Arrival

OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Office in Kazakhstan

Dr Askar Kozhayev

Dr Askar Kozhayev took up his new role as technical assistant at the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Office in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 15 January 2014. He will provide technical support in the implementation of various projects for the prevention and control of animal diseases in the Eurasian region, particularly foot and mouth disease (FMD).

Dr Kozhayev has considerable experience in the production of industrial and semi-industrial vaccine and diagnostic kits. As well as lecturing in biosafety at Kazakhstan National Agrarian University in Almaty, Dr Kozhayev worked on the harmonisation of veterinary animal health requirements in the Department of Animal Breeding Development and Veterinary Safety, at the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, under a programme called ‘Normative and methodological support for the development of branches of the agro-industrial complex’. He was also in charge of a project for developing technical regulations at the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture. We hope he finds his new work at the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Office equally as stimulating.

Launch of AfriVIP, the African Veterinary Information Portal

The African Veterinary Information Portal (AfriVIP), an open educational resources (OER) platform, was launched by the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria (UP), on 18 February 2014. The event was attended by more than 100 invited guests, including 12 Deans from the Faculties of Veterinary Medicine from East, Central and Southern Africa, and, from the OIE, Dr Walter Masiga, Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern and the Horn of Africa, and Dr Neo Mapitse, Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa.

AfriVIP’s objective is to draw together the substantial intellectual capital on uniquely African matters through a network of veterinary science faculties and African veterinary associations working in Africa and further afield. It has been developed under an open licensing framework as an online portal of information, educational and research resources and continuing professional development opportunities for veterinary and paraveterinary professionals and students.
AfriVIP has been developed by the following partners: the Faculty of Veterinary Science, UP; Afrivet, South Africa; the OIE Collaborating Centre for Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management (the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases, Faculty of Veterinary Science, UP, and its five consortium partners); OER Africa (an initiative supporting the development of OER in Africa), Kenya; the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Antwerp, Belgium; and Neil Butcher & Associates, South Africa.

The AfriVIP partners have recognised the need to share their knowledge, resources and research findings with veterinary and paraveterinary professionals and students and other stakeholders, and to provide high-quality continuing professional development training opportunities. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UP, Prof. Cheryl de la Rey, explained during the launch that AfriVIP will enhance UP’s profile within the region and will make a difference, both locally and internationally.

For more information on this exciting and innovative initiative, see the website: www.afrivip.org
You can also contact: afrivip@up.ac.za

Asia – Pacific

Inception meeting of the OIE/JTF Project on Controlling Zoonoses in Asia under the ‘One Health’ Concept
Tokyo, Japan, 19–20 December 2013

The inception meeting of the OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) Project on Controlling Zoonoses in Asia under the One Health Concept was held in Tokyo on 19 and 20 December 2013. The meeting began with the opening remarks of Dr Alain Dehove, OIE World Fund Coordinator, and Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Chief Veterinary Officer and Delegate of Japan to the OIE.

This new project, funded by the Government of Japan, is planned for five years, starting in December 2013, with the goal of contributing to the countries in the region by focusing on specific zoonoses.

The project consists of three basic components:

a) an assessment of control measures for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)
b) preparedness for zoonotic influenza
c) strengthening rabies control.

The key objectives of this meeting were to:
– provide participants with updates on regional concerns related to these diseases
– discuss required actions and possible activities that the project could undertake to respond to these concerns
– gain overall endorsement of the draft project framework for 2013 to 2017
– identify key activities for the coming year.

The meeting was attended by 45 participants, including regional experts on animal influenza and rabies from the OIE Reference Laboratories; representatives from Bangladesh, the People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Japan,