OIE REFERENCE CENTRE NETWORK: TIMELY DISSEMINATION OF RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

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Good Veterinary Governance is key to managing animal diseases, and all appropriate decisions have to be taken using a sound scientific basis.

Consistent with the historical mandate of the OIE, the fifth Strategic Plan provides that ‘scientific excellence and timeliness of information and advice available to national Veterinary Services and other interested parties’ is one of the major objectives. To this end, the OIE is committed to provide rapid information and guidance to all its 180 OIE Member Countries on updated disease control methods, relevant scientific knowledge and new discoveries.

The worldwide network of 247 Reference Laboratories and 49 Collaborating Centres endorsed by our World Assembly of national Delegates provides the needed expertise and support to the OIE to achieve this goal.

The OIE is seeking to further improve the availability and dissemination of information from the Reference Centres that is pertinent to informed decision making, interpreting new knowledge and understanding the application of new technologies to improve disease control methods while giving appropriate recognition and visibility to the information providers within our network.

The OIE currently maintains an online document database accessible on the OIE website which is regularly updated. However, as part of continuously improving the quality and scope of information available to Member Countries, the OIE is proposing that OIE Reference Centres submit electronically to the OIE Headquarters at least twice a year, and more frequently when relevant, a summary of information within their sphere of expertise that is selected by them on the basis of the OIE and Member Country needs. An immediate notification system would be set up to allow other Reference Centres and OIE Delegates to be informed automatically as soon as the OIE receives such information.

The Incheon Conference will provide a very valuable opportunity to further discuss such a project.

Increased interaction within the OIE Reference Centres network and between Reference Centres and the OIE Member Countries will be key to ensuring that they are well prepared to manage future global animal disease challenges.