REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

Paris, 23 May 2016

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 23 May 2016 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 113 participants, including Delegates and observers from 24 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries/territories and representatives from 6 international or regional organisations:


Observer countries/territories: France, Hong Kong SAR.


Dr Sen Sovann, Delegate of Cambodia and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, on behalf of Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of the People’s Republic of China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of regional and international organisations and introduced the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted with slight modifications.

2. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and Vice-President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, began his presentation by providing details on Council members and the geographical rotation of the office of President of the OIE. He pointed out that it was customary for the President to have first held the office of Vice-President, which demanded a degree of continuity of the Delegate in question.

Dr Schipp then informed Delegates that the OIE Council had met three times since the last General Session at which the Council was elected. The meetings were held in October 2015, February 2016 and May 2016 and looked at issues of strategic importance for the OIE, including major administrative matters, some of which would be presented to the 84th

49 ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare
50 WAP: World Animal Protection
General Session in the form of draft resolutions. He added that the Council had continued to discuss implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020), particularly at the February 2016 meeting.

Dr Schipp provided a brief review of the most important issues addressed at the Council meetings, as follows:

1. Detailed appraisal of the 83rd General Session with a view to suggesting improvements for the 84th General Session.

2. Considering the significantly improved recovery of arrears in recent years, the Council wished to review the procedure for implementing Article 5 of the General Rules of the OIE. The Council decided that Member Countries with arrears of five years or more would not be entitled to vote at the 2016 General Session and their Delegates would not receive the Delegate’s allowance.

3. A specific point was emphasised with regard to the procedure for accessing dossiers from Member Countries seeking recognition for official status: namely that Member Countries applying for recognition of their status are required to respond, within 10 days, to requests from other Member Countries for information on the dossier within the 60-day commenting period.

4. After receiving requests for new OIE Representations to be opened, the Council decided that it would first have to consider which criteria need to be taken into account when deciding whether to open a new OIE office, given that the Organisation is already experiencing financial difficulties with the operation of several Representations.

5. The Council endorsed the principle of a performance evaluation framework document for the OIE Specialist Commissions and suggested that indicators be used. All the Presidents and Members of the four Specialist Commissions have been informed of this new procedure. The Council examined the initial proposals for establishing an evaluation grid.

6. The Council also encouraged efforts to make the Spanish and French language versions of Specialist Commission reports available as quickly as possible to provide sufficient time for comments.

7. It discussed the issue of access to reports of the ad hoc groups and the possibility of making these reports available on the website.

8. The Council considered agreements with other international organisations. The Council approved the signing of agreements with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Indian Ocean Commission.

9. It discussed the platform provided in the Asia/Pacific region to facilitate the exchange of information among countries in the region. This facility does not exempt Member Countries from submitting their comments officially to the OIE. This initiative could be extended to the other regions if it proves successful following several months in operation.

At the Council meetings in February and May 2016, special attention was paid to administrative, budgetary and statutory issues, as well as to the preparation of the 84th General Session.

Finally, Dr Schipp reported that with regard to preparing the 84th General Session, the Council considered proposals from the Director General on the organisation of the General Session and reviewed the Delegates’ nominations for awards in the Gold and Merit
categories. The Council also validated the working programme presented by the Director General, prior to its approval by the Assembly, as well as the new organisational chart, which will be finalised and implemented after the General Session.

3. **Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

Dr Keshav Prasad Premy, Delegate of Nepal and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, gave a presentation on the activities of the Regional Commission on behalf of Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, who had been unable to attend the General Session.

Dr Premy reminded Delegates of the composition of the Regional Core Group established pursuant to the Regional Work Plan Framework, namely the members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and members of the OIE Council from the region, elected at the 83rd OIE General Session in 2015. He added that ad hoc meetings had been held to discuss administrative and technical matters and follow up the outcomes of the 29th Regional Conference in Mongolia, while remaining in contact via email to enhance communication and coordination between the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and Members in the Region.

Dr Premy touched upon several important global and regional meetings subsequent to the 83rd General Session, in which Members of the Region had participated. Dr Premy explained that a one-day seminar for national Delegates on the development of public-private partnerships to support Veterinary Services, followed by the 29th Regional Conference, had emphasised the need to strengthen collaboration between official Veterinary Services and private veterinarians, veterinary technicians and community animal health workers in the region. He then reported on key global initiatives discussed at the GF-TADs 8th Global Steering Committee Meeting in Rome (Italy) in October 2015, including the standard operating procedure for GF-TADs labelling, the GF-TADs website and pilot reporting of key performance indicators.

Dr Premy explained the Regional Work Plan Framework (2016-2020), which the Regional Commission had adopted at the 29th Conference of the Regional Commission in September 2015, to remind and encourage Members to take steps to put the Work Plan into action in the region. Dr Premy explained that the main changes in the new Work Plan had been in response to Members’ comments, including: the addition of a progress review mechanism; more emphasis on promoting scientific excellence using the region’s Reference Centres; and stronger engagement in aquatic animal health by specific programmes and better coordination between Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, while ensuring continued alignment with current needs and priorities in the region and the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020). He reiterated the importance of the Vision and Regional Objectives of the Work Plan and introduced a number of specific activities to be developed and/or implemented to address current needs and priorities in the region. He said that the Work Plan would be reviewed at the 30th Regional Conference in September 2017.

Dr Premy also pointed to improvements in communication among regional Members. As Delegates had already been given access to the Regional Delegates’ site, it had been launched within the regional website in October 2015. He encouraged Delegates to use it to improve communication and coordination among Members in the region.

He concluded by reminding the Regional Commission of the 4th OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education to be held in Bangkok (Thailand) on 22-24 June 2016. He encouraged Delegates to participate in this important event.
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, began his presentation by informing the Commission of recent staff changes at the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RR-AP).

He then touched on the RR-AP’s secretariat role for the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, the activities of which had just been reported by the Vice-President of the Commission. He reiterated the importance of steadily implementing the Regional Work Plan Framework (2016-2020) as part of the closer relationship between the Regional Commission and Regional/Sub-regional Representations. He also reminded members that the OIE Delegates’ Secured Access System had been launched on the OIE regional website in October 2015, and encouraged Delegates to use the system more actively to get involved in the OIE standard-setting process.

Dr Kugita reported the following progress achieved under technical programmes at RR-AP.

- As permanent secretariat of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, since March 2015, RR-AP has co-organised with FAO a series of sub-regional meetings of GF-TADs for each sub-region, namely: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Pacific Community and East Asia. At these meetings, specific challenges in each sub-region and possible solutions were discussed among sub-regional members and partners, which will be brought into the forthcoming Regional Steering Committee meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific in July 2016.

- In connection with the OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) Project on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Control in Asia, the 4th Coordination Committee Meeting and 2nd FMD Scientific Meeting were held in June 2015 in Tokyo (Japan). The meetings agreed to continue strengthening collaboration and coordination among members in East Asia to control FMD and to expand their activities to cover other priority transboundary animal diseases (TADs). As a follow-up, the Coordination Meeting for TADs Control in East Asia was held in March 2016 in Shanghai (People's Republic of China). The meeting recommended a possible mechanism and activities to be put in place in the sub-region, which will be further discussed with a view to future endorsement by the sub-regional Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs). As a contribution to the FMD vaccination campaign under the South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) campaign, RR-AP supported the donation of FMD vaccine to Laos by the Japanese government.

- Another OIE/JTF project is to support activities for controlling zoonoses in Asia under the “One Health” concept. The 6th Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multi-sectoral Collaboration for the Prevention and Control of Zoonoses was held in October 2015 in Sapporo (Japan) under the regional tripartite collaboration between FAO, OIE and the World Health Organization (WHO). RR-AP also held further relevant meetings, including: Regional Workshop on Prevention and Control of Neglected Zoonoses in Asia, co-organised with the FAO Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) and the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS), in July 2015 in Obihiro (Japan); Rabies Workshop for SAARC Countries, co-organised with the World Health Organization Regional Office for South-East Asia (WHO SEARO), in August 2015 in Colombo (Sri Lanka); and Follow-up Workshop on Relevant International Standards for Dog Rabies, co-organised with the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (SRR-SEA), in May 2016 in Bangkok (Thailand).

- As aquatic animal health activities are another important component of the JTF Project, a Regional Workshop on Safe International Trade in Aquatic Animals and Aquatic Animal Products was held in July 2015 in Nagaoka (Japan). RR-AP continues to collaborate with the Network of Aquaculture Centre in Asia-Pacific (NACA) and agreed
to improve work on the Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease (QAAD) Report by streamlining the work done separately by OIE and NACA in the past and by publishing the QAAD Report online for faster and easier access, while discontinuing the printed version.

- The Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Advisory Group (RAWS AG) was established in accordance with the terms of reference and modus operandi agreed by the Regional Commission in September 2015. RAWS AG members have been appointed by the OIE Director General and are about to start work.

Dr Kugita went on to report on capacity-building activities at RR-AP. They include seminars for OIE National Focal Points, held with the support of the Republic of Korea, on three topics: animal disease notification, in February 2016 in Chiba (Japan); veterinary products, in March 2016 in Tokyo (Japan); and veterinary laboratories, in April 2016 in Jeju (Republic of Korea). A training seminar on the PVS Tool for East Asia was also held in April 2016 in Seoul (Republic of Korea), with the support of the Republic of Korea.

Dr Kugita concluded by informing the Commission of planned activities for the rest of 2016, as follows:

- Regional Steering Committee meeting of GF-TADs, to be held back-to-back with the East Asia CVOs meeting, in July 2016 in Tokyo (Japan);
- Regional workshop on avian influenza in endemic countries, in August 2016;
- Regional workshop on developing a regional strategy for swine disease control;
- Regional meeting on PPR control and eradication in Asia.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia, including the outcome of the 22nd Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held from 8 to 11 March 2016 in Chiang Rai, Thailand

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia (SRR SEA), began his presentation by saying that the OIE SRR-SEA continued to play a major role in sub-regional coordination of animal health related activities, including for emerging infectious disease, in South-East Asia, which were issues requiring consistent and complementary approaches because of the transboundary nature of these diseases. The OIE SRR-SEA also plays an important role in providing policy, programme and strategic planning advice and support to Members. He reported that the OIE SRR-SEA manages the Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) Initiative, which gathers under a single umbrella programme all existing programmes funded by the Australian Government, namely: the SEACFMD Campaign; the Strengthening Initiative for Veterinary Services (STIVES); and a One Health/zoonoses programme focusing on rabies. STANDZ was given a no-cost extension until December 2017. A new FMD project funded by the New Zealand Government was signed in September 2015 and field activities commenced in November 2015. The New Zealand-funded project will support the existing SEACFMD Campaign.

Dr Abila also provided details on the entire SRR-SEA team led by the Sub-Regional Representative.

He explained that the SEACFMD Campaign remained the SRR-SEA flagship programme. He provided details on key achievements in 2015, including: endorsement of the third edition of the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap, extending from SEACFMD Phase 5 (2016 to 2020); completion of a regional animal movement study for Mekong countries; delivery of 600,000 FMD vaccine doses through the OIE vaccine bank; post-vaccination monitoring
studies; organisation of various sub-regional meetings; and provision of training on animal disease outbreak investigation and management. He also reported that the New Zealand-funded FMD project had launched its first activity with a mission of experts from New Zealand’s Massey University and Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to the Department of Livestock and Fisheries in Vientiane (Laos) and a field visit to Champasak.

He also gave details of key activities conducted between January and April 2016, including: launch of SEACFMD Phase 5 at the 22nd Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in South-East Asia and China; publication of the third edition of the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap; and endorsement by the Sub-Commission of Mongolia’s application for SEACFMD membership. The New Zealand-funded FMD project that commenced in late 2015 has gathered pace in 2016. The project will build on and extend gains made during the Australian Government-funded STANDZ initiative in Laos and Myanmar.

Dr Abila explained that the One Health/rabies programme provided support to One Health coordination in South-East Asia, promoted the use and application of international standards and guidelines, supported rabies research and studies, and advanced rabies control and prevention in the sub-region. He went on to mention key achievements in 2015, including: a pilot project for rabies control through mass dog vaccination; epidemiological investigations; public awareness campaigns; political engagement to secure more resources for the project; and promotion of the One Health coordination mechanism using rabies as a model. Referring to key activities in 2016, Dr Abila cited the follow-up regional workshop on Members’ progress in complying with OIE rabies standards, the end of mass dog vaccination in pilot areas, and documentation on key project achievements and best practices.

On the subject of STRIVES, Dr Abila reported that the SRR-SEA continued to support the strengthening of Veterinary Services in South-East Asian countries through the PVS Pathway. Based on the findings of PVS Evaluation and Gap Analysis missions reports, STRIVES has been able to provide specific technical assistance and financial support and to hold workshops and seminars to help address report recommendations. Key achievements in 2015 include: a sub-regional workshop on the PVS Pathway in Bali (Indonesia); several information seminars for public-sector and practising veterinarians in South-East Asia; training of laboratory staff on occupational health and safety; an information seminar for veterinary education establishments; and the fifth OIE sub-regional workshop for veterinary statutory bodies, held in Pattaya (Thailand) on 9-10 November 2015. For 2016, Dr Abila mentioned a training course on the application of OIE standards and guidelines for animal disease surveillance, prevention and control. The SRR also helped to prepare the fourth OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education: implementing OIE guidelines to ensure the excellence of the veterinary profession, in Bangkok (Thailand) on 22-24 June 2016.

Dr Abila then reported on the 22nd Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in South-East Asia and China, which had been held in Chiang Rai (Thailand) on 8-11 March 2016. The meeting was attended by around 90 participants, including representatives from SEACFMD Member Countries, key partners and OIE Reference Laboratories, as well as OIE staff from Headquarters, the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, the Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia and the Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana.

He said that participants had been updated on the current achievements of the SEACFMD Campaign and the launch of Phase 5 of the campaign, as well as on the latest global and regional FMD situation. The recent cross-regional spread of FMD viruses was highlighted
and Member Countries were requested to continue to collect and submit field samples to support early detection of exotic viruses and timely implementation of risk-based control measures.

Dr Abila then provided details of the meeting’s key recommendations, which would guide the work of the SEACFMD Campaign over the coming year.

6. Discussion on the forward work programmes of the Council, Specialist Commissions and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations

Dr Matthew Stone, Delegate of New Zealand and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, conducted a discussion on the reports from the Council and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, in order to confirm endorsement of the intended strategic direction by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

The work plans of the Specialist Commissions published in the February 2016 meeting reports were also presented in order to identify items of interest to Regional Commission Members.

The Regional Commission encouraged items to be identified where experts from the region could make a valuable contribution to ad hoc groups, so that Members could provide details of relevant experts to the OIE Director General for consideration.

The Members of the Commission welcomed the Director General’s decision to make the process for selecting experts participating in OIE Specialist Commissions and Ad Hoc groups more transparent and diverse. The Commission requested that representation from the Region be considered in the future and encouraged nominations to be submitted by all Member Countries in the Region. The Delegate of Iran, requested that the OIE ensure a more balanced distribution of initiatives and activities across the Region. Recognising that these programmes and meetings are linked to donor support, the Commission advocated for funding support covering the overall Region, particularly with regards to the implementation of the Regional Work Plan Framework (2016-2020).

Concerning the OIE Laboratory Twinning Projects in the Region, it was underscored that the corresponding OIE Regional and Sub-Regional offices can support Member Countries in the development of project proposals.

The Delegate of India indicated interest to obtain, if available, information regarding genetic selection for resistance to infectious diseases in cattle.

7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session:

– Improving general surveillance through One Health and interdisciplinary approaches

8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was adopted for the 30th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

– How to implement farm biosecurity: the role of government and private sector
9. **Confirmation of the venue of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in November 2017**

The Delegate of Malaysia confirmed his country’s offer to host the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania. The Conference will be held in Putra Jaya (Malaysia) in November 2017.

10. **Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

Dr Paolo Tizzani, Veterinary Epidemiologist at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the Region as of 20 May 2016. He started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2015, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. Then, he showed the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2015 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries/territories through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), and of their providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control. Dr Tizzani also gave an overview of the OIE-listed diseases and infections currently of major interest in the region. Dr Tizzani concluded by presenting the results of the online survey “Evaluation of WAHIS, 10 years after the launch”, which was designed to gather feedback from Veterinary Authorities on their level of satisfaction as WAHIS users, the challenges experienced during the notification process and suggestions for improvement. He highlighted the topics most frequently cited by respondents in the region as needing improvement.

The Commission discussed mechanisms to improve the epidemiological data in notifications provided to WAHIS. Potential inclusion of data from published articles related to reported outbreaks was identified as a possible mean to enrich the quality of information found in WAHIS. The Commission was also informed that the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) and OIE are now working together towards possible interoperability between the NACA reporting system and WAHIS in the future to improve aquatic disease reporting.

Remarks regarding the impact of transparent reporting to trade and unjustified barriers were also raised.

11. **Outcomes of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 14 to 18 September 2015**

Dr Sen Sovann, Delegate of Cambodia and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, described the outcomes of the 29th Conference of the Regional Commission, which had been attended by a total of 92 participants, including OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 26 Members, 1 observer country and senior officers from 7 international and regional organisations.

Dr Sen reported that the Regional Commission had agreed to the establishment of a Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Advisory Group (RAWS AG), based on the proposed terms of reference and *modus operandi* which had been agreed in principle and further subject to a round of consultation by email. It had also been agreed that, following a call for expressions of interest in the office of RAWS AG member or Chair, the Bureau of the Regional Commission would nominate RAWS AG members prior to submitting their nomination to the OIE Director General for approval.

Dr Sen listed the main recommendations developed following the discussions of each of the two technical items.
Technical Item I (with questionnaire), entitled “The role of Veterinary Authority in managing emerging aquatic animal diseases: what are the factors needed for success?”, had led to recommendations for Member Countries to: consider any need for improved cooperation between their Veterinary Authority and other authorities responsible for aquatic animal health capabilities; ensure important factors for successful response to emerging diseases, such as early detection, early reporting, early response, and public-private partnerships and industry cooperation; and request PVS Evaluation missions of their Aquatic Animal Health Services. Technical Item I had also led to recommendations for the OIE to work with Member Countries to facilitate improved coordination of regional action in response to serious emerging diseases of aquatic animals; and to continue to support Member Countries in the region through the OIE PVS Pathway for Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services.

Technical Item II (without questionnaire), entitled “How can we progress the cooperation between animal health sector and public health sector?”, had led to recommendations for Member Countries to: advocate for a high level of commitment by national Veterinary Services and national Public Health Services; consider a clear chain of command and coordination mechanisms; be involved in the implementation of OIE standards and World Health Organization International Health Regulations (WHO IHR) through the use of the OIE PVS Pathway and the WHO IHR Monitoring Framework (WHO IHRMF); and identify practical activities for joint national and regional roadmaps to strengthen collaboration and coordination between both sectors. Technical Item II had also led to recommendations for the OIE to: advocate at the highest level strong collaboration between veterinary authorities, public health authorities and other relevant stakeholders, in collaboration with WHO; and support its Member Countries in the use of the OIE PVS Pathway and the WHO IHRMF.

Regional Commission Members were reminded that the adopted recommendations would be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates at its seventh plenary session on 26 May 2016, making their implementation binding on the entire OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

12. Discussion on the proposed amendments to the OIE Codes and other key issues to be taken into account during the 84th General Session

Dr Matthew Stone began a discussion on the chapters proposed for adoption and inclusion in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health and Aquatic Animal Health Codes. He invited Members of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to share proposed interventions, particularly if they intended not to support adoption or adoption following amendment.

Proposed interventions with wide support from Members of the Regional Commission were identified, and consideration was given to making an intervention on behalf of all Members of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

The Regional Commission agreed that Japan intervene on behalf of the Region during the Fourth Plenary Session on the Code Commission to encourage that the Members of the Region engage during the review of Chapter 15.1 African swine fever of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code in order to address the risks to the Region.

A discussion between Thailand and the President of the Aquatic Animals Commission took place concerning the proposed revision on Chapter 5.1 General obligations related to certification of the Aquatic Animal Health Code.
A general comment was made by China (People’s Rep. of) regarding the continuing challenge in maintaining the balance between facilitating global trade to support economies, while protecting and promoting the safety of both animals and national consumers.

13. **Rinderpest post-eradication activities**

Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, briefly summarised the rinderpest post-eradication era since 2011 by pointing out positive progress in reducing the risk of re-emergence. In 2015-2016, Australia, Brazil and Switzerland destroyed their stored rinderpest virus-containing materials (RVCM); Botswana transferred all its RVCM to AU PANVAC; and Japan transferred RVCM to the rinderpest holding facility in Tokyo and destroyed its RVCM holdings in other non-approved facilities.

While these efforts are to be commended, global freedom remains at risk while the virus continues to be stored in numerous locations. She highlighted another opportunity to reduce holdings through the “sequence and destroy project” with the United Kingdom’s Pirbright Institute and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD). The aim of the project is to destroy all the RVCM after collecting its full-genome sequences. She encouraged Member Countries to take part in the project.

Finally, she reported that the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee continued to meet to review applications and to advise on policies and future activities in the post-eradication era. In conclusion, she reminded Delegates to maintain their national contingency plans, carry out general surveillance, and continue their annual reporting, as stipulated in Chapter 8.15 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

14. **OFFLU – The importance of contributing avian influenza genetic sequence data for pandemic preparedness**

Dr Gounalan Pavade, Chargé de mission from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began his presentation by saying that the OIE/FAO network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU) had been established jointly by the two organisations to support and coordinate global efforts to prevent, detect and control important influenza strains in animals. One of the network’s core objectives is to share avian influenza (AI) genetic sequence data with WHO in order to assist with the selection of the most appropriate circulating viruses for seasonal human vaccines, which can include animal viruses posing a potential pandemic threat.

He explained that, since 2010, OFFLU had contributed more than 1,000 genetic sequences of zoonotic AI viruses isolated from animal samples by OIE/FAO reference centres and by national and regional laboratories, which are shared at twice-yearly WHO vaccine composition meetings to identify relevant virus strains for use in human vaccines. OFFLU would like to thank all the laboratories involved and Member Countries for this generous contribution.

Unfortunately, the amount of genetic and antigenic data submitted by OFFLU to WHO vaccine composition meetings has decreased significantly in recent years in spite of ongoing and new AI outbreaks in various countries. This is of particular concern because relevant animal influenza virus surveillance by the animal health sector is a cornerstone for zoonotic influenza risk analysis and human pandemic preparedness.
As AI is a global problem that poses an on-going threat to animal and human health, OIE Members adopted Resolution No. XXVI at the 76th General Session (2008) to share AI viral material and information about AI viruses, through OFFLU, with the international scientific community.

Dr Pavade concluded by reminding Member Country Delegates of this commitment and asked them, once again, to request the respective laboratories in their country to share avian influenza genetic sequence information with OFFLU in order to support global pandemic preparedness.

Further to a request from Indonesia for support concerning expertise on bioinformatics in Influenza virus monitoring, the OIE confirmed that specific discussions can be held to this effect.

Hong Kong SAR informed the Commission that for the past 20 years they have shared information on HPAI sequence isolates with WHO, a practice that is in line with the One Health approach advocated by the OIE.

15. **Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session**

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by saying that the 83rd World Assembly of OIE Delegates in 2015 had adopted Resolution No. 26 on combating antimicrobial resistance and promoting the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals, following Resolution No. 25 on veterinary products adopted in 2009 and recommendations made at the first OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals in 2013. One major point of Resolution 26 relates to the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals with a view to establishing a global database. Major progress has been achieved in this area and OIE Member Countries have made considerable efforts. Indeed, a response rate of over 70% to the challenging questionnaire is seen as a real success. The results of the first phase of the project will be presented under Technical Item 2 on Tuesday.

She went on to explain that Resolution 26 also invited Member Countries to follow the guidance of the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR developed with the support of the OIE and in the spirit of the “One Health” approach. Since the Global Action Plan was adopted in May 2015, the fight against AMR under the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Collaboration has reached an unprecedented political level.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel pointed out that the issue of AMR had been mentioned at the G7 Health Ministers’ meeting in Berlin (Germany) in October 2015, attended by Dr Monique Eloi, as well as at the recent G7 Agriculture Ministers’ meeting in Japan in April 2016. The next step envisioned is a resolution or high-level document on AMR endorsed by the upcoming United Nations General Assembly in September 2016. To prepare this important event, in April 2016 the Tripartite hosted a High-Level Dialogue on AMR at the United Nations in New York to raise awareness of AMR and to invite participants to follow up with their respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel concluded by saying that the OIE and its Member Countries had made major efforts in recent years to update and complete the standards and to adopt ambitious recommendations. Dr Erlacher-Vindel pointed to the need to collectively communicate on these achievements and to seek solidarity to support Member Countries in progressing with
the implementation of standards, taking a step-wise approach. To this end, she noted that the OIE Council had proposed Technical Item 2 on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through a “One Health Approach”: Actions and OIE Strategy, which would address OIE achievements and projects and would provide the basis for the OIE strategy.

The discussion on AMR highlighted the need for all sectors to work together on common objectives and to jointly address this important issue. Adopting a step-wise approach was identified as being the key for achieving ambitious objectives relating to antimicrobial resistance. Among others, the specificities of OIE Members will be considered during the OIE-USDA Scientific Symposium on Alternatives to Antibiotics which will take place at OIE Headquarters (Paris) in December 2016.

16. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The FAO Representative began her presentation by saying that the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) comprised 44 member countries. She noted that it was the most diverse region in the world, harbouring over half the world’s population but still home to 62% of the world’s undernourished people.

She added that FAO's livestock programme within the organisation’s new Strategic Framework was aimed at maximising the contribution of livestock to: achieving food security; alleviating poverty; enhancing resilience and sustainability; and reducing health risks to humans and animals. FAO provided technical assistance to countries in the region on animal health and production, including the development of transboundary animal, zoonotic disease and food safety programmes, improving value chains, establishing cross-border dialogue and helping countries to prepare for emerging pandemic threats, including antimicrobial resistance. She noted that FAO had strengthened partnerships with OIE and WHO, ASEAN, SAARC and the Pacific Community and had tapped into a number of animal health platforms, including APHCA, the FAO Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES), the FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD), the OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza (OFFLU) and GF-TADs.

She concluded by saying that, at the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in March 2016 in Malaysia, member countries had requested FAO-RAP to assist them in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. For 2016, FAO will place special emphasis on climate change adaptation and mitigation and on operationalising One Health in the region.

Pacific Community

Mr Ilagi Puana presented the updates, challenges and ongoing work of the former Secretariat of the Pacific Community (now called the Pacific Community) in the Pacific Island Region, which is composed of 22 countries and territories located in the huge Pacific Ocean with about 9 million people.

The GF-TADs Pacific Regional workshop was held in Fiji in 2015, with 8 countries attending. Prior to this workshop, Animal Welfare and OIE WAHIS Reporting training workshop were also held. Paraveterinary training in Vanuatu and Palau commenced in February and April 2016, respectively, and will completed in August and September, 2016 respectively. Training in and testing of animal disease emergency response plan for Samoa was conducted in 2015 and for Vanuatu in April, 2016. Poultry disease surveys were conducted in Samoa and Kiribati in 2014/2015 and FMD, bovine brucellosis and leptospirosis surveillance in cattle were conducted in Vanuatu in late 2015. Laboratory results confirmed Vanuatu remains free from FMD, while results for brucellosis and leptospirosis are still pending. Animal biosecurity training was conducted for 5 northern
Pacific island countries and territories in March, 2016. Suspected HPAI disease incidents were reported and investigated in Yap, Marshall Islands and Palau in the northern Pacific island region in 2015 and 2016. Laboratory results ruled out HPAI in all of these incidents.

Challenges continue to remain in the Pacific Island Region. It is faced with chronic shortages of qualified veterinary specialist and the vast travelling distances between countries and lack of funding support make it very challenging for an effective regional response capacity by Pacific Community Veterinary Unit. Countries with potentially high Biosecurity risks includes Palau, Guam, French Territories, PNG and Fiji based on direct trade and air and shipping links with countries outside of the Pacific region and illegal fishing and logging by foreign countries.

The Pacific Community continues to place emphasis on establishing paraveterinary capacity in selected Island countries with the limited resources that it has. Since its inception in 2003, a total of 473 people have been trained in 16 Pacific Island countries and further 31 people are currently in training in 2 countries.

Further clarification was sought by Fiji regarding policies and governance on diagnostic testing of samples by the Pacific Community.

17. Other Matters:

Regional rabies response plan

Australia put forward a proposal to develop a regional strategy for the control and eradication of dog-mediated rabies. The Global Framework to eliminate dog-mediated rabies by 2030 was developed in December 2015 at the OIE/WHO global conference on the elimination of dog-mediated rabies. An effective global strategy will require a series of effective regional strategies. Therefore, Australia proposed that the Regional Representation could lead the development of a strategy for the region. There are activities related to rabies being undertaken by several countries and sub-regional groups but an overall regional plan has not been articulated. This work is in line with the Regional Work Plan Framework 2016-2020 and also the OIE 6th Strategic Plan. The OIE 6th Strategic Plan identifies, as a particular issue to be addressed, the leadership and coordination of international and regional programmes for the global eradication and control of specific disease of economic and social importance including rabies.

The meeting officially ended at 6:40 p.m.
PARIS, May 2016

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

Paris, Monday 23 May 2016

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Sen Sovann, Delegate of Cambodia and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania);
2. Report on OIE Council meetings (Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and Vice-president of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates);
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Keshav Prasad Premy, Delegate of Nepal and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, on behalf of Dr Zhang Zhongqi, Delegate of P.R. China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania);
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific);
5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia, including the outcome of the 22nd Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held from 8 to 11 March 2016 in Chiang Rai, Thailand (Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia);
6. Discussion on the forward work programmes of the Council, Specialist Commissions and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (Dr Matthew Stone, Delegate of New Zealand and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania);
7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018 (Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Delegate of Japan and Member of the OIE Council);
8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Keshav Prasad Premy);
9. Confirmation of the venue of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in November 2017 (Dr Hirofumi Kugita);
10. Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Paolo Tizzani, Veterinary Epidemiologist, OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department);
11. Outcomes of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 14 to 18 September 2015 (Dr Sen Sovann);
12. Discussion on the proposed amendments to the OIE Codes and other key issues to be taken into account during the 84th General Session (Dr Matthew Stone);
13. Rinderpest post-eradication activities (Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission, OIE Scientific and Technical Department);
14. OFFLU – The importance of contributing avian influenza genetic sequence data for pandemic preparedness (Dr Gounalan Pavade, Chargé de mission, Scientific and Technical Department);
15. Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session (Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department);
16. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:
   - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
   - Pacific Community
17. Other matters:
   - Regional rabies response plan.

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