

# VETERINARY LEGISLATION - PUBLIC SECTOR PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES

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Veterinary legislation is an essential element of the national infrastructure. Under the challenges of the fight against highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Vietnam, it is recognised that current veterinary legislation is outdated and inadequate to address today's challenges and those of the future. As such, modernizing the national veterinary legislation and thereby strengthen the veterinary services to help meet the OIE standards has been considered the priority of the Vietnam Veterinary Services (VVS) in recent years. Vietnam decided to take the OIE PVS pathway to evaluate its Veterinary Services, as well as its legislation systems for animal health.

In 2006, Vietnam was the first country requesting the OIE to conduct the first ever evaluation of the performance of VVS using the OIE PVS Tool (initial PVS evaluation). Following this good start, upon VVS' request, the OIE conducted the first mission on veterinary legislation in 2009, the PVS Follow-up mission and the PVS Gap Analysis missions in 2010. Vietnam also volunteered to participate, on a pilot basis, in the PVS Assessment of Aquatic Animal Health Services, to support the OIE's efforts to refine the PVS Tool for use in strengthening governance in the important aquaculture sector. Through the conduct of OIE PVS Gap Analysis missions, VVS identified its priorities, quantified its needs and presented justifications on financial needs.

Vietnam Veterinary Services have been totally open in the process of drafting new Veterinary Laws. In parallel with OIE support, VVS has arranged for wider consultation with local and other international bodies. An FAO mission was conducted in 2009 and in the same year USDA provided effective support in producing the 4th draft of the Laws.

It is envisaged that the Draft Laws will be submitted to the National Assembly for endorsement during its second meeting in 2012. In the period preceding that deadline, VVS will need to conduct some assessments of the potential impacts of certain key articles in the new Draft Laws.

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