

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 75th General Session
in Paris, 21 May 2007**

NOTE FROM THE CENTRAL BUREAU

Draft Recommendations proposed during the meetings of the Regional Commissions held during the General Session must be presented again for adoption during the next Regional Commission Conference held in the respective regions, so as to be examined and possibly adopted by the International Committee during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 21 May 2007

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 108 Delegates and observers from 36 Member Countries of the Commission and 4 observer countries, and representatives from 11 international or regional organisations:

Member Countries of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Observer countries: France, People's Republic of China, Seychelles and the United Kingdom

International or regional organisations: FAO, World Bank, SADC⁴², ILRI⁴³, AU-IBAR ECOWAS⁴⁴, EISMV⁴⁵, VAA⁴⁶, EAVA⁴⁷, WSPA⁴⁸; CIWF⁴⁹

The meeting was chaired by Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr Mokhtar Fall (Mauritania), Secretary General of the Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items circulated.

⁴² SADC: Southern African Development Community

⁴³ ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute

⁴⁴ ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

⁴⁵ EISMV: Ecole inter-États des sciences et médecine vétérinaires (Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine, Senegal)

⁴⁶ VAA: Veterinary African Association

⁴⁷ EAVA: Euro-Arab Veterinary Association

⁴⁸ WSPA: World Society for Protection of Animals

⁴⁹ CIWF: Compassion in World Farming

2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries

The President of the Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter of concern and urged Member Countries to promptly settle their arrears if any.

3. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa

Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa.

The report was approved.

4. Recommendations of the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Asmara, Eritrea, 26 February – 1 March 2007)

On behalf of the Regional Commission, the President thanked the Government of Eritrea for having hosted the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Asmara.

The Recommendations approved at the Conference were adopted.

5. Proposal of a technical item to be included on the agenda of the 77th General Session of the OIE International Committee (May 2009)

The Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire for Member Countries) to be included on the agenda of the 77th General Session:

Impact of climate change on animal health and production

6. Organisation of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)

On behalf of their Government, Dr Adam Hassan Yacoub, Delegate of Chad and the General Secretary of the Ministry of Livestock, confirmed their country's invitation to host the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission in N'Djamena in February 2009 (dates to be determined). This was unanimously approved by the participants.

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was selected for the 18th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

The impact of brucellosis on the economy and public health

7. Capacity building for the African national Veterinary Services: Recommendations of the Seminar for the OIE Delegates and Regional Organisations involved in animal health, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 14-16 November 2006

Dr Sidibé presented a report on this first seminar which took place in conjunction with a meeting to prepare the conference in Bamako on avian influenza. He read out the recommendations that had been adopted.

8. Outcome of the 4th International Conference on avian influenza, Bamako, Mali, 6-8 December 2006: Bamako Declaration

Dr Modibo Tiémoko Traoré, Director of AU-IBAR, reported on the main recommendations of the Conference and stressed the need for synergy between the OIE, the FAO and AU-IBAR in order to mobilise the resources needed to finance African countries' action plans.

9. Outcome of the special meeting of OIE Delegates for Africa held at the OIE Headquarters on 19 May 2007

The recommendations of the above meeting were read out by the Vice-President of the Commission, and were accepted by the Commission subject to amendments to be proposed by a designated group for finalisation.

10. Post-PACE programme

Dr René Bessin, Coordinator of the Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE) presented the final conclusions of the meeting in Asmara and recalled the main recommendations that had been issued. These concerned the strengthening and extension of epidemiological surveillance networks in Africa and the identification of potential sources of funding.

11. Update on activities of GF-TADs and ALive ⁵⁰

Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief Veterinary Officer and Head of the Animal Health Service of the FAO, reported on the main activities being conducted in Africa, notably with regard to avian influenza, foot and mouth disease, Rift Valley fever and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia. He then summarised the main activities of GF-TADs and Alive mentioning in particular the conclusions of the 2nd meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs and the 8th Executive Committee meeting of Alive held in Djibouti in March 2007. He finally gave a progress report on the setting up of regional animal health centres.

12. PVS evaluations update

Mr Stéphane Berlaud, Project Officer, OIE Regional Activities Department, presented the aims and objectives of the PVS tool developed by the OIE in collaboration with the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the evaluation of Veterinary Services of developing and in transition countries. He also provided an update on the evaluations carried and the experience gathered so far in the region.

13. Other matters

- **OIE/FAO/IBAR Regional Animal Health Centres**

Dr Sidibé spoke of the importance of these Centres and the role they can play in improving animal health in Africa. He mentioned the Centres in Bamako and Gaborone which are now operational, and the Centres due to be set up in the future.

- **An update on Rift Valley fever**

Dr Sidibé provided information on the meeting on Rift Valley fever and the effect of that disease on trade, due to be held in Cairo (Egypt) from 13 to 15 June 2007. The Delegates of Algeria and Mali stressed the importance of the disease for all the countries on the African continent. The Commission requested the OIE to facilitate the participation of Member Countries for that meeting, or to organise another meeting to include the nature of the disease itself in order to strengthen the conclusions of the conference.

- **Conference on Rabies in Africa**

The Commission expressed the wish that a conference on Rabies in Africa be organised . In case of a favourable response to this request, Mauritania would propose to host the conference.

⁵⁰ Alive: Platform for African Livestock

- **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region**

Dr Gideon Brückner, Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the stage of its implementation in the region. Data on sanitary information (6 monthly and annual reports) for 2005 and 2006 were also presented. Dr Brückner finally emphasised the importance of countries submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

14. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

- **AU-IBAR**

Dr Traoré reported on the activities of his organisation. He spoke of the importance of improving the partnership between the different institutions and indicated the willingness of AU-IBAR to help strengthen these relations.

- **SADC**

Mr Beedeeanan Hulman, representative of the SADC, presented the activities of his institution. The Commission asked him to give fresh impetus to the programme on the conservation and preservation of genetic resources.

- **ECOWAS**

Dr Aubin Sawadogo, representative of ECOWAS, read out a statement from Mr Ousseini Salifou, Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water, presenting the activities of his institution. He stated that the Agreement between the OIE and ECOWAS had been signed that same day.

- **Codex Alimentarius**

Dr Claude J.S. Mosha, Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), presented the activities of his institution and invited the Chief Veterinary Officers of African countries to participate more in meetings of the CAC and that of the Regional Committee for Africa.

The meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 21 May 2007

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
3. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa
4. Recommendations of the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Asmara, Eritrea, from 26 February to 1 March 2007
5. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the International Committee (May 2009)
6. Organisation of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)
7. Capacity building for the African national Veterinary Services: Recommendations of the Seminar for the OIE Delegates and Regional Organisations involved in animal health, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 14-16 November 2006
8. Outcome of the 4th International Conference on avian influenza, Bamako, Mali, 6-8 December 2006
9. Outcome of the special meeting of OIE Delegates for Africa, OIE Headquarters, 19 May 2007
10. Post-PACE programme
11. Update on the ALive and GF-TADs programmes
12. PVS evaluations update
13. Other matters:
 - OIE/FAO/IBAR Regional Centres for Animal Health
 - An update on Rift Valley fever
 - Conference of rabies in Africa
 - WAHIS – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region
14. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE: AU-IBAR, , SADC, ECOWAS, Codex Alimentarius Commission

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 21 May 2007

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris, at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 86 Delegates and observers from 26 Member Countries of the Commission, and representatives from 7 international and regional organisations.

Member Countries of the Commission: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela

International or regional organisations: IICA⁵¹, PAHO/PANAFTOSA⁵², ICFAW, IFAH, PANVET⁵³, AVMA⁵⁴, WVA

The meeting was chaired by Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr José Angel del Valle Molina (Mexico), Vice-President of the Commission, Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez, Vice-President-nominee of the Commission, and by Dr Víctor Góngora (Belize), Secretary General of the Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the international and regional organisations. He presented special thanks to the OIE Scientific Commission for animal diseases for its mission to evaluate the foot and mouth disease situation in MERCOSUR countries particularly in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

1. Confirmation of the election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission

After reviewing the decisions of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas in Florianopolis, Dr. Emerio Serrano, OIE Delegate of Cuba, was unanimously confirmed as new Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items circulated.

⁵¹ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁵² PAHO/PANAFTOSA: Pan American Health Organization / Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

⁵³ PANVET: Pan- American Association of Veterinary Sciences

⁵⁴ American Veterinary Medical Association

3. Administrative Commission update

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti (Uruguay), Vice-President of the Administrative Commission, reported on the matters discussed at Commission meetings. He explained that the Administrative Commission had reviewed the traditional agenda of the General Session and suggested changes to make it more flexible in order to give priority to matters of greatest interest to Member Countries.

As from 2009, the Scientific Commission would have six members, which made it necessary to start nominating candidates. The same would happen with the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Laboratories Commission. Dr Messuti suggested that two members of the Americas form part of each of these Commissions.

He pointed out that more comments were needed from Member Countries on the proposed changes to the Code.

He also emphasised the need for Delegates of the Americas to nominate candidates to receive OIE honorary awards.

In September, the Administrative Commission will review the OIE Basic Texts to reflect the modernisation of the Organisation. He asked for the views of Member Countries on that matter.

Discussions are also under way in the Administrative Commission on other diseases for which Member Countries believe that the OIE should “certify health status”.

Dr Messuti also discussed some aspects of the OIE’s World Animal Health and Welfare Fund.

He commented on a new draft Resolution on the status of the People’s Republic of China in the OIE. That draft would be discussed on Friday during the Administrative Session.

The Delegate of Paraguay asked that Specialist Commission documents in Spanish be sent immediately to give more time to countries to make comments and proposals for changes to the Code.

Paraguay also underlined the problems which some developing countries were experiencing with the high costs involved when applying for recognition of disease free status (7,000 euros).

Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the Code Commission, explained that the Commission’s reports are sent first in English and published on the web. He recalled that Dr Luis Barcos had previously proposed to make an “unofficial” regional translation which countries in the Region could use as a working tool.

Dr Barcos would provide an unofficial regional translation service as part of the Regional Representation’s Action Plan, as well as a mechanism via the Regional Representation’s web page to encourage Member Countries to make comments and proposals on the Code. Some sort of financial support mechanism by Spanish-speaking countries would be examined.

Dr Gastón Funes, Deputy Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, who is coordinating the OIE Spanish Language Steering Committee, explained that there were two main constraints on the rapid translation of all scientific reports issued by the OIE, namely the budget and the scientific validity of the translation. He said that the OIE will give priority to a project to create a multilingual terminology base, starting with a translation into Spanish. The terminology base would be implemented through an Agreement between the OIE and Spain and in collaboration with other Latin American countries.

4. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries

Dr Brian Evans (Canada), member of the OIE Administrative Commission, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter of concern and urged Member Countries to promptly settle their arrears if any.

5. Preparation of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Cuba from 18 to 22 November 2008

Dr Eimerio Serrano confirmed his country's invitation to host the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission in Havana, Cuba from 18 to 22 November 2008, and reported on the conference venue and organisational details.

6. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas (activities and work programme)

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, summarised the activities and work programme of the Regional Representation and also presented the plan of activities for 2008.

He discussed the establishment of the new Sub-Regional Office in Panama, together with the annual budget of both the Regional Office in Buenos Aires and the Sub-regional Office in Panama. He also announced that a veterinarian provided by Canada would assist the Regional Office for a two-year period, as from June 2007.

He emphasised the close coordination which the Regional Office maintains with the Executive Board of the Regional Commission for the Americas.

Amongst other activities, he also highlighted the efforts to train new Delegates and the senior staff. He mentioned the cost/benefit study of Veterinary Services, conducted in line with the OIE Central Bureau's plan for Veterinary Services to have instruments to enable them to request the necessary financial support from their national governments.

Dr Barcos indicated that the Regional Representation was establishing a list of regional experts in the various fields, and asked for the cooperation of Member Countries to nominate candidates.

The representative of Chile suggested that the Work Plan include cooperation with associations of private veterinary professionals and the standardisation of an accreditation system..

Dr Barcos reported on a meeting held recently with the President of PANVET in which joint activities were planned.

The Delegate of the Dominican Republic pointed out that it was important not to neglect diseases historically endemic to the Region such as tuberculosis and brucellosis that posed a risk to human health. The Delegate of Argentina affirmed and supported the Dominican Republic's remarks and underlined the need to maintain activities on those diseases.

Jamaica emphasised the importance of not only the establishment of international standards by the OIE but also of the training to veterinarians in the Americas on suitable mechanisms and programmes for the practical implementation of those standards in the field.

Dr Peter McKenzie from Canada announced a meeting to be held in Vancouver in June 2007 on aquatic animal health in the Americas, as part of Regional Representation activities.

7. Website of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas

Dr Barcos presented the contents of the new website:

- The interinstitutional agenda of the different organisations. Commenting on this aspect, Dr Barcos said that the various regional organisations needed to work together to prevent duplication. He added that the GF-TADs programme provided the most appropriate forum of coordination and that all organisations in the Region should play an active part to avoid duplication and overlaps.
- The publication of Member Countries' self-declarations of freedom from different diseases.

8. Recommendations of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Florianopolis, Brazil, 28 November to 2 December 2006)

The Recommendations approved at the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in Florianopolis were presented.

Dr Jamil Gomes da Souza stressed the need to harmonise animal welfare actions in line with OIE standards.

He also discussed the importance of the issue of compensation mechanisms at national level and, wherever possible, at regional level.

The recommendations were approved.

9. Animal welfare: outcome of the seminar held in Montevideo

Dr Carlos Correa Mesutti presented a report on the animal welfare seminar held in Montevideo, with European Union and OIE support, which discussed Latin America's perspective on animal welfare in relation to production systems in the Region. More than 350 people attended the seminar.

10 Technical item proposed by the Commission for inclusion in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2009

Dr Barcos reported on the new mechanism adopted for selecting the technical items of General Sessions.

Dr Jamil Gomes da Souza submitted for consideration the items put forward by the Executive Board of the Regional Commission for the Americas.

Following discussions and suggestions, the Commission proposed the technical item "Compensation Mechanisms".

11 Technical item proposed by the Commission for inclusion in the Agenda of the 19th OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Cuba from 18 to 22 November 2008

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was chosen:

Biotechnology and its application to Veterinary Science

12. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region

Dr Cristina Ramirez from the OIE Animal Health Information Department presented an overview of the global implementation of the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the stage of its implementation in the region. Data on sanitary information (6 monthly and annual reports) for 2005 and 2006 were also presented. Dr Ramirez finally emphasised the importance of countries submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

The Delegate of Ecuador praised the OIE's WAHIS system and commended the support being given by Dr. Ramírez to countries in the Region

The Representative of the Dominican Republic requested that the next WAHIS workshop be conducted in Spanish to enable better comprehension by Member Countries of the Region.

13. PVS evaluations update

Dr Gastón Funes, Deputy Head of the OIE Regional Activities, presented the aims and objectives of the PVS tool developed by the OIE in collaboration with the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the evaluation of Veterinary Services of developing and in transition countries. He also provided an update on the evaluations carried out and the experience gathered so far in the region.

14. Presentations of International or Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

- **PAHO-PANAFTOSA**

Dr Albino Belloto presented PAHO-PANAFTOSA, its objectives and structure, its principal actions and the mechanisms used, and the alliances and partnerships with international, regional and sub-regional organisations.

Dr Belloto highlighted the Brazilian Government's support to PANAFTOSA.

Dr Belloto also reported that the main priority work areas of PANAFTOSA were foot and mouth disease, zoonoses and food safety. He briefly discussed the rabies and foot and mouth disease situation in the Americas.

- **IICA**

Dr Ricardo Molins, IICA's new Director of Agricultural Health and Food Safety, presented the activities which IICA is carrying out in cooperation and coordination with other organisations at regional level and highlighted the training activities.

He emphasised IICA's activities to build the capacity of national Veterinary Services. He stated that IICA's current objective on the application of the PVS was to monitor and support any capacity-building programmes that may arise as a result of OIE evaluations.

15. Other issues

- **OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories**

Dr Serrano reported that Cuba would nominate its Centro de Ingeniería Genética y Biotecnología (Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Centre of Cuba) for approval as an OIE Collaborating Centre.

Dr Barcos explained the procedure for the approval of OIE Collaborating Centres and of OIE Reference Laboratories.

Cuba's proposal was submitted for consideration and approved by the Commission.

Argentina informed that the official laboratory of SENASA (Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria) has been proposed for acceptance as an OIE Reference Laboratory for foot and mouth disease. Paraguay and Peru supported the proposal.

The meeting ended at 6.30 p.m

.../Appendix

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 21 May 2007

Agenda

1. Confirmation of the election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Administrative Commission update
4. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
5. Organisation of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Cuba from 18 to 22 November 2008
6. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas (activities and work programme)
7. Website of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas
8. Recommendations of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Florianopolis, Brazil, from 28 November to 2 December 2006
9. Animal welfare: outcome of the seminar held in Montevideo
10. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2009
11. Technical item proposed by the Commission for inclusion in the Agenda of the 19th OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Cuba from 18 to 22 November 2008
12. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region
13. PVS evaluations update
14. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE: PAHO-PANAFTOSA, IICA.
15. Other issues:
 - OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 21 May 2007

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 62 participants including Delegates and observers from 22 countries member of the Commission and 4 observer countries/territoires, and representatives from 3 international or regional organisations:

Member Countries of the Commission: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taipei China, Thailand and Vietnam

Observer countries or territories: Canada, France, Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China) and People's Republic of China

International or regional organisations: FAO, WHO, Secretariat of the Pacific Community

The meeting was chaired by Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr Tien-Jye Chang (Taipei China), Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr Kamal Ranjith Amarasekara (Sri Lanka), Secretary General of the Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items circulated.

2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries

The President of the Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter of concern and urged Member Countries to promptly settle their arrears if any.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The President of the Regional Commission presented his report on the activities of the Commission. The report which was distributed to participants, highlighted the importance of the Asia Pacific and Economic community (APEC⁵⁵) which is showing increasing interest in animal and public health matters. Dr Murray also asked Delegates to provide advice to the Regional Commission Bureau on how its activities could be improved and enhanced. His report was accepted.

4. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, made a comprehensive presentation on the role and activities of the Representation as well as its work programme for the year 2007-2008.

The issue of animal welfare was raised and Dr Fujita replied that the OIE Representation would welcome advice from Delegates. The President added that an OIE-Australia Workshop on the subject would be organised by the end of the year.

The President, on behalf of the Regional Commission, thanked the Government of Japan for supporting the regional activities.

5. Activities of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Unit in Bangkok, Thailand

In the absence of Dr Shiro. Yoshimura, the Senior Deputy Regional Representative, Dr Fujita gave a summary of the activities of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Unit in Bangkok, Thailand mentioning the activities carried out under each of the four components of the Programme namely, Regional and national control strategies, early warning systems, strengthening of diagnostic capabilities and training of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals. He also announced that the project period has been extended by one year until March 2008.

The report was accepted and the President, on behalf of the Regional Commission, thanked the Government of Thailand for hosting the Unit in Bangkok.

6. Report on the activities of the Regional Coordination Unit of the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) in 2006-2007

Dr Ronello C. Abila, Coordinator of the SEAFMD Campaign, reported on the foot and mouth disease (FMD) control programme including the 2020 Document on FMD control. He highlighted the efforts being made in the progressive zoning approach and the engagement with other international donor bodies for better complementarity of approaches. He also underlined the increasing importance of industry and the involvement of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the programme.

The Chairman noted the extensive interest in the SEAFMD programme and the possible adoption of the SEAFMD model which is applicable to other transboundary animal diseases, in other parts of the world. He concluded by pointing out that further funding would be necessary for 2008 and efforts will be made to approach donor bodies to support the activities of the Regional Coordination Unit. He added that a key purpose of the 2020 document could be used to attract funding and also to engage more with countries such as India, Bangladesh and PR China.

⁵⁵ APEC: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

7. 13th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 12 to 16 March 2007

Dr Murray presented the outcome of the 13th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 12 to 16 March 2007.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting as well as those adopted during a special meeting on HPAI which followed immediately after.

8. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2009

The Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Member Countries) for the 77th General Session:

Risk of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases as a result of climatic and environmental changes

9. Organisation of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in 2007

Dr Derek Belton, member of the New Zealand delegation, made a DVD presentation on Queenstown, New Zealand where the 25th Regional Commission Conference will be held from 26 to 30 November 2007. The conference will be preceded by a special meeting on HPAI organised by the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific. He reported on the arrangements being made for the Conference. Further information could be obtained from the OIE Web site with which a special link has been established, or directly from the Organising Committee in New Zealand.

The following technical items were adopted for the 25th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

- With a questionnaire: Emerging and re-emerging diseases in the region with special emphasis on porcine epidemic diarrhoea. (to be presented by a scientist from the Philippines)
- Without questionnaire: Animal Production Food Safety in Asia (to be presented by a scientist from Thailand).

10. Election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission

Ms Chaweewan Leowijuk, OIE Delegate of Thailand, was unanimously elected as the new Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, replacing Dr Hirofumi Kugita (Japan).

11. PVS evaluations update

Dr Dewan Sibartie, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, presented the aims and objectives of the PVS tool developed by the OIE in collaboration with the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the evaluation of Veterinary Services of developing and in transition countries. He also provided an update on the evaluations carried and the experience gathered so far in the region.

12. Other matters

- **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region**

Dr Antonio Petrini, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the stage of its implementation in the region. Data on sanitary information (6 monthly and annual reports) for 2005 and 2006 were also presented. Dr Petrini finally emphasised the importance of countries submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

- **GF-TADS update**

Dr Fujita presented the activities of the GF-TADS Programme in the region and announced that the second Regional Steering Committee for Asia would be held in Bangkok on 18 and 19 July 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand stressing particularly on the importance of that second regional meeting.

- **An update on HPAI in the Republic of Korea**

Dr Y. Seok Joo, a member of the delegation of the Republic of Korea, provided an update on HPAI outbreaks in his country. He indicated that the source of the infection for domestic poultry in 2006 has been traced back to wild birds. He also pointed out that pigs have been tested in 90 farms for avian influenza virus with negative results.

- **A statement of the Delegate of Fiji**

The Delegate of Fiji that has just joined the OIE as a Member Country provided information about the animal health activities in Fiji and requested technical assistance from the OIE in a number of areas.

- **A Statement of the Delegate of Taipei China**

The Delegate of Taipei China made a statement outlining the role of his country in OIE activities and expressed the wish that the Resolution that would be proposed to the International Committee in the course of the week would not affect the dignity and sovereignty of his country.

13. Presentations of International or Regional Organisations

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief Veterinary Officer and Head of the Animal Health Services of the FAO, presented the activities of FAO with a focus on HPAI. He indicated that the situation has considerably improved compared to what was observed 2-3 years ago. The early detection and response system has improved and the number of outbreaks has diminished. However, he pointed out that the virus was still circulating in the region and may still infect countries that are currently free from the disease. He expressed concern on the situation in Indonesia and Bangladesh where there are numerous foci of infection. He assured that the FAO, OIE and other partners will continue their assistance to those countries.

Dr Domenech mentioned that in addition to the activities related to avian influenza, the FAO was also involved in the control of FMD, classical swine fever, conservation of animal biodiversity and the interactions between livestock and the environment.

- **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)**

Mr Ken Cokanasiga, Representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), updated the meeting on the key programmes underway in the SPC. The meeting noted the complexity of animal health management given the geographical distribution of countries in the region.

The meeting ended at 5.00 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 21 May 2007

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
4. Report of the OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
5. Activities of the HPAI Unit in Bangkok, Thailand
6. Report on the Regional Coordination Unit of the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) in 2006-2007
7. 13th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and meeting on HPAI held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 12 to 16 March 2007
8. Proposal of a technical item with questionnaire to Member Countries, to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2009
9. Organisation of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in 2007: date, venue and technical items (one with a questionnaire and one without a questionnaire)
10. Election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission
11. PVS evaluations update
12. Other matters
 - World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region
 - GF-TADs update
 - An update on HPAI in the Republic of Korea
 - A statement of the Delegate of Fiji
 - A statement of the Delegate of Taipei China
13. Presentations of International or Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE:
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 21 May 2007

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 133 Delegates and observers from 43 countries member of the Commission, 2 observer countries, and representatives from 7 international and regional organisations:

Member Countries of the Commission: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.

Observer countries: People's Republic of China, Mongolia

International or regional organisations: EU, FAO-EUFMD⁵⁶, EC, FEI, FESASS⁵⁷, FVE⁵⁸, IDF IFAH

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr Patrick J. Rogan (Ireland) and Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania), Vice-Presidents of the Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations including the World Bank and the European Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was unanimously accepted and the annexes related to the agenda items circulated.

2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries

The President of the Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter of concern and urged Member Countries to promptly settle their arrears if any.

⁵⁶ EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease

⁵⁷ FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security

⁵⁸ FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

3. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe

Dr Patrick. J. Rogan, Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe for the year 2006. The emphasis was on the significant number of meetings and seminars held in several Member Countries and in which government ministers and elected parliamentarians participated.

Specific thanks and appreciation were conveyed to the Delegate of France for the excellent organisation and wonderful hospitality of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

The Meeting accepted the report.

4. Recommendations of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Lyon, France, 25-29 September 2006)

The Recommendations approved at the 22nd Conference in Lyon were presented and adopted.

5. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the OIE International Committee, to be held in May 2009

The following technical item was selected: “Emerging vectoral disease risk, including the impact of climate change and consideration of prevention strategies”.

6. Date, venue and first technical item of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in 2008

On behalf of the Government of Lithuania, Dr Lukauskas confirmed his country’s invitation to host the next Conference of the Commission in Vilnius, in September 2008. This was unanimously approved by the participants.

The following first technical item (with a questionnaire to Member Countries) was confirmed for the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

Practical application of OIE standards and guidelines on compartmentalisation

7. Inauguration of the OIE office in Brussels, Belgium, and of a web site for the Regional Representation

Dr Caroline Planté, Project Officer, presented the objectives and activities of the OIE Office in Brussels, Belgium, has been recently created to work in very close partnership with the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe.

The development of the website is intended as an important information source for Member Countries. The recruitment of a Ukrainian veterinarian will facilitate the use of both English and Russian in the Web site.

8. PVS evaluations update

Ms Catherine Hayet from the OIE Regional Activities Department presented the aims and objectives of the PVS tool developed by the OIE in collaboration with the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the evaluation of Veterinary Services of developing and in transition countries. She also provided an update on the evaluations carried and the experience gathered so far in the region.

Dr Véronique Bellemain, Director of the OIE Collaborating Centre on training of official veterinarians, spoke on the field experience of evaluators which helped to contribute to a better understanding of the issues faced by individual Member Countries participating in the PVS programme.

The Delegate of Ukraine stressed that the aim of the evaluation should be to help countries and insisted that evaluators having a good knowledge of the local language in use in the countries being evaluated.

Discussions followed on the criteria used for the selection, training and choice of experts and evaluators. These are generally people with significant experience in veterinary administration.

The President pointed out that PVS was important for Eastern European countries to achieve OIE standards. It is therefore important as part of the process to know which countries are progressing. In this context it is necessary to persuade Governments that National Veterinary Services must be autonomous and free from political pressures.

9. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

• European Commission

Ms Paola Testori Coggi, Acting Deputy Director General, Directorate General of Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO), European Commission, made a presentation of the activities of the Commission outlining particularly those related to animal welfare, food safety, the extension of FMD control programme to the East and rabies control.

10. Other matters

• **Joint OIE/WHO/EU Conference: ‘Towards the elimination of rabies in Eurasia’, OIE Headquarters, 27-30 May 2007**

Dr Christianne Brusckhe, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, spoke about the rabies conference taking place at the OIE Headquarters, from 27 to 30 May 2007, emphasising that rabies is still a very important disease. She stressed the necessity of following up on the conclusions of the meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, and increased cooperation between veterinarians and medical personnel.

• **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region**

Ms Sarah Kahn, Head of the OIE International Trade Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the stage of its implementation in the region. Data on sanitary information (6 monthly and annual reports) for 2005 and 2006 were also presented. Dr Kahn emphasised the importance of countries submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE and pointed out that the ‘bugs’ currently existing in the system would soon be eliminated.

- **The emergence of bluetongue in northern Europe**

Dr Vincenzo Caporale, Director of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare, presented an update on the bluetongue situation in northern Europe. He reported that a species of *Culicoides* never reported before appears to be the main vector involved in the transmission of the disease and that the only significant change that needs to be made to the Code concerns the northern limit of the disease: 53°N latitude.

- **GF-TADs**

A proposal that Dr Bernard van Goethem of DG SANCO, European Commission, be nominated chairman of the Regional GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe was unanimously accepted. The President also congratulated Dr van Goethem on his recent promotion.

The President stated that he had invited the Delegate of Kazakhstan to speak at the meeting to alert neighbouring countries on the FMD situation in his country.

The Delegate of Kazakhstan spoke on the recurrence of FMD in his country and also made reference to a highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in 2005. Regarding FMD, the Delegate of Kazakhstan confirmed that the laboratory work carried out in both the Russian Federation and the World Reference Laboratory in the United Kingdom had identified the serotype as Pan-Asian isolate, type O.

The reoccurrence of the disease had resulted in the implementation of new legal measures for the control and eradication of FMD, including a new compensation regime for farmers and a new vaccination programme. The Delegate of Kazakhstan acknowledged that there was a need in his country for increased resources, particularly for the control of FMD. In conclusion, the Delegate emphasised that it was essential to take very stringent measures to deal with the disease and that there was a need for a standardisation of the control measures adopted by neighbouring countries to prevent further spread. Finally he thanked the OIE for the assistance provided and also other countries which have contributed to the control activities.

Dr Nikolai Vlasov, a member of the delegation of Russia, gave a brief account of the FMD control measures introduced in Russia to combat the outbreaks of disease in Kazakhstan in 2007. He also mentioned that in some countries transboundary animal diseases were not accorded the same importance as was evident in the approach adopted by Kazakhstan. He also emphasised the need to seek early assistance and indicated that Russia had dispatched a number of teams of experts to assist in the implementation of vaccination programmes and other control measures.

The Delegate of the Netherlands, in his role as the Chairman of the EUFMD Commission, sought information on whether there would be a follow-up to the assistance already provided to Kazakhstan and if any request for such assistance had been received.

Dr Keith Sumption, of the EUFMD Commission, spoke on the very good reporting of FMD by the authorities of Kazakhstan. He went on to emphasise the importance of this pan-Asian isolate throughout the Middle East and the fact that as the disease had occurred in Kazakhstan it was evident that it was on the move. While vaccine has an important role to play in the control of disease it must be very carefully used and there are particular biosecurity measures that must be implemented.

The Delegate of Israel spoke on the need for both the OIE and the European Union to be involved in the provision of further assistance in the disease control programmes. He also spoke about the necessity for proper and early reporting of outbreaks of disease and also the role played by trade in live animals in the dissemination of the disease.

The meeting ended at 5.45 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 21 May 2007

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe
4. Recommendations of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Lyon, France, from 25 to 29 September 2006
5. Proposal of a technical item with questionnaire to Member Countries, to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2009
6. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in 2008
7. Inauguration of the OIE Office in Brussels, Belgium, and of a website for the Regional Representation
8. PVS evaluations update
9. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE: European Commission
10. Other matters:
 - ‘Towards the elimination of rabies in Eurasia’, Joint OIE/WHO/EU Conference, 27-30 May 2007
 - World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region
 - The emergence of bluetongue in northern Europe
 - GF-TADs

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 21 May 2007

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 34 Delegates and observers from 14 countries member of the Commission and 3 observer countries and 2 international organisations.

Member countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen

Observer countries: People's Republic of China, France and the National Palestine Authority

International/Regional Organisations: FAO, CIRAD⁵⁹

The meeting was chaired by Dr Salman A. Nabi Ebrahim (Bahrain), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Mohammed Al Muhanna (Kuwait), Vice-President.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of international and regional organisations.

The meeting was preceded by a short ceremony during which Dr Bernard Vallat Director General of the OIE and Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief Veterinary Officer of FAO signed the official Agreement on the creation of the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) for the Middle East, which will be based in Beirut, Lebanon. The Agreement was already signed by the Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon.

Dr Vallat stressed the importance of the Centre with regard to the management and control of infectious animal diseases.

Dr Domenech also spoke on the importance of the Centre and announced that Dr Hassan Aidaros (Egypt) has already been recruited as Coordinator and the latter would assume duty on 01 June 2007.

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, summarised the objectives of the centre highlighting the priority areas in which the Centre would be more involved.

Dr Aidaros added that the main activity of the RAHC would be to provide assistance to countries particularly on the management of avian influenza crises.

⁵⁹ CIRAD: Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items circulated.

2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries

The President of the Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter of concern and urged Member Countries to promptly settle their arrears if any.

3. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East (activities and work programme)

Dr Ghazi Yehia presented the activities and the proposed programme of work for the period 2007-2008.

Dr Yehia mentioned that some important documents such as the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* were already translated into Arabic and that translation of other major documents is under way. All documents are published on line on the website of the Regional Representation.

The regional website now has a special heading on avian influenza reserved for Member Countries.

Dr Yehia mentioned the projects for 2007-2008 and highlighted the necessity for countries in the region to be declared free from rinderpest in accordance with the OIE Pathway.

The Delegate of Jordan suggested that activities related to sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the World Trade Organization be organised in the region.

The report and the work plan of the Representation were adopted.

4. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2009

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was chosen:

Impact of communication in diseases management

5. Organisation of the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Damascus, Syria, from 29 October to 1 November 2007

The Delegate of Syria confirmed that his country is willing to host the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East in Damascus from 29 October to 01 November 2007.

The technical items will be:

- The role of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Associations in the promotion of the veterinary profession and upgrading of Veterinary Services.
- The Geographic Information System (GIS) used for animal disease control.

6. Election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission

Dr Bashir Taha, OIE Delegate of Sudan was elected Vice-President of the Regional Commission in replacement of Dr Mustapha Hassan(Sudan).

7. PVS evaluations update

Dr Dewan Sibartie, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, presented the aims and objectives of the PVS tool developed by the OIE in collaboration with the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the evaluation of Veterinary Services of developing and in transition countries. He also provided an update on the evaluations carried and the experience gathered so far in the region.

8. Other matters

- **OIE/MZCP⁶⁰/Greece Educational Centre for Veterinarians on Food Safety**

The OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East will host a coordination unit for the WHO/MZCP Regional Educational Centre for training physicians and veterinarians on food safety and zoonoses issues. This educational centre will be supported by Greece. Additional facilities have already been offered by the Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon in the same premises to promote those activities.

Dr Yehia pointed out that joint workshops are organised on a regular basis in collaboration with MZCP, the last one concerning the Crimean Congo Fever having taken place in Istanbul, Turkey, in November 2006.

- **Rift Valley fever (workshop in Cairo, Egypt, 13-15 June 2007)**

Considering the present situation of Rift Valley fever (RVF) in the Horn of Africa, OIE will organise a specific workshop on this issue in collaboration with FAO. The objectives of this workshop will be to present an update of the disease, to make recommendations in terms of animal trade for Middle Eastern countries, notably of animal quarantine stations and to establish a climate model to predict potential RVF virus activity.

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, mentioned that the Early Warning System is in place. The problem is more on the best use of such system and the rapid notification of events.

- **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region**

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, presented an overview of the global implementation of the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the stage of its implementation in the region. Data on sanitary information (6 monthly and annual reports) for 2005 and 2006 were also presented. Dr Ben Jebara finally emphasised the importance of countries submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

- **GF-TADs update**

Dr Yehia mentioned that one of the major recommendations made during the 3rd Roundtable Meeting on FMD control in the Middle East and North Africa, held in Damascus, Syria, on 6 and 7 November 2006 is to implement a regional project within the OIE/FAO global framework of the progressive control of transboundary animal disease programme (GF-TADs) that would be coordinated by the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) to provide expertise and assistance in major animal disease emergencies.

A draft project was distributed to participants for review and comments. The project will be presented for adoption during the 4th FMD Round Table, which will be held in Amman, Jordan from 3 to 5 September 2007.

⁶⁰ MZCP: Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme

The Delegate of Syria expressed the wish that a special meeting on the FMD situation in the region be organised as soon as possible. Dr Yehia replied that the next Round Table will provide an opportunity to discuss the matter and propose implementation of a regional project. European Union (EU) could be a potential donor for this project in accordance with its strategy.

- **Update on Twinning arrangements for laboratories**

Dr Yehia described the possibility for laboratories from the region to request for twinning assistance with OIE Reference Laboratories.

9. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

- **Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)**

The Commission welcomed the signing of this Memorandum during the GF-TADs meeting in Beirut in April 2006, which will reinforce regional activities, particularly the projects on FMD, Brucellosis and RVF.

The meeting ended at 16:30 p.m

.../Appendix

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 21 May 2007

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
3. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East (activities and work programme)
4. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2009
5. Organisation of the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Damascus, Syria, to be held in 2007
6. Election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission
7. PVS evaluations update
8. Other matters:
 - OIE/MZCP/Greece Educational Centre for Veterinarians on Food Safety
 - Rift Valley fever (workshop in Cairo, Egypt, 13-15 June 2007)
 - WAHIS – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region
 - GF-TADs update
 - Update on Twinning arrangements for laboratories
9. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE: Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)