

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)
AND
THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR RABIES CONTROL (GARC)**

With a view to encouraging collaboration between the two signatories of the agreement on the following issues of common interest:

- Coordinate on global human canine-mediated rabies elimination and rabies control in dog populations as a matter of priority;
- Where appropriate, actively encourage the development of regional rabies control and elimination strategies, including dog vaccination campaigns and demographic control of dog populations, in line with OIE standards;
- Promote national rabies surveillance systems, including transparency/notification, and rabies control or elimination strategies in line with OIE standards and the “Blueprint for Rabies Prevention and Control” (the “Rabies Blueprint”);
- Advocate for more involvement of national and local authorities in rabies control, in particular veterinary services;
- Coordinate their respective communication strategies on rabies;
- Facilitate access to respective networks for communication outreach;
- Promote World Rabies Day activities through their respective networks, including communication strategies related to it;
- Provide advisory support to canine rabies control projects.
- Advocate for support from donors to specific joint programmes – relevant supporting documents will be developed jointly.

Whereas,

- (i) The Directors General of WHO, OIE and FAO agreed to a tripartite approach on “One Health” with rabies control as a priority;
- (ii) The OIE has adopted and published international standards, guidelines and recommendations, notably on “Infection with Rabies virus”, and on “Stray dog population control” in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, and on “Rabies” (including vaccines’ quality) in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, regularly reviewed and updated by the World Assembly of National Delegates to the OIE;
- (iii) A first exchange of letters between the OIE and GARC was formalised on 10 August 2011;

- (iv) The OIE has published the recommendations of the Global Conference on Rabies Control held in September 2011 in Incheon–Seoul (Republic of Korea) with the participation of GARC;
- (v) GARC has developed the “Rabies Blueprint”;
- (vi) The World Rabies Day is an initiative launched and coordinated by GARC;
- (vii) The OIE is managing regional rabies vaccine banks for rabies prevention;
- (viii) An Agreement between the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines, the Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia of the OIE and the Asia office of GARC on 22 February 2013 in Manila, Philippines;

(1) The OIE and GARC will:

- Inform and invite each other to rabies related events or conferences where matters of mutual interest may arise and make the reports of these meetings available to the other party;
- Hold annual meetings for mutual updates;
- Consult each other on the appropriate focal point (depending on the activities and level of engagement);
- Promote rabies control and intersectoral collaboration as components of the baseline veterinary education curriculum and refine relevant aspects;
- Designate a representative preferably of the OIE headquarters to the “Partners for Rabies Prevention” meetings;
- Exchange information on relevant applied research;
- Exchange a free copy of each document and publication on subjects of mutual interest;
- Exchange their respective catalogues of available publications to enable both organisations to request publications on activities and topics related to their work.

(2) Both organisations will benefit from the concessionary rates applied to their affiliated members or organisations for further orders of publications and possible registration fees.

(3) The OIE will remain involved in promoting and updating the “Rabies Blueprint” including aspects of wildlife rabies control.

(4) Dependent upon available resources GARC will:

- Promote the use of and compliance with OIE international standards, guidelines and recommendations on rabies, on dog population control, on transparency/notification, on diagnostic methods and on quality of vaccines;
- Reinforce sustainability of animal rabies control strategies in the field;
- Facilitate countries’ responsibility concerning surveillance systems and consequently notification of outbreaks and implementation of rabies control at the animal source;
- Provide mid- and long-term capacity building in rabies prevention and awareness campaigns;
- Promote the creation of vaccine banks under OIE guidance and facilitate the preparation of country requests and access of national veterinary services to the OIE rabies vaccine banks, possibly in collaboration with relevant NGOs;

- As appropriate, provide technical support in the implementation of mass vaccination campaigns of dogs and other relevant interventions in close collaboration with national and local authorities notably Veterinary Services;
- Participate in the relevant Tripartite activities linked to rabies control objectives.

Paris, on 1 September 2014.

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