010](https://colloque.inra.fr/agah2010)

### June

**29th World  
Congress of Biomedical  
Laboratory Science**  
6-10 June  
Nairobi (Kenya)  
secretariat@akmlso-  
ifbls2010.org

**Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Aquatic Animal Diseases**  
16-18 June  
Swakopmund (Namibia)  
regactivities.dept@oie.int

**Second Global Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres**  
21-23 June  
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)  
oie@oie.int

**Meeting of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare**  
23-25 June  
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)  
trade.dept@oie.int

**4th Conference of VICH**  
24-25 June  
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)  
ftp.fao.org/codex/ccrvdf18/rv18\_04f.pdf

**Meeting of the WTO SPS Committee**  
28 June – 2 July  
Geneva (Switzerland)  
www.wto.org/english/tratop\_e/sps\_e/sps\_e.htm

**Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare**  
29 June – 1 July  
Santiago (Chile)  
regactivities.dept@oie.int

**Meeting of the OIE ad hoc Group on Terrestrial Animal Disease / Pathogenic Agents Notification**  
29 June – 1 July  
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)

**Workshop for new OIE Delegates**  
30 June – 2 July  
Minsk (Belarus)  
regactivities.dept@oie.int

## July

**Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife**  
6-8 July  
Bamako (Mali)  
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**Meeting of the OIE ad hoc Group on Laboratory Animal Welfare**  
6-8 July  
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)  
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**2010 International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases**  
11-14 July  
Atlanta, Georgia (United States of America)  
www.iceid.org/

**World Congress of Industrial Biotechnology**  
25-27 July  
Qingdao (People's Republic of China)  
Michelle Han  
Tel.: 0086-411-84799609-811  
michelle@bit-ibio.com  
www.bit-ibio.com/default.asp

**Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products**  
26-28 July  
Belgrade (Serbia)  
regactivities.dept@oie.int

## August

**Novel Vaccines: Adjuvants & Delivery Systems**  
18-19 August  
Cambridge (United Kingdom)  
Mary Ruberry  
mruberry@healthtech.com

**Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare**  
24-26 August  
Beirut (Lebanon)  
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**Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Disease Notification**  
30 August – 2 September  
Gaborone (Botswana)  
regactivities.dept@oie.int

## September

**4th China International Food Safety & Quality Conference**  
1-2 September  
Shanghai (People's Republic of China)  
Angela Cheng  
angela.cheng@infoexws.com  
www.chinafoodsafety.com

## 2010

**International conference on infectious salmon anaemia****13-15 September  
Oslo (Norway)**

isa@vetinst.no

www.vetinst.no/isa-oie

**Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products****20-22 September  
Cartagena (Colombia)**

regactivities.dept@oie.int

**39th International Congress of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine and****3rd National Congress of the Turkish Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine and Professional Ethics****20-23 September  
Antalya Belek (Turkey)**

tahvmpe@gmail.com

**24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe****20-24 September  
Astana (Kazakhstan)**  
OIE Regional Activities  
Department  
regactivities.dept@oie.int**16th CAMEVET Seminar on Harmonization of Veterinary Drug Registration and Control****22-24 September  
Cartagena (Colombia)**

rr.americas@oie.int

**Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Aquatic Animal Diseases****27-29 September  
Umm el Quwain  
(United Arab Emirates)**

regactivities.dept@oie.int

**18th IMS World Meat Congress****27-30 September  
Buenos Aires  
(Argentina)**  
info@ipcva.com.ar  
www.worldmeatcongress  
2010.com/**October****4th Annual vaccine congress****3-5 October  
Vienna (Austria)**  
conferences@mail.elsevier-  
alerts.com  
www.vaccinecongress.com**Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife****5-7 October  
Bangkok (Thailand)**

regactivities.dept@oie.int

**OIE Regional Seminar on Communication****7-8 October  
Rabat (Morocco)**

regactivities.dept@oie.int

**Prato Conference on the Pathogenesis of Bacterial Diseases of Animals****6-9 October  
Prato (Italy)**

Prof. Julian Rood

Julian.Rood@med.

monash.edu.au

**Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety****12-14 October  
Singapore**  
trade.dept@oie.int  
www.oie.int/eng/secu\_  
sanitaire/en\_introduction.htm**SPS Committee (Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures)****18-22 October  
Geneva (Switzerland)**  
www.wto.org/english/tratop\_  
e/sps\_e/sps\_e.htm**Meeting of OIE Regional Representatives****26-29 October  
OIE Headquarters,  
Paris (France)**

regactivities.dept@oie.int

**November****Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare****9-11 November  
Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)**

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**26th World Buiatrics Congress****14-18 November  
Santiago (Chile)**  
World\_buiatrics\_2010@  
mail.vresp.com**20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas****16-19 November  
Montevideo (Uruguay)**  
OIE Regional Activities  
Department  
regactivities.dept@oie.int

## 2011

**Workshop for OIE  
National Focal Points for  
Aquatic Animal Diseases****23-25 November  
Roatán (Honduras)**

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**Workshop for OIE  
National Focal Points  
for Veterinary Products****23-25 November  
South Africa**

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**December****OIE Global Conference  
on Veterinary Legislation****7-9 December  
Djerba (Tunisia)**

trade.dept@oie.int

**January****Workshop for OIE  
National Focal Points  
for Disease Notification****22-24 January  
Beirut (Lebanon)**

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**February****19th Conference  
of the OIE Regional  
Commission for Africa****Rwanda**

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**Wildlife Conference  
23-26 February  
Maison de la Chimie  
Paris (France)**

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**June****Workshop for OIE  
National Focal Points  
for Disease Notification****15-17 June  
Vladimir (Russia)**

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**Workshop for OIE  
National Focal Points  
for Veterinary Products****28-30 June  
Cambodia****September****Global Conference  
on Rabies Control  
7-9 September  
Seoul (Republic  
of Korea)**

oie@oie.int

**OIE Regional Seminar  
on Communication  
29-30 September  
Prague (Czech  
Republic)**

oie@oie.int

**October****11th Conference  
of the OIE Regional  
Commission****for the Middle East  
October****Kuwait**

regactivities.dept@oie.int

**30th World Veterinary  
Congress 2011  
World Veterinary  
Association/South African  
Veterinary Association  
10-14 October  
Cape Town,  
South Africa**

Petrie@savetcon.co.za

www.worldvetcongress2011.com

**November****27th Conference  
of the OIE Regional  
Commission for Asia,  
the Far East and Oceania  
November****Iran**

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# questions and answers

## Background

### *What is the difference between pandemic H1N1 2009 and swine influenza?*

'Classical' swine influenza is a well-known disease of pigs, caused by a distinct group of influenza A subtypes and strains. Different subtypes and variants are found in different parts of the world, but 'classical' swine influenza is believed to occur worldwide. Infections with these 'classical' swine influenza viruses, although capable of rapidly spreading within a herd, cause very low mortality or no mortality at all in infected herds, and are often of concern due to production losses, as pigs affected by influenza do not gain weight as quickly as unaffected pigs. Human infection with these known swine influenza viruses has occurred but has been an uncommonly described event, usually associated with close contact with live pigs.

### *Have humans been infected with pandemic H1N1 2009 by animals?*

Although it is likely that influenza viruses from animals are part of the history of the pandemic virus, the current influenza pandemic is predominantly a human disease. The virus rapidly emerged in human populations, and spread across the globe as infections were spread from one person to another.

### *How do we know that animals have not played a significant role in the spread of pandemic H1N1 2009?*

Emergence of the pandemic influenza virus was first identified in humans in North America – epidemiological investigations revealed that most of the people infected in this initial phase had not been in contact with pigs. The virus rapidly spread among human populations in all regions of the world through human-to-human transmission. In investigations of animal illness, most cases reported to the OIE are believed to have resulted from animals being exposed to humans with influenza; reports of infection in animals have predominantly involved pigs, only a small number having involved other animal species.

### *Why did the OIE insist on changing the term 'swine flu'?*

The pandemic H1N1 2009 virus includes in its genetic characteristics human, avian and swine virus components. It is scientifically and factually not accurate to name this human disease 'swine influenza' as this term refers to a well-known disease, 'classical' swine influenza, and implies an ongoing role of pigs in the pandemic. The human and animal health global scientific community has agreed that the most appropriate way to refer to the disease is 'pandemic H1N1 2009 influenza'.

## Infection in animals

### *What do we know about pandemic H1N1 2009 infections in pigs and birds?*

An increasing number of pandemic H1N1 2009 outbreaks in pigs are being reported to the OIE; in most cases, human-to-pig transmission was the suspected cause of infection in pigs. Experimental studies have demonstrated that pigs are susceptible to the pandemic H1N1 2009 virus isolated from humans and that pigs can transmit virus to other pigs. Given the susceptibility of pigs to the virus and the high prevalence of infection in humans, there is a possibility that we will see increasing numbers of outbreaks in pigs and that pandemic H1N1 2009 virus could become established in some pig populations.

### *Does pandemic influenza H1N1 cause serious disease in pigs and birds?*

Pandemic H1N1 2009 infection does not lead to serious disease in pigs; clinical signs are mild and similar to swine influenza. Infected pigs usually all recover.



*Does OIE recommend vaccination of animals for pandemic H1N1 2009?*

For swine influenza, vaccination may be recommended in certain cases, strictly for economic reasons. For pandemic H1N1 2009 in pigs, the disease does not have a significant impact on animal production and is not currently widespread in pig populations; vaccination is therefore unlikely to be worthwhile at present. There is currently no need to vaccinate any animals against pandemic H1N1 2009.

*Why is culling of birds recommended for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), whereas it is not recommended for pigs and birds infected with pandemic influenza virus?*

Highly pathogenic avian influenza is a severe threat to animal health – particularly in birds – and in the case of H5N1 virus, a severe threat to human health as well. Classic control measures such as biosecurity and culling of affected flocks aim to prevent the spread of this serious disease to other birds and are proportionate to the risk. In the case of H5N1 virus, culling also aims to eliminate the public health risk at source. When birds become infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza, they rapidly develop a life-threatening illness and many die within a few days. Farms and their water supply can become contaminated with the avian influenza virus, because birds shed the virus in their faeces. Therefore, culling is justified and is a critically important control measure to stop the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

When, for economic reasons, culling is not possible (mainly in poor countries and in countries without early detection/rapid response systems), mass vaccination can be considered as an alternative option.

*Does the OIE recommend slaughtering of pigs infected with pandemic H1N1 2009?*

If animals have recovered from illness and are not showing clinical signs they can be slaughtered for food production. However, it is not recommended to move live pigs from a currently infected farm to other farms.

*What do we know about pandemic H1N1 2009 infections in animals other than pigs and birds?*

We know that several species of animal will be susceptible to the pandemic H1N1 2009 virus. Experimental studies may further elaborate on this. Ferrets are used as a model for human influenza transmission and pathogenesis, and it is therefore not surprising that they are susceptible to the pandemic virus.

*Have other human influenzas become established in animal populations?*

Yes. There is evidence that the H1N1 influenza virus that caused the 1918 pandemic (commonly known as the Spanish flu) was closely related to an influenza virus that caused disease in pigs in the following years; the virus was first isolated and identified in pigs in 1930. One hypothesis is that the H1N1 virus that caused the 1918 pandemic may have spread from humans to pigs

and, over a period of time, become established in pig populations. An alternative hypothesis is that both humans and pigs were infected from an avian source around the same time, and these avian origin viruses independently developed into the Spanish flu among humans and swine influenza among pigs. H3N2 viruses that were circulating in humans in the late 1970s eventually became established in pig populations.

*Is it true that many subtypes and many strains of influenza A virus have been and are still circulating in animals and humans?*

Yes, there are many subtypes and strains of influenza A virus circulating in different animal species. Individual strains of influenza A viruses generally only become established in a single animal species or a limited number of species. These strains are continuously spread within these animal populations, resulting in a limited number of circulating strains. Occasionally, an influenza strain may cross the species barrier and infect another animal species. In most cases, this type of cross-species infection does not spread well in the new population; however, in certain cases, the influenza virus may become established as a new circulating strain in this new population.

*What has happened to avian influenza?*

H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) remains a significant threat to human and animal health. The disease is currently endemic in poultry in Egypt and Indonesia; in 2009 and up until 16 March 2010, limited outbreaks

of H5N1 HPAI in animals were reported to the OIE by 19 other Member Countries.

## Companion animals

### *Can cats and dogs be infected with influenza A viruses, and pandemic H1N1 2009?*

Yes, like other animals, cats and dogs can be infected with influenza A viruses and we cannot rule out the possibility that there will be an increase in the number of pandemic H1N1 2009 infections in cats and other companion animals, although these animals are not likely to be as susceptible to influenza virus infection as humans and pigs. Thanks to advances in veterinary medicine and diagnostic testing, it is nowadays more likely that influenza infections will be detected in pet animals. However, reports of sporadic occurrences of infection in animals do not imply that the pandemic H1N1 2009 virus will become established in companion animal populations as it has done in human populations. The most likely route of infection for cats and dogs is through contact with owners infected with the virus.

### *What about 'cat flu'? Is it related to influenza A?*

No, 'cat flu' in its common usage refers to a disease that is not caused by an influenza A virus. It is most commonly caused by two viruses (feline herpes virus or feline calicivirus) that do not belong to the family of influenza virus. The name 'cat flu' can be confusing as it refers to the flu-like clinical signs of the disease rather than to the name of the infectious agent.

### *Does the OIE recommend specific measures when interacting with companion animals?*

Basic hygiene measures should always be practised when interacting with companion animals (including hand washing, personal hygiene and, on and around farms, keeping the environment clean and applying good biosecurity measures). The presence of pandemic H1N1 2009 does not make these recommendations any less relevant.

## Food safety

### *Can I get infected from eating pork?*

Foodborne illness in humans can sometimes occur after eating food products contaminated with bacteria, viruses, parasites or toxins. Influenza infection in humans is a respiratory disease – exposure occurs when the virus is inhaled or comes into contact with the nose or eyes. Influenza is thus not a foodborne disease. There are no documented cases of human infection associated with eating foods carrying swine influenza virus or pandemic influenza virus, and the risk of being infected with swine influenza viruses through consuming pork or pork products is negligible. According to international food hygiene standards, only healthy animals should be slaughtered for food. Even if these rules are broken the risk is still extremely low because influenza viruses are generally restricted to the respiratory tract (e.g. airways and lungs) of pigs and are not detected in the muscle (meat) of pigs, even when they are ill.

## Trade

### *Are influenzas in animals OIE-listed diseases?*

All highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) viruses are OIE-listed diseases and thus notifiable to the OIE because they have the potential for rapid international spread and have a severe impact on animal health, and in the case of H5N1 HPAI have serious consequences for infected humans. Cases of infection with low pathogenic avian influenza viruses of subtypes H5 and H7 in domestic poultry are also notifiable to the OIE because they have the potential to mutate readily into HPAI viruses.

### *What are the current OIE requirements for export of animals susceptible to pandemic H1N1 2009 virus?*

Neither swine influenza nor pandemic H1N1 2009 are OIE-listed diseases. The OIE does not recommend imposing trade measures such as testing herds from which animals or meat are sourced for export in countries that have experienced outbreaks of swine influenza or pandemic H1N1 infection in pigs or humans. There is no scientific justification for measures since the diseases are mild and transient in infected pigs and pigs that have recovered from infection are not infectious for other pigs or humans.



*What would be the consequences for an importing country of importing pigs carrying pandemic H1N1 2009 virus?*

The importation of pigs carrying pandemic H1N1 2009 virus would be of little consequence. Clinical infection of pigs with pandemic H1N1 2009 is generally rather uneventful and infected pigs make a full recovery. In large groups of pigs the virus may circulate for some time but the impact on health and productivity is not significant.

**Disease surveillance**

*Why has there been surveillance for certain types of influenzas in some animals for many years?*

Owing to their impact on animal health and more recently the impact of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on human health, there has been extensive surveillance for influenza viruses in domestic and wild birds, particularly for avian influenza viruses of subtypes H5 and H7 and certain other subtypes. HPAI viruses and low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) viruses of subtypes H5 and H7 in domestic poultry and equine influenza are OIE-listed diseases, and OIE Members must have surveillance systems in place and report occurrences of these diseases.

*Why is pandemic H1N1 2009 surveillance among animals so important?*

Surveillance for pandemic H1N1 2009 and other influenza viruses in animal populations has benefits for both

animal and human health. For animal health, epidemiological and virological surveillance provides useful information for animal production management and associated operations, leads to the development of better diagnostic tests, improves our understanding of the local, regional, and global animal health situation related to pandemic H1N1 2009 and other influenza viruses, and can benefit animal vaccine development. However, the main benefits of surveillance for pandemic H1N1 2009 are first and foremost in the field of public health. International concerns over the public health implications of influenza viruses in animals, and especially in pigs, relate to the potential for the pandemic virus to mutate or exchange genes with circulating swine influenza or other influenza viruses, the fear being that these reassortments and mutations might subsequently cause a more severe disease in humans. Mutations and reassortments can result in significant changes to the characteristics of the virus such as the ability to cause more severe disease, to spread more easily among humans or animals, or to prove resistant to the antiviral medicines currently used to treat influenza in humans. The OIE/FAO network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU) continues to work on sharing data and information among the world's leading laboratories to advance our knowledge and build preparedness in this area. One of the primary objectives of OFFLU is to share key information with the human health network, providing an early warning in the event of significant changes in viral characteristics, and providing biological material and

information for early preparation of human influenza vaccines that may protect against emerging virus strains.

*Are there any testing methods for pandemic H1N1 2009 in animals in general, and more specifically in pigs?*

Yes. OFFLU (joint OIE-FAO network of expertise on animal influenza) has developed a laboratory testing algorithm for detection of pandemic H1N1 2009 in pigs. This provides advice on the tests that should be used to confirm an occurrence of pandemic H1N1 2009 in pigs and how to differentiate the pandemic virus from other H1N1 influenza viruses known to circulate in pigs (more detailed information is available on the OFFLU Web site [www.offlu.net/](http://www.offlu.net/))

**Research and investigation**

*What is the likely origin of pandemic H1N1 2009?*

Although the pandemic H1N1 2009 virus contains genetic material from influenza viruses known to have been circulating in pigs, birds, and humans, we still do not know in which animal species this genetic material combined; we may never know the definitive answer to this.

*What do we know about the genetic make-up of the pandemic H1N1 virus?*

Analyses of available genetic sequence data from the current pandemic virus and influenza viruses previously isolated in animals and humans show that pandemic H1N1 2009 is a triple reassortant virus with a combination of genes that are most likely to have originated from influenza A viruses circulating in pigs, birds, and humans. The pandemic virus contains genes that are very similar to those found in influenza viruses of swine, some of which are known to have been circulating in pigs approximately ten years ago and others that are currently circulating in pigs. Notably, six genes are closely related to genes from a triple reassortant virus circulating in North America and two are closely related to genes from a virus circulating in pigs in Eurasia.

*If influenza viruses have been known to cause disease in animals and humans for more than a century, why are there still so many unanswered questions?*

Influenza viruses have an impressive ability to change rapidly, adapting themselves to any situation to try to overcome a body's natural defences to prevent the infection. The science that allows us to investigate and understand viruses like those that cause influenza has undergone dramatic advances in the last 10 years. Recent technological advances led to the practice of molecular epidemiology – the ability to analyse the genetic code material of viruses. This allows us to understand the genetic differences between viruses and, in combination with laboratory studies and classic epidemiology, answer questions like ‘Why do some animals get influenza more than others?’ and ‘Why do humans sometimes catch influenza from an animal, or vice versa, but most of the time this does not happen?’ The emergence of H5N1 HPAI further advanced research into avian influenza viruses, because it caused such severe, frequently fatal, disease in poultry and the consequences of human infection, although infrequent, were usually very severe – but much remains to be learned about other influenza viruses, and the factors that lead to transmission between different kinds of animal species (including humans).

*What does current experimental evidence tell us about the susceptibility of different animals to pandemic H1N1 2009?*

A limited number of preliminary experiments have provided useful information about infection in pigs. Pigs experimentally infected with pandemic H1N1 2009 (originally isolated from human cases) develop a mild respiratory illness that quickly resolves. The illness is very similar to the disease pigs experience when they have swine influenza caused by other strains of influenza. Sick pigs infected with pandemic H1N1 2009 are able to infect other pigs. These experimental findings were supported by infections later seen on pig farms in multiple countries. Based on experimental evidence and on-farm experiences, the disease in pigs caused by this strain is expected to continue to be very similar to swine influenza.





*Why are pigs considered so important in relation to the evolution of influenza A viruses?*

In general – although it is not always the case – pigs can be susceptible to influenza A viruses established in avian, human, and pig populations; they therefore have the potential to become co-infected with human, avian and swine influenza viruses. A co infection with several different influenza A viruses can, through an exchange of genetic material between the viruses (i.e. reassortment), lead to the emergence of a new, antigenically distinct virus (a reassortant strain) with pandemic potential.

*How are pandemic H1N1 2009 infections in pigs different from swine influenza? Will infection with pandemic H1N1 2009 eventually be considered just another swine influenza?*

Currently, 'classical' swine influenza is characterised as a respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses circulating in pig populations and is capable of routinely spreading within and among pig populations. Pandemic H1N1 2009, however, is still occurring as a sporadic disease in swine. It is not yet clear if pig infections with pandemic H1N1 2009 will become routine, and whether this influenza strain will become established in the swine populations. So far, pandemic H1N1 2009 has not manifested itself differently from swine influenzas in pigs. The OIE continues to work with Members to better understand the occurrences of this new pandemic virus in pigs, and with influenza experts to understand the disease epidemiology associated with these occurrences.

# Obituary



**Doctor Louis Blajan**



## The veterinary world loses one of its most prestigious representatives

**D**r Louis Blajan, who died on 10 February 2010 at the age of 85, was Director General of the OIE for ten years, from 1980 to 1990. Our Organisation owes him a deep debt of gratitude. His vision and commitment played a major part in opening the OIE towards other international organisations and developing partnerships.

At the start of his career, Louis Blajan worked in Mali as a French overseas livestock inspector.

In 1954, after a brief period at the central veterinary research laboratory in Alfort, France, he joined the Veterinary Services Directorate at the French Ministry of Agriculture, working in the field of international relations and trade until 1968, when he left to become Technical Director of COFRANIMEX, an organisation to facilitate French imports and exports of livestock. From 1973 to 1978 he worked as Director of ADETEF, an association to promote French livestock production techniques abroad.

Dr Blajan always maintained strong professional and friendly ties with the OIE. He was the first Secretary General of the OIE International Animal Health Code Commission until 1968 and subsequently joined the Organisation as Head of the Scientific and Technical Department in 1978.

A manager and scientist of the highest order, Dr Blajan was the author of numerous technical publications, including articles for the OIE *Bulletin* and *Scientific and Technical Review*. Under his management, the *Review* made substantial progress, achieving the acclaim of veterinary academies all round the world.

Dr Blajan was one of the pioneers of the AEEMA (French association of veterinary epidemiology, founded in 1982), convinced of the importance of epidemiology in collective control programmes for animal diseases.

He was also on the Council of the ACV, a French veterinary mutual aid association, and was its Secretary General from 1996 to 1998.

With his passing, the international veterinary community has lost a great ambassador for the veterinary arts and the OIE on the world stage.

## OIE MEMBERS (175)

AFGHANISTAN	GABON	NICARAGUA
ALBANIA	GAMBIA	NIGER
ALGERIA	GEORGIA	NIGERIA
ANDORRA	GERMANY	NORWAY
ANGOLA	GHANA	OMAN
ARGENTINA	GREECE	PAKISTAN
ARMENIA	GUATEMALA	PANAMA
AUSTRALIA	GUINEA	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
AUSTRIA	GUINEA BISSAU	PARAGUAY
AZERBAIJAN	GUYANA	PERU
BAHRAIN	HAITI	PHILIPPINES
BANGLADESH	HONDURAS	POLAND
BARBADOS	HUNGARY	PORTUGAL
BELARUS	ICELAND	QATAR
BELGIUM	INDIA	ROMANIA
BELIZE	INDONESIA	RUSSIA
BENIN	IRAN	RWANDA
BHUTAN	IRAQ	SAN MARINO
BOLIVIA	IRELAND	SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	ISRAEL	SAUDI ARABIA
BOTSWANA	ITALY	SENEGAL
BRAZIL	JAMAICA	SERBIA
BRUNEI	JAPAN	SIERRA LEONE
BULGARIA	JORDAN	SINGAPORE
BURKINA FASO	KAZAKHSTAN	SLOVAKIA
BURUNDI	KENYA	SLOVENIA
CAMBODIA	KOREA (DEM. PEOPLE'S REP.)	SOMALIA
CAMEROON	KOREA (REP. OF)	SOUTH AFRICA
CANADA	KUWAIT	SPAIN
CAPE VERDE	KYRGYZSTAN	SRI LANKA
CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.	LAOS	SUDAN
CHAD	LATVIA	SURINAME
CHILE	LEBANON	SWAZILAND
CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF)	LESOTHO	SWEDEN
CHINESE TAIPEI	LIBYA	SWITZERLAND
COLOMBIA	LIECHTENSTEIN	SYRIA
COMOROS	LITHUANIA	TAJIKISTAN
CONGO	LUXEMBOURG	TANZANIA
CONGO (DEM. REP. OF THE)	MADAGASCAR	THAILAND
COSTA RICA	MALAWI	TOGO
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	MALAYSIA	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
CROATIA	MALDIVES	TUNISIA
CUBA	MALI	TURKEY
CYPRUS	MALTA	TURKMENISTAN
CZECH REPUBLIC	MAURITANIA	UGANDA
DENMARK	MAURITIUS	UKRAINE
DJIBOUTI	MEXICO	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
DOMINICAN REP.	MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF)	UNITED KINGDOM
ECUADOR	MOLDOVA	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
EGYPT	MONGOLIA	URUGUAY
EL SALVADOR	MONTENEGRO	UZBEKISTAN
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	MOROCCO	VANUATU
ERITREA	MOZAMBIQUE	VENEZUELA
ESTONIA	MYANMAR	VIETNAM
ETHIOPIA	NAMIBIA	YEMEN
FIJI ISLANDS	NEPAL	ZAMBIA
FINLAND	NETHERLANDS	ZIMBABWE
FORMER YUG. REP. OF MACEDONIA	NEW CALEDONIA	
FRANCE	NEW ZEALAND	



**A-** Prof. Steven Edwards, CBE, at Windsor Castle (United Kingdom) after his investiture by Queen Elizabeth II as Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

**B+C-** Dr Murphy has been selected as the second recipient of the Penn Vet World Leadership Award. He received the award on occasion of the OIE worldwide conference 'Evolving veterinary education for a safer world' held in Paris from 12 to 14 October 2009.

**D-** Dr Bernard Vallat visited the new Director General of the UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova. Already sensitive to the worldwide actions and commitment of the OIE in animal health, Ms Bokova welcomed the initiative VET2011 sustained by the OIE through the ceremonies of celebration that could be placed under the patronage of UNESCO

**E- A new department: the Administration, Logistics and Publications Department**

First line, left to right: 1- Alex Ginzburg, 2- Marie Teissier, 3- Alejandro Cruz, 4- Séverine Bègue, 5- Annie Souyri

Second line, left to right: 6- Joël Yabut, 7- Adeline Bichet, 8- Gérard Bègue, 9- Elizabeth Boucaud, 10- Alexandra Moran

Thrid line, left to right: 11- Daniel Chaisemartin, 12- Reneylde Boulat, 13- Alejandra Balmont, 14- Paul-Pierre Pastoret

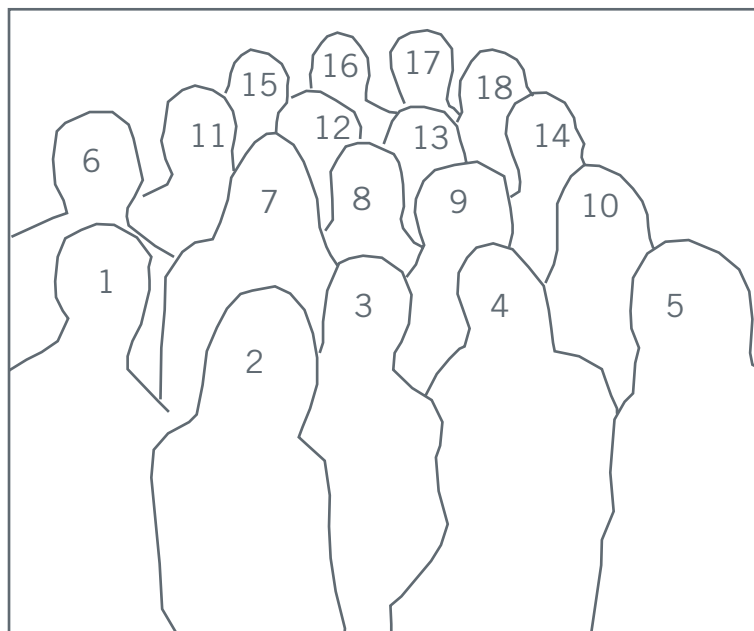
Fourth line, left to right: 15- Giuseppe Manzi, 16- Quentin Mirgon, 17- Bertrand Flahault, 18- Tamara Benicasa.

**F- Participants in the Training Workshops for OIE National Focal Points**

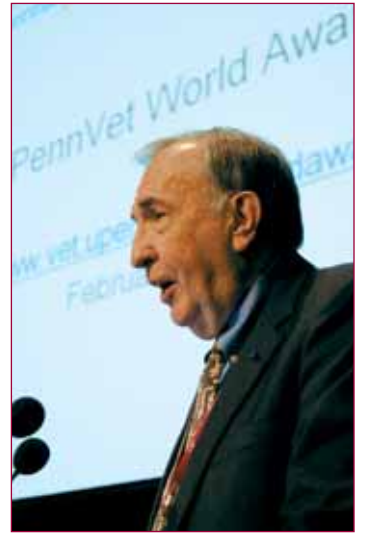
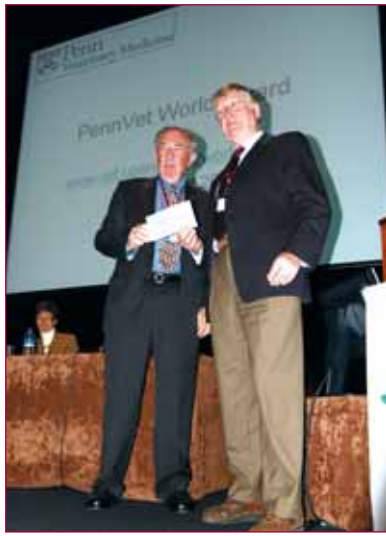
a) For Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification. 11-13 November 2009, Tunis, Tunisia

b) For Wildlife (Europe). Lyons, France, 4-6 November 2009

c) For Wildlife (Americas). Panama City, Panama, 8-10 September 2009











OIE GLOBAL CONFERENCE  
ON VETERINARY LEGISLATION

Djerba, Tunisia 7-9 December 2010



Oie