work on the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code and Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals, a working-group session examined the latest report of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission. This gave participants the opportunity to become more familiar with the report and with the relevant chapters that are currently being circulated for OIE Member Countries’ comments.

The second day of the programme was arranged with the help of experts from the OIE Collaborating Centre for Epidemiology and Risk Assessment of Aquatic Animal Diseases, and included presentations and practical working-group sessions on applying epidemiological principles; surveillance and outbreak disease investigation; and aquatic animal diseases in the Asia-Pacific region, using ‘Early mortality syndrome/acute hepatopancreatic necrosis syndrome in shrimp’ as the case study.

On the third day, participants took a field trip to a shrimp culture development centre and two fishery processing plants. These visits offered the chance to see the operations of a Thai shrimp culture technology research centre and plants processing seafood products for export.
standards relevant to Veterinary Public Health.

A full day was dedicated to presentations by scientific experts (Drs Jaap Wagenaar, Min-Su Kang, David Jenkins, Eiichi Momotani and Hajime Toyofuku), on OIE work and on-farm control practices for a variety of important food safety issues of animal origin: salmonella and campylobacter in poultry, brucellosis and tuberculosis in cattle, trichinellosis in swine, and echinococcosis, as well as a case study of *Escherichia coli* infection. This series of presentations provided a comprehensive explanation of priority issues for Veterinary Services from the perspective of animal production food safety. It was clarified that avian influenza and foot and mouth disease, which were often mentioned by participants during the discussion, although very important from the animal health point of view, were not food safety concerns.

An issue of very contemporary concern was raised by a team from the University of Tokyo’s Research Center for Food Safety, who discussed the food safety risks caused by contamination from radioactive substances and related consumer concerns. This topic attracted considerable attention from participants, as Japan’s 2011 nuclear disaster at Fukushima caused much anxiety in neighbouring countries. Many participants commented on the fresh perspective provided by a different discipline, i.e. a social study of consumer behaviour.

Participants were divided into these three groups, based on their country’s principal food safety concerns, and each group had a participating expert as a facilitator. The discussion’s results were briefly presented at a plenary session.

A new feature of the seminar was a special session involving the Codex Alimentarius, taking advantage of the biannual meeting of the Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA), which was to be held in Tokyo the following week. Dr Slorach, Dr Anna Maria Bruno from the Codex Secretariat, and Dr Yayoi Tsujiyama from the CCASIA organising team gave presentations on the history and continuing collaboration between the OIE and Codex, current Codex issues, and Codex activities in Asia. Country participants were encouraged to improve communication with their domestic Codex counterparts.