OIE Training Programme for National Focal Points: Veterinary Laboratories

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BACKGROUND
Background

- The OIE has launched a global capacity-building programme for OIE Delegates and OIE National Focal Points.
- The aim of this programme is to provide good governance concepts for improving animal health, animal welfare and food safety at the national, regional and international levels.
Background

During the 76th General Session in May 2008, the World Assembly of Delegates:

- re-iterated the importance of Focal Points for information on animal diseases
- requested to nominate Focal Points on other subjects

The appointment of Focal Points to the OIE should only be done by the National Delegate
Delegates nominated Focal Points for:

- Animal disease notification
- Wildlife
- Aquatic animal diseases
- Animal welfare
- Animal production food safety
- Veterinary products
- Communication
- Laboratories (2013)
Why create a National Focal Point for Veterinary Laboratories?

- To support and assist the National Delegate on aspects of his/her work that concern issues related to the National Veterinary Laboratory Network.

- To participate in the OIE standard-setting process and provide specific input to OIE Delegate on the Member Country’s position on proposed OIE standards.
Why create a National Focal Point for Veterinary Laboratories?

- To animate a national network of experts on laboratory-related issues and build leadership and expertise
- To maintain a dialogue with other Competent Authorities on laboratory-related matters
TERMS OF REFERENCE
Termes of Reference

Terms of Reference (ToRs) for National Focal Points

- are established by OIE Headquarters for all Focal Points
- include a general part similar for all Focal Points
- describe specific tasks related to the topic covered
Termes of Reference

The responsibilities of the Focal Points are under the authority of the OIE Delegate

- Any information transmitted to the OIE from the different focal points needs to be transmitted under the designated authority of the OIE Delegate
- This practice would equally apply, if focal points are located in other Departments or Ministries
- From a legal perspective, the OIE considers the official OIE Delegate to be the unique representative of the country
ToRs for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories (VLs)

- Establish national network of laboratory experts
- Establish dialogue with Competent Authorities
- Determine capacity-building needs
- Compile responses to OIE requests
- Organise in-country consultations on OIE drafts
- Prepare comments for the Delegate
- Maintain contacts at the regional level (FPs / RLs)
- Collaborate with OIE Reference Centres
- Prepare proposals for Laboratory Twinning
ToRs for OIE National Focal Points for VLs

1. to establish a network of experts in the country on veterinary laboratory issues and/or to communicate with existing networks
ToRs for OIE National Focal Points on VLs

2. to establish and maintain a dialogue with the Competent Authority for veterinary laboratories in the country, including:
   • facilitating cooperation and communication among several authorities where responsibility for veterinary laboratories is shared
   • facilitating cooperation and communication with Competent Authorities of other National Laboratories, including those in other government Ministries
ToRs for OIE National Focal Point for VLs

Establish dialogue with Competent Authorities 2/2

2. and

- keeping updated on legislation relevant to the activities of the National Veterinary Laboratories to verify that they are in conformity with OIE standards and guidelines
3. to serve as focal point for the OIE on topics related to the National Veterinary Laboratories, including contributing to determining the training and other capacity-building needs for the National Veterinary Laboratories in the country.
4. to compile responses to requests for information required by the OIE in coordination with National Veterinary Laboratories that provide specific competence in the subject of consultation
5. if prompted, to organise consultations with recognised experts in the area of veterinary laboratories in the country on OIE draft standards and/or guidelines and country proposals of new standards
ToRs for OIE National Focal Points for VLs

6. to prepare comments for the Delegate on all OIE draft standards and/or guidelines and country proposals of new standards, reflecting the points of view and the scientific positions of the OIE Member Country or the region
7. to maintain contact with the other OIE national focal points (FPs) for veterinary laboratories that belong to regional networks and with experts of OIE Reference Laboratories (RLs) present in the region.
ToRs for OIE National Focal Points for VLs

Collaborate with OIE Reference Centres

8. to collaborate with OIE Reference Centres worldwide
9. to prepare proposals for participation of National Veterinary Laboratories in the OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme when relevant
FUTURE EXPECTATIONS
Future expectations for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories

- Prepare PVS Pathway Laboratory missions for the Delegate
- Act as Focal Point for the PVS Pathway Laboratory mission on behalf of the Delegate
- Collect and collate national laboratory network information needed prior to the mission
- Review previous PVS Evaluations and PVS Gap Analysis reports for laboratory-related issues
Future expectations for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories

- Support the implementation of OIE standards in Member Countries
- Review annually the information in WAHIS on national laboratory network capacity
- Interact with OIE Reference Centre Experts in order to obtain technical support and/or training according to national laboratory network needs
Training programmes

- Are organised on a regional basis every 2 years
- Present the mandate of the OIE, the network of OIE Reference Laboratories and activities relevant to Veterinary Laboratories
- Each cycle focuses on selected priority topics that are presented and discussed in detail
Training programmes

provide participants with knowledge on:

- rights, commitments and responsibilities of the OIE National Focal Points
- expected activities in the standard-setting process
- compliance of their countries with the OIE international standards
Training programmes for Laboratory Focal Points

Will be based on the experience gained through two pilot seminars organised in:

- **South-East Asia**
  - Pakchong, Thailand, 21-23 August 2012

- **Americas**
  - Tecamal, Mexico, 9-11 November 2012
Training programmes for Laboratory Focal Points

Will be organised in mixed sessions

• presentations
• exercises in smaller groups

- Time for discussion as a whole group
- Sharing of Focal Point experiences
- Feedback by evaluation questionnaire
Training programmes for Laboratory Focal Points

- Will be conducted with the participation of experts from OIE Reference Centres
- Will provide opportunities for networking
- Dates will be confirmed in the coming weeks
Expected benefits

- More access to capacity-building opportunities for district, provincial and national laboratories
- Improved and rationalised practices within the national laboratory network
- Better response to outbreaks within the national laboratory network
Expected benefits

- Better understanding of OIE’s role, mandate and activities at the national/sub-national level
- More interactions between Member Countries and the OIE on issues related to Veterinary Laboratories, including capacity building
- Increased participation in the OIE standard-setting process, particularly on relevant chapters in the Manual
- Stronger link to the OIE Reference Centre network
Thank you for your attention