9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

Damascus, Syria, from 29 October to 1 November 2007

At the invitation of the Government of Syria, the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East was held in Damascus, Syria, from 29 October to 1 November 2007. A total of 55 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 15 Member Countries and Territories and two Observer Countries and senior officials of seven regional or international organisations attended the Conference. In addition, representatives of the private sector and private veterinary organisations from two countries were present.

Dr Adel Safar, Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reforms of Syria, honoured the Conference by his presence. Dr Barry O’Neil, President of the OIE International Committee, Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, Dr Salman A. Nabi Al Khuzaei, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, Dr George Khoury, OIE Delegate for Syria, Dr Dewan Sibartie, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, and Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, also participated in the Conference, as well as Dr Pavlos Economides and Dr Karim Ben Jebara, the rapporteurs for the two technical items presented during the Conference.

Dr Economides, Veterinary Consultant, Cyprus, presented ‘The role of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Associations in the promotion of the veterinary profession and upgrading of Veterinary Services (The role of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Associations)’, and Dr Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented ‘The application of the Geographical Information Systems in the surveillance of animal diseases’. Other technical presentations included ‘The animal health situation of Members (Dr Ben Jebara), ‘The new OIE Rinderpest Accreditation Scheme’ (Dr Sibartie) and ‘The application of the OIE PVS Tool’ (Dr Vallat).