



CHALLENGES AND TOOLS NEEDED TO ENSURE GOOD GOVERNANCE THE PHILIPPINES' EXPERIENCE WITH THE OIE PVS PATHWAY

- **Emelinda Lopez**
Animal Health Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, Philippines

The aim of this presentation is to share the Philippines' experiences of following the OIE PVS Pathway and the importance of good governance to support high quality veterinary services.

In the last decade, globalisation of trade and the threat of emerging zoonotic diseases have highlighted the need for countries to strengthen mechanisms and systems to protect human and animal health as well as national economies. Since 2006, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has been developing a tool to assess the Performance of Veterinary Services (the OIE PVS Tool) of Member Countries with the goal of helping national veterinary services (VS) to meet the OIE quality standards for the prevention and control of animal diseases and the facilitation of safe trade in animals and animal products. The Philippines is presently undertaking a development leap with the formulation of a national strategic plan, the blueprint for a better VS. In 2008, the Philippines first undertook an evaluation of its VS by the OIE – the initial phase of activities along the OIE PVS Pathway – with the leadership and support of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

The current state of the VS was assessed, weaknesses identified and recommendations made for improvements. As an important follow-up activity, consultations were held with stakeholders of the animal health industry to solicit their support and cooperation for the VS moving along the PVS Pathway. In the following year, a PVS Gap Analysis was conducted by the OIE, allowing for the capture of more details as to the appropriate level of advancement to be achieved and the financial support needed to strengthen the VS. This is to further support the next activity in the PVS Pathway - the development of a Strategic Plan for the Philippine VS. Coincidentally, during this period, the Bureau planned to restructure the VS through modernisation of veterinary legislation. A key step was the development of new draft veterinary legislation and the submission for approval of 'An Act Strengthening the Animal Industry and Veterinary Services in the Philippines'. The implementation of modernised legislation and other elements to improve governance is anticipated to help the Philippines VS move towards achievement of the goals of the PVS Pathway and the realisation of high quality VS in the Philippines.

Keywords: Governance – OIE – PVS Pathway – veterinary legislation