OIE Regional Seminar on Risk Analysis for Veterinary Vaccines
Tokyo, Japan, 1-3 March 2011

A Regional Seminar on Risk Analysis for Veterinary Vaccines, ‘Practical application, including vaccines related to new and emerging technologies’, was held in Tokyo, Japan, from 1 to 3 March 2011, in collaboration with the Japanese National Veterinary Assay Laboratory (NVAL) and National Institute for Animal Health (NIAH). It was also partially sponsored by the international arm of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA-APHIS). This meeting was, in part, a follow-up of another seminar held in 2009 in Kuala Lumpur. Fifteen OIE Members in the region sent participants.

The main objectives of this seminar were:
– to review the risk analysis methodologies currently applied to veterinary vaccines (including new and emerging technologies)
– to develop a deeper understanding of how to apply such methodologies and of what is missing in the current vaccines policy in the region
– to raise awareness of recent discussions at the OIE ad hoc Group on Vaccines in relation to new and emerging technologies and of OIE work on vaccines in general
– to inform participants of OIE initiatives on a vaccine bank
– to inform participants of the roles and functions of the relevant OIE Collaborating Centres in the region.

Those who attended took part in lectures, group discussions and presentations of these discussion results, and a half-day was spent in laboratory visits to NVAL and NIAH, which are jointly designated an OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Animal Diseases and Related Veterinary Product Assessment in Asia.

Aware of the follow-up nature of this seminar, participants came well prepared on the topic of risk analysis for vaccines. This knowledge was reinforced by the first presentation – a review of the previous seminar – and subsequent presentations on risk analysis by invited experts. Presentations that explored case studies of the application of risk analysis methodologies attracted particular attention.

Vaccines produced by using new technologies were presented from two perspectives: from the point of view of the OIE ad hoc Group discussion and from that of NIAH research development. The National Veterinary Assay Laboratory presented a summary of all the national papers submitted by Member Countries in advance of the meeting. This provided the basis for a group discussion, during which many ideas were produced for recommendation. Participants were divided into three groups, based on their preferred topic:
1) factors involved in the rapid supply of veterinary vaccines against emerging and re-emerging disease outbreaks
2) how to improve test capability in the region
3) how to respond rapidly and adequately to adverse events with veterinary vaccines.
As the discussion was very active, many participants lamented the shortage of time (one half-day).

The session on specific vaccine topics dealt with three presentations that did not involve risk analysis:

– the framework and activities of the International Co-operation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for the Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH)

– outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in Japan, from the perspective of using vaccines

– an OIE vaccine bank in the region.

These topics fuelled valuable debate on the importance of:

– high-quality vaccines and good vaccine policy for effective disease control

– information-sharing and the eventual harmonisation of technical requirements for vaccine registration

– cooperation among Members in emergency situations, including the use of regional vaccine banks.

The first OIE/FAO-Regional Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) Regional Seminar on Bluetongue Diagnosis and Control was jointly organised by the OIE and FAO, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health Services and the Indonesian Research Centre for Veterinary Sciences (BBalitvet) of the Ministry of Agriculture in Bogor, Indonesia, from 7 to 10 March 2011.

The principal objectives of the seminar were:

– to present an update on the global situation of bluetongue with an emphasis on the current epidemiological situation in Asia and the Pacific

– to give lectures on diagnosis, control and prevention measures

– to provide laboratory ‘hands-on training’ on the diagnosis of bluetongue.

The seminar was attended by 17 participants and one overseas observer from 17 OIE Member Countries, namely: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, the People’s Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Eleven local observers from Indonesia also took part.

The four-day seminar was composed of lectures, practical sessions (hands-on training) and reports from the invited Members on the situation in their country. The lectures and hands-on training were given by three experts in the field: Dr Ross Lunt and Dr Ian Pritchard from the Australian Animal Health Laboratory of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO–AHL), and Dr Indrawati Sendow from BBalitvet.

The practical training sessions focused on competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay techniques, real-time polymerase chain reaction techniques, intravenous egg inoculation and harvesting techniques and cytopathic effects in cell cultures infected with bluetongue virus.