On the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Korea, the 13th Conference of the O.I.E. Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oce­ania was held in Seoul, Korea from 10-14 October 1983.

10 October 1983

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

Dr. Chang-Koo Lee, President of the Regional Commission welcomed Delegates and participants from thirteen O.I.E. Member Countries, one nonmember country and the Representative of the F.A.O. Dr. Lee stressed the importance of this Conference which provided a forum for the exchange of views between participants and, in particular, which through fruitful discussion would contribute to animal disease control efforts in all one hundred and three O.I.E. Member Countries. After wishing participants an enjoyable stay in the Republic of Korea, the President of the Regional Commission declared the 13th Conference officially open.

In his opening address, the Right Honourable Jong Mun Park, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, warmly welcomed participants to the Seoul Conference on behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Korea. The Honourable Minister paid special tribute to the O.I.E. which since its creation in 1924 has made a significant contribution to the prevention and control of animal diseases and to the development of animal husbandry and public health sectors throughout the world. Mr. Park recalled that Korea joined the O.I.E. in 1953 and expressed his sincere appreciation and acknowledgement
to Member Countries who share their valuable knowledge and experience with Korea.

The Honourable Minister emphasised the importance of promoting animal industry in the light of the current worldwide demand for animal protein. He mentioned that his Government has launched a series of programmes to improve animal industry. He noted the increasing significance of animal disease control and expressed the wish that this Meeting would offer positive results, contributing to efforts to free people from hunger, regardless of their political institutions or ideologies. Mr. Park closed his address by wishing all participants a successful meeting and a pleasant stay in the Republic of Korea.

On behalf of O.I.E. Member Countries, Dr. R.W. Gee, President of the International Committee of the O.I.E., expressed his profound regret at the tragedy in Rangoon on Sunday which resulted in the death of sixteen members of the ministerial party accompanying President Chun Doo Hwan and said he would be sending a message of condolences to His Excellency the President.

Dr. Gee observed that of the one hundred and three O.I.E. Member Countries, twenty-three were in the Asian Region. He expressed the wish that the theme of this Conference be the intensification of cooperative programmes in the Region. The level of this cooperation was at its highest because of the importance of food production in the Region which comprised two-thirds of the world's farming families. The President added that the principal activities of the O.I.E. would be devoted to improving information systems, continuing the work of Specialist Commissions (especially that of the Foot and Mouth Disease and International Zoo-sanitary Code Commissions) and reviewing future perspectives of the O.I.E. to meet the changing needs of Member Countries.

Dr. L. Blajan, Director General of the O.I.E., then thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting this 13th Conference of the O.I.E. Regional Commission. The Director General warmly congratulated and thanked the members of the Organising Committee for the highly efficient arrangements they had made to ensure the success of the Conference. He recorded the spectacular development of the Korean animal industry over the past two decades which was assisted to a large extent by the absence of major contagious diseases in the country.

The Director General then briefly retraced the activities of the Regional Commission since the 12th Conference held in Jakarta. In presenting the items of the Conference Agenda, Dr. Blajan highlighted the need to define a regional foot and mouth disease (FMD) control strategy and to identify means to be implemented against the disease. This would be an initial step to be followed by seeking the advice and approval of the O.I.E. FMD Commission and the support of the International Committee with an aim to requesting financial aid to fund control programmes against the disease. The Director General concluded his address by drawing particular attention on the importance which should be attached to the development of the new O.I.E. Information System.
Item I: PROGRESS MADE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS OF PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Dr. B.A. Woolcock (Australia) was the Moderator of this Item.

Reports on progress made following recommendations on rabies, clostridial diseases of sheep and myiasis were presented by Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan R.O.C., Sri Lanka, Korea, Malaysia, Japan and Indonesia.

Progress reports on FMD, regional reporting systems for animal diseases and veterinary public health were presented during the sessions on these topics.

- **Rabies:** reports from all countries indicated commitment to and progress towards most, if not all, recommendations on rabies control and prevention. The Conference noted that variations did exist in periods of quarantine of imported carnivores required by countries free of rabies (para. 1 of Recommendation No. I)* and in frequency of vaccination where practised (para. 3 of Recommendation No. I)*.

  The need was expressed for greater uniformity in these aspects of rabies control within the region.

- **Clostridial diseases of sheep:** Member Countries reported that these diseases were either well controlled or of little significance due to low sheep populations.

- **Myiasis:** reports presented confirmed that myiasis was of economic importance in extensively managed livestock but of minor consequence in intensive systems where livestock are under constant or frequent observation and treatment as required. Collaborative programmes have resulted in increased understanding of the biology of *Chrysomia bezziana*, the old-world screw-worm fly, and to the adaptation of the SIRM (sterile insect release method) for control and eradication of this parasite as has been done successfully in the U.S.A. Major research programmes continue with the objective of improved methods of controlling myiasis in sheep due to the sheep blowfly, *Lucilia cuprina*.

Following discussion on Item I, participants elected Drs. M. Ogata, B.A. Woolcock and M.H. Jun to the drafting committee for this item.

Item II: FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

(a) Spread of FMD

(b) Production and use of FMD vaccine

(c) Collaborative programmes

Dato Dr. Osman Bin Din (Malaysia) was appointed Moderator of the session on foot and mouth disease. He reviewed the FMD situation in Asia, the

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Far East and Oceania; the floor was then opened to Delegates and participants.

Reports were presented by Iraq, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan R.O.C., Thailand and the F.A.O.

Dr. I.G.N. Teken Temadja (Indonesia) made a detailed statement on the recent outbreak of FMD in Java and the steps being taken to control the disease. He said that there appeared to be a variation in the strain of virus isolated this time and made a special request for assistance from the O.I.E. to advise his Government. The offer made by the Director General to send a member of the O.I.E. FMD Specialist Commission to Indonesia as soon as possible was welcomed by the Conference and by the Delegate of Indonesia in particular.

It was also agreed that the Chairman of the Regional Commission would send a cable to the Junior Minister of Livestock and Fisheries strongly supporting the measures taken by Indonesia to control the disease. Following discussion on this Item, participants appointed Drs. Osman Bin Din, Teken Temadja, I.G.R. Davis, M. Sasaki and Y.O. Rhee to the drafting committee to prepare proposed Recommendation No. I on FMD.

11 October 1983

Item III: VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. I.G.R. Davis (Australia) was appointed Moderator of this Item. Reports were presented by Australia, Korea, Malaysia, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Taiwan R.O.C. and Thailand. A report of the W.H.O. was also circulated to participants. Following discussion on this Item, participants elected Drs. Davis, G.H. Adlam and Y.D. Yoon to the drafting committee to prepare proposed Recommendation No. II on Veterinary Public Health.

Item IV: IMPORT/EXPORT OF CATTLE, BOVINE SEMEN AND EMBRYOS

Dr. Adlam (New Zealand) was nominated Moderator of Item IV. He defined the main purpose of importation control as facilitating the introduction of animals, semen and embryos but at the same time preventing the transmission of diseases exotic to the importing country.

The essential elements that have to be taken into consideration include effective legislation that provides the national Animal Health Services with the necessary authority to carry out this task and where necessary to prohibit importations that could jeopardize the health of the national herd. Dr. Adlam under-
lined the importance of obtaining prior knowledge of the disease situation in the exporting country and that the animal health authorities have the personnel and resources needed to define the disease status of their national herds before importing animals from new sources. The animal health protocols which are developed to define the requirements of the importing country should usually include provisions for pre-shipment quarantine or segregation of the selected animals and diagnostic testing for the serious and economically important diseases and, where appropriate, a period of quarantine after importation during which retests can be carried out.

Consideration should be given to the health and welfare of the animals during their transportation and provision should be made to guard against any possible disease hazards which may exist en route and during trans-shipment or refuelling stops. Animal health conditions developed for the importations of animals from a particular country should also be applied to the donor animals when semen or embryos are being imported. Veterinary Authorities of exporting countries should recognise their moral obligation to safeguard the animal health of importing countries by advising on any additional precautions they believe should be taken when importing countries are negotiating animal health protocols and should ensure that only healthy animals which meet the importer’s requirements are exported.

Dr. Adlam stressed that the O.I.E. International Zoo-sanitary Code was a valuable reference when drafting importation conditions and should be used as a basic guide by all Member Countries.

Papers were presented by Australia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan R.O.C., Thailand and the United States of America. Following discussion, the drafting committee for Item IV was appointed by participants as follows: Drs. Adlam, C.C. Ho, Woolcock, Osman Bin Din and Rees.

12 October 1983

Item V: FUTURE O.I.E. ACTIVITIES

The Director General of the O.I.E. reported on the follow-up to the decision of the International Committee in May 1983 concerning the possible enlargement of O.I.E. activities in the future. Discussion of the Committee Members was based on the document “Outlook beyond 1984” prepared by the Director General. The Committee concluded by requesting the Director General to form an ad hoc working group which would submit proposals at the 52nd General Session in May 1984. Dr. Blajan has called on members of this Group to visit a representative number of Member Countries to obtain their views and the wishes of the governments concerned in regard to the future activities of
the Organisation. Dr. Adlam has been requested to visit countries in the Asian Region. Dr. Blajan recorded that those countries which will not be visited by Dr. Adlam will have received the "Questionnaire on the Future Activities of the O.I.E." which should be returned to the O.I.E. Headquarters after completion. He gave a brief outline of the content of this questionnaire.

Dr. Gee confirmed the wish of the majority of the Committee which was that the O.I.E. should play a more active role in international cooperation to ensure animal disease control.

Dr. Osman suggested that the O.I.E. should be more active, particularly in defining disease control strategies in the Asian Region. He added that the advice of O.I.E. experts should be sought when necessary.

Dr. Sasaki questioned whether the existing O.I.E./F.A.O. agreement signed in 1953 provided for cooperation and coordination on a regional level between A.P.H.C.A.* and this O.I.E. Regional Commission. He expressed the wish for closer cooperation between the F.A.O. and O.I.E. to avoid any possible duplication.

Dr. Blajan replied that the O.I.E. had always hoped for coordination between the two regional bodies and that he had expressed this wish in Colombo two years ago. On this particular occasion the Director General had agreed to keep A.P.H.C.A. informed of the O.I.E. activities in the Region.

Lengthy discussions took place on attempting to associate more closely the O.I.E. Regional Commission and A.P.H.C.A. through holding joint meetings of the two bodies. Although a majority recognised the advantages of closer links, many participants considered that this problem should be examined very carefully especially in the light of the differences between the two bodies in regard to their objectives and to the geographic areas they cover.

Dr. Ogata recalled that on the proposal of this Commission, the International Committee had decided to maintain the Regional Bureau in Tokyo. This Bureau disseminates the Asian O.I.E. Newsletter giving periodical information of a non-urgent nature. Dr. Ogata noted that all emergency information was distributed and dealt with efficiently by the O.I.E. Central Bureau in Paris.

The question of changing the name of the O.I.E. was also raised. This item was discussed in some depth with proposals tending to retain the name, albeit the archaic character it may have. Participants agreed that as the O.I.E. was known throughout the world as such, it would not be opportune to change the name at this time especially in the light of the diplomatic formalities this would entail.

Dr. Adlam suggested the "O.I.E." be retained as such but for English publi-

* Regional Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia, the Far East and the South-West Pacific.
cations at least, perhaps a bracketed addition of ("International Animal Health Organisation") should be made. Dr. Rees stressed the particular advantage of the O.I.E. which provides a unique veterinary forum and any change which will encompass the field of animal production might well change the character of the O.I.E. The Conference concluded on this point by deciding that the name of the O.I.E. should not be changed at this stage.

Date and venue of the next Regional Conference.

Finally, the Chairman then raised the subject of the venue of the next Regional Conference. There was general discussion on combining the A.P.H.C.A Sessions with the Regional Conference or bringing the dates closer together. Suggestions were also made that the Regional Conference be held every two years rather than three years. The Chairman then suggested that the Regional Conference be held in Sri Lanka in 1985. Dr. S.B. Dhanapala replied that if this was the wish of the Members, he would convey their request to his Government and give a firm reply at the O.I.E. General Session in Paris in 1984.

In the afternoon, the draft Conclusions and Recommendations prepared by the drafting committees were presented by the respective Moderators. These were slightly amended and then adopted.

Recommendations No. I: Foot and Mouth Disease, No. II: Veterinary Public Health, and No. III: Import/Export of Cattle, Bovine Semen and Embryos, are given in Appendix to this Report.

13 October 1983

Item VI: SEMINAR
ON THE NEW O.I.E. INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Director General presented the new O.I.E. Information System, the principles of which were adopted by the International Committee during its last General Session in May 1983. He commented on the new Lists A and B of notifiable diseases, the obligations of Member Countries as laid down in Articles 1.2.0.2., 1.2.0.3., 1.2.0.4. and 1.2.0.5. of the International Zoo-sanitary Code and the obligation of the O.I.E. Central Bureau as shown in Article 1.2.0.6. of the Code. New forms of Animal Health Status Reports (A.H.S.R.) prepared by the O.I.E. Working Group of Specialists in Zoo-sanitary Information Systems were also presented and explained by Dr. Blajan.

During the discussion which followed, questions were raised in regard to the definitions used in the Reports forms. "Outbreak", "infected zone", "infection", "estimated date of first infection" and "herds" posed problems for
several participants. The viewpoint of some Asian Delegates was that the new reporting system needed to take into account the particular conditions of each region. It was considered that the present report forms seemed to be designed more for developed countries and did not take into consideration the problems of developing countries. Among these differing regional conditions were the difference in cattle management systems in the Asian Region, the endemic nature of certain diseases such as Newcastle disease and hog cholera, the difficulties encountered in receiving daily or even weekly reports, and different control policies.

Furthermore, the fear was expressed of releasing information on any suspicion of disease presence. However, Dr. Adlam replied that importing countries expect to be informed of the true situation to enable them to take precautionary measures. He added that confidence between trading partners could be strengthened when information about suspected disease outbreaks was reported promptly. Dr. Rees, supported by Dr. N.L. Meyer, confirmed that the Pirbright, U.S. and Rio laboratories would under no circumstances release diagnostic information to anyone other than the country in question unless such country had authorised such release. It was up to the country itself to decide how and when to release such information.

The Director General then commented on the usefulness of the new system by emphasising the importance of giving all countries an accurate picture of the evolution of diseases, seriousness of outbreaks and finally, the efficiency and results of measures adopted. Dr. Blajan drew the attention of participants to the greatest advantage of the system which was the improvement of national information systems. Many countries needed to be stimulated into accepting and promoting improved information systems for two major reasons:

(a) the seeking and acquisition of international aid to assist countries, especially developing countries, was entirely dependent on providing international aid agencies and donor countries with accurate economic data concerning the disease in question; and

(b) without detailed epizootiological facts it is impossible to develop an international strategy to control diseases on a regional level and later on a world level.

Dr. Rees supported Dr. Blajan by saying that he had had similar experience and that it was essential that a sound national reporting system existed before any positive response could be obtained from funding sources.

The consensus of opinion on the A.H.S.R. forms 1 to 3 was that they were too detailed and needed to be simplified before developing countries could be expected to use them on a regular basis. It was considered that these forms were designed more for European countries and that there should be one set of forms for developed countries and another for developing countries.

Dr. Adlam suggested that the forms might be simplified by distributing two sets of instructions: one for developed countries and another for developing
countries, stating exactly what type of information was required from each category. The instructions would thus be less voluminous and easier to consult. Dr. Adlam added that it would be most useful if countries present at this Meeting would study the Guidelines in depth and communicate their comments to the O.I.E. as soon as possible in time for the Code Commission Meeting to be held in Paris from 15-18 November 1983.

Regional and national reporting systems in Asia: presentation of reports by Delegates and Observers.

Participants from Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan R.O.C. and the U.S.A. presented a brief summary of their reports which were included in the Conference working document.

The reporting system in Korea is based on the notification of diseases through twenty-nine regional laboratories which report findings to the Central Office.

Dr. Osman Bin Din indicated that in Malaysia, States report on a monthly basis on both disease status and production. In addition, information on FMD is centralised and a special reporting network exists for TB, brucellosis and mastitis within the framework of the Dairy Programme.

Dr. M. Desvals stated that in New Caledonia contagious disease outbreaks were reported to the Headquarters in Noumea through the five surveillance posts situated in different parts of the Territory.

Dr. Bhannasiri stated that a system exists in Thailand whereby diseases are notified when two animals showing the same symptoms die. The District Officer notifies the cases which are investigated and then reported to the Provincial Officer who provides the laboratory with samples.

Dr. Rees noted that the United Kingdom had a simple three-tier system, one being for compulsorily notifiable diseases (FMD, swine vesicular disease and swine fever), another for diseases for which special eradication schemes exist (brucellosis and TB) and finally, the third tier for the collection of diagnostic laboratory data.

Dr. Sasaki reported that A.P.H.C.A. requested Member Countries to report even if no case of disease had occurred. However, A.P.H.C.A. currently receives reports including data on disease presence only.

14 October 1983

PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chairman reconvened the Conference at 5.30 p.m. and called on participants to examine the draft Final Report and Recommendations presented to them.
Recommendations Nos. I, II and III were adopted after minor editorial amendment.

The draft Final Report was discussed in some depth; participants commented on the presentation and form of this Report. Views were expressed requesting that no names of Delegates or countries be mentioned and that the Report should only give conclusions reached by the Conference. Dr. Blajan explained that this was a question to be decided by Conference participants and that it was up to each Regional Commission to decide on this. A majority of participants said they were in favour of mentioning the names of those who had intervened. Finally, it was decided that in the future this matter should be discussed and agreed upon before conferences of the Commission.

The draft Final Report was adopted unanimously.

The Conference then voted a motion of thanks to the Government of the Republic of Korea which had enabled the 13th Conference of the O.I.E. Regional Commission to be held in Seoul (see Appendix).

CLOSING CEREMONY

Mr. C.W. Song, President of the Organising Committee expressed his sincere thanks to participants for their cooperation. He said that the Conference had been a great success and that the Recommendations would not only assist all Member Countries but would also be most useful in the veterinary field of Korea. Finally, Mr. Song expressed his appreciation to the President of the International Committee and to the Director General of the O.I.E. as well as to the Secretariat of this Conference.

Dr. Chang-Koo Lee, Chairman of the Conference, said how grateful he and his staff were for the considerable assistance provided by Dr. Blajan and his staff.

Dr. Blajan expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea and congratulated Dr. Lee and Dr. Kim and their staff for the immaculate organisation of this successful Conference. The Director General summarised the outcome of the Conference by stating how pleased he was that Papua New Guinea, which is not yet an O.I.E. Member Country, had been able to attend this Conference. Dr. Blajan appealed to the Observer from Papua New Guinea to convince the Authorities in his country of the need to join the O.I.E. as soon as possible. However, he regretted the absence of a number of countries from the Region, particularly India and Pakistan who had not attended O.I.E. meetings for several years.

Finally, Dr. Blajan expressed satisfaction with the feeling which had emerged from the Conference, notably the willingness of Members to revive the dynamic approach of the Commission which now had a clearly defined target being the development of a regional control strategy for FMD. In this respect,
he reiterated the importance of sound national information and reporting systems. The Director General closed by noting the optimism following the decision of the Commission to meet more frequently which was a very positive step and a sign of renewed vitality.

The President of the International Committee then said how he valued the friendship and support of Members in the Asian Region. He felt that links between countries had been strengthened during the Seoul Conference. Dr. Gee noted the high calibre of the work organised by Mr. Song and thanked Dr. Lee for ensuring the excellent organisation of the Conference. Finally, the President thanked the members of the O.I.E. Secretariat and the members of the Conference Staff for their work.

Dr. Chang-Koo Lee declared the 13th Conference of the O.I.E. Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania officially closed at 6.30 p.m.

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Appendix

RECOMMENDATIONS

I

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

CONSIDERING

the effect of foot and mouth disease on draught animal power, beef and milk production, calf mortality, reproduction and the consequential impact on livestock development programmes and trade;

the progress made within the region by some Member Countries in the control and eradication of the disease;

the desire of Member Countries to attain freedom from the disease;

the current outbreak situation in Java, after Indonesia having been free from the disease since 1979 and the renewed efforts to regain the free status,

THE CONFERENCE

ENDORSES the need for:

(a) foot and mouth disease-free countries or countries with disease-free zones to sustain and enhance their surveillance and quarantine measures and wherever possible, to adopt a "stamping out" policy in the event of an outbreak;
(b) Member Countries with successful control programmes to maintain their efforts with full commitment and dedication to eradication;

(c) a co-operative regional approach to control and eradicate the disease as proposed by A.S.E.A.N. and some A.P.H.C.A. Member Countries;

(d) improved field surveillance to detect the disease promptly and more efficient laboratory support for diagnosis and control;

RECOMMENDS

1. That greater emphasis be given to the epidemiological aspects of control and eradication programmes.

2. That continuous surveillance be undertaken in endemic areas to determine variations in virus types and sub-types to detect introduction of new viruses and to ensure the most efficient use of vaccines.

3. That more intensive studies be undertaken within the region to determine the role of wildlife as reservoirs of infection.

4. The strengthening of legislation and quarantine measures especially in the control and disposal of animal food waste at ports of entry.

5. The strengthening and upgrading of the diagnostic capabilities for the disease within the region.

6. That training programmes in the areas of laboratory diagnosis, vaccine production, epidemiology and field control strategy be given priority.

7. The establishment of disease-free zones as a basis for the progressive development of a programme to control and eradicate the disease. Particular emphasis is to be given to the establishment of such zones in island and peninsular situations.

8. The development of reliable cold chain systems with the necessary support facilities for transportation and vaccine delivery.

9. That a public relations and education programme be developed in conjunction with control/eradication campaigns.

STRONGLY SUPPORTS

(a) the strategy and decisions by Indonesia in combatting the current outbreak, namely:

(i) to mass vaccinate all cattle and buffaloes in Java;

(ii) to continue the mass vaccination campaign for as many years as necessary to ensure complete eradication of the disease;

(iii) to undertake epidemiological studies to determine the possible source of infection and to formulate new strategies to prevent future
outbreaks and to carry out sub-typing investigations to ensure the correct use of vaccines;

(b) the offer of the services of O.I.E. FMD Commission Specialists to assist the Government of Indonesia in its control and eradication programme.

II

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

CONSIDERING THAT

most Member Countries are placing greater emphasis on Veterinary Public Health and there has been positive progress in this area within the region;

programmes are often expensive and need to be cost-effective;

improved living standards will necessarily result in increased demand for wholesome foods and environmental hygiene,

THE CONFERENCE

ENDORSES

action undertaken by some Member Countries in the introduction of new veterinary public health legislation, the control of zoonotic diseases and improved co-operation between veterinary and public health services;

RECOMMENDS

1. That the veterinary services continue to increase their role in all activities of veterinary public health and strengthen this role as a responsibility of the national Veterinary Services.

2. That the hygienic production and processing of foods of animal origin for sale for human consumption be carried out in premises approved for this purpose.

3. That veterinary services increase their expertise in fish diseases and in the sanitary control of fish and fish products.

4. The development of improved training and extension activities to ensure continued public awareness of, and support for, veterinary public health programmes.
III

IMPORT/EXPORT OF CATTLE, BOVINE SEMEN AND EMBRYOS

CONSIDERING

the increasing importance of international trade in animals resulting from the desire of many countries to increase the quantity and quality of meat and dairy products;

the relatively favourable animal health status of most Member Countries and the need to maintain and improve this situation;

the variability in the animal health situations and the import requirements of Member Countries;

the existence and complexity of certain animal health problems associated with import and quarantine of live animals, semen and embryos;

the economic advantages of bovine embryo transfer technology as a mechanism for genetic improvement of livestock within Member Countries, and the recent advances in knowledge indicating a lesser disease transmission risk with this method of genetic transfer in comparison with live animals,

THE CONFERENCE
ENDORSES

the proposal by A.S.E.A.N. to have basic uniform standards for the importation and quarantine of live animals and livestock products in order to maintain and improve the animal health status of that region;

RECOMMENDS

1. The recognition by all Member Countries of the current O.I.E. International Zoo-sanitary Code as a guide for developing animal health protocols and requirements for imports of live animals, semen and embryos.

2. That import protocols concentrate on preventing the introduction of disease agents of major economic importance and avoid test requirements for diseases of minor or trivial significance.

3. The recognition by all Member Countries of the International Zoo-sanitary Code specification for disease testing methods and the standardisation of disease testing reagents.

4. That Member Countries recognise the importance of bilateral negotiation and agreement by their animal health authorities on drafting import protocols and on amendments to existing protocols and in these negotiations take cognizance of the animal health status of their respective countries.
5. That exporting Member Countries recognise their obligation to observe the agreed animal health protocols of importing countries and ensure that certification is completed in a proper manner.

6. The recognition of the desirability of immediate consultation between the animal health authorities of the importing country and the exporting country in regard to animal health problems occurring in imported animals.

7. Support for further research into animal health aspects of embryo transfer and of the development of import protocols for embryos at the earliest date consistent with advances in knowledge.

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MOTION OF THANKS

The President and Members of the Bureau of the O.I.E. Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, the President of the International Committee and the Director General of the O.I.E., the Members of Delegations, Observers and Representatives of Countries and International Organisations wish to express their gratitude to the Right Honourable President and to the Government Authorities of the Republic of Korea, the Host Country of the 13th Conference of the Regional Commission, for the excellent welcome offered to them and for all facilities made available to them during their stay in Seoul, during this 13th Conference of the Commission convened in Seoul from 10-14 October 1983.