Results of a PVS Tool: Aquatic questionnaire; and the OIE National Focal Point concept

G. Mylrea
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Paris, France

For over 50 years the mandate of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has included aquatic animals and the associated Member Country obligations to implement the adopted OIE standards for disease prevention and control, and trade in aquatic animals.

In support of this objective the OIE has implemented a comprehensive capacity building programme targeting National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals, nominated by OIE Delegates. Focal Points are key players in facilitating their countries contribution to the standard setting process and compliance with OIE international standards.

The first cycle of seminars, delivered to all OIE regions in 2010 and 2011 provided an overview of the OIE and standards relevant to aquatic animals as well as highlighting the need for good governance in aquatic animal health services. The content was further developed for a second cycle of regional seminars held in 2012 and 2013. In addition to informing participants of OIE amendments to the Aquatic Animal Health Code and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals and other related activities, a number of topics such as surveillance, epidemiological concepts, risk analysis, and emergency preparedness and contingency planning were covered in more depth including practical exercises. This presentation will provide more details on the objectives and expectations for this OIE capacity building programme.

Following the success of the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool) which has been very successfully applied in 72% of OIE Member Countries, in 2013, the OIE published the first edition of the OIE PVS Tool: Aquatic. Unfortunately, despite active promotion, the number of requests for PVS Evaluation: Aquatic from OIE Member Countries has been very low. In order to assist the OIE to understand the obstacles to requesting an evaluation of an OIE Member Countries Aquatic Animal Health Services, the OIE invited Delegates to complete a short questionnaire. A summary of the findings will be presented.