

An Online Platform for OIE Focal Point Training and Capacity Building

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Each Member Country of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) appoints National Focal Points in the following areas: animal disease notification to the OIE, aquatic animals, wildlife, veterinary products, communication, animal welfare, animal production food safety and veterinary laboratories. The OIE regularly organizes training workshops/seminars for Focal Points to support capacity building and to explain the role and responsibilities of Focal Points. However, the Focal Points change frequently, and the length of time between workshops/seminars delays training. In addition, organizing and hosting workshops and travel of participants is expensive and time consuming.

The OIE and the Center for Food Security and Public Health are currently working to develop an online training platform for “Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification” on the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). The platform will enable new Focal Points to have immediate access to the training materials and fully explain their responsibilities. New Focal Points could complete the online modules for disease alerts (immediate notification and follow-up reports), monitoring (six-monthly reports) and complementary information through the annual report (data for zoonotic diseases in humans, animal populations, veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals, laboratories and diagnosis as well as vaccines and vaccines production) prior to attending an in person training session. In addition, the training materials would be accessible 24 hours a day to assist already trained Focal Points in submitting reports related to the national animal disease situation.

The OIE Focal Point Training Internet platform is designed to provide an easily accessible and up to date resource for Focal Points to improve the animal disease situation reporting and transparency and to improve the level of knowledge of Focal Points prior to the face to face workshops.

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