



OIE FOCAL POINT CONCEPT AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

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As established in its 5th Strategic Plan, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) will pursue capacity building activities in order to meet the objectives of the organisation such as to provide expertise and encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases and to improve the legal framework and resources of national Veterinary Services.

The OIE capacity building activities aim to support the Veterinary Services in their efforts to implement the OIE international standards. The OIE general capacity building activities include conferences and workshops conducted at regional, global and sometimes at national level.

The most important global capacity building initiative of the OIE is the evaluation of the Veterinary Services' compliance with the OIE quality standards, done through the OIE PVS Pathway.

Among activities included within the work program of the OIE Regional and Sub-regional Representations, the capacity building of the OIE Delegates and their nominated Focal Points is a key element to help OIE Members to accomplish their obligations as OIE Members, as well as to stimulate participation in the OIE standard-setting process and implement guidelines and standards developed by the OIE.

During the 76th General Session of the World Assembly of the Delegates in May 2008, the importance of the Focal Point for information on animal diseases was reiterated and Delegates were also requested to nominate additional Focal Points for wildlife, veterinary products, animal production food safety, animal welfare and aquatic animals. In 2011, the Delegate will be invited to provide the OIE with a Focal Point for communication.

The OIE also recognizes Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. Among the different activities undertaken, these institutes play an important role in capacity-building by providing technical advice and scientific training to OIE Members. The Laboratory Twinning initiative between Reference Laboratories or Collaborating Centres and candidate national laboratories provides another approach to capacity building by improving diagnostic capacity and expertise around the world.

The OIE constantly updates and improves its capacity building activities. In the interest of undertaking an effective program of capacity building, the OIE collaborates closely with other international organisations as well as with donors.

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