Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Welfare
Montevideo, Uruguay, 15–16 October 2013

Montevideo was the location for a seminar where OIE National Focal Points from two different parts of the world were able to mix and exchange opinions and information on animal welfare. The Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare in the Americas was held on 15 and 16 October 2013, immediately before the OIE Regional Conference on Animal Welfare and Trade (see p. 37). As a result of the support given to this conference by the European Union (EU), OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare from the European region were also invited to the seminar. Thus, the seminar hosted OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare from 23 countries in the Americas and 16 countries in the EU, along with 5 OIE Delegates and representatives from farmers’ associations, industry and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The Delegate of Uruguay to the OIE and Past President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, welcomed participants.

The seminar began with a review of OIE activities in the region. Presentations on good governance and the evaluation of Veterinary Services followed, along with the responsibilities of OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare, and recommendations from the OIE Global Conferences on Animal Welfare.

OIE standards on slaughtering animals, killing animals for disease control purposes, beef cattle production systems, stray dog population control, and transport were all discussed, with the Focal Points, farmers, industry and NGO representatives and OIE staff contributing various presentations on the content of the standards and experiences with their implementation.

A special discussion session was also devoted to the implementation of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas, adopted at the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, held in Barbados in 2012.

In summary, this Seminar provided a valuable opportunity for the OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare and Delegates from two very different regions to discuss common issues and strategies for implementing OIE animal welfare standards.