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The OIE recognition of country sanitary status

Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale • World Organisation for Animal Health • Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

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The OIE recognition of country sanitary status for freedom from diseases

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has been given by its Member Countries the responsibility of compiling a list of Member Countries or zones that are officially recognised as being free from certain animal diseases.

In May 1994, a procedure was developed for the official recognition by the OIE of the foot and mouth disease (FMD) free status of Member Countries. The procedure has since been expanded to include official recognition of freedom for a country or zone from rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Some Member Countries have suggested that the diseases for which the OIE officially recognises health status be increased. According to the 4th strategic plan of the OIE it is the prerogative of the International Committee (the General Assembly of Member Countries' Delegates) to possibly take such decision.

The maintenance of a disease free status officially recognised by the OIE is dependent on continued observance of OIE standards

The official recognition occurs following a very democratic and impartial procedure. A Member Country that wishes to apply for the recognition sends its request to the OIE, accompanied by the specific questionnaire (available on the OIE website at http://www.oie.int/eng/info/en_procedures.htm) and other relevant information. In May 2002, the International Committee voted a resolution asking Member Countries to participate in some of the costs linked with the recognition procedure.

After submission of the request, an Ad hoc group comprising the best renowned experts is then appointed to review the submission with regard to the relevant disease. The recommendations from the Ad hoc group are then reviewed and endorsed - if relevant - by the competent elected Specialist Commission (in this case the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases). The Commission or the Ad hoc group may request a field technical mission to be sent to the applicant Member Country, depending on the quality of the documentation provided and the questions raised by the Ad hoc group.

Once the Commission recommends the acceptance of a request by a Member Country, all Member Countries' Delegates are informed of the OIE's intention to propose the change of the disease status of the Member Country for that particular disease. Member Countries then have 60 days in which to register any objection in writing. Should an objection be raised, which must be based on scientific or technical grounds, the country or countries objecting are required to submit documentation supporting their case. Member Countries wishing to obtain additional information relevant to the application of another Member Country, can request it directly from the Official Delegate to the OIE of the relevant country.

The official recognition is then finally voted and adopted by the International Committee each year. OIE Member Countries must take that recognition into account when developing import health measures.

A Member Country can also declare itself free of certain diseases for which provision has not been made for official recognition of freedom by the OIE as well as for declaration of 'provisional freedom' from rinderpest and CBPP. A Member Country declaring itself free from a given OIE listed disease or provisionally free from rinderpest and CBPP, can submit a declaration to the OIE stating that it declares itself free from such disease in accordance with the requirements of the OIE

Code. The self-declaration for freedom from an OIE listed disease is the strict responsibility of the Member Country concerned and does not have official OIE recognition status as for the four diseases described above.

The maintenance of a disease free status officially recognised by the OIE is dependent on continued observance of OIE standards and reporting by Member Countries of any significant event that may change that status. Failure to comply provides grounds for the OIE to revoke the given status. Member Countries must also notify the OIE in writing during the months of November of each year that the epidemiological situation in respect of each of the diseases in question, remained unchanged. In addition to official information received from Member Countries, the OIE also depends on a "tracking system" based on disease information obtained from non official sources. In these cases, the Member Country is asked by the OIE to confirm or refute the information before taking appropriate actions.

At the 74th OIE General Session in May 2006, the adoption of Resolution XXVII including the new categorisation of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) status to the list of sanitary recognition confirms now the sole responsibility and mandate of the OIE worldwide on countries status with regard to BSE. The European Commission also used to establish a scientific platform for the evaluation process for the allocation of a GBR (Geographical BSE Risk) in respect of BSE to countries wishing to export to EU Member Countries. In fact, the European Commission will now cease to evaluate countries according to the GBR and will recognise the OIE categorisation system for its own recognition of countries in respect to BSE risks in animals and animal products.

The official recognition granted by the OIE to countries or zones following the sanitary recognition procedures is of great significance for international trade

The official recognition granted by the OIE to countries or zones following the above mentioned sanitary recognition procedures is of great significance for international trade. This official recognition can be considered as equivalent to an international standard, in that it should be recognised by trading partners. Deviations from, or lack of acceptance of this sanitary status recognition must be scientifically justified by any importing country.

OIE recognition of country or zone status for freedom from diseases helps developing countries – both importing or potentially exporting - to overcome difficulties they may encounter in sending expert evaluation missions of sanitary status to their trading partners territories.

By introducing the concept of 'zoning' and 'compartmentalisation', OIE procedures also help countries partially infected by a disease to safeguard or obtain international market access.

Bernard Vallat

Director General, OIE

Performance, Vision and Strategy: a tool for governance of Veterinary Services

In this era of globalisation, the development and growth of many countries depend on the performance of their agricultural policies and economies, and this, in turn, directly relates to the quality of their Veterinary Services (VS). Important roles for VS include veterinary public health – including food-borne diseases – and regional and international market access for animals and animal products. To meet these new opportunities and challenges, VS need to operate on scientifically-based principles and be technically independent and immune from political pressures from all sources. Efforts to strengthen VS and to support them to comply with OIE international standards on quality and evaluation of VS require the active participation and investment on the part of both the public and the private sectors. To assist in this effort, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) joined forces to develop the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) tool. The PVS tool is designed to assist VS to establish their current level of performance, to identify gaps and weaknesses regarding their ability to comply with OIE international standards, to form a shared vision with stakeholders (including the private sector) and to establish priorities and carry out strategic initiatives.

In the international trade of animals and animal products, the OIE promotes animal health and public health (as it relates to the prevention and control of zoonoses including food-borne diseases of animal origin) by issuing harmonised sanitary standards for international trade and disease control methods, by working to improve the resources and legal framework of VS and by helping Member Countries comply with the OIE standards, guidelines and recommendations, and (as appropriate) with the provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement).

The traditional mission of VS has been to protect domestic agriculture. Historically, most resources were directed towards the control of serious epizootic diseases and those that threaten primary production. Services began at the national borders and were focused within the territory. The credibility of these services, in the eyes of users and of other countries, depended in large measure on the effectiveness of these domestic programmes, and the response of VS to emergencies arising from the entry of serious foreign diseases.

In light of growing international obligations and opportunities facing each country, it behoves VS to adopt a broader mandate and vision, and to provide new services to complement the portfolio of existing services. This entails building stronger alliances and cooperative arrangements with stakeholders, trading partners and other countries, national VS counterparts and relevant intergovernmental organisations (such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission and WTO). The relationship between Member Countries and the OIE is even more important than it has been previously because of the OIE's normative role and its capacity to support VS and promote safe international trade.

WTO Members are bound by the provisions of the SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) Agreement. The SPS Agreement reaffirms the right of each member country to protect plant, animal and human life or health, but the Agreement requires countries to base these actions on scientific principles. For animal health and zoonoses, the OIE is cited as the reference organisation for standards, guidelines and recommendations covering international trade in animals and animal products. By implementing international standards, guidelines and recommendations developed through the OIE, including standards on quality and evaluation of VS, Member Countries

can meet their WTO obligations to ensure that international trade is free of discrimination and scientifically unjustified restrictions. All references in this document to WTO SPS obligations apply only to WTO Members.

Experience has shown that VS are more credible in the eyes of stakeholders, trading partners and other countries, in those countries that have developed their VS around four fundamental components:

1. the **human and financial resources** to attract resources and retain professionals with technical and leadership skills;
2. the **technical capability** to address current and new issues based on scientific principles;
3. the sustained **interaction with stakeholders** in order to stay on course and carry out relevant joint programmes and services; and
4. the ability to **access markets** through compliance with existing standards and the implementation of new disciplines such as the harmonisation of standards, equivalence and zoning.

These four fundamental components comprise the basic structure of the PVS tool.

More than a diagnostic instrument, the PVS tool promotes a culture of raising awareness and continual improvement, which can be used either passively or actively depending on the level of interest, priorities and commitment of the VS and its stakeholders.

The benefits and outcomes of using the PVS tool include:

– an indication of overall performance for each of the four components

– a relative performance rating within each of the critical competencies

– a basis for comparing the performance of the VS with that of other veterinary services in the region or globally, in order to explore areas for cooperation or negotiation[1]

– identifying differences in the responses of stakeholders in order to arrive at shared points of view

– fostering a common understanding in order to achieve greater levels of advancement

– helping to determine the benefits and costs of investing in VS and, when necessary, obtaining assistance from government and financial and technical cooperation agencies

– providing a basis for establishing a routine monitoring and follow up mechanism on the overall level of performance of the VS over time

– helping to identify and present justifications and specific needs when applying for national and/or international financial support (loans and/or grants)

– providing the basis for carrying out a process of verifying compliance with the OIE standards and assessments of VS by external or independent bodies under the guidelines and auspices of the OIE.

1- OIE standards allow importing countries to conduct audits of exporting countries and in particular to check the compliance of exporting countries with OIE standards on quality and evaluation of VS.

Sixth meeting of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety

The OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety ('the Working Group') met for the sixth time at OIE Headquarters from 7-9 November 2006. The following is a summary of the main points discussed and recommendations made: the full report will be included in the March 2007 *Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission* report and published on the OIE web site (www.oie.int).

– The Working Group recommended that an *ad hoc* Group be asked to develop a paper to clarify how the Veterinary Services should cooperate with other authorities in the food chain continuum to ensure the protection of both animal and public health. The paper should be developed within the framework of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Code*) chapters on the Evaluation of Veterinary Services.

– Taking into account Member Countries' comments, the Working Group made a number of recommendations on the preliminary 'Guidelines for Animal Identification and Traceability' being developed by an *ad hoc* Group.

– The Working Group reviewed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Feeding and recommended that the Group should address all animal health issues, including zoonoses, related to feed and also include chemical hazards in its scope, but should not deal with animal welfare, religious concerns or growth promoters. The Working Group made minor modifications to the principles proposed by the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that this text be submitted to the Terrestrial Code Commission, with a view to circulating it to Member Countries for comments. It also recommended that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to continue work after receiving feedback from Member Countries.

– The Working Group welcomed the approach taken by the *ad hoc* Group on Revision of OIE Model Certificates and requested it to consider if a 'sanitary certificate' (rather than a veterinary certificate) would be appropriate for pasteurised milk and dairy products.

– The Working Group recommended Terms of Reference for an *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis, which will draft a chapter for the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on-farm methods for the detection, control and prevention of *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Salmonella enteritidis* in laying hens.

– In discussing the work of the *ad hoc* Group on tuberculosis, the Working Group had a lengthy discussion about the use of an international sanitary certificate instead of a veterinary certificate for dairy products subjected to pasteurisation or other equivalent treatments. It decided to ask the *ad hoc* Group on the Revision of the OIE Model Certificates to address this point in its work on the certification of milk and milk products.

– The Working Group discussed a paper from New Zealand on the use of the term 'risk-based' and agreed that OIE should continue to base its standards on risk, rather than hazards, when the scientific information allowed this, and agreed to follow the discussions held in the Codex Committee on General Principles on this topic.

The Working Group amended its Work Programme for 2007. Its next meeting will be held on 6-8 November 2007.

A brief history of the OIE

The incursion of rinderpest in Europe, and especially the epizootic in Belgium in 1920, was the triggering factor in the creation of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in 1924. Founded several years after the International Office for Public Hygiene (IOPH), it was the culmination of a process of international consultation going back to 1863.

A lesson at the Alfort Veterinary College at the end of the 19th Century (Alfort Archives)

Introduction

All through the 18th Century and at the beginning of the 19th Century, the continued attacks of cattle plague and the losses inflicted to agriculture stimulated in Europe a desire for better knowledge of the diseases of livestock, their treatment and their control. The European governments found it necessary to impose severe restrictions on the movements of cattle between countries and advocated policies of veterinary inspection of all markets on the continent. They also felt that the control of animal diseases could only be effectually brought about by international cooperation through a standardised sanitary legislation for all countries. The evolution of ideas concerning international veterinary co-operation, strongly fostered by the International Veterinary Congresses, led to the creation, on 25 January 1924 in Paris, of the Office international des epizooties (OIE).

This paper will describe the historical context of this creation and the first actions and developments of the Office.

Origins

The 18th Century

Rinderpest invaded Europe at the beginning of the Century and '…it has been estimated that two hundred million cattle died in Europe in the sixty-eight years after 1711 as a result of the great epidemic' (2)[1].

During the whole second part of the 18th Century, Europe was desolated by a series of epizootics brought or favoured by the incessant wars.

It was in this difficult context that the first Veterinary School was created in Lyon (France) in 1762 at the initiative of Henri-Léonard Bertin, following the proposal of Claude Bourgelat. It was soon followed by the creation of the Alfort School in 1765 (also by Claude Bourgelat)[2].

The Veterinary School of Turin (Italy), was established in 1769, followed by Göttingen (Germany) in 1771, Copenhagen (Denmark) in 1773, Skara (Sweden) in 1775, Hanover (Germany in 1778), Vienna (Austro-Hungarian Empire) in 1779, Budapest in 1787, and London (UK) in 1791.

1- Figures diverge according to sources: the total losses of cattle in Europe during the eighteenth century have been estimated by Müssemeier* (in: Grunsätzliches zur Tierseuchenbekämpfung, P. Parey, Berlin & Hamburg, 1957) at one hundred million
2- The Veterinary School of Toulouse was created in 1825 and the School of Nantes much later, in 1979

At the initiative of France, an International conference was held in Paris in 1921 to which all countries were invited and forty-two States heeded the call.

This Conference expressed the wish that an International Office of Epizootics for the control of infectious animal diseases be created and set up in Paris.

Within less than three years, twenty eight states adhered and an 'International Agreement' was signed on 25 January 1924.

The ratification of this 1924 Agreement reflects a desire clearly expressed by the General Secretary of the League of Nations that year, when he invited various governments to designate veterinary experts.

The main objective of the Office is to control epizootic diseases and thus to prevent their spread.

The OIE does not depend on the UN system; its autonomy is both institutional and financial and its activities are governed by its own constitutional texts.

Since its first General Session, held in Paris in 1927, the Office carries on its work under the authority of a Committee consisting of delegates of the contracting Governments.
Four main periods punctuate the history of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE): The years leading to its creation in 1924, 1927 to 1939, 1948 to 1958, 1959 to today.

The 19th Century

The situation was even more alarming at the beginning of the 19th Century. In 1800, the epizootic which raged throughout Europe had not completely been contained and contagion reappeared in Central Europe. Sporadically, following the path of wars and armies through the continent, Rinderpest spread once again all over Europe, causing massive cattle death.

Not until the 1840s were sanitary laws enacted in Europe. The first one was the Polish law, enacted by Ostrowsky in 1844. Others were to follow, each inspired by the same objective to establish a nomenclature of main diseases and make compulsory for administrative authorities to notify all suspicion of disease and take immediate protective measures accordingly.

It is obvious the creation of the Office international des epizooties more than sixty years later was determined, in the long run, by the evolution of ideas concerning international veterinary co-operation, which was remarkably fostered by the International Veterinary congresses.

On 24 March 1863, at the initiative of Professor John Gamgee, from the New Veterinary College of Edinburgh, associated with Professor Hering, from Stuttgart, a letter was sent to Veterinary Schools and periodicals all over the world.

The letter proposed the organisation of an International Congress in Hamburg which would 'define the rules of prevention of contagious and epizootic diseases' and elaborate a standardised sanitary legislation for all countries.

The Hamburg Congress was to gather ninety-nine countries from 14 to 18 July 1863[3].

Studies undertaken and encouraged by this first Congress on the extent of the main epizootic diseases, and more particularly on that of rinderpest, foot and mouth disease, rabies, tuberculosis, etc., had pointed out to the Governments and to the Directions of Veterinary Services the imperious need to have an International Organisation for the control of epizootics.

In 1865, as it had been planned in Hamburg, the second International Veterinary Congress met in Vienna, Austria, to study the measures which could be jointly taken to protect the whole of Europe against an epizootic of Rinderpest which was evolving at this time in Central Europe. This meeting made it possible to work out an international regulation, the principles of which became later the basis of modern sanitary legislation.

3- The Hamburg Congress was to be followed by many other Congresses with the same objectives, in Vienna (1865), Zurich (1867), Brussels (1883), Paris (1889), Bern (1895), Baden-Baden (1899), Budapest (1905), The Hague (1909), London (1914 and 1930), New York (1934), Zurich-Interlaken (1938), London (1949), Stockholm (1953), Madrid (1959), etc. The 15th Congress in Stockholm saw the creation of the World Veterinary Association

1921

Prof. Emmanuel Leclainche, first Director General (1927-1949) and co-funder of the OIE (OIE Archives)

Creation

However, the dramatic appearance of Rinderpest in Western Europe in 1920 was the factor which caused a decisive action to be taken. In 1920, rinderpest suddenly appeared in Belgium, following the transit through the port of Antwerp of zebu cattle bound for Brazil. It caused a great commotion.

Strengthened by the experience of the past century, as Prof. E. Leclainche explains:

'France takes the initiative to convene an International Conference for the Study of Epizootics' to take place in Paris in May 1921 and to which all countries are invited.

Forty-two States, dominions and colonies heeded the call. The Conference proceeded to examine the animal health situation, in particular in regards to rinderpest, foot and mouth disease and dourine. It also studied the exchange of animal health information between countries and export health measures.' (3)

The Conference expressed the wish that an International Organism in charge of the control of infectious diseases of animals should be created (Appendix 1).

The signature of the International Agreement on 25 January 1924 by the High Contracting Parties of 28 founder countries, undertaking to establish and to maintain an 'Office international des epizooties' with its headquarters in Paris, was an event of great historical significance.

Missions

Aware of the common and permanent danger represented by epizootic diseases, for the infectious or parasitic agents of which there are no frontiers, the Governments who signed this Agreement, moved by a spirit of generous and realistic solidarity, engaged themselves to notify and to make known, through the new organisation, the occurrence of new outbreaks of epizootics and to supply any useful information on the evolution of the sanitary position on their territory, as well as the measures taken by their Veterinary Services to control epizootic diseases and thus to prevent their spread.

According to Dr Jean Blancou, (Director General of the OIE from 1991 to 2001): '…From the outsets, the founders of the OIE were mainly concerned with preventing devastating epizootics which could hamper world trade in products of animal origin. But they also believed that the OIE could offer additional services to the international community. Among potential services, veterinary public health was one of the objectives set by the International Conference for the Study of Epizootics which created the OIE.

In a letter dated 1 October 1920, Mr Ricard (French Minister of Agriculture) informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of his intention to convene this conference, writing: 'I would add that these aspects –surveillance and control of epizootics- are also of interest to public health, because of transmissibility of certain diseases of animals to man'.

This international conference confirmed its adherence to public health issues. The participants pleaded strongly that the proposed Organisation should be part of the 'Office International d'Hygiène Publique' (International Office of Public Hygiene), which was founded in Paris in 1907, as the precursor of the present World Health Organisation (WHO)…'

Since its creation, '…the OIE has remained involved in veterinary public health issues, including

1929

Inspector General Henri de Roo, first President of the OIE (OIE Archives)

zoonoses, food hygiene, drug residues and environment. At the second General Session, in 1928, the International Committee of the OIE recommended measures for the control of zoonoses.' (1).

Structure and working

Since its first General Session, held in Paris on 8 March 1927, the office has worked under the authority of a Committee (known as the International Committee) consisting of Delegates of the contracting Governments.

The composition and prerogatives of this Committee, as well as the organisation and powers of the Office, are determined by the Organic Statutes, attached to the Agreement and regarded as being an integral part of the Agreement (Appendix 2).

Article 6 of the Organic Statutes states that the International Committee is *'composed of technical representatives appointed by the participating States, on the basis of one representative for each State'.* Delegates of Member Countries are chosen by the State taking into account their capabilities and technical expertise in the field of Veterinary Services and animal disease control. They are appointed to head the Delegation of the Member Country at each session of the International Committee, and, from the time of their appointment until any subsequent dismissal, they enjoy permanent and full rights to represent the State on the International Committee and to maintain permanent relations with the OIE.

The permanent technical Delegate heads the Delegation of the Member Country on the International Committee. At each General Session of the International Committee, he presents a report on the health position and the methods of prophylaxis applied in his or her country (Article 50 of the General Rules), and must notify the OIE of animal diseases present in the Member Country. He must at all times ensure that the animal health legislation in his or her country is based on the reference standards of the OIE

He or she exercises the right to vote of the Member Country.

The International Committee established a permanent Commission for Administration and Control, which later became the OIE Administrative Commission: the responsibility of this Commission was to represent the International Committee in the intervals between General Sessions. It now consists of a President, a Vice-president, the immediate Past-President, two auditors and four members representing the Member Countries of the Office.

The members of the Committee elect, by secret ballot, the President and the Vice-President, whose mandate is for three years, while the Director General is appointed by the Committee for a renewable term of five years.

On 8 March 1927, the International Committee of the Office held its first General Session. Twenty-six Delegates participated.

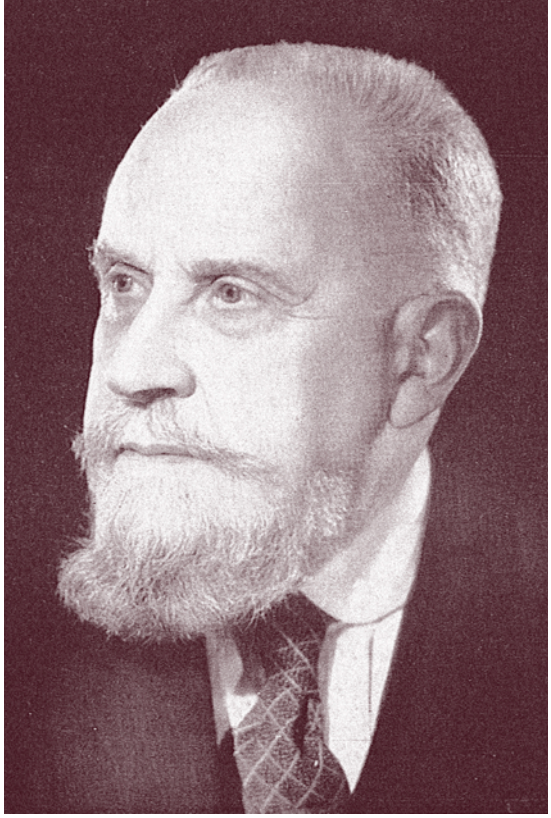
The Assembly elected Inspector General De Roo, Delegate of Belgium, as President. Following the death of Dr de Roo and during the General Session of 1929, the OIE Committee elected Prof. Von Huytra, Delegate of Hungary, as President.

Professor Leclainche was appointed first Director General of the Office.

Because its creation dates back to the early 20th Century, the OIE is one of the oldest existing Intergovernmental Organisations.

4- At the 2001 General Session, it was decided to implement an increase of 25% in the value of the contribution unit for the 2002 Financial Year compared to that of the 2001 Financial Year. I t was also decided that the less developed countries would pay half the amount of the category they are registered in.
More recently, a resolution was adopted by the International Committee on 27 May 2005, which decided to implement an increase of 20% in the value of the contribution unit for the 2007 Financial Year compared to that of the 2006 Financial Year and to allocate, with effect from the 2007 Financial Year, funds corresponding to half of this increase to the financing of the Regional Representation

1949



Prof. Gaston Ramon, second Director General of the OIE (1949-1959) (OIE Archives)

It does not depend on the UN system, as the United Nations only officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, and this is a notable exception among the existing organisations of the same type.

Its autonomy is both institutional and financial; its activities are governed by its own constitutional texts.

Article 11 of the Organic Statutes defines a scale for the contributions due by the Member Countries. It states that *'The funds required for the functioning of the Office shall be paid by the States signatory to the agreement and by those which have acceded later. The contribution is calculated according to…six categories….Each country shall be free to choose the category in which it is registered.'* [4]

Since its creation, it has worked in close collaboration with the League of Nations.

The ratification of the 1924 Agreement reflected a desire clearly expressed by the Secretary of the League of Nations that year. He invited various governments to designate veterinary experts 'to examine the health guarantees that could be provided by cattle-exporting countries, the facilities that importing countries could accord on the basis of these guarantees and, in general, to determine the most effective means of enabling statutory veterinary measures to be applied, taking into account the economic interests of exporting countries and without prejudicing the interests of countries wishing to protect themselves against animal diseases'.

According to Director General Prof. Leclainche: 'The Economic committee of the League of Nations thus proposed to facilitate international trade in animals and animal products to try to reverse the often highly overt tendency of numerous countries to use sanitary arguments purely for the purpose of economic protection'

The method consisted firstly of having the problems studied by experts designated or otherwise by the countries involved, who delivered their personal opinion. Then, once the experts appeared to have come close to an agreement, they were convened as Delegates of the same countries to try to obtain approval of joint resolutions.

Evolution and initiatives

From 1927 to 1939

The OIE started publishing its '*Bulletin*' in 1927. Right from the beginning of its publication, it was the current and very precise reflection of the activities of the Office, containing sanitary information, scientific articles, minutes of meetings, Commissions and groups reports, Conference proceedings, statistics on animal health sanitary situation, etc.

On January 1928, the first Conference of the Economic Committee of the League of Nations met in Geneva with only eight experts.

They had no trouble in establishing the bases for international sanitary regulations. The result text stated that 'only sanitary documents emanating from nations with correctly organised veterinary services can be considered as providing importer with sufficient guarantees'.

The second Conference met on 20 June of the same year and included four new experts. It confirmed the previous resolutions.

1952

OIE 1952 General Session (OIE Archives)

The third Conference of 29 May 1929 gathered together ten experts who categorised contagious diseases according to their seriousness. They also specified conditions for issuing sanitary certificates.

In February and June of 1931, a Commission of the Economic Committee comprising eleven experts met in Geneva, with the task of developing three preliminary draft veterinary conventions relating to the control of epizootics during transit, exportation and importation of animal products. However, neither in 1931, nor in 1934 at another Conference, could unanimity be reached on the texts that had been drawn up: the participants were unable to agree on the wording of the sanitary certificates provided for in the conventions. The draft texts were subsequently submitted to the Office international des epizooties which, since then, has worked at developing them.

From 1927 to 1939, the OIE's Headquarters were located at 9 Avenue Emile Acollas, in the 7th arrondissement in Paris. The Hôtel de Prony in the 17th arrondissement was sold to the Office by the Marquise de Montebello on 22 February 1939, and has been the headquarters ever since.

Before the Second World War, the work of the OIE was carried out mainly throughout Europe, for at the time, there were only a small number of Member Countries outside the European territory. (44 Member Countries in all in 1938).

First Director General, Prof. E. Leclainche, played a predominant part in the creation and constitution of the Office. From 1927 to 1939, he, together with the Committee of the Delegates, performed the heavy tasks of organising the permanent Central Bureau and the annual General Sessions of the Committee, performing epizootological investigations, and collecting a large quantity of documentation on most of the important epizootic diseases and the elements of an international sanitary policy. He collaborated with the most eminent personalities of the veterinary world of the time.

During World War II, however, the activities of the Office slowed down.

In 1942, under the German occupation of Paris, the idea of transferring the OIE headquarters to Berlin (Germany) was raised. It was only the intervention of Dr G. Flückiger of Switzerland, acting President of the OIE International Committee that prevented this plan from being carried out.

5- Since its creation, and during this period, it held meetings successively in Bern in 1946, 1947 and 1949, in Paris in 1950 and 1958, in Madrid and Rome in 1951, in Copenhagen in 1952 and in Brussels in 1958

1955

From 1948 to 1958

Professor G. Ramon, appointed by the Committee in 1949, was the successor of Professor E. Leclainche, and served as Director General until May 1959.

Over a span of 10 years, the 'European position' was being progressively modified due to growing worldwide membership; two countries in Africa, five in America, seven in Asia and one in Oceania adhered to the OIE during this period.

This resulted in a net improvement in the sources of information and in a systematic study of the epidemiology and prophylaxis of current diseases, including zoonoses.

Whenever it is thought necessary, the OIE requests the help of specialists to study the main problems of epidemiology, diagnosis and prophylaxis. The Committee may also set up specialist Commissions to study particular problems concerning certain diseases or groups of diseases.

The oldest and most famous of these Commissions was the 'Permanent Foot and Mouth Disease Commission' which was established in 1946 with Professor G. Flückiger as first Chairman[5].

The Standards Commission, set up in 1949, establishes standards for diagnostic methods and vaccine production.

Meanwhile, the United Nations, which replaced the League of Nations in 1945, established two specialist Agencies: the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1945 and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 1946. Their aims partially covered those of the Office. The presence of these two Agencies called the existence of the OIE into question and the possibility of simply dissolving the organisation was envisaged in 1946, and again in 1951. Thanks to the opposition of numerous OIE Member Countries and Delegates, the functions of the Office were kept alive.

Vaccination against contagious bovine pleuropneumonia in Togo, around 1955 (OIE Archives)

In 1952, an official agreement was signed between the OIE and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

In 1957, after the signing of the Treaty of Rome establishing the European Community, the OIE lent its support to the first attempts to harmonise animal health legislation within the Community.

From 1959 to today

The OIE International Animal Heath Code Commission, with its aim to draw up animal health recommendations for the import and export of terrestrial animals and animal products, was established in 1960.

The Fish Diseases Commission, also set up in 1960, has acted as a focal point for exchanges of information in the area of aquatic diseases.

An Agreement between the Government of the French republic and the Office international des epizooties concerning the OIE headquarters and its privileges and immunities on French territory was signed in Paris on 21 February 1977.

Due to the increase in the number of member countries, the more active relations of the OIE with other International organisations and the progressive increase of participants in the annual General Session (Permanent Delegates, substitutes, experts, observers from other countries and from other International Organisations), it has become necessary to entrust to Regional Commissions the duty of studying programmes for the control of the main epizootic diseases, taking into account

Tick control in Kenya around 1955 (OIE Archives)

the complex aspects of regional epizootiology.

Five Regional Commissions have been set up to study specific problems and organise the coordination of Veterinary Services in the following regions:

- Africa
- Americas
- Asia, Far East and Oceania
- Europe
- Middle East.

Regional Bureaus, or 'Representations', with the support of the Governments of the regions, have since then been set up in the following locations:

- Africa (Bamako, Mali and Gaborone, Botswana -sub-regional Representation-)
- Americas (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- Asia, Far East and Oceania (Tokyo, Japan)
- Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon).

A Regional coordination Unit for the Southeast Asia Foot-and-Mouth Disease Campaign in Bangkok, Thailand has also been created.

In 1994, the Agreements that led to the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) included specific measures on the management of sanitary and phytosanitary problems (SPS Agreements) relating to the risks posed by trade in animals and animal products. The standards, guidelines and recommendations issued by the OIE were designated as the international reference in the field of animal diseases and zoonoses.

Several official Agreements were signed during the second part of the 20th Century between the OIE and other International or Regional Organisations.

1960

– Official agreement between the OIE and the World Health Organization (WHO)

1993

– Official agreement between the OIE and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

1998

– Official agreement between the OIE and the World Trade Organisation (WTO)

1999

– Official agreement between the OIE and the Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)

– Official agreement between the OIE and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

– Official agreement between the OIE and the Pan American health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

2001

– Official agreement between the OIE and the World Bank

– Official agreement between the OIE and the Organization of African Unity - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (OUA-IBAR)

– Official agreement between the OIE and the World Veterinary Association (WVA)

– Official agreement between the OIE and the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH)
– Official agreement between the OIE and CABInternational
– New official agreement between the OIE and the World Health Organization (WHO)
– Official agreement between the OIE and the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI)

2003

– Official agreement between the OIE and the International Dairy Federation (IDF)
– Annex to the official agreement between the OIE and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
– Official agreement between the OIE and the Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in CEMAC (CEBEVIRHA)

2004

– New official agreement between the OIE and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
– Official exchange of letters between the OIE and the Commission of the European Communities (EC)
– Official agreement between the OIE and the Andean Community
– Official agreement between the OIE and the International Association for Biologicals (IABS)
– Official agreement between the OIE and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
– Official agreement between the OIE and the International Meat Secretariat (IMS)
– Extension of the official agreement between the OIE and CABInternational (CABI)

2005

– Official agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)
– Official agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (PVC)
– Official agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)
– Official agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the General Secretariat of the South Asian Association or Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

2006

– Official agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and The Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (AOAD)
– Official agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
– Official agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WAVLD)
– Official agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM)
– Official agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Egg Commission (IEC)

At the 71st General Session of the International Committee, in May 2003, the Delegates of the Member countries adopted a resolution allowing the use, in all circumstances, of the name 'World Organisation for Animal Health' while keeping, for the time being, the historical acronym 'OIE'.

Conclusion

Considerable progress has been achieved during the last two decades in the development of the activities of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

A strategic Planning Group, given the task of advising the OIE on the best means of responding the priorities of its actions, was set by the International Committee in 1990. This decision resulted in the announcement in 1990 of the first five years strategic plan, followed by the second in 1995, both of which provided solid guidance for the organisation for that decade.

The third Strategic Plan initiated the development of expert scientific standards and guidelines for animal welfare in international practices and the OIE's contribution to expertise in food safety.

Through the Fourth Strategic Plan, adopted at its May 2005 General Session, the OIE International Committee reaffirms the relevance of its objectives and clarifies the OIE's priority tasks. It has broadened the original mandate assigned to the Organisation in 1924, and extended it to "the improvement of animal health worldwide".

As Dr B. Vallat, current Director General of the Organisation, stated in an editorial on the OIE Web Site in 2005: 'With this new global mandate, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) will play even a greater role in the policies linked to the improvement of public health by controlling zoonoses, including those that are food-borne; to the improvement of the safety of world trade in animals and animal products; to the promotion of the access of Member Countries to regional and international markets; to the promotion of animal welfare by ensuring animal health and adopting international rules to strengthen it; to the promotion of the role of national Veterinary Services in implementing such actions and to the support of their capacity-building'.

In March 2007, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) numbered 168 Member Countries.

To conclude and taking into account that this paper was only a 'brief history of the World Organisation for Animal Health', we encourage you to visit the Organisation's Web site –http://www.oie.int–, where you will learn everything about the many aspects which could not be delt with in this presentation.

Appendix 1

'The Governments of the Argentine Republic, of Belgium, of Brazil, of Bulgaria, of Denmark, of Egypt, of Spain, of Finland, of France, of Great Britain, of Greece, of Guatemala, of Hungary, of Italy, of Luxemburg, of Morocco, of Mexico, of the Principality of Monaco, of the Netherlands, of Peru, of Poland, of Portugal, of Rumania, of Siam, of Sweden, of Switzerland, of the Czechoslovak Republic, and of Tunisia, considering that it would be useful to establish an Office International des Epizooties, as proposed in the Resolution adopted by the International Conference for the Study of Epizootics on 27 May 1921, have resolved to conclude an Agreement for this purpose and have agreed as follows:

Article1

The High Contracting Parties pledge themselves to create and maintain an Office International des Epizooties, having its Headquarters in Paris.

Article 2

The Office is subject to the authority and control of a Committee composed of Delegates of the contracting Governments. The composition and functions of that Committee, together with the organisation and powers of the Office, are defined in the Organic Statutes which are attached as an appendix to the present Agreement and are considered as being an integral part thereof.

Article 3

The expenses involved in the establishment of the Office and its annual operation shall be paid by the contributions of the Contracting States, calculated in accordance with the terms of the Organic Statutes, referred to in Article 2.

Article 4

The contribution of each contracting State shall be paid, at the beginning of each year, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, to the "Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations" in Paris. Such funds shall be made available, as and when necessary, to the Director of the Office, when requested by him.

Article 5

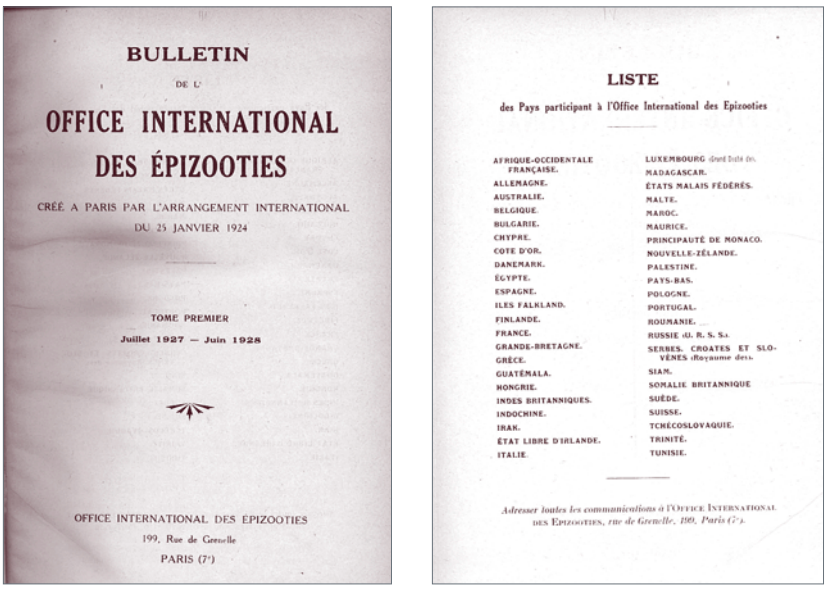
The High Contracting Parties reserve the right to make, by common consent, any changes in the present Agreement which, in the light of experience, are deemed desirable.

Article 6

Governments which have not signed the present Agreement may accession to it, at their request. The French Government shall be notified of this accession through diplomatic channels. The French Government shall then inform the other contracting Governments. Accession shall entail the obligation to contribute towards the expenses of the Office, as laid down in Article 3.

Article 7

The present Agreement shall be ratified under the following conditions:



BULLETIN

DE L'

OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES ÉPIZOOTIES

CRÉÉ A PARIS PAR L'ARRANGEMENT INTERNATIONAL DU 25 JANVIER 1924

TOME PREMIER

Juillet 1927 — Juin 1928

OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES ÉPIZOOTIES
199, Rue de Grenelle
PARIS (7e)

LISTE

des Pays participant à l'Office International des Epizooties

AFRIQUE-OCCIDENTALE FRANÇAISE.
ALLEMAGNE.
AUSTRALIE.
BELGIQUE.
BULGARIE.
CHYPRE.
COTE D'OR.
DANEMARK.
ÉGYPTE.
ESPAGNE.
ILES FALKLAND.
FINLANDE.
FRANCE.
GRANDE-BRETAGNE.
GRÈCE.
GUATÉMALA.
HONGRIE.
INDES BRITANNIQUES.
INDOCHINE.
IRAK.
ÉTAT LIBRE D'IRLANDE.
ITALIE.
LUXEMBOURG (Grand Duché de).
MADAGASCAR.
ÉTATS MALAIS FÉDÉRÉS.
MALTE.
MAROC.
MAURICE.
PRINCIPAUTÉ DE MONACO.
NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE.
PALESTINE.
PAYS-BAS.
POLOGNE.
PORTUGAL.
ROUMANIE.
RUSSIE (U. R. S. S.).
SERBES, CROATES ET SLOVÈNES (Royaume des).
SIAM.
SOMALIE BRITANNIQUE
SUÈDE.
SUISSE.
TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE.
TRINITÉ.
TUNISIE.

Adresser toutes les communications à l'Office International des Epizooties, rue de Grenelle, 199, Paris (7e).

First Issue of the OIE Bulletin, 1927 (OIE Archives)

– Each power shall send its ratification to the French Government as soon as possible. The latter shall then notify the other signatory countries thereof.
– The ratifications shall be deposited in the archives of the French Government.
– This Agreement shall come into force in respect of each signatory country from the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification.

Article 8

The present Agreement shall be effective for a period of seven years. Thereafter, the Agreement shall remain in force for further periods of seven years for such States as have not notified, one year prior to the expiry of each period, their intention to no longer be bound by the Agreement.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, duly empowered, have drawn up the present Agreement, in a single copy, upon which they have affixed their seals; this original shall remain on deposit in the archives of the French Government and duly certified copies shall be transmitted, through diplomatic channels, to the Contracting Parties.

The Original Agreement shall remain open for signature until 30 April 1924, inclusive.

Paris, 25 January, 1924.

For the Argentine Republic, Signed: Luis Bemberg
For Belgium, Signed: E. de Gaiffier
For Brazil, Signed: L.M. de Souza-Dantas
For Bulgaria, Signed: B. Morfoff
For Denmark, Signed: H.A. Bernhoft
For Egypt, Signed: M. Fakhry
For Spain, Signed: J. Quinones de Leon
For Finland, Signed: C. Enckell
For France, Signed: R. Poincaré et Henry Chéron
For Great Britain, Signed: Crewe
For Greece, Signed: A. Romanos
For Guatemala, Signed: Adrian Recinos
For Hungary, Signed: Hevesy
For Italy, Signed: Romano Avezzana
For Luxemburg, Signed: E. Leclere
For Morocco, Signed: Beaumarchais
For Mexico, Signed: Raf. Cabrera
For the Principality of Monaco, Signed: Balny d'Avricourt
For the Netherlands, Signed: L. Loudon (for the Kingdom in Europe)
For Peru, Signed: M.H. Cornejo
For Poland, Signed: Alfred Chlapowsky
For Portugal, Signed: Antonio da Fonseca
For Rumania, Signed: Victor Antonesco
For Siam, Signed: Charoon
For Sweden, Signed: Albert Ehrensvard
For Switzerland, Signed: Dunant
For the Czechoslovak Republic, Signed: Stephan Osuski
For Tunisia, Signed: Beaumarchais

Appendix 2

The article 4 of the statutes precise the missions of the Office:

'The main objects of the Office are:

a) To promote and co-ordinate all experimental and other research work concerning the pathology or prophylaxis of contagious diseases of livestock for which international collaboration is deemed desirable.

b) To collect and bring to the attention of the Governments or their sanitary services, all facts and documents of general interest concerning the spread of epizootic diseases and the means used to control them.

c) To examine international draft agreements regarding animal sanitary measures and to provide signatory Governments with the means of supervising their enforcement.'

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Paper written and presented by Marie Teissier, Documentalist of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), during the 10th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries held in Cluj-Napoca, Transylvania, Romania,from 11 to 16 September 2006

First International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres

Florianopolis, Brazil, 3–5 December 2006

The main purpose of the First International Conference was to provide a multidisciplinary forum for strengthening scientific cooperation within the network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. It was also an opportunity to launch the new concept on twinning and a presentation was given on this topic.

The Conference was hosted by the Brazilian Government and there was a very good representation of scientists from the region. Over 300 experts from 35 different countries participated in the conference, including 85 experts from OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, were able to attend.

Dr Vallat opened the Conference and emphasised the growing importance of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, in implementing the OIE Fourth Strategic Plan and helping to strengthen the scientific veterinary community in developing and in-transition countries.

Dr Gideon Brückner gave a talk on responses to the questionnaire on networking between OIE Reference Laboratories, Collaborating Centres and national Veterinary Services. The results show very clearly that networking between laboratories is still not common and should be put in place more actively.

Dr Karim Ben Jebara presented WAHIS (World Animal Health Information System) and the role of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in this new information system. An important point of discussion following the presentation was the obligation of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to report positive diagnostic test results directly to the OIE.

The new OIE twinning concept, presented by Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, one of the important issues discussed at the Conference, was very well received and several participants expressed their interest. Some of the Reference Laboratories mentioned that they are already involved in such a type of collaboration.

The First International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres: inaugural session.

Proposed recommendations were discussed at the end and several comments were made by the FAO Reference Laboratories on how to collaborate with OIE. A resolution on strengthening the networking between OIE Reference Laboratories, OIE Collaborating Centres and national veterinary laboratories to enhance the even global spread of veterinary scientific knowledge and expertise was adopted.

The Conference was successful in that participating experts took advantage of the presence of colleagues from other parts of the world to discuss common projects. Several spontaneous meeting of experts in specific fields were organised by one of the Reference Laboratories or Collaborating Centres and concrete ideas on how to strengthen the network were discussed. Various opportunities presented themselves for discussion with OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres on the possibilities for better networking and twinning. Another Conference should be organised in two years with the possibility of having small meetings on specific topics. Several participants expressed their wish to be actively involved in the preparation of this event.

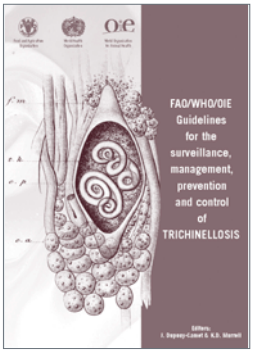
Dr Gideon Brückner, Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department (left). Dr Barry O'Neil, President of the OIE International Committee (right)

Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, and the Conference Secretariat

new OIE publications

These publications are available for purchase from the OIE e-bookshop www.oie.int (publications)

FAO/WHO/OIE Guidelines for the surveillance, management, prevention and control of trichinellosis



2007

J. Dupouy-Camet & K.D. Murrell, eds

ISBN: 92-9044-704-4

ISBN: 978-92-9044-704-7

24 × 29.7 cm, approx. 120 pp.

Price: 35 €

* FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/WHO: World Health Organization of the United Nations/OIE: World Organisation for Animal Health

The FAO/WHO/OIE* *Guidelines for the surveillance, management, prevention and control of trichinellosis* were developed with the objective of updating scientists, the public, and public health agencies responsible for trichinellosis control and prevention on these new developments and on the latest understanding of trichinellosis. The *Guidelines* reflect the accumulated knowledge and expertise of many internationally renowned experts on this zoonosis and the contents cover the most recent discoveries and advances in Trichinella biology, systematics, epidemiology, diagnosis, patient management, prevention and control. There is an emphasis on practical methodologies and procedures. The *Guidelines* also provide advice and recommendations on programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, including the new strategy of designating *Trichinella*-free areas and providing farm certification. The authors are confident that the contents will prove to be useful and will constitute a complete resource for the detection and treatment of infection, and for the development of prevention and control programmes for this ubiquitous and persistent parasitic zoonosis.

Compendium of Technical Items presented to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions of the OIE

2006

Trilingual

ISSN: 1022-1050

ISBN: 92-9044-686-2

ISBN: 978-92-9044-686-6

29.7 × 21 cm,

approx. 200 pp.

Price: 30 €

Topics are presented by world leading experts in each field, and also include answers to questionnaires received from OIE Member Countries and their analysis for each topic. The texts are published in the language in which the original document was presented, together with a translation into one or both of the other official languages of the OIE.

Future approaches needed to ensure that veterinary education meets societal demands – Economic and social justification of investment in animal health and zoonoses – Epidemiological surveillance and on-farm inspections: rural veterinary network, public-private sector relations, training of farmers and veterinarians – Live animals and food smuggling: current practices and prevention and repression tools – Animal welfare in the Americas – Mechanisms for farmer compensation

meetings and visits

From September 2006 to December 2006

September 2006

(cont. – previous meetings in Bulletin no. 2006-4)

7th Conference of the European Section of the Wildlife Disease Association

Prof. M. Artois represented the OIE at the 7th Conference of the European Section of the Wildlife Disease Association, which took place in St Vincent, Val d'Aosta (Italy) from 27 to 30 September 2006.

October 2006

Seminars on the dialogue and common activities between the OIE Member Countries of the EU and the other OIE Member Countries of the Regional Commission for Europe

Dr J.-L. Angot, Deputy Director General of the OIE, Dr V. Bellemain, Director of the French National School of Veterinary Services (ENSV), and Prof. Dr N.T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, participated in a series of seminars on 'the dialogue and common activities between the OIE Member Countries of the EU and the other OIE Member Countries of the Regional Commission for Europe', which took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 2 and 3 October 2006; Yerevan, Armenia, on 4 October 2006; and Baku, Azerbaijan, on 6 and 7 October 2006.

OIE/JICA/NAHPIC Joint Training Course for animal quarantine/local officers on HPAI and other transboundary animal diseases

Dr S. Yoshimura, Senior Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at an OIE/JICA/NAHPIC Joint Training Course for animal quarantine/local officers on HPAI and other transboundary animal diseases, which took place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 3 to 5 October 2006.

Congress "Prion 2006: strategies, advances and trends towards protection of society"

Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated in the Congress "Prion 2006: strategies, advances and trends towards protection of society", which was held in Turin, Italy, from 4 to 6 October 2006.

1st OIE International Conference on the use of geographical information systems (GIS) in veterinary activities

Dr K. Ben Jebara, Head of the Animal Health Information Department, and Dr A. Petrini, Deputy Head of the Department, participated in the First OIE International Conference on the use of geographical information systems (GIS) in veterinary activities, which was organised by the OIE Collaborating Centre in Teramo (Italy) and took place in Silvi Marina, (Teramo) from 8 to 11 October 2006.

Implementation of the G8 Summit Declaration (St Petersburg, 16 July 2006)

Dr J.-L. Angot, Deputy Director General of the OIE, met with Mr Y. Isakov, Ambassador at large, Special Envoy of the Russian Presidency in G8, Mr R. Bakhtine, Adviser to the Ambassador, and Mr V. Rounov, Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Permanent Delegate of Russia to UNESCO. The meeting took place at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, on 9 October 2006.

OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health: Defining roles and responsibilities

Dr B. Vallat, Director General of the OIE, Dr D. Chaisemartin, Head of the OIE Administration and Management Systems Department, Dr C. Bruschke, Chargée de mission, Scientific and Technical Department, Mrs A. Moussa-Guérin, Deputy Head of the Human

Resources and Budget Management Unit and Mrs A. Balmont, Conference Secretary, Administration and Management Systems Department, participated in the OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health, which was held in Bergen, Norway, on 9 and 10 October 2006.

OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health and OIE ad hoc *Group meetings*

Dr F. Berlingieri, Deputy Head of the OIE International Trade Department, participated in the OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health. He also organised the meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on chapters on crustacean diseases for the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, and the meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on the OIE list of aquatic animal diseases – crustacean team. These events took place in Bergen, Norway, between 9 and 14 October 2006.

Joint OIE/ASEAN/ADB Inception Workshop on HPAI Control and Eradication in ASEAN

Dr S. Yoshimura, Senior Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, and Dr Y. Oketani, Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the Joint OIE/ASEAN/ADB Inception Workshop on HPAI Control and Eradication in ASEAN, which took place in Djakarta, Indonesia, from 9 to 11 October 2006.

37th Meeting of the World Trade Organization SPS Committee

Dr D. Wilson, OIE Technical Consultant, represented the OIE at the 37th Meeting of the World Trade Organization SPS Committee, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 10 to 12 October 2006.

2nd Annual Congress on Market Access for African Agricultural Products (MAAAP)

Dr G. Brückner, Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated in the 2nd Annual Congress of the Agri-Academy, South Africa, on market access for African agricultural products, which was held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, from 10 to 13 October 2006.

Ceremony to launch the Crisis Management Centre (CMC) at the FAO – OIE/FAO/donors meeting to develop synergies

Dr B. Vallat, Director General of the OIE, Ms M. Zampaglione, Head of the OIE Communication Unit and Dr A. Dehove, World Funds Coordinator participated in the ceremony to launch the Crisis Management Centre (CMC) at the FAO. The inauguration of the CMC was followed by a meeting with the Director General of the FAO. The main thrust of current OIE/FAO cooperation was reaffirmed. The ceremony and the subsequent meeting took place in Rome, Italy, on 12 October 2006.

5th Meeting of the ASEAN Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Taskforce

Dr Y. Oketani, Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the 5th Meeting of the ASEAN Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Taskforce, which was held in Djakarta, Indonesia, on 12 and 13 October 2006.

Meeting of the EFSA[1] Working Group on Fish Welfare

Dr T. Håstein participated in the Meeting of the EFSA Working Group on Fish Welfare, which was held in Bergen, Norway, on 13 October 2006.

Annual Meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) – meetings with senior officials of the United States Veterinary Services and with representatives of the private sector

Dr L.O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, represented the Organisation at the Annual Meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), and at meetings with senior officials of the United States Veterinary Services and with representatives of the private sector. These meetings took place in Minneapolis, United States of America, between 14 and 17 October 2006.

1- EFSA: European Food Safety Authority

Discussion on laboratory animal welfare with the International Council of Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) – Participation in a meeting of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)

Dr S. Kahn, Head of the OIE International Trade Department, and Dr L. Stuardo, Chargé de mission, International Trade Department, discussed with ICLAS officials the possibility of the OIE undertaking work in the field of laboratory animal welfare and potential areas for collaboration between the two organisations. They also participated in a meeting of the AALAS with a view to updating OIE Central Bureau staff on scientific and regulatory issues relating to laboratory animals and facilitating the work of the OIE in this field. These meetings were held in Salt Lake City, United States of America, from 14 to 19 October 2006.

World Buiatrics Congress

Dr B. Vallat, Director General of the OIE, Prof. P.-P. Pastoret, Head of the OIE Publications Department, and Mrs T. Benicasa, Sales and Marketing Agent, Publications Department, participated in the World Buiatrics Congress, which was held in Nice, France, on 16 and 17 October 2006.

Meeting of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Working Group

Dr D. Sibartie, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, participated in the meeting of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Working Group, which was held at the WTO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on 16 and 17 October 2006.
The meeting approved the report of the task force set up to review the medium-term strategy and the operational rules of the STDF. The report recommended *inter alia* that the STDF should have a more active role in the coordination and evaluation of projects. The report will be submitted to the Policy Committee for endorsement.

Specialised Course on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

Dr D. Wilson, OIE Consultant, represented the OIE at the Specialised Course on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), which was held at the WTO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, from 16 to 27 October 2006.

European Commission Media Seminar on Flu Pandemic Preparedness

Mrs G. Mamaghani, Deputy Head of the OIE Communication Unit, participated in the European Commission Media Seminar on Flu Pandemic Preparedness, which was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 17 October 2006.

OIE/JICA/Vietnam Joint Training Course for animal quarantine/local officers on HPAI and other transboundary animal diseases

Dr S. Yoshimura, Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE on the OIE/JICA/Vietnam Joint Training Course for animal quarantine/local officers on HPAI and other transboundary animal diseases, which was held in Hanoi, Vietnam from 17 to 19 October 2006.

5th Meeting of the Lower Mekong Working Group on Foot and Mouth Disease Zoning and Animal Movement Management

Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Dr G. Murray, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, and Dr R.C. Abila, Regional Coordinator of the SEAFMD Campaign, represented the OIE at the 5th Meeting of the Lower Mekong Working Group on Foot and Mouth Disease Zoning and Animal Movement Management, which was held in Sakaeo, Thailand, from 17 to 19 October 2006.

Meeting with the European Commission Health and Consumer Protection DG - Directorate E Safety of the Food Chain

Dr G. Brückner, Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated in a meeting with the European Commission Health and Consumer Protection DG - Directorate Safety of the Food Chain to discuss collaboration between the OIE and the Unit on the evaluation of country status for BSE. The meeting was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 18 October 2006.

Meeting with the Veterinary Services of Costa Rica and representatives of the private sector – Meeting with the Veterinary Services (communication on avian influenza) – Annual meeting of IICA

Dr L.O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, represented the OIE at a meeting with the Veterinary Services of Costa Rica and representatives of the private sector, during which he gave a lecture on equivalency and the quality of the Veterinary Services, and at a meeting with the Veterinary Services and representatives of poultry producers, during which he presented a paper on avian influenza. He also participated in discussions with the media (television and the press) and in the annual meeting of representatives of the IICA. All these meetings took place in Costa Rica, between 18 and 20 October 2006.

27th IDF World Dairy Congress and World Dairy Summit

Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated in the IDF[2] World Dairy Congress and in meetings of the IDF Standing Committee on Animal Health and the Standing Committee on Residues and Chemical Contaminants regarding the subject of antimicrobial resistance. These events took place in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, between 18 and 24 October 2006.
Dr Y. Sakurai, Regional Veterinary Officer, managed the OIE stand at the 27th IDF Dairy Congress, which took place from 20 to 23 October 2006.

International Workshop on Policies against Hunger: Food Security and Poultry Production – How to Cope with Avian Influenza

Dr C. Bruschke, Chargée de mission, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated in a panel discussion with the international organisations to discuss the outcome of the working groups of this international workshop, which was held at Umweltforum, Berlin, Germany, on 20 October 2006.

Japan/OIE Special Trust Fund Programme

Dr S. Yoshimura, OIE Senior Deputy Representative for Asia and the Pacific, and Dr I. Koike, OIE Consultant, visited Vientiane, Laos, from 22 to 24 October 2006. They met with Lao officials to discuss the provision of diagnostic equipment within the framework of the Japan/OIE Special Trust Fund Programme.

WHO International Outbreak Response Training Course

Dr W. Droppers, Chargé de mission, OIE International Trade Department, participated in an International Outbreak Response Training Course organised by the WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) to determine what components of the course could be useful for OIE training purposes. The course took place at the Château de Bossey, Céligny, Switzerland, from 22 to 27 October 2006.

30th APHCA[3] Session and Regional Workshop on Goats: "Goats-an undervalued asset in Asia"

Dr Y. Oketani, OIE Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the 30th APHCA Session as an observer. He also co-organised the joint OIE/FAO-APHCA Regional Workshop on *Brucella melitensis* in Goats, which was held in Luang Prabang, Laos, from 23 to 26 October 2006. During the Regional Workshop, Dr B. Garin-Bastuji, OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory for brucellosis in animals, presented a paper on the diagnosis, prophylaxis and control of *Brucella melitensis* infection in sheep and goats and their consequences for animal movement and trade.

13th Meeting of the Advisory Committee of PACE – 7th Meeting of the Executive Committee of ALive and 2nd Ordinary General Assembly of ALive – Bilateral meetings

Dr B. Vallat, Director General of the OIE, Dr D. Sibartie, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, Dr A. Dehove, Coordinator of the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, Prof. P.-P. Pastoret, Head of the OIE Publications Department, and Dr A. S. Sidibé, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, participated in the 7th Meeting of the Executive Committee of ALive, which

2-IDF: International Dairy Federation

3- APHCA: Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (FAO)

included the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Africa, from 23 to 25 October 2006; the 13th Meeting of the Advisory Committee of PACE, on 26 and 27 October 2006; the preparation and conduct of the 2nd Ordinary General Assembly of ALive; and held bilateral meetings with the Kenyan and Somali Authorities and donors (European Commission mission on avian influenza in Africa). All these events took place in Nairobi, Kenya, between 23 and 27 October 2006.

WHO Global Consultation on addressing ethical issues in the event of an influenza pandemic

Dr G. Brückner, Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated in a WHO Global Consultation on addressing ethical issues in the event of an influenza pandemic. The Consultation took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 24 and 25 October 2006.

Preparation for the 2007 OIE/FAO/IZSVe Scientific Conference on "Vaccination: a tool for the control of avian influenza"

Dr C. Bruschke, Chargée de mission, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, and Mrs A. Balmont, Conference Assistant, OIE Administration and Management Systems Department, visited Verona, Italy, on 25 October 2006 examine the venue chosen for the 2007 OIE/FAO/IZSVe Scientific Conference on "Vaccination: a tool for the control of avian influenza". They also discussed practical details with the organising firm, Sistema Congressi,

Japan/OIE Special Trust Fund Programme

Dr S. Yoshimura, OIE Senior Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, met with Dr I. Koike, an OIE Consultant, to discuss the possibility of working with the OIE as a trusted procurer of diagnostic equipment for eight ASEAN countries within the framework of the Japan/OIE Special Trust Fund Programme. The meeting took place in Bangkok, Thailand, on 26 October 2006.

Preparatory Meeting for the Coordination Groups of the European Commission ETPGAH (European Technological Platform for Global Animal Health)

Dr C. Bruschke, Chargée de mission, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, prepared a meeting for the Coordination Groups of the European Commission ETPGAH (European Technological Platform for Global Animal Health), in Brussels, Belgium, on 26 October 2006. The coordination groups will have the task of drawing up an implementation plan for the recommendations of the Strategic Research Agenda. The OIE is vice-chair of the group on the global perspective.

Plenary Meeting of the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (AHAW) of the EFSA

Dr L. Knopf, Officer in charge of the recognition of countries' animal disease status, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, was invited to attend the 23rd Plenary Meeting of the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (AHAW) of the EFSA to comment on discussions and decisions of potential relevance to the OIE. The meeting took place in Parma, Italy, on 26 and 27 October 2006.

World Congress on Communication for Development

Ms M. Zampaglione, Head of the OIE Communication Unit, participated in the thematic session on "Good governance in communication" and in a special meeting on "Reframing communication on avian influenza", during the World Congress on Communication for Development, which was held in Rome, Italy, on 27 October 2006.

Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of Panama – Seminar on the SPS Agreement, Bogotá, Colombia – Meeting with the local organising committee for the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and the 1st International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, Brasilia, Brazil

Dr L.O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, represented

the OIE at a Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of Panama, which took place in Panama City from 26 to 29 October 2006. He also represented the OIE at a Seminar on the SPS Agreement, which took place in Bogotá, Colombia from 29 October to 2 November 2006, and at a meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, on 3 November 2006 with the local organising committee for the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and the 1st International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.

WTO SPS Seminar for countries of the Americas – OIE 'Train the Trainers' Workshop

Dr A. Thiermann, Advisor to the Director General and President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, and Dr G. Funes, Deputy Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, participated in the WTO SPS Seminar for countries of the Americas, followed by the OIE 'Train the Trainers' Workshop. These events were held in Bogotá, Colombia, between 30 October and 4 November 2006.

November 2006

International Avian Influenza Course

On 2 November 2006, during a two-week laboratory course on avian influenza held in Deventer, Netherlands, Dr C. Bruschke, Chargée de mission, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, gave a lecture on the international response to avian influenza.

Michael J. Mansfield Award

Dr B. Vallat, Director General of the OIE, received on behalf of the OIE the Michael J. Mansfield Award, given by the US Meat Export Federation (USMEF) to organisations or individuals having contributed to the growth or safety of world trade in animals and animal products. The ceremony took place in Cancun, Mexico, on 2 and 3 November 2006.

Symposium on Tropical Animal Health and Production: Pandemic of influenza in birds and its control

Dr C. Bruschke, Chargée de mission, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated in the Symposium on 'Tropical Animal Health and Production: Pandemic of influenza in birds and its control', which was held at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht, the Netherlands, on 3 November 2006.

IABs/OIE/WHO Conference on Emerging Diseases: Preparedness and Implementation Issues

Dr G. Brückner, Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, Dr K. Ben Jebara, Head of the Animal Health Information Department, and Prof. P.-P. Pastoret, Head of the Publications Department, participated in the IABS/OIE/WHO Conference on Emerging Diseases: Preparedness and Implementation Issues and presented the views of the OIE on: Biological Crisis Management in Human and Veterinary Medicine – New Medicines for Animals – a Growing Global Need. The Conference was held in Lyons, France, from 5 to 8 November 2006.

Board meeting of the European Association of Veterinary Diagnostics Manufacturers (AEFRV[4])

Dr F. Diaz, Officer in charge of validation of diagnostic assays, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated in the Board meeting of the European Association of Veterinary Diagnostics Manufacturers (AEFRV), which was held in Lyon, France, on 6 November 2006.

International Seminar: Economic Impact of the National Veterinary Services in Developing Countries

Dr G. Funes, Deputy Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, participated in the International Seminar: Economic Impact of the National Veterinary Services in Developing Countries, which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 6 and 7 November 2006.

4- AEFRV: European Association of Veterinary Diagnostics Manufacturers (Association Européenne des Fabricants du Réactif Vétérinaire)

Participation of the OIE in the 3rd Roundtable Meeting on FMD control in the Middle East and North Africa – Meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Middle East

Dr D. Sibartie, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, and Dr G. Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, represented the OIE at the 3rd Roundtable Meeting on FMD control in the Middle East and North Africa, which was held in Damascus, Syria, on 6 and 7 November 2006. This meeting was hosted by Dr Khoury, President of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Middle East. In particular, the Roundtable considered the spread of FMD outbreaks in the region, and especially those caused by virus serotype A, Iran 05 strain. Further information is available on the Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East (www.oieme.org). The Roundtable was followed by a meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Middle East. After having endorsed the recommendations of the Roundtable, the Steering Committee planned its forthcoming activities and undertook to prepare a strategic text on the harmonisation of animal health policies in the region.

OIE Regional Workshop on International/ Regional Harmonisation of Veterinary Medicinal Products

Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Dr Y. Oketani, Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, and Dr Y. Sakurai, Regional Veterinary Officer, represented the OIE at the OIE Regional Workshop on International/Regional Harmonisation of Veterinary Medicinal Products, which was held at the National Veterinary Drug Assay Laboratory (NVDAL), in Bogor, Indonesia, from 6 to 10 November 2006.

Conference on Community Animal Health Policy Strategy (CAHP) in the European Union

Dr B. Vallat, Director General of the OIE, and Dr A. Dehove, Coordinator of the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, participated in the Conference on Community Animal Health Policy Strategy (CAHP) in the European Union, organised by the European Commission and the Finnish Presidency. The Conference was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 7 November 2006.

2nd Regional meeting in support of the universalisation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)

Dr R.C. Abila, Regional Coordinator of the SEAFMD Campaign, represented the OIE at the 2nd Regional meeting in support of the universalisation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), which was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, on 8 and 9 November 2006.

Veterinary Public Health in a Global Economy Conference

Ms J. Koeman, from the University of Guelph, managed the OIE stand at the "Veterinary Public Health in a Global Economy Conference", which was held in Philadelphia, United States of America, on 9 and 10 November 2006.

Dr C. Brown, speaking on global early warning systems, specifically acknowledged the presence of the OIE at the conference and made numerous references to the issue of the *Scientific and Technical Review* on "Emerging zoonoses and pathogens of public health concern" during her talk.

20th Pan-American Veterinary Science Congress – 14th Chilean Veterinary Medicine Congress

Dr L. Stuardo, Chargé de mission, OIE International Trade Department, and Dr L.O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, participated in the 20th Pan-American Veterinary Science Congress and the 14th Chilean Veterinary Medicine Congress, which were held in Santiago, Chile, between 12 and 17 November 2006.

FAO Symposium on the international trade implications of avian influenza

Dr S. Kahn, Head of the OIE International Trade Department, participated in the FAO Symposium on the international trade implications of avian influenza, which was held in Rome, Italy, on 13 and 14 November 2006.
The Symposium was conducted as part of the 21st meeting of the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Meat and Dairy Products.

4th International Seminar on Food Safety

Dr W. Droppers, Chargé de mission, OIE International Trade Department, participated in the 4th International Seminar on Food Safety, organised by the Fundación Ibérica para la seguridad alimentaria (Fundisa). The seminar was held in Madrid, Spain, on 14 and 15 November 2006.

Capacity Building of African National Veterinary Services: Seminar for OIE Delegates and regional organisations involved in animal health

Dr C. Bruschke, Chargée de mission, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, Dr A.S. Sidibé, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, Dr C. Planté, Technical Assistant to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa, and Drs G. Guidot and V. Pfister, OIE Collaborating Centre – ENSV, participated in the Capacity Building of African National Veterinary Services: Seminar for OIE Delegates and regional organisations involved in animal health, which was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 14 to 16 November 2006.

AusAID SPSCB[5] Project on the Malaysia-Thailand-Myanmar (MTM) Epidemiology Network

Dr R.C. Abila, Regional Coordinator of the SEAFMD Campaign, participated in the planning workshop for the establishment of the Malaysia-Thailand-Myanmar (MTM) Epidemiology Network and met the key staff of the Australia Bio-security Cooperative Research Centre (AB-CRC). The workshop was held in Perth, Australia, from 14 to 18 November 2006.

5- SPSCB: SPS capacity building programme

Meeting with the European Association of Veterinary Diagnostics Manufacturers (AEFRV) on the OIE Procedure for Validation and Certification of Diagnostic Assays

Dr B. Vallat, Director General of the OIE, Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, Dr F. Diaz, Officer in charge of validation of diagnostic assays, Scientific and Technical Department, and Drs P. Dehaumont, G. Moulin, and C. Lambert, OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products (ANMV-AFSSA), participated in the meeting with the European Association of Veterinary Diagnostics Manufacturers (AEFRV) on the OIE Procedure for Validation and Certification of Diagnostic Assays, which was held at the OIE Headquarters, in Paris, France, on 15 November 2006.

1st Coordination Group Meeting to review the criteria for classification and prioritising animal diseases in Europe: European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health (ETPGAH)

Dr G. Brückner, Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated in the 1st Coordination Group Meeting to review the criteria for classification and prioritising animal diseases in Europe: European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health (ETPGAH), which was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 16 November 2006.

National FMD Seminar – Meeting with ASEAN Secretariat

Dr R.C. Abila, Regional Coordinator of the SEAFMD Campaign, represented the OIE at the National FMD Seminar organised by the Indonesian Directorate General of Livestock Services (DGLS) and visited the ASEAN Secretariat.
These events took place in Indonesia, between 19 and 23 November 2006.

131st Session of the FAO Council (20–25 November 2006)

Dr J.-L. Angot, Deputy Director General of the OIE, participated in the first two plenary sessions of the 131st Session of the FAO Council, which were held in Rome, Italy, on 20 November 2006.

6th Review of the Biological and Toxins Weapon Convention

Dr G. Brückner, Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated in the 6th Review of the Biological and Toxins Weapon Convention, which was held at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland, on 20 and 21 November 2006. During the meeting he delivered an OIE policy statement in support of the BTWC.

WHO/OIE/FAO/ICTDD Workshop on Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever

Dr D. De Lange, OIE Expert, represented the OIE at the Joint WHO/OIE/FAO/ICTDD[6] Workshop on Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 20 and 21 November 2006.

Consultants meeting: "Standards, referencing and validation"

Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, and Dr F. Diaz, Officer in charge of validation of diagnostic assays, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated in the Consultants meeting: "Standards, referencing and validation", which was held in Vienna, Austria, from 21 to 24 November 2006.

Meeting on updating the FAO/OIE global strategy on avian influenza

Dr C. Bruschke, Chargée de mission, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated in a meeting on updating the FAO/OIE global strategy on avian influenza, which was held at the FAO Headquarters, in Rome, Italy, from 22 to 24 November 2006.

5th meeting of the NACA Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health Management (AGM-5)

Dr Y. Oketani, OIE Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, and Dr Y. Sakurai, Regional Veterinary Officer, represented the OIE at the 5th meeting of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health Management (AGM-5), which was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 22 to 24 November 2006.

Joint COE[7]/EU/OIE Conference: Animal Welfare in Europe: Achievements and Future Prospects

Dr S. Kahn, Head of the OIE International Trade Department, Dr L. Stuardo, Chargé de mission, OIE International Trade Department, and Prof. Dr N.T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, participated in the Joint COE/EU/OIE Conference: Animal Welfare in Europe: Achievements and Future Prospects, which was held in Strasbourg, France, on 23 and 24 November 2006.

Codex Alimentarius Commission – Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme – 6th Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology

Prof. M. Thibier, OIE expert, represented the OIE at the 6th Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology, which was held in Chiba, Japan, from 25 to 28 November 2006.

Joint PRISE-OIE Training Workshop on basic veterinary epidemiology applied to the surveillance and research on animal diseases, in particular highly pathogenic avian influenza

Dr S. Yoshimura, OIE Senior Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the Joint PRISE-OIE Training Workshop on basic veterinary epidemiology applied to the surveillance and research on animal diseases, in particular highly pathogenic avian influenza, which was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 26 to 28 November 2006.

6- ICTTD: Integrated Consortium on Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases, Utrecht, The Netherlands

7- COE: Council of Europe

18th OIE Regional Conference for the Americas

The 18th OIE Regional Conference for the Americas took place in Florianopolis (Brazil) from 28 November to 2 December 2006. The Conference was attended by Dr B. Vallat, Director General of the OIE, Dr A. Thiermann, Advisor and President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Dr A. Petrini, Deputy Head of the Animal Health Information Department, Dr L. Barcos, Regional Representative for the Americas, his assistant Ms A. Palmas, Dr J.J. Oreamuno Toledo from the OIE's office for Central America, and staff from the OIE Regional Activities Department including Dr D. Sibartie, Head, Dr G. Funès, Deputy Head, Ms N. Monsalve, Bilingual Secretary, Ms H. Gevers, Project Officer.

Participation of the Republic of Korea in the activities of the OIE

Dr J.-L. Angot, Deputy Director General of the OIE, Dr G. Brückner, Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, and Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, met with Jang-Woo Seo, Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lee Hyung Woo, Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI), Kim Hyun Joong, KREI, and Ki-Joung Cho, Economic Adviser at the Korean Embassy. The meeting was held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, on 28 November 2006.

Presentation on the activities of the OIE during an IAEA/FAO international course on avian influenza

Dr C. Bruschke, Chargée de mission, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, was invited to present the activities of the OIE during an international avian influenza course organised by IAEA/FAO. The course was devoted mainly to practical diagnostic work and included lectures by representatives of international organisations and research institutes. The OIE presentation took place at the IAEA/FAO Joint Division in Vienna, Austria, on 28 November 2006.

Training Workshop on the new OIE World Animal Health Information System, WAHIS

Dr K. Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Department, Dr D. Chaisemartin, Head of the Administration and Management Systems Department, and Mr S. Berlaud, Chargé de mission, OIE Regional Activities Department, participated in the Training Workshop on the new OIE World Animal Health Information System, WAHIS, which was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 28 to 30 November 2006, for French speaking African countries.

3rd International Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance (IWAR)

Dr G. Moulin, OIE Expert, OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products – ANMV-AFSSA, Fougères, represented the OIE at the 3rd International Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance (IWAR). The aim of the workshop was to discuss strategies to limit antimicrobial resistance. It was held at Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 28 to 30 November 2006.

FAO/OIE/IBAR Workshop on Rinderpest Accreditation in Africa

Dr L. Knopf, Officer in charge of the recognition of countries' animal disease status, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated in the Joint FAO/OIE/IBAR Workshop on Rinderpest Accreditation in Africa, which was held in Accra, Ghana, from 28 November to 2 December 2006.

Explanation given to the Philippine authorities on diagnostic equipment procurement

Dr S. Yoshimura, OIE Senior Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE in discussions with the Philippine authorities to explain diagnostic equipment procurement. The discussions took place at the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, in Manila, Philippines, on 29 and 30 November 2006.

December 2006

First International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres

Dr B. Vallat, Director General of the OIE, Dr G. Brückner, Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, Dr K. Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, Ms S. Linnane, Scientific Editor, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, Mrs K. Sodji, Bilingual Secretary, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, Dr L. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, Mrs A. Palmas, Secretariat of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and Assistant to Dr Barcos, and Dr J.J. Oreamuno Toledo, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Central America, participated in the First International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, which was held in Florianópolis, Brazil, from 3 to 5 December 2006.

FAO/OIE/WHO convened meeting on H5N1 avian influenza

Dr S. Kahn, Head of the OIE International Trade Department, participated in an FAO/OIE/WHO convened meeting on H5N1 avian influenza, which was held in Beijing, China, from 4 to 7 December 2006.

4th International Conference on Avian Influenza – Bilateral meetings in Bamako, Mali

Dr B. Vallat, Director General of the OIE, Dr C. Bruschke, Chargée de mission, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, Ms M. Zampaglione, Head of the OIE Communication Unit, Dr A. Thiermann, President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, Dr A. Dehove, Coordinator of the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, Dr A.S. Sidibé, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, and Dr A.B. Niang, Consultant, participated in the 4th International Conference on Avian Influenza, and held bilateral meetings with donors (United States of America, World Bank), Ministers (Mauritania, Mali, etc.), and Delegates to the OIE. They participated in the meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for avian influenza, managed by the World Bank, and they met with the President of the Republic of Mali. An ALive/European Commission agreement was signed relating to a grant of 8 million euros for avian influenza control in Africa. They also attended the inauguration of the Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako. All these events took place in Bamako, Mali, between 5 and 9 December 2006.

Discussion Group on regulatory aspects of the sale and use of antibiotics for human medicine and for veterinary medicine

Prof. J. Acar, OIE Expert and member of the *ad hoc* Group on antimicrobial resistance, was invited to take part in a Discussion Group on regulatory aspects of the sale and use of antibiotics for human medicine and for veterinary medicine, which took place in Boston, United States of America, from 10 to 12 December 2006.

OIE/Japan Special Trust Fund on HPAI Control in South-East Asia

Dr A. Dehove, Coordinator of the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, participated in the 2nd Meeting of the FAO/OIE Joint Steering Committee and the 2nd Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the OIE/Japan Special Trust Fund on HPAI Control in South-East Asia, which were held in Bangkok, Thailand, between 13 and 15 December 2006.

First OIE Seminar on Communication

Dr B. Vallat, Director General of the OIE, Prof. Dr N.T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, participated in the First OIE Seminar on Communication, wich was organised by Ms M. Zampaglione, Head of the OIE Communication Unit, and Mrs G. Mamaghani, Deputy Head of the Communication Unit and took place in Teramo, Italy, from 13 to 15 December 2006.

Official visit to Egypt at the invitation of the Egyptian Government

Dr B. Vallat, Director General of the OIE, and Dr G. Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, made an official visit to Egypt at the invitation of the Egyptian Government. The visit took place in Cairo, Egypt, from 17 to 20 December 2006.

Meeting of the STDF Policy Committee

Dr A. Thiermann, Advisor to the Director General of the OIE and President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, participated as a member in the meeting of the Policy Committee of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), which took place in Rome, Italy, on 18 December 2006.

Training Workshop on the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)

Dr K. Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, Dr D. Chaisemartin, Head of the OIE Administrative and Management Systems Department, and Mr S. Berlaud, Chargé de mission, OIE Regional Activities Department, participated in the Training Workshop on the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 19 to 21 December 2006.

news from headquarters

The French Veterinary Academy rewards the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for its work in the field of animal health worldwide

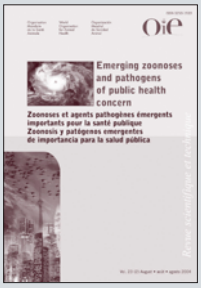
The OIE has been awarded the French Veterinary Academy's 'Grand Prix Claude Bourgelat' for 'the whole of its work on behalf of animal health and public health worldwide since its creation'.

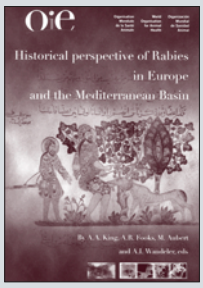
At its formal session on 7 December 2006, the French Veterinary Academy also rewarded the OIE for its work in the field of scientific publications.

The 'Prix Camille Guérin' was awarded for the book *Historical Perspective of Rabies in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin*, edited by A.A. King A.R. Fooks, M. Aubert and A.I. Wandeler (2004), and the 'Prix Emmanuel Leclainche' was awarded for Volume **23** (2), August 2004 of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* entitled Zoonoses *Emerging zoonoses and pathogens of public health concern*, coordinated by Lonnie J. King.

'These three awards are a tribute to the work carried out by the OIE and the high quality of its publications and experts', said Dr Jean Blancou, President of the French Veterinary Academy during the formal award ceremony.

Dr Jean-Luc Angot, Deputy Director General of the OIE, received the awards on behalf of the organisation.





Visit of veterinary students at the OIE

Antonio Petrini and Maria Zampaglione welcome a group of veterinary students in their final year of the Avian Pathology course at the University of Bari (Italy)

Regional Activities Department

Establishment of an OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America

In November 2006, the Minister of Agriculture of Panama and the Director General of the OIE signed an Agreement for the creation of an OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America and the Caribbean, based in Panama.

This Sub-Regional Representation was created in the framework of the OIE's Fourth Strategic Plan, which includes, amongst its objectives, the continuous reinforcement of the Regional Representations, taking into account the requirements and problems of each Region.

Its activities will begin in April 2007. They will focus first on the OIRSA(1) countries: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

The Sub-Regional Representative will be Dr José Joaquín Oreamuno Toledo (j.oreamuno@oie.int), former Chief Veterinary Officer of Costa Rica.

The government of Panama will provide generous assistance to the OIE in the form of 110,000 dollars per year, covering part of the staff and operating expenses of the Sub-Regional Bureau, as well as logistic and other support needed for the smooth performance of its activities. In addition, the Sub-Regional Representation will also receive a support from the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund.

In keeping with the current Strategic Plan of the OIE, and with a view to pursuing and supplementing the work carried out by the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas, the Sub-Regional Representation will be tasked with certain activities related to training and the improvement of the quality of Veterinary Services in the Member Countries.

The activities of the Sub-Regional Representation, in support of and in coordination with the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas, include the following:

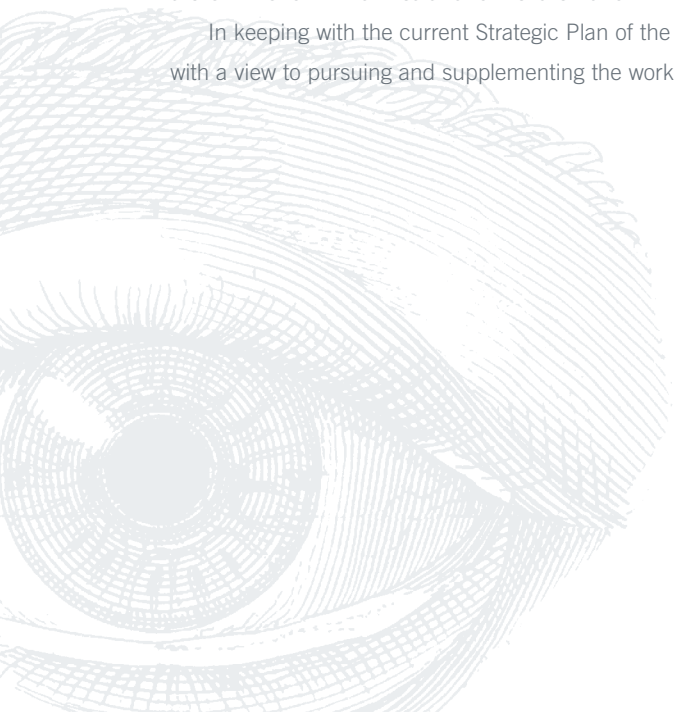
– The organisation of seminars, courses and workshops for Delegates of OIE Member Countries and their collaborators, to enhance their understanding of the OIE's missions and the role that Delegates of Member Countries play in the organisation's activities, as well as the key role of Veterinary Services in the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases (including zoonoses).

– Facilitation, support and follow-up at local level to Veterinary Services evaluation missions organised by the OIE Central Bureau on the basis of the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) tool.

– Assistance to the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas in organising regional conferences.

– Coordination of activities carried out in cooperation with other international and regional organisations.

– Follow-up of activities performed in the framework of the GF-TADs programme.



OIE Regional Representation for the Americas: Dr Luis Barcos, Paseo Colón 315, 5º "D", C1063ACD Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tel. +54 11 4331 3919. Fax +54 11 4331 5162.

(1) OIRSA: Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health

International trade Activities Department

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

2-6 October 2006

The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission) met from 2 to 6 October 2006. The outcomes of this meeting were detailed in a report distributed to OIE Delegates for comment and placed on the OIE Web page. A summary of the most important points discussed by the Aquatic Animals Commission is as follows:

– the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* were updated;

– the listing of white tail disease, hepatopancreatic parvovirus disease, Mourilyan virus disease, necrotising hepatopancreatitis and infectious myonecrosis by the OIE was proposed;

– progress in the harmonisation of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* and the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* was made;

– a questionnaire on amphibian disease was finalised and distributed to OIE Delegates in December 2006;

– ongoing discussion on antimicrobial resistance in aquatic animals;

– consideration of international standards for aquatic animal welfare, in cooperation with the OIE Permanent Animal Welfare Working Group;

– definition of the role and activities of the OIE in the field of aquatic animals;

– definition of the role and functions of OIE Reference Laboratories;

– OIE Aquatic Animal Disease Information System;

– cooperation and partnership with other international organisations and regional organisations that are working in aquatic health;

– continued operation of an Internet site providing information on the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

2-13 October 2006

The Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Terrestrial Code Commission) met from 2 to 13 October 2006 to address Member Countries' comments received prior to and following the 74th General Session, as well as work done by various OIE *ad hoc* groups (identification and traceability of live animals; the revision of the OIE model certificates) and the Permanent Animal Welfare Working Group. The Terrestrial Code Commission examined various *Terrestrial Code* chapters, and revised existing texts on the following subjects: general definitions, zoning and compartmentalisation, foot and mouth disease, bluetongue, rabies, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, equine diseases including equine influenza, classical swine fever, avian influenza, bovine and small ruminant semen, animal identification and traceability, disposal of dead animals, animal welfare during sea and land transport, and control of hazards through ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection. The full report is available on the OIE Web site.

Ad hoc Group on the Chapters for Crustacean Diseases for the Aquatic Animal Health Code

9-14 October 2006

The ad hoc Group met to address Member Countries' comments on the previous Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission's report and the comments made at the 74th OIE General Session on the new chapters for crustacean diseases. The ad hoc Group focused on commodities that can be traded with negligible risk, and on the proper management of transport water used with gametes. It also made progress in the harmonisation of aquatic disease chapters.

Ad hoc Group on the OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases

9-14 October 2006

The ad hoc Group was split into three teams and individual teams addressed fish, mollusc or crustacean diseases listed by the OIE. On October 2006, the crustacean team of the ad hoc Group addressed the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission's recommendations and assessed emerging diseases according to the OIE listing criteria. In this work, it took into account Member Countries' comments including those made at the 74th OIE General Session.

Ad hoc Group on Animal Feed

25-27 October 2006

The ad hoc Group followed the terms of reference drafted by the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group and prepared a draft OIE guideline to provide guidance on animal feeding in relation to animal health and to complement the guidance provided by the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54-2004) which deals primarily with food safety. This guideline aims at ensuring the control of animal and public health hazards through adherence to recommended practices during the production (procurement, handling, storage, processing and distribution) and use of both commercial and on farm produced animal feed and feed ingredients for food producing animals.

Ad hoc Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services

31 October – 2 November 2006

The ad hoc Group met to review the PVS, an OIE tool for the evaluation of Veterinary Services, and to start work on performance indicators and a manual for assessors. The document developed by the ad hoc Group is now available on the OIE Web site. The full report of this meeting will be distributed among Member Countries as part of the March 2007 report of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission.

Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety

7-9 November 2006

Please refer to the report of activities of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group presented in the Forum (see page 5 section 3: Forum of this issue of the Bulletin).

Ad hoc Group on Aquatic Animal Feeding

12-14 December 2006

The ad hoc Group followed the terms of reference prepared by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission. It documented the risks and mitigation measures related to aquatic feeds and drafted a guideline on the management of identified hazards.

Ad hoc Group on Dog Population Control

29 November – 1 December 2006

During its second meeting, the ad hoc Group completed the terms of reference and drafted a document entitled 'Guidelines on Dog Population Control'. This draft should be circulated among the members of the ad hoc Group for revision and will be sent during the first half of 2007 to the OIE Permanent Animal Welfare Working Group and to the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission.

Scientific and Technical Department

Meetings between October and December 2006

The *ad hoc* Groups for the evaluation of country status for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and for Rinderpest, as well as the *ad hoc* Groups for the evaluation of vaccines and vaccination for avian influenza, on Newcastle disease, on Tuberculosis, African and Classical swine fever, and on African horse sickness met at the OIE Headquarters under the responsibility of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (SCAD), and the *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology met under the responsibility of the Biological Standards Commission. An emergency meeting of the ad hoc Group on Bluetongue was also convened. The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission had one meeting, and a meeting of the Presidents of the OIE Specialist Commission was also held. The main topics discussed during these meetings were:

Ad hoc Group for the evaluation of country status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

Eight country dossiers were evaluated for the first time in accordance with the 2006 edition of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. Using the submitted dossiers as examples, the Group discussed basic aspects of the new procedure, such as flexibility in the interpretation of required surveillance points, and the risk assessment's time frame and outcome in relation to aspects of the feed ban. It was decided to postpone the final evaluation of the present dossiers to the next *ad hoc* Group meeting in January 2007, in order to ask countries to provide additional information and to enable a consistent comparison of dossiers to validate the evaluation process

Ad hoc Group for the evaluation of country status for rinderpest

Eleven dossiers from countries applying either for recognition of rinderpest disease free or infection free status were evaluated, and nine were recommended for acceptance. Two dossiers lacked convincing data to support the requests of the accreditation procedure and were therefore rejected. The Group revised the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on rinderpest: in view of the changing epidemiological situation and the achievements in global rinderpest eradication, the status of 'disease free' and 'provisionally free' could be deleted.

Ad hoc Group for the evaluation of country status for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

Two dossiers from countries applying for recognition of their CBPP free status were reviewed and recommended for acceptance. The Group also reviewed the ALive draft document on CBPP and made a number of suggestions for improving it. Finally, the Group reviewed the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on CBPP and the questionnaire for the evaluation of country status to make it consistent with other questionnaires such as that on rinderpest and foot and mouth disease.

Ad hoc Group on evaluation of vaccines and vaccination for avian influenza (AI)

This second meeting of the *ad hoc* Group was convened to evaluate the OIE information document on AI vaccination and to use this document as a basis to design a 'decision tree' to guide countries with respect to possible implementation of vaccination. The document should also be useful as a basis to establish more detailed guidelines for the application of vaccination strategies, post vaccination monitoring, and related preventive measures such as biosecurity. The Group were also asked to provide general guidelines and an overview of the available vaccines.

Ad hoc Group on Newcastle disease

The *ad hoc* Group reviewed and updated the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on Newcastle disease and developed surveillance guidelines for the disease.

Ad hoc Group on tuberculosis

The aim of the meeting of this *ad hoc* Group was to review and update *Terrestrial Code* chapter on bovine tuberculosis. The chapter was expanded to include wood bison (*Bison bison* and *Bison bonasus*) and restricted to domestic (permanently captive and owned free-range) bovines. The influence of other domestic and wild mammals on the potential transmission of *M. bovis* to domestic bovines has been taken into account. The concept of compartmentalisation and zoning vis-à-vis *M. bovis* infection was reviewed and clarified

Ad hoc Group on African swine fever and classical swine fever

The *ad hoc* Group convened with the aim to establish parity between the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on African swine fever and Classical swine fever and the surveillance guidelines.

Ad hoc Group on African horse sickness

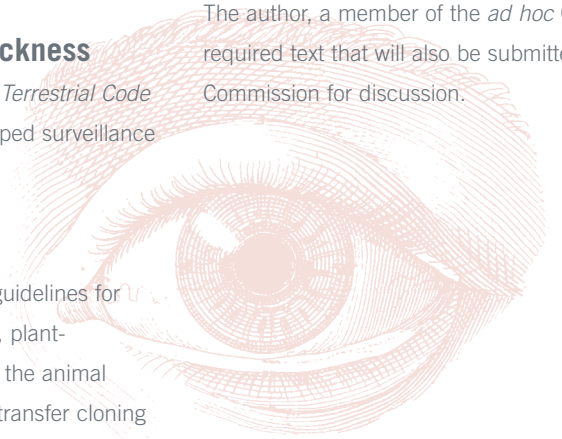
The *ad hoc* Group reviewed and updated the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on African horse sickness and developed surveillance guidelines for AHS.

Ad hoc Group on Biotechnology

The *ad hoc* Group was convened to develop guidelines for new vaccine technologies (e.g. DNA vaccines, plant-expressed antigens), to develop guidelines on the animal health risks arising from somatic cell nuclear transfer cloning of production animals, including criteria for assessing the health of embryos and animals derived from such cloning, to monitor developments in the applications of nanotechnology related to animal health and to inform OIE, and to advise OIE on suitable procedures for the identification and tracing of animals and animal products that have resulted from biotechnological interventions. The Group is also involved in organising the International Symposium 'Animal Genomics for Animal Health', which will take place at OIE Headquarters, from 23 to 25 October 2007.

Emergency Meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Bluetongue

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current provisions of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* and *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* in view of the outbreaks of bluetongue in Europe. The Group agreed that the recent outbreaks of bluetongue resulting in a new focus in Europe do not represent changes in the basic biology of the disease and that the only significant change that needs to be made to the *Terrestrial Code* as a result of these outbreaks is to take account of the northern limit of the disease: 53°N latitude. There is a need for safer and better vaccines and vaccine manufacturers are urged to act on this necessity. The chapter on bluetongue in the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* needs to include more information on vaccines. The author, a member of the *ad hoc* Group, will draft the required text that will also be submitted to the Scientific Commission for discussion.



The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission met from 2 to 6 October. The Commission:

– Reviewed and endorsed the reports of the *ad hoc* Groups under the responsibility of the Commission

– Reviewed and updated various texts proposed for inclusion in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

– Approved a position paper on pathogen strain differentiation

– Reviewed and updated various texts proposed for inclusion in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

Meeting of the Presidents of the OIE Specialist Commissions

The purpose of the meeting was to allow the participants time to discuss issues of importance to the OIE and the Specialist Commissions. Chief among these was the need to clarify the relationship between the Central Bureau and each Specialist Commission as set out in the document entitled 'Collaboration between the Presidents of the Specialist Commissions and the responsible departments within the OIE Central Bureau'.

Classical swine fever in Japan Final report

Information received on 1st April 2007 from Dr Yamato Atagi, Animal Health Division, Food safety and consumers affairs, Bureau Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Since the outbreak of classical swine fever (CSF) caused by a wild-type virus strain in December 1992, there have been no confirmed outbreaks of the disease in Japan. Although positive cases with virus derived from a vaccine strain were detected in March–September 2004, these cases ended on 8 October 2004.

An eradication programme has been implemented step by step since 1996 to establish control measures without vaccination and thus fully eradicate the disease. This includes surveillance efforts in accordance with the requirements of *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* Appendix 3.8.8. for both domestic pigs and wild boar.

To prevent any introduction of the CSF agent, animal quarantine and other relevant measures have been adopted based on the provisions of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code.*

On 31 March 2006, Japan established "Guidelines on Control Measures for Specific Domestic Animals Infectious Diseases with CSF (the Guideline)", based on animal infectious disease control law. These guidelines are designed to prevent and control the disease without preventive vaccination and include a discussion of all potential factors for CSF occurrence and their historical perspective. Preventive vaccination against CSF has been completely banned since 1 April 2006.

The Delegate of Japan declares that his country has met the requirements for recognition as a country free from classical swine fever in domestic pigs and wild boar, in accordance with Chapter 2.6.7. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, with effect from 1 April 2007.

regional activities

A regional animal health centre created in Mali

In line with the recommendations of the Beijing Conference on avian influenza in January 2006 and following the entry of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Nigeria and the threat that it posed to other countries in Africa, the OIE joined hands with the FAO(1) and AU-IBAR(2) to create a Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako, Mali on 25 April 2006.

The main objective of the Centre is to use the combined strengths of the three organisations to better coordinate and harmonise the control of major animal diseases particularly HPAI and thus enhance the activities being undertaken under the ALive programme destined to improve animal health and production in the continent.

The main activities of the Centre include:

– support in the elaboration of national control strategies with respect to avian influenza
– reinforcement of the epidemiological surveillance for avian influenza in domestic and wild birds
– improvement of animal disease reporting system
– strengthening of diagnostic capabilities
– training of OIE Delegates and their close collaborators
– providing relevant disease information to the public and other stakeholders
– providing technical assistance to countries in the implementation of disease control programmes
– creation of vaccine banks
– evaluation of Veterinary Services in order to identify gaps, weaknesses and areas for priority investments.

Technical experts are provided by the relevant organisations to achieve the common objectives. The Secretariat is provided by the OIE Regional Representation in Bamako and the technical activities are supervised by the three organisations within the framework of the Executive Committee of ALive. This includes regional economic organisations such as the African Development Bank, which are also members of the ALive Executive Committee.

The creation of other Regional Animal Health Centres is envisaged in Gaborone, Botswana for countries of the South African Development Community, in Central Africa for Central African countries, in Nairobi, Kenya for East African countries and in Tunis, Tunisia for North African Countries.

The activities of the Centre are financed from funds coming from the three organisations sought from potential partners in the context of the ALive Programme.

(1) FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
(2) AU-IBAR: African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

Regional Animal Health Centre for Western and Central Africa
Parc de Sotuba, B.P: 2954, Bamako, Mali

official acts

Appointment of permanent Delegates

29 August 2006
United Arab Emirates
Dr Mohamed Mousa Abdullah
Director, Animal Health Department, Ministry of Environment and Water

5 September 2006
Madagascar
Dr Josoa L.H. Rakotosamimanana
Director of Animal Health and Phytosanitary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

2 October 2006
Chile
Dr Claudio Ternicier Gonzáles
Head of Livestock Protection Department, Ministry of Agriculture

7 October 2006
Pakistan
Dr R.H. Usmani
Animal Husbandry Commissioner /CVO, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock

16 October 2006
Poland
Dr Ewa Lech
Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

24 October 2006
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Dr Dejan Runtevski
Director, Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy

November 2006
Colombia
Dr Andrés Rafael Valencia Pinzón
Director General, Colombian Institute for Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

9 November 2006
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Dr N'Lemba Mabela
Director of Livestock and Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture

25 December 2006
Turkey
Dr Nihat Pakdil
Deputy Undersecretary and Director General, General Directorate of Protection and Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

epidemiology & animal disease control programmes

Thailand declares itself free from peste des petits ruminants

Information received on 1 November 2006 from Dr Yukol Limlamthong, Director General, Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Bangkok, Thailand

Thailand is historically free from peste des petits ruminants (PPR). According to the OIE publication *World Animal Health*, the nearest affected country is Bangladesh whereas in Myanmar, a geographical buffer between Thailand and Bangladesh, the disease has never been reported.

1. No clinical disease or any suspicion of PPR has ever been reported in Thailand, despite laboratory surveillance for a number of decades.
2. Thailand has been conducting active surveillance since October 2004. The nationwide serological monitoring results of 3,997 samples of epidemiological significance collected in 2004-2005 revealed negative results for PPR virus antibodies using the competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (c-ELISA) test.
3. In 2006, another 3,980 samples of epidemiological significance were collected and tested using the c-ELISA test and showed no positive results for PPR virus antibodies.

Here below are the results of our active serological surveillance over the past two years, including other relevant information supporting our self-declaration for PPR country freedom recognition.

Note by the OIE's Animal Health Information Department: according to official information available at the OIE, in addition to Bangladesh, Vietnam has experienced the first occurrence of sheep pox and goat pox outbreaks in 2005.

Results of peste des petits ruminants active serological surveillance

Table 1 in 2004-2005

Livestock Region	Province	Number of sera tested	Results
1	Singburi	100	Negative
	Angthong	100	Negative
	Pathumthani	100	Negative
	Lopburi	100	Negative
2	Rayong	100	Negative
	Chachoengsao	100	Negative
	Samutprakan	100	Negative
	Sakaew	97	Negative
3	Nakornratchasima	100	Negative
	Amnartcharoen	40	Negative
	Burirum	100	Negative
4	Loei	100	Negative
	Nong Khai	100	Negative
5	Phayao	100	Negative
	Phrae	100	Negative
	Chiangrai	100	Negative
	Chiangmai	100	Negative
6	Uthaithani	100	Negative
	Tak	860	Negative
7	Phetchaburi	100	Negative
	Ratchaburi	100	Negative
	Nakhonpathom	100	Negative
	Kanchanaburi	100	Negative
8	Krabi	100	Negative
	Ranong	100	Negative
	Suratthani	100	Negative
	Chumphon	100	Negative
9	Songkhla	100	Negative
	Satun	100	Negative
	Yala	100	Negative
	Trang	100	Negative
	Narathiwat	100	Negative
	Pattani	100	Negative
	Total	**3,997**	**Negative**

Remarks:

– Serum sampling was performed in 2004 (from October) or in 2005.

– Sera from Tak Province were collected from imported animals.

– tHe sampling protocol was in compliance with the relevant OIE recommendations and was adapted to the situation in Thailand with regard to the epidemiological risk of PPR.

– The sampling frame was sufficient to provide a 95% probability of detecting PPR virus antibodies, using c-ELISA, if 1% of villages/flocks within a stratum (i.e., a Department of Livestock [DLD] Livestock Administrative Region) were infected.

Table 2 in 2006

Livestock Region	Province	Number of sera tested	Results
1	Suphanburi	100	Negative
	Nonthaburi	109	Negative
	Pathumthani	100	Negative
	Lopburi	100	Negative
2	Rayong	100	Negative
	Chanthaburi	100	Negative
	Samutprakan	90	Negative
	Sakaeo	100	Negative
3	Nakhonratchasima	120	Negative
	Ubonratchathani	100	Negative
	Yasothon	118	Negative
	Amnatcharoen	34	Negative
	Roiet	100	Negative
4	Loei	100	Negative
	Nongbualamphu	80	Negative
	Nakhonphanom	80	Negative
	KhonKean	54	Negative
	Udonthani	100	Negative
5	Phayao	100	Negative
	Phrae	64	Negative
	Chiangrai	100	Negative
	Maehongson	100	Negative
6	Uttaradit	100	Negative
	Phitsanulok	100	Negative
	Kamphaengphet	100	Negative
	Tak	482	Negative
7	Phetchaburi	100	Negative
	Ratchaburi	100	Negative
	Nakhonpathom	100	Negative
	Prachuapkhirikhan	100	Negative
8	Suratthani	102	Negative
	Chumphon	100	Negative
	Phangnga	100	Negative
	Phuket	100	Negative
9	Songkla	98	Negative
	Trang	100	Negative
	Phattalung	99	Negative
	Pattani	50	Negative
	Total	**3,980**	**Negative**

Remarks:

– The serum samples were collected in 2006.

– The samples from Tak Province were collected from both imported and local animals.

– The sampling frame was sufficient to provide a 95% probability of detecting PPR virus antibodies using the c-ELISA if 1% of villages/flocks within a stratum (i.e., a DLD Livestock Administrative Region) were infected.

Progress report on post-outbreak activities related to highly pathogenic avian influenza control in Myanmar

Information received on 2 September 2006 from Dr U Maung Maung Nyunt, Director General, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, YangonBangkok, Thailand

The number of birds that died and were destroyed during the disease outbreaks

Starting in early March 2006, highly pathogenic avian influenza occurred in five townships in Sagaing Division and eight townships in Mandalay Division up to 7 April 2006. In 408 chicken farms and 137 quail farms, a total of 336,090 chickens, 322,910 quails, 98,580 chicken eggs, 76,758 quail eggs and 1,341 *viss* (equivalent to 2,193 kg) of feed were destroyed. Due to the destruction of animals, animal products and feed, movement restrictions and active surveillance, the disease was successfully brought under control by 8 April 2006. More than four months have now elapsed since the last outbreak was eradicated.

Disease surveillance

Serosurveillance of all domestic birds within a 3-km radius of affected farms was undertaken 21 days after the end of the last outbreak but no new cases were found. The survey was designed to detect with a 95% confidence level at least one serologically positive bird in any flock with a prevalence of at least 10%. A total of 11,611 serum samples were collected and tested from 401 chicken farms within a 3-km radius of affected farms in the protection zone in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions: all the sera gave negative results. Furthermore, 3,975 specimens from 128 chicken and quail farms outside the 3-km-radius zone around affected farms were collected for analysis: all were found to be negative.

Disease surveillance in affected areas (Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions)

Twenty-one days after the elimination of the last case in an outbreak, **all farms within a 3-km radius of the infected premises** were visited. In Mandalay Division, 99 farms were visited in 8 infected townships and a total of 2,435 serum samples and 1,562 cloacal swabs were collected (based on a 95% probability of detecting the infection if present at a prevalence of at least 10%). Similarly, in Sagaing Division, 199 farms and 6 villages were visited in 5 infected townships and 5,962 serum samples and 1,652 cloacal swabs. Of the aforementioned samples, 595 village chicken sera and 286 cloacal swabs were collected from village chickens in infected townships in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions. Samples from ducks, Muscovy ducks and geese from 4 infected townships were also collected, including 68 serum samples and 35 cloacal swabs. Moreover, **farms outside the 3-km-radius zone around infected premises** were also visited. Thirty percent of farms were specifically targeted on the basis of risk factors for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) infection. In Sagaing Division, a total of 2,880 sera were thus collected from 96 farms. In Mandalay Division, 32 farms were visited and 919 sera

samples and 176 cloacal swabs were collected. None of the cloacal swabs tested positive for HPAI virus and none of the sera tested positive for HPAI virus antibodies.

Serosurveillance in non-affected areas

A mission led by Dr Anthony Williams, FAO consultant, and Dr Che Cho Su Mon, Assistant Director of the Myanmar Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD), visited non-affected areas. Firstly, in Yangon Division, lower Myanmar, 5% of commercial farms were randomly selected and 1,037 serum samples were collected from 35 farms in 12 townships. In Bago (East and West) Division, lower Myanmar, 22 farms were randomly selected from 5 townships. Among those farms, 6 duck farms were included and 993 sera samples were collected. Southern Shan State in central and eastern Myanmar, where there is a famous wetland area, Inlay Lake, was also visited. Twelve chicken farms from 3 townships and 4 duck farm from a township located on the edge of Inlay Lake were randomly selected. A total of 582 serum samples were collected from these farms. All of the collected serum samples were from commercial chickens, ducks, Muscovy ducks and village chickens. They included 44 serum samples of village chickens from 6 townships and 567 sera sample of ducks and Muscovy ducks from 4 townships. **All serum samples were negative for HPAI antibodies.**

Live bird market survey

The largest live bird market in Yangon was visited five times after the outbreaks in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions: 335 sera from village chickens and 115 sera from ducks were collected. The live bird market survey is still in progress.

Progress in chicken farming and commodity flow

There has been progress in commodity flow of poultry meat, chickens and duck eggs in every State and Division of the country. Healthy chickens and eggs to be traded are certified by the committee including veterinary officials from LBVD (Veterinary authority) and are allowed to enter other townships and other States and Divisions.

Public awareness

In order to increase public awareness on avian influenza control, manuals for veterinary officials on AI disease control, pamphlets and posters on ‘Dos and Don’ts’ in AI disease control were produced and distributed by LBVD with the financial support of UNICEF Myanmar and JICA Myanmar. Trainer training courses for AI disease control have been conducted by LBVD in collaboration with ACMECS, the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF and CARE Myanmar. After completing the course, new trainers work with extension workers and poultry farmers.

Restocking and restructuring

Issues relating to the rehabilitation and restocking of the affected farms in 13 townships have been considered, including the following: allocation of a separate farming zone, improvement of the information network, provision of healthy chickens and feed, and the loan from the Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank.

1. As a first batch, 51,900 DOCs in Mandalay Division and 48,000 DOCs in Sagaing Division (i.e. a total of 99,900 DOCs) will be provided by the Livestock Feedstuff and Milk Product Enterprise under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. The cost of DOCs will be borne by the Livestock and fisheries Development Bank.
2. To improve knowledge of biosecurity and good farming practice, some of the veterinary staff and poultry farmers will undergo special training. Training will be supervised by the LBVD and will receive financial and technical assistance from UNICEF and Thai DLD.
3. To improve the level of biosecurity, separate zones for future livestock and poultry farming have been selected in Sagaing Division in cooperation with the local authority and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. The areas allocated in the different townships are as follows: 21.53 acres in Ye Oo, 10.15 acres in Khin Oo, 14.69 acres in Monywa, 20.00 acres in Shwe Bo and 21.96 acres in Kant Balu, representing a total of 88.33 acres.
4. To improve the information network, the Government has supplied 685 mobile telephones to local veterinarians and poultry farmers in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions.

Comment

Since the last outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Myanmar was eradicated on 7 April 2006, in the Central Dry Zone, active serosurveillance has been carried out, both in affected areas and in non-affected areas, with the technical assistance of an FAO consultant, Dr Anthony William. To date, the results of the surveillance have been negative. Four months have now elapsed since the last outbreak was eradicated. The Veterinary Authority of Myanmar, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD), hereby declares that, based on the results of active surveillance, the country is currently free from HPAI infection and disease.

Conclusion

Serosurveillance has been actively undertaken in the 13 affected townships as well as in non-affected areas such as Yangon and Bago Division. To date, negative results have been obtained, indicating the absence of avian influenza virus in the environment. Following restructuring and the introduction of improved biosecurity measures, restocking in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions has been carried out in September 2006.

activities of reference laboratories & collaborating centres

The OIE concept of twinning between laboratories

Introduction

The most effective way of detecting, diagnosing, controlling and responding to animal disease and zoonotic incursions, is to ensure good governance in Member Countries. Integral to good governance is the ability and capacity of all Member Countries to comply with the guidelines, recommendations and international standards of the OIE that are mandated by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has therefore embarked on a unique strategic initiative to develop an assessment and evaluation system to assist countries to identify weaknesses in their system that makes it difficult for them to comply with the minimum standards, guidelines and recommendations of the OIE. The evaluation system based on the performance, vision and strategy of a country to move towards compliance (commonly referred to as the PVS-strategy) is already in operation and applied successfully in a number of developing and in-transition countries. The assessment system considers critical aspects of Veterinary Service delivery such as technical capability, human and financial capital, interaction with the private sector and the needs and problems associated with access to markets. The OIE has, by linking this initiative to its overall aim to establish awareness and acceptance of the delivery of Veterinary Services as an international public good, received major financial support for this project from the World Bank and other donors, including from some Member Countries of the OIE. Integral to the assessment process is also the identification of the need to establish scientific and technological expertise within these countries to enable them to become self-sufficient to early detect and diagnose diseases and to be able to provide the scientific justification for certification of animals and animal products for trade.

Although the International Committee of the OIE has already in 2002 adopted a resolution to identify the need for support by OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to enter into partnership as advanced research institutes with developing and in-transition countries, the OIE also realises that substance to this ideal can only be given by actively moving towards scientific capacity building with

the ideal to eventually establish focal points of expertise and more Reference Laboratories within developing countries. To enable the realisation of this ideal, the concept of twinning between laboratories was born to eventually ensure an even geographical distribution of expertise and Reference Laboratories for easier access to expertise for the rapid detection and diagnosis of disease.

The development and setting of OIE guidelines, recommendations and standards for both terrestrial and aquatic animals, are based on scientific principles and thereby also in support of the requirements of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the WTO that sanitary measures should be scientifically justifiable. The OIE standards are developed for application by all its Member Countries which makes it imperative that all Member Countries should contribute in the setting of standards and also be able to debate these standards from a scientific point of view when necessary. It is therefore important that developing and in-transition countries need a veterinary scientific community able to be associated in the preparation of standards. To this end, the twinning concept will create the much needed opportunities to enable developing and in-transition countries to become scientifically competent to debate on equal footing on the scientific justification of standards.

Twinning – an integral concept to capacity building for the improvement of Veterinary Services

Out of the current 168 Member Countries of the OIE, almost 72% (121) are from developing countries with variable scientific capacity or access to scientific expertise within their national laboratories with the majority of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and expertise still situated in the remaining 47 Member Countries. All 168 Member Countries of the OIE are however obliged to comply or move towards compliance with the international guidelines, recommendations and standards prescribed in the OIE *Codes* and *Manuals* for both terrestrial and aquatic animals. It is therefore of critical importance to establish the necessary scientific expertise in these countries and eventually ensure an even geographical spread of available expertise to provide the essential scientific support to the Veterinary Services within these countries, thereby enabling them to more readily apply the guidelines, recommendations and standards of the OIE.

The main objective of twinning is therefore to assist laboratories in developing or in-transition countries to build their capacity and scientific expertise with the eventual aim that some of them could become OIE Reference Laboratories in their own right. To practically apply this concept, a link between an existing OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre with another laboratory in a developing or in- transition country must be established for exchange of scientific expertise and capacity building. Taking into consideration the current geographical spread and actual localities of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, the twinning concept could imply a transfer of knowledge, training and expertise from the 'North' to the 'South' or from an existing OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre of the South to another less advanced laboratory applying for such assistance.

Applying the concept of twinning between laboratories

The procedure to implement the concept should be flexible to be adaptable to different situations from helping as a first step to publish scientific results until eventually achieving the level required to become an OIE Reference Laboratory. The guiding or parent OIE Reference Laboratory and the selected expert(s) from that laboratory will be the driving force to ensure success in any twinning agreement and will also be responsible for the implementation and the use of financial resources under the auspices and control of the OIE.

The initiation and eventual implementation of a twinning relationship between an OIE Reference Laboratory and an applicant laboratory should be done in a stepwise approach to establish capacity and expertise and eventually move to the final phase when a participatory laboratory could become an OIE Reference Laboratory in their own right.

To ensure the successful agreement on a twinning process between laboratories, it will be essential that:

a) The Delegates of the Member Countries of the two involved laboratories and their respective directors should be in agreement on such a twinning arrangement.
b) The twinning arrangement should favour a scientific need relevant to the sanitary situation of the country or region of the applicant laboratory;
c) Communication facilities between the laboratories and experts involved must be assured;
d) The objectives, time frames and desired outcomes must be realistic and attainable.

The requirements for compliance by the applicant laboratory to enter into such a twinning arrangement will be detailed by the Biological Standards Commission taking into consideration prevailing guide-lines for applicants.

The Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE Central Bureau in close cooperation with the relevant Specialist Commissions, will manage the process by:

a) informing all Delegates of Member Countries under signature of the Director General of the OIE on the concept and proposed steps for twinning between laboratories;
b) establishing a list of existing OIE Reference Laboratories or Collaborating Centres candidates for providing cooperation and a list of applicant laboratories interested in cooperation using the OIE twinning concept;
c) collating the proposed projects and applications for twinning for submission of the dossiers to the relevant Specialist Commissions.
d) initiate and facilitate negotiations between the OIE and potential financial donors to assist twin-ning projects;
e) Selection of eligible projects for financial support on the base of the estimated budget indicated by the two collaborating partners and as accepted by the relevant OIE Commission;
f) ensuring that the project is implemented by the existing OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre in close cooperation with the applicant;
g) ensuring that technical and financial control outlined in the mutual agreement between the participating laboratories, are applied.

book review

Developments in Biologicals

ISSN 1424-6074

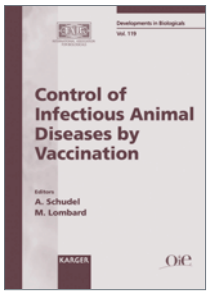
Vol. 119 – Control of Infectious Animal Diseases by Vaccination

Editors: A. Schudel & M. Lombard

Buenos Aires, (528 p.)

CHF 320.- (CHF 475.-).

ISBN 3-8055-7874-1



This monograph contains the proceedings from an International Conference on the Control of Infectious Animal Diseases by Vaccination held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in April 2004. Applying severe stamping-out policies to healthy animals is increasingly giving rise to opposition among public opinion and the purpose of the conference was to review new opportunities to use vaccination without impairing the safety of world trade in animals and animal products.

One of the objectives of the conference was to make recommendations to improve, when possible, the international standards related to the use of vaccines and to present these recommendations to the International Committee of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in Paris, France.

This publication contains important, up-to-date information as well as a history of successful disease control efforts using traditional or marker vaccines. The examples focus particularly on transboundary diseases but also cover parasitic infestations.

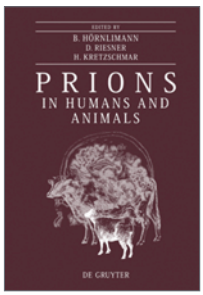
Chief Veterinary Officers, animal health regulatory officials, veterinarians, cattle-raising associations and consumer associations, will all be helped by the information provided in this publication. It discusses the complexity of deciding whether or not to use vaccines and will help all those working to eliminate and eradicate pathogens as they decide which vaccine to choose.

The proceedings of this conference will also be of interest to professors in veterinary medicine, animal health researchers in universities and public research laboratories, or to commercial organisations attempting to develop vaccines with markers or without viral non-structural proteins. The development of such vaccines will enable Differentiation between Infected and Vaccinated Animals (DIVA), which is the key, at the present time, to the elimination of all animal infections throughout the world.

Prions in Humans and Animals

Hörnlimann, Beat/Riesner, Detlev/Kretzschmar, Hans, Eds

24 × 17 cm
XXVII, 714 pp.
158 € /US$ 213.30
ISBN 978-3-11-018275-0
Language: English



This comprehensive work, aimed at both students and researchers alike, systematically covers all aspects of prion diseases (transmissible spongiform encephalopathies), from their history, microbiology and pathology to their transmissibility and prevention. The book describes diseases such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, kuru, mad cow disease (BSE), chronic wasting disease and scrapie, highlighting their biochemical, molecular biological, genetic, and clinical aspects. A detailed presentation of the impact of prion diseases in fields such as pharmaceutics, blood products, disinfection, surgical instruments and epidemiology concludes with a discussion of preventive measures.

A renowned editorial team, representing the fields of medicine, veterinary medicine and molecular biology, brought together 80 internationally respected authors for this translation and new edition of the successful German publication, not only from relevant research fields, but also from industry and public health institutions. The book includes chapters by, among many other notable scientists, William J. Hadlow, who discovered the relationship between the human and animal forms of prion diseases and Michael P. Alpers, with 45 years of experience in Papua New Guinea investigating the first known human epidemic form, kuru, transmitted by endocannibalism. Further contributions from Gerald A. H. Wells, a veterinary pathologist who described BSE and recognised its similarity to scrapie, thus recording the first cases in 1986 of the most important animal epidemic of modern times, and Robert G. Will, a medical neurologist and epidemiologist who discovered the emergence of the variant form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in 1996, underscore the strength of this author team.

Carefully edited with numerous illustrations, this work offers a systematic approach committed to a clear presentation of the current knowledge of prion diseases. It aims to inspire and stimulate interdisciplinary cooperation, innovative research ideas and effective prevention.

Animal Health, Vol. 2 : main diseases

La santé animale

Volume 2. Principales maladies

Archie Hunter

With *Gerrit Uilenberg, Christian Meyer*

Collection: Agricultures tropicales (pocket)

Publisher: Quae
Co-publisher: CTA, Karthala
Language: French
ISBN-10 2759200051
ISBN-13 978-2-75920-005-4
Year of publication: 2006
Price: 18.00 €

This second volume of *La santé animale* covers the main livestock diseases in detail, including infectious and parasitic diseases, vector-borne diseases and diseases arising from the environment and from rearing conditions. Symptoms, causes, mode of transmission and spread are described for each disease, together with the relevant treatments and preventive measures.

This manual is aimed at veterinary technicians and agricultural advisers, and provides clear, essential information for anyone working with or caring for animals in the tropics and subtropics. It can also be used for teaching in the higher education sector.

agenda

2007

March

2007 Agriculture Outlook Forum: Agriculture at the Crossroads -Energy, Farm and Rural Policy
1-2 March
Arlington, Virginia, (United States of America)
Shannon R. Hamm
shannon.r.hamm@aphis.usda.gov
www.usda.gov/oce/forum

International Dairy Roundtable
2 March
Geneva (Switzerland)
www.agritrade.org

2nd International Seminar on Animal Health, SISA 2007
7-9 March
San José de las Lajas, La Habana (Cuba)
Dr Siomara Martínez Marrero,
Scientific Secretary
siomara@censa.edu.cu

International Poultry Council Meeting
8 March
Bangkok (Thailand)
tl@poultry.dk
www.internationalpoultrycouncil.org

3rd Annual Meeting on Regulation of Veterinary Medicines in Europe
20-21 March
Crown Plaza, Praha (Czech Republic)
Informa Life Sciences
sarah.cook@informa.com

OIE/FAO/IZSVe scientific conference on vaccination: a tool for the control of Avian Influenza
20-22 March
Palazzo della Gran Guardia, Verona (Italia)
Scientific and Technical Department
scientific.dept@oie.int
www.avianfluvaccine2007.org

Second Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)
26-30 March
Rome (Italy)
ippc@fao.org
www.ippc.int/IPP/Fr/default_fr.jsp?language=fr

April

Codex Committee on General Principles
2-6 April
Paris (France)
Ms Roselyne Lecourt
Chargée de mission
Ministère de l'Economie
et des Finances
www.codexalimentarious.net

General Assembly ot the International Federation for Equestrian Sport
15 April
Estoril (Portugal)
www.horsesport.org/

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) /Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) Joint Symposium
23-24 April
Atlanta (United States of America)
Ms Allison J. Foster, MBA, CAE
Deputy Executive Director
afoster@asph.org
www.asph.org/vetpubhealth

2nd International Symposium on Animal Disease Control in the 21st Century
23-25 April
Greifswald-Insel Riems (Germany)
symposium07@fli.bund.de

Animal Welfare Congress: New Horizons for the 21st Century
24-25 April,
Montevideo (Uruguay)
Ing. Agr. Marcia del Campo Gigena
National Programme of meat and whool
INIA Tacuarembó
Tel.: 00 598 63 22407
Fax: 00 598 63 23969
www.inia.org.uy
www.inia.org.uy/online/site/288636I1.php

2007

May

75th General Session of the OIE
20-25 May
Paris (France)
Palais Brongniart
(from 20 May to 23 May)
then at the OIE Headquarters
(on 24 and 25 May)
www.oie.int/fr/Session2007/home.htm

International Conference: Towards the Elimination of Rabies in Eurasia
27-30 May
OIE Headquarters,
Paris (France)
Scientific and Technical Department
scientific.dept@oie.int
www.oie.int/eng/rabies2007/home.htm

Paris Anti-Avian Influenza 2007
31 May – 1 June
Institut Pasteur,
Paris, France
Dr Sandra Huguenin
Tel.: 33 1 55 04 77 55
Fax: 33 1 55 04 77 57
www.isanh.com/avian-influenza/

June

Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA) & International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) Meeting
11-14 June
Come (Italy)
Mr Gilles Demers, D.M.V.,
M.Sc. President, ICLAS
gdemers@ccac.ca
www.felasa-iclas2007.com

Regular Session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Ressources for Food and Agriculture
11-15 June
Rome (Italy)
cgrfa@fao.org
ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/cgrfa10/r10repf.pdf

13th International Congress in Animal Hygiene
17-21 June
Tartu (Estonia)
www.emu.ee/isah2007

7th Nordic Symposium on Fish Immunology
17-23 June
Stirling (United Kingdom)
Dr Janina Costa
Tel.: +44(0) 1786 466-598
noffi@stir.ac.uk
www.noffi.org

SPS Committee (Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures)
27-29 June
Geneva (Switzerland)
gretchen.stanton@wto.org
www.wto.org

July

Codex Alimentarius Commission
2-6 July
Rome (Italy)
www.codexalimentarius.net

13th International Conference on Production Diseases (ICPD) in Farm Animals
29 July – 4 August
Veterinary Faculty of the Leipzig University, Germany
Prof. Habil M. Fürll
Tel.: (49) 341 97 38322
Fax: (49) 341 97 38349
mfuerll@rz.uni-leipzig.de

August

8th International Veterinary Immunology Symposium
15-19 August
Ouro Preto (Brazil)
Tel.: 55-16-36023267
secretariat@8ivis.org
www.8ivis.org

12th International Conference of the Association of Institutions for tropical Veterinary Medicine (AITVM)
20-23 August
Montpellier (France)
Ms Denise Bastron
CIRAD-EMVT – TA30/B
Tel.: 33 467 593 904
Fax: 33 467 593 795
aitvm@cirad.fr
aitvm2007.cirad.fr

Novel vaccines: bridging research, development, and production
22-24 August
Cambridge, Massachussetts (United States of America)
Ms Mary Ruberry,
Conference Director
Tel.: 781-972-5421
lisac@healthtech.com
www.healthtech.com/2007/vac

September

6th Working Group Meeting of Animal Movement Management and Zoning Approach for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in the Upper Mekong Basin
September
OIE Regional Representation
for Asia and the Pacific
oietokyo@tky.3web.ne.jp

Animal Welfare Working Group
5-7 September
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)
www.oie.int/eng/bien_etre/en_introduction.htm
trade@oie.int

Annual Conference 2007 of the European Society of Domestic Animal Reproduction (ESDAR) & the European EU-AI (Artificial Insemination)-Veterinarians
19-23 September
Celle (Germany)
www.esdar.org

Prion 2007
26-28 September
Edinburgh, Scotland (United Kingdom)
Ms Michelle Kane,
Meeting Planning Manager
Tel.: 44 (0) 141 331 0123
info@prion2007.com
www.prion2007.com

October

SPS Committee (Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures)
17-19 October
Geneva (Switzerland)
gretchen.stanton@wto.org

International Symposium on Animal Genomics for Animal Health
23-25 October
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)
Publications Department
publications.dept@oie.int
& Scientific and Technical Department scientific.dept@oie.int
www.ars.usda.gov/meetings/AGAH2007/
www.oie.int/downld/ANNOUNCEMENT_MEETING/Paris%20Symposium.pdf

9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
30 October – 2 November
Damas (Syria)
OIE Regional Activities Department
regactivities.dept@oie.int

November

4th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference
4-8 November
St Michael (Barbados, West Indies)
commonwealthvetassoc.org/Home/BarBados.htm

Animal Production Food Safety Working Group
6-8 November
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)
www.oie.int/fr/secu_sanitaire/fr_introduction.htm

8th OIE/WAVLD Seminar Applications of Biotechnology to the Diagnosis and Pathology of Animal Diseases
13 November
Melbourne (Australia)
13th International WAVLD Symposium
11-14 November,
Melbourne (Australia)
www.wavld2007.com

5th international Conference on Emerging Zoonoses
15-19 November
Limassol (Cyprus)
Tel. : 972 3 5175150
Fax : 972 3 5175150
zoo2007@targetconf.com
www.zoonoses2007.com/index.asp

25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
26-30 November
Queenstown (New-Zealand)
OIE Regional Activities Department
regactivities.dept@oie.int
events.lincoln.ac.nz/oie

2008

July

29th World Veterinary Congress 2008
27-31 July,
Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada)
Tel.: (604) 681 2153
wvac2008@meet-ics.com
www.meet-ics.com/wvac2008/welcome.html

August

Meetings of the Three Divisions of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS),
5-15 August,
Istanbul (Turkey)

5-9 August 2008
XII International Congress of Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology
XII International Congress of Mycology

10-15 August 2008
XIV International Congress of Virology

Tel.: +90 216 330 90 20
Fax: +90 216 330 90 05/06
iums2008@topkon.com
www.iums2008.org

questions and answers

Official recognition for freedom from an animal disease

question:

What procedures must I follow for the OIE to officially declare my country free from highly pathogenic avian influenza?

answer:

Official recognition of disease or zonal freedom by the OIE currently only applies to four diseases: FMD, rinderpest, CBPP and BSE. The procedures to be followed for official recognition of disease freedom are described on the OIE website at (www.oie.int/eng/info/en_procedures.htm).

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is currently not included in this system of official recognition. However, a Member Country can still notify the OIE that it declares itself free of an OIE listed disease other than the four diseases above provided it fully meets the requirements of the *Terrestrial Animal Health* Code for proving absence of disease. This self-declaration of freedom from such a disease, such as HPAI, is on the sole responsibility of the Member Country and does not have official OIE recognition status as for the four diseases described above.

OIE MEMBERS (168)

AFGHANISTAN
ALBANIA
ALGERIA
ANDORRA
ANGOLA
ARGENTINA
ARMENIA
AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
AZERBAIJAN
BAHRAIN
BANGLADESH
BARBADOS
BELARUS
BELGIUM
BELIZE
BENIN
BHUTAN
BOLIVIA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
BOTSWANA
BRAZIL
BRUNEI
BULGARIA
BURKINA FASO
BURUNDI
CAMBODIA
CAMEROON
CANADA
CAPE VERDE
CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.
CHAD
CHILE
CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF)
COLOMBIA
COMOROS
CONGO
CONGO (DEM. REP. OF THE)
COSTA RICA
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
CROATIA
CUBA
CYPRUS
CZECH REPUBLIC
DENMARK
DJIBOUTI
DOMINICAN REP.
ECUADOR
EGYPT
EL SALVADOR
EQUATORIAL GUINEA
ERITREA
ESTONIA
ETHIOPIA
FINLAND
FORMER YUG. REP. OF MACEDONIA
FRANCE
GABON
GAMBIA
GEORGIA
GERMANY
GHANA
GREECE
GUATEMALA
GUINEA
GUINEA BISSAU
GUYANA
HAITI
HONDURAS
HUNGARY
ICELAND
INDIA
INDONESIA
IRAN
IRAQ
IRELAND
ISRAEL
ITALY
JAMAICA
JAPAN
JORDAN
KAZAKHSTAN
KENYA
KOREA (DEM. PEOPLE'S REP.)
KOREA (REP. OF)
KUWAIT
KYRGYZSTAN
LAOS
LATVIA
LEBANON
LESOTHO
LIBYA
LITHUANIA
LUXEMBOURG
MADAGASCAR
MALAWI
MALAYSIA
MALI
MALTA
MAURITANIA
MAURITIUS
MEXICO
MOLDAVIA
MONGOLIA
MOROCCO
MOZAMBIQUE
MYANMAR
NAMIBIA
NEPAL
NETHERLANDS
NEW CALEDONIA
NEW ZEALAND
NICARAGUA
NIGER
NIGERIA
NORWAY
OMAN
PAKISTAN
PANAMA
PARAGUAY
PERU
PHILIPPINES
POLAND
PORTUGAL
QATAR
ROMANIA
RUSSIA
RWANDA
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
SAUDI ARABIA
SENEGAL
SERBIA-AND-MONTENEGRO
SIERRA LEONE
SINGAPORE
SLOVAKIA
SLOVENIA
SOMALIA
SOUTH AFRICA
SPAIN
SRI LANKA
SUDAN
SURINAME
SWAZILAND
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
SYRIA
TAIPEI CHINA
TAJIKISTAN
TANZANIA
THAILAND
TOGO
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TUNISIA
TURKEY
TURKMENISTAN
UGANDA
UKRAINE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
URUGUAY
UZBEKISTAN
VANUATU
VENEZUELA
VIETNAM
YEMEN
ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE

Paris, 20-25 May 2007 • 20-25 mai 2007 • 20-25 de mayo de 2007

75 Session

Palais Brongniart

(from 20 May to 23 May)

then at the

OIE Headquarters

(on 24 and 25 May)

www.oie.int/fr/Session2007/home.htm

OIE

12, rue de prony • 75017 paris france • tel. 33 (0)1 44 15 18 88 • fax 33 (0)1 42 67 09 87 • www.oie.int • oie@oie.int