

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 77th General Session
in Paris, 25 May 2009**

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, 25 May 2009

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 25 May 2009 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 112 Delegates and observers from 35 Members of the Commission and 1 observer country, and representatives from 9 international and regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Observer countries/territories: France

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR, CEBEVIRHA⁵³, EC⁵⁴, ECOWAS⁵⁵, EISMV⁵⁶, FAO, SADC⁵⁷, WAEMU, World Bank

The meeting was chaired by Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Vice-President of the Commission and Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

Dr Niang started by congratulating and thanking Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland), the past President of the Commission and Delegate of Swaziland, for all his work.

He presented apologies for the absence of most of the Members of the Bureau. Dr Bangoura (Guinea) Vice-President, and Dr Fall (Mauritania) Secretary General, were not available to attend the General Session.

Dr Niang also congratulated Dr Joseph Domenech who will shortly be retiring from the FAO.

He also mentioned and congratulated Dr Ahmed El-Sawalhy, who has been elected Director of the AU-IBAR.

The Vice-President of the Commission, Dr Olaho-Mukani, welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of regional and international organisations.

⁵³ CEBEVIRHA: *Commission économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques* (Economic Commission of Livestock, Meat and Fishery Resources)

⁵⁴ EC: European Commission

⁵⁵ ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

⁵⁶ EISMV: *Ecole inter-États des sciences et médecine vétérinaires* (Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine, Senegal)

⁵⁷ SADC: Southern African Development Community

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Administrative Commission update

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, member of the Administrative Commission and Delegate of Algeria, reported on the matters discussed at Commission meetings.

He made special reference to the updating of the OIE Basic Texts and the 5th Strategic Plan.

3. Contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter for concern.

He said that all contribution reminders have been sent out on time and that it is very important that countries promptly settle their arrears if they have any.

He congratulated countries that have returned their contributions to the OIE on time and encouraged remaining countries to do the same.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Olaho-Mukani reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa.

The report was approved.

5. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa. New Sub-Regional Office-Regional Animal Health Centers

Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa.

He summarised the work done by the Representation during 2008 and the planned activities for 2009. These activities are designed to enable the Representation to accomplish its obligations and to continue with the implementation of the 4th OIE Strategic Plan.

He remarked that the activities of the Regional Representation also take into account the guidance of the ALive platform, now under the auspices of the African Union. These activities are also complemented (through the Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases [GF-TADs] for Africa and the animal health component of the Common Agricultural Policy of the African Union) by the work of the CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme).

Dr Niang briefly mentioned the objectives of the GF-TADs for Africa and the principal activities developed in order to fight against major animal diseases, including zoonoses. The OIE regional representation for Africa provides the secretariat of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Africa.

He made special reference to the work of the Regional Animal Health Center (RAHC) regarding the promotion of health policy and the fight against animal diseases.

He also mentioned the support of the Regional Economic Communities to the RAHC.

Dr Niang said that the core activities of the Representation were providing support to the RAHC; participating in the re-establishment and operation of RESEPI (the Regional Network of National Epidemiological Surveillance Systems for HPAI and Other Priority Animal Diseases in West Africa) in West and Central Africa; participating in the establishment of RESOLAB (*Le Réseau Ouest et Centre Africain des laboratoires vétérinaires de diagnostic de l'influenza aviaire et des autres maladies transfrontalières*); and the organising of and participation in different Regional Seminars, such as the Good Governance seminar.

Dr Niang thanked Dr Nicolas Denormandie, who has now left the OIE Regional Representation, for all his work.

Regarding the programme of activities for 2009, Dr Niang informed the Delegates that they are planned with the aim of strengthening the results achieved in 2008. More activities will be planned, especially in terms of technical governance (particularly in the fields of animal health and zoonoses, veterinary public health and animal welfare).

He also reminded the meeting that the main points of the 4th OIE Strategic Plan were:

- Dissemination of timely and accurate information on animal diseases, including zoonoses,
- Development and implementation of standards based on scientific criteria,
- Prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, including zoonoses,
- Capacity building,
- Strengthening OIE influence regarding policy, research and governance in the fields of animal health and animal welfare.

The report was approved.

6. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa

Dr Bonaventure J. Mtei, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, reported on the activities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa (OIE SRR-SA).

He started by making reference to the establishment of the Sub-Regional Representation in January 2006, and to the financial assistance that had made it possible (the SADC-EU Grant Contribution Agreement with the OIE).

He commented on the numerous accomplishments of the OIE SRR-SA over the three years of its existence. These included setting up a fully functional office environment; helping Member States to improve their national disease surveillance systems and ensure compatibility and compliance with the OIE WAHIS system for disease notification; encouraging nearly all SADC Member States to apply for the OIE PVS Assessments; taking part in World Rabies Day events; and supporting two OIE Twinning Agreements that benefited national laboratories in Botswana and South Africa.

Dr Mtei briefly named the different activities in which the OIE SRR-SA has been involved. They included: participation in and support for different meetings, seminars and workshops; the foundation of a laboratory training course on RVF diagnosis; several country visits; many capacity building activities; the launching of the English version of the OIE Africa website (www.rr-africa.oie.int); training of new OIE Delegates; seminars for the National OIE Focal Points; and logistical and financial support for many different activities.

He congratulated Dr Patrick Bastiaensen for his excellent work and his contribution to the development of the activities of the SRR.

He remarked that the OIE SRR-SA will continue to support and participate more proactively in the OIE PVS Assessments of SADC Member States and in the follow-up PVS Gap Analysis missions.

He commented on the recruitment of Dr Rene Bessin as Deputy OIE Representative and Ms Mpho Mantsho as finance and administrative assistant. These appointments have been made in order to reach a level of staffing that is appropriate for the normative activities and mandate of the OIE SRR at this time.

Finally, Dr Mtei spoke on the signing of a formal Agreement between the OIE and FAO, with the later inclusion of AU-IBAR, regarding the Regional Animal Health Center for Southern Africa (RAHC-SA).

Dr Mtei concluded by saying that the OIE SRR-SA for Southern Africa has proven beyond doubt that given resources, both human and financial, OIE Sub-Regional Representations around the world will significantly increase the visibility of the OIE and therefore contribute positively to achieving the objectives of the OIE for the benefit of all Members.

The report was approved.

7. Update on the ALive and GF-TADs mechanisms, including a presentation of the Epidemio-Surveillance network (RESEPI) and the Regional Laboratories Network (RESOLAB) (Dr Joseph Domenech).

Dr J. Domenech summarised the activities that had been conducted in Africa jointly by the FAO and the OIE under the aegis of the GF-TADs, which was signed by the two organisations in May 2004.

Many tools have been put in place and are currently operational: the Global Early Warning and Response System for major animal diseases including zoonoses (GLEWS), the Joint OIE/FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of avian influenza (OFFLU), the Crisis Management Centre - Animal Health (CMC-AH) and Regional Animal Health Centres. Some, such as the Regional Animal Health Centres (RAHC), are yet to be consolidated. Special emphasis has been placed on region-wide epidemiological, laboratory and socio-economic networks. A study commissioned by the ALive Partnership for Africa Livestock Development, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Growth, conducted in 2008/2009, provided the fundamental principles for their sustainability and highlighted the FAO's important role in this connection. Dr Domenech cited further cross-cutting tools, such as the Integrated National Action Plans for Avian and Human Influenza (INAP), PVS studies, and joint FAO/OIE establishment of biosecurity guides for poultry and pig farming.

Many other joint conferences were held, and the two organisations worked together to implement programmes for the control of H5N1 avian influenza and the final eradication of rinderpest, Rift Valley fever, peste des petits ruminants, trypanosomes and African swine fever. Dr Domenech made special reference to foot and mouth disease, for which a regional seminar had been held in Nairobi to prepare a regional strategy for submission to the OIE/FAO Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease in Paraguay in June 2009.

Dr François Le Gall from the World Bank made a presentation regarding the ALive platform.

Dr Le Gall began by introducing Dr Stephane Forman, who will represent the World Bank at the ALive programme when Dr Le Gall moves to the Asia region.

He presented the ALive platform, the first meeting of which was held in May 2004.

He made particular reference to the Nairobi meeting, at which the governance of the ALive platform was transferred to AU-IBAR.

He highlighted the fact that the ALive platform is now a model and should be presented and replicated in all regions, emphasising that this is something of which the African region should be proud.

He explained that the ALive platform was created as a solution to the lack of coordination and harmonisation in livestock activities. He stressed that ALive can be considered now as a response to this issue. He remarked that all sectors related to livestock in Africa, both from the public and private sectors, were involved and stressed the role and participation of key donors in giving sustainability to the platform.

Dr Olaho-Mukani made a short announcement requesting Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea to send their Rinderpest status reconfirmation dossier to the OIE.

8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2011

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire for Members) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session:

- Surveillance and control challenges of transboundary animal diseases at the livestock–wildlife interface.

9. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2011)

The following technical item, including a questionnaire, was selected for the 19th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in 2011 in Rwanda. The selected item was:

- Livestock census in Africa as a vital tool for livestock disease surveillance and control

10. Recommendations of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in N'djamena, Chad, from 22 to 26 February 2009

Dr Niang gave a brief recapitulation of both recommendations that were adopted during the Regional Conference in Chad.

Recommendation I: Challenges faced by African products of animal origin in accessing world markets

Recommendation II: The impact of brucellosis on the economy and public health in Africa

These Recommendations will be presented to the plenary for final adoption.

11. Recommendations of the 2nd OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services, held in Bamako, Mali, from 11 to 13 December 2008 (Dr A. Bouna Niang)

Dr Niang reported on the main recommendations of the seminar regarding Good Governance for Veterinary Services'.

12. PVS evaluations and PVS-Gap Analysis update in the region

Dr Daniel Bourzat, Technical Advisor of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa, reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the use of the OIE-PVS tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, he explained the sequence of the PVS Process, stating that the first PVS evaluation in the country is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance and the compliance of Veterinary Services (VS) with the OIE international standards on quality and is considered as the "initial diagnosis". After the OIE-PVS evaluation, and based on its outcomes, the next

step is the PVS-Gap Analysis, which is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities as established by the country itself, considered as the “proposed treatment”. He commented that for the PVS-Gap Analysis the OIE works in collaboration with its partner organisations, such as FAO, and with international donors, if desired by the country. Finally, to complete the process the OIE also provides, if requested by the countries, regular PVS Follow-up evaluation missions aimed at continuously monitoring the evolution of the situation and improvements achieved after the implementation of strengthening measures taken.

He highlighted some particularities of the OIE-PVS process such as the voluntary basis of each step (upon requests from countries); the harmonised approach of all steps through standardised procedures; the confidentiality of the outcomes, which are the countries’ exclusive property (although the OIE encourages all countries to allow their reports to be released in order to complete the process in collaboration with OIE partners and donors). He mentioned the usefulness of the process for supporting financial and technical decisions at both national and international level, if necessary.

Besides showing the current state of play of the programme at global level, which to date includes 94 requests for the PVS evaluation and 29 requests for PVS-Gap Analysis, Dr Bourzat also described in detail the specific status of the African region. He encouraged those countries which have not entered the process so far to do so, and those which have already applied for the first PVS evaluation to continue the process by requesting the PVS-Gap Analysis as well as PVS Follow-up missions later if necessary.

13. OIE/EC Better Training for Safer Food Project in Africa

Dr Daniel Bourzat reported on the activities planned under the OIE/EC programme “Better Training for Safer Food” in Africa.

He began by mentioning that this programme was established through an Agreement signed between the European Commission and the OIE on 8 December 2008, with a total budget of 5.4 million euros, to be used over 2 years (2009 and 2010).

The programme includes the following 5 main activities:

1. Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services; PVS Gap Analysis and PVS follow-up evaluations
2. Improvement of national / regional legal frameworks
3. Laboratory capacity / laboratory twinnings
4. Training of National Delegates / CVOs / National Focal Points
5. Coordination meetings

He commented that a specific work programme is being established under the framework of this project which will be carried out by OIE African Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in collaboration with OIE headquarters.

14. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories

Dr Lea Knopf informed the meeting of the proposal for an OIE Collaborating Centre for Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management located at the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria in Onderstepoort, South Africa. The proposal will be presented to the Regional Commission for approval before its presentation to the plenary for final adoption.

Dr Knopf commented that the new Collaborating Centre focuses on the integrated approach linking animal and human health, animal production, marketing and trade of animals and animal products, land-use options, rural development, conservation and environmental health.

She also explained that the emphasis of the activities will be on:

- the needs of the livestock agricultural sector (commercial and subsistence);
- the needs of the wildlife sector (conservation and commercial game ranching);
- the impact on the livelihoods and health of humans; and
- the dynamics between these sectors and land-use options.

To conclude, Dr Knopf mentioned that the activities of the Centre will be phased over a period of time to give the opportunity to expand the related activities and increase the number of institutions involved on a regional basis.

The Regional Commission endorsed the proposal for the Collaborating Centre.

15. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department started his presentation by introducing Dr Alice Mukakanamugire, a Rwandese veterinarian working in the OIE Animal Health Information Department.

Dr Berlingieri presented an overview of the global implementation of the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the status of its implementation in the region. Data on animal health information (immediate notifications, six-monthly reports and annual reports) for 2008 and 2009 were also presented.

Finally, Dr Berlingieri emphasised the importance of countries submitting animal health information on a regular basis to the OIE.

16. Presentations from regional Organisations in Africa that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

AU-IBAR

Dr Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of the AU-IBAR started his presentation by mentioning the key strategic objectives of AU-IBAR: the harmonisation of livestock-related policies and regulatory frameworks and the coordination of the African position on livestock issues.

Dr Ahmed El-Sawalhy mentioned the recently started Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-Setting Organisations, commonly known as PAN-SPSO, which is funded by the EC and which aims to improve the participation of African states in the activities of the OIE, IPPC and CAC during the formulation of international sanitary, phytosanitary and food safety standards. This participation provides AU-IBAR with a unique tool to effectively pursue one of its key strategic objectives.

He spoke about the first meeting of African CVOs on the coordination of Africa's position on international animal health standards, which was held in Nairobi on 5 May 2009, with 36 countries and 3 Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in attendance. He remarked that for the first time in the history of IBAR and the OIE, African delegates will be able to attend the OIE General Session with a strong and common position, based on scientific arguments, factoring in the specific characteristics of Africa's livestock sector.

During this General Session AU-IBAR will also briefly present three new continental programmes. These new proposals are focusing on a number of important emerging issues in Africa's livestock sector, including animal identification and traceability; vaccination for neglected, but economically important, diseases; and the control and eradication of PPR.

SADC

Mr Beedeeanan Hulman, representative of SADC, reported on the activities of his organisation.

He welcomed the Regional Animal Health Center established in Gaborone and requires more participation of the SADC Regional Economic Community in the activities of such a centre.

He highlighted the importance of the establishment of the OIE Collaborating Centre for wildlife in Pretoria, which will help with matters related to animal disease control as well as trade.

Mr Hulman mentioned the changes to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code that SADC proposed during the Regional Conference in Chad and which will be sent to the Code Commission.

CEBEVIRHA

Dr Gabriel Fio-Ngaindiro, representative of CEBEVIRHA, reported on the activities of his organisation.

He emphasised the work of the organisation in the project of advocacy of veterinary products in Africa and in the field of livestock production. He commented on the introduction of passports for cattle and the International Certificate of Transhumance, and on the studies on: marketing of bovine and bovine meat, the cartography of bovine breeds and the support to the creation of a slaughter-house coupled with a private initiative.

ECOWAS

The representative of ECOWAS informed the Delegates about the work of his organisation, which is a regional group of fifteen member countries founded in 1975 with the mission of promoting integration in all fields of economic activity, including agriculture, natural resources, industry, and transport.

ECOWAS has four institutions, including the Commission. In the context of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the New Partnership for Africa (CAADP/NEPAD), ECOWAS developed the ECOWAS Agriculture Programme (ECOWAP) to guide the implementation of the CAADP/NEPAD process in the sub-region. ECOWAP aims to ensure food security by improving agricultural production and trade potential, providing decent incomes for agricultural activities and enabling effective structuring of agricultural food value chains based on sustainable production systems. This is to be achieved using the complementary approach of the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP) and the National Agricultural Investment Programme (NAIP).

17. Other matters

Organisation of the forthcoming 19th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa in Rwanda:

The Delegate of Rwanda made a short intervention regarding the forthcoming Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in 2011 in Rwanda.

He commented on the facilities offered by Rwanda for the conference especially in regard to communication and transportation. He encouraged all countries to attend this meeting.

Presentation by the EISMV (Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires)

Prof. Justin Akakpo representative of the EISMV reported on the activities of the institution.

He commented on the work of the EISMV in relation to veterinary education and made reference to the work of the institution in its capacity as an OIE Collaborating Centre.

He also commented on the twining between the *Ecole Vétérinaire* in Lyons and the EISMV for the training of Official Veterinarians.

Dr Sawadogo briefly explained the educational programmes proposed by the EISMV and the creation of master degrees in veterinary public health for official veterinarians, which aim to continue the strengthening of Veterinary Services.

18. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

President	:	Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda)
Vice-President	:	Dr Daouda Bangoura (Guinea)
Vice-President	:	Dr Moktar Fall (Mauritania)
Secretary General	:	Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho)

Administrative Commission

Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria)
Dr Florencia Cipriano (Mozambique)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Stuart K. Hargreaves (Zimbabwe)
Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Gideon Bruckner (South Africa), as President.
Prof. Salah Hammami (Tunisia), as member

Biological Standards Commission

Dr Medhi El Harrak (Morocco)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Prof. Eli Katunguka-Rwakishaya (Uganda)

The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 25 May 2009

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
2. Administrative Commission update (Dr Rachid Bouguedour)
3. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
5. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa. New Sub-regional office- Regional Animal Health centres. (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
6. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa (Dr Bonaventure Mtei)
7. Update on the ALive (Dr François LeGall) and GF-TADs mechanisms, including presentation of the Epidemio-Surveillance network (RESEPI) and the Regional Laboratories Network (RESOLAB) (Dr Joseph Domenech).
8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2011 (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
9. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2011) (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
10. Recommendations of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in N'djamena, Chad from 22 to 26 February 2009. (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
11. Recommendations of the 2nd OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services, held in Bamako, Mali, from 11 to 13 December 2008 (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
12. PVS evaluations and GAP Analysis update in the region (Dr Daniel Bourzat)
13. OIE/EC BTSF Project in Africa (Dr Daniel Bourzat)
14. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories (Dr. Lea Knopf)
15. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Dr Francesco Berlingieri)
16. Presentations from regional Organisations in Africa that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
 - Southern African Development Community (SADC)
 - Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources in CEMAC (CEBEVIRHA)
 - Economic Community of west African states (ECOWAS)
17. Other matters:
 - Comments from Rwanda regarding the next Regional Conference in 2011
 - Presentation by the EISMV (Ecole Inter – Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires)
18. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)

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

Paris, 25 May 2009

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 25 May 2009 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 95 Delegates and observers from 21 Members of the Commission, and representatives from 8 regional and international organisations.

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Surinam, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

International/regional organisations: ALA⁵⁸, CAN⁵⁹, CVP, FAO, IFAH, IICA⁶⁰, OIRSA, PAHO/PANAFTOSA⁶¹, European Commission

The meeting was chaired by Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez (Cuba), Vice-President of the Commission.

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated to all participants.

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Brian Evans, member of the Administrative Commission, reported that the number of Members with outstanding contributions is a matter of concern but that the Administrative Commission is aware of the current economic difficulties facing Members, impacting on OIE Members' contributions. He said that, while some countries were in arrears, none had lost voting or other rights. He expressed thanks and appreciation to the United States of America, Canada, Argentina, Panama, Colombia and Paraguay for their extraordinary contributions.

He praised Paraguay on its application to the OIE for upgrading from a category 6 to a category 4 country on the scale of OIE contributions.

⁵⁸ ALA: Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura (Latin American Poultry Association)

⁵⁹ CAN: Andean Community.

⁶⁰ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁶¹ PAHO: Pan American Health Organization / /PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

In addition, Dr Evans reminded Members of their obligation to submit an annual report in order to retain OIE recognition for the four diseases for which disease status is officially recognised by means of a Resolution. He reported that countries that failed to submit the report by Friday at the latest would be removed from the list of recognised countries. He pointed out that the compulsory report had to be submitted in November every year.

3. Administrative Commission update

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Vice-President of the Administrative Commission and Delegate of Uruguay, reported on the matters discussed at Commission meetings.

He said that the budget had been increased for the next three years via the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, with the following activities earmarked: building the capacity of Members' Veterinary Services, PVS missions for the evaluation of performance of Veterinary Services and laboratory 'twinning' projects.

He reported that the changes to the OIE's 1924 Organic Rules and Basic Texts would be submitted to the International Committee for approval, but that this required unanimous approval.

He requested the countries of the region to review and submit their comments on the new OIE Strategic Plan for 2011-2015, both as individual countries and on a regional basis.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

Dr Jamil Gomez de Souza, President of the Regional Commission, summarized the activities of the Regional Commission. He made special mention of; two working meetings that had been held on the planning and implementation of Regional Representation activities; the recommendation to Members to focus on the issue of global warming and its effect on livestock; and candidatures for OIE elections.

He said that a suggestion had been made for the Regional Representation to visit Caribbean countries to encourage them to participate in the OIE and to discuss the possibility of their becoming members.

He said that the Regional Commission had proposed that, in 2010, the Regional Representation's activities should focus on: training for OIE Focal Points; continuation of the work programme of cost-benefit assessments; meeting on updating OIE standards electronically; meeting of the Aquatic Animal Health Committee in Costa Rica; participation in meetings and events in line with their importance and with budgetary aspects; continuation of activities relating to the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health (CISA), the Committee of the Americas for the Harmonization of the Registration and Control of Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET), the Standing Committee of the Americas on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies in Animals (COPEA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), OIRSA, the Andean Pact, the South American Committee for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (COSALFA) and the Pan American Council on Veterinary Science Education (COPEVET); planning of a regional GF-TADs meeting in 2010; efforts to ensure that a Bureau member attends all National Seminars held with Ecuador, Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala; strengthening the capacity of laboratories in the region; consolidation of the list of experts in the region; and continued promotion of PVS evaluations and PVS gap analyses of Veterinary Services.

5. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, summarised the activities of the Regional Representation (Buenos Aires) and the Subregional Representation (Panama), highlighting the organisation of the International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability, which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the First Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease, to be held in Asunción, Paraguay from 24 and 26 June.

He mentioned a number of activities organised in coordination with international and regional organisations; support for the OIE Scientific Commission Mission to the CVP on the subject of foot and mouth disease and for the Mission to Mexico on A(H1N1) human influenza with the participation of the OIE, FAO, OIRSA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta (USA), the IICA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); the visit to Mexico to support proposals to the OIE for a Reference Laboratory on ticks and haemoparasitic diseases and a Collaborating Centre on animal welfare; participation in a variety of regional events and in meetings to draft proposals for OIE Codes.

He described coordination activities with the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in two working meetings on the Regional Representation's past and future activities, highlighting the progress with implementation and planning activities for the remainder of 2009 and 2010.

These activities included:

- Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease (June 2009 – Asunción, Paraguay);
- Fourth CAMEVET meeting (September 2009 – Mexico);
- CISA meeting (November 2009 – Havana, Cuba);
- Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (IAC-AAH) (December 2009 – Costa Rica);
- Meeting of the Wildlife Committee and Seminar of Wildlife Focal Points (Buenos Aires);
- Meeting of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (August 2009 – Belize);
- Meeting of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) (June 2009 Colombia);
- Latin American and Caribbean Congress (October 2009 – Havana, Cuba);
- Panamanian and Costa Rican Veterinary Medicine Congresses (August and November 2009);
- Visits to Members and non-members in the region;
- OIE national meetings in Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico.
- To assist the countries of the Andean Region with the foot and mouth disease programme, especially in regional integration aspects.

Dr Luis Barcos reiterated Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza's comments on other activities for 2010.

At FAO's request, Dr Luis Barcos said that he would endeavour to arrange a GF-TAD's meeting in 2010. However, he stressed that the Regional Representation for the Americas routinely coordinates with regional organisations.

Both the report and the work programme were approved.

6. Proposed Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session of the OIE International Committee, to be held in May 2011

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session:

- 'Genomics and its contribution to the diagnosis, genetic resistance and control of transmissible diseases of terrestrial and aquatic animals'

7. Proposed Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Montevideo, Uruguay) in November 2010

The Commission selected the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 20th Regional Conference:

- ‘Climate change and its link with animal diseases and animal production’.

8. Recommendations of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Havana, Cuba, from 17 to 21 November 2008

Dr Luis Barcos commented on the recommendations approved at the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in Havana, Cuba, which would be presented to the Plenary Session for final adoption: ‘Biotechnology and its application to veterinary science’ and ‘Application of OIE international standards by Members’.

9. PVS evaluations and Gap Analysis update in the Region

Dr Mara Gonzalez, Deputy Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, reported on the status of the OIE World Programme for building the capacity of Veterinary Services, using the OIE PVS Tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services. She explained the successive steps in the PVS process, saying that the first PVS evaluation to be conducted in a country is a qualitative evaluation to determine the Veterinary Services’ degree of compliance and conformity with OIE international quality standards, and is considered as an ‘initial diagnosis’. Following the PVS evaluation, and based on its results, the next step is the PVS Gap Analysis, which is a quantitative evaluation of the needs and priorities established by the country itself, considered as the ‘proposed treatment’. She said that, for the PVS Gap Analysis, the OIE works jointly with its partner organisations, such as FAO, and with international donors, if the country so desires. To complete the process, at the countries’ request, the OIE also arranges regular PVS follow-up evaluation missions to continuously monitor the progress of the situation and the improvements resulting from implementation of the capacity-building measures and the phases conducted.

She pointed out a number of special features in the OIE-PVS process, such as the voluntary nature of each successive step (subject to a request from the countries); the harmonised approach to all the steps by means of standardised procedures; the confidentiality of results, which are the sole ownership of the countries (although the OIE encourages countries to waive this confidentiality for the purposes of furthering the process with the OIE’s partners and with donors where appropriate); recognition of the OIE-PVS process by key donors as an optimum procedure and a guide in helping countries to apply for financial aid, as well as in national financial assistance and technical decision-making processes, in accordance with the countries’ specific priorities and needs.

In addition to showing the current status of the Programme worldwide, which to date includes 94 applications for PVS evaluations and 29 applications for a PVS Gap Analysis, Dr González also provided a detailed description of the situation in the Americas region. She encouraged those countries that had not yet embarked on the OIE-PVS process to do so, and to countries that had already applied for an initial PVS evaluation to continue the process by applying for a PVS Gap Analysis, as well as for PVS follow-up missions if necessary.

The Delegate of Chile expressed his interest in the evaluation of Veterinary Services for aquatic animals.

10. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories

Dr Luis Barcos reported that, at the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Havana, Cuba, from 17 to 21 November 2008, the Regional Commission had approved the following proposals for Collaborating Centres: Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare presented jointly by the Southern University of Chile (Universidad Austral de Valdivia), Uruguay's University of the Republic (Universidad de la República) and Cuba's Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB). He added that these centres will be presented to the Plenary Session for approval. He also reported that Argentina's national reference laboratory for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (Laboratorio Nacional de Referencia para encefalopatías espongiformes transmisibles) would be submitted for approval as a Reference Laboratory for bovine spongiform encephalopathy and scrapie.

Dr Luis Barcos reported that the Delegate of Mexico had proposed that the OIE create an OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare at the faculty of veterinary medicine and animal production of the national autonomous university of Mexico (FMVZ-UNAM). There had also been an application from Mexico's national centre for animal health diagnosis (CENAPA) to become an official OIE Reference Laboratory for the diagnosis of tick resistance and transmissible haemoparasitic diseases.

The Regional Commission unanimously endorsed Mexico's proposals.

Dr Luis Barcos reported that these proposals would continue to be processed in accordance with the routine administrative channels in the Specialist Commissions and the Administrative Commission. Should the evaluation prove positive, they would be presented to the International Committee for formal adoption at the OIE General Session in May 2010.

11. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Mariela Varas, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the status of its implementation in the region. Data on immediate notifications, six-monthly and annual disease reports for 2008 and 2009 were also presented. Dr Varas said that, although the level of disease reporting in the Americas is very good, there are still shortcomings in the follow-up and closure of reports.

Dr Varas concluded by emphasising how important it is for countries to submit regular sanitary information to the OIE.

12. Comments on the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish language

Dr Fernando Crespo León, from Spain, Secretary of the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish language, described the work carried out by the Steering Committee and the OIE Ad hoc Group on promoting the correct use of the Spanish language in veterinary scientific and technical matters in animal health and related scientific fields. He also acknowledged Members' contributions to the Steering Committee.

He said that the translation into Spanish of the *Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*, together with the planned updating of both manuals on the OIE website, are the cornerstones for the development of a new project entitled 'Multilingual terminology database on animal health and related fields, the purpose of which is to create an updated, reliable, validated and standardised trilingual terminology database (Spanish-English-French) for the purposes of communication or language mastery in animal health and related fields. This multilingual terminology will be in one hand, sufficiently compared with the necessary linguistic guarantees and in the other will be hosted on the OIE servers.

He explained the activities already conducted by the Ad Hoc group, as well as those planned up to 2011.

He pointed out that the project is subsidised by Spain's Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM), via a cooperation agreement concluded with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on 1 July 2008.

13. Presentations from regional Organisations in the Americas that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **PAHO-WHO**

Dr Albino Belloto reiterated that his organisation's main objectives are to eradicate rabies and foot and mouth disease; food safety; the prevention of emerging diseases and emergency preparedness; and foodborne diseases.

He described the principal actions and mechanisms used, international coordination organisations and regional and subregional partnerships, highlighting joint OIE-PAHO/PANAFTOSA efforts to implement the geographic information system in high surveillance zones for foot and mouth disease in the countries of the Southern Cone.

He reported on the matters discussed at the 15th Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMSA) held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2008.

Dr Belloto introduced Dr Ottorino Cosivi, who would be taking over as the new PANAFTOSA Director the following week.

- **IICA**

Dr Ricardo Molins, IICA's Director of Agricultural Health and Food Safety, presented the annual report on the animal health work carried out by IICA between July 2008 and May 2009. He highlighted IICA's activities in the field of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, institutional modernisation and response to emerging animal health matters and emergencies, hemispheric distance-learning courses on the OIE standard-setting process jointly with IICA and the OIE, activities relating to regional projects for building avian influenza diagnostic and control capacity and for strengthening an epidemiological surveillance network in the Caribbean, and traceability in Central America.

- **OIRSA**

Dr Abelardo de Gracia, OIRSA's Regional Coordinator for Animal Health, presented his organisation's activities, highlighting cooperation with other organisations, technical assistance to its member countries and progress with the programme for eradicating classical swine fever from Central America.

- **CVP**

Dr Francisco Muzio described the composition and operation of the Standing Veterinary Committee (CVP), its importance for the region and the CVP Ad Hoc Groups for foot and mouth disease, avian influenza, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and food and feed safety.

He mentioned that his organisation promotes and monitors a number of different regional programmes, in coordination with the production sector and the various technical/financial international cooperation agencies (IICA, PANAFTOSA, FAO, the OIE and the World Bank). He described the follow-up to the OIE recommendations on the high surveillance zone for foot and mouth disease.

- **CAN**

Dr Javier Vargas Estrella, Delegate of Ecuador, described the activities of the Andean region.

14. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

Based on the participation of 21 delegates, the following candidates were proposed for the various Commissions:

Regional Commission for the Americas

President	:	Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil)
Vice-President	:	Dr Emerio Serrano (Cuba)
Vice-President	:	Dr John Clifford (United States of America)
Secretary General	:	Dr Hugo Corrales (Paraguay)

Administrative Commission

President	:	Dr Carlos Correa (Uruguay)
Member	:	Dr Brian Evans (Canada)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

President	:	Dr Alejandro Thiermann (United States of Americas)
Member	:	Dr Jorge Caetano Junior (Brazil)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Vice-President	:	Dr Sergio J. Duffy (Argentina)
Member	:	Dr Víctor Góngora (Belize)

Biological Standards Commission

Vice-President	:	Dr Beverly Schmitt (United States of America)
Member	:	Dr Pastor Alfonso (Cuba)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Vice-President	:	Dr Ricardo Enríquez (Chile)
Member	:	Dr Víctor Manuel Vidal (Mexico)

The meeting ended at 7 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 25 May 2009

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza)
2. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza)
3. Administrative Commission update (Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti)
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza)
5. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America (Dr Luis Barcos)
6. Proposed Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session of the OIE International Committee, to be held in May 2011 (Dr Luis Barcos)
7. Proposed Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Montevideo, Uruguay) in November 2010 (Dr Luis Barcos)
8. Recommendations of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Havana, Cuba, from 17 to 21 November 2008 (Dr Luis Barcos)
9. PVS evaluations and Gap Analysis update in the Region (Dr Mara Gonzalez)
10. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories (Dr Luis Barcos)
11. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the Region (Dr Mariela Varas)
12. Comments on the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish language (Dr Fernando Crespo)
13. Presentations from regional Organisations in the Americas that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO-WHO)
 - Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
 - Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)
 - Standing Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)
 - General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SG-CAN)
14. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza)

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

Paris, 25 May 2009

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 25 May 2009 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 106 participants including Delegates and observers from 24 Members of the Commission and 5 observer countries/territories, and representatives from 8 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Australia, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Vietnam

Observer countries/territories: France, Hong Kong, Italy, Papua New Guinea, United Kingdom

International/regional organisations: AVA⁶², AVSF⁶³, FAO, IFAH, IZSAM⁶⁴, World Bank, WSPA

The meeting was chaired by Dr Davinio Catbagan (Philippines), Vice-President of the Regional Commission assisted by Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), past President, Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (People's Republic of China), Vice-President and Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan), Secretary General.

Dr Gardner Murray welcomed participants to the meeting. He advised that, as he was no longer the Australian Delegate, he could no longer hold the position of Regional President. Accordingly, he had asked Dr Catbagan to chair the meeting.

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Gardner Murray reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter of concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they have any.

The Indian Delegate requested that his country be provided with an invoice for its required contribution.

⁶² AVA: Australian Veterinary Association

⁶³ AVSF: Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières

⁶⁴ IZSAM: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale of Abruzzo and Molise

3. Administrative Commission update

Dr Barry O’Neil, President of the International Committee and Delegate of New Zealand, reported on the matters discussed at Commission meetings.

Dr O’Neil summarised a number of key issues relating to Administrative Commission activities. Matters mentioned included the new strategic plan, which should focus on the “One World One Health” initiative, on food security, on climate change and on coordination of scientific research; the importance of aquaculture; the revision of the basic texts, the major issue relating to Article 2, which deals with countries/territories; Code Commission proposals relating to BSE, CSF and stray dogs; and the election process.

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

Dr Davino Catbagan, Vice President of the Regional Commission with Dr Gardner Murray, the past President, presented the report on the activities of the Commission.

The past President stated that items in his report would be considered with other agenda items. However, he mentioned several important issues, including: animal welfare and the development of regional implementation strategies; considerable capacity building activities in the region, including PVS; the provision of funding by AusAID to continue the SEAFMD programme and activities relating to “One World One Health”.

The report was accepted without any comments.

5. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, gave a comprehensive presentation on the role and activities of the Representation and its work programme for the year 2009-2010. He described the comprehensive activities and wide-ranging programmes managed by the Sub-Regional Representation. He referred particularly to GF-TADs activities and good governance, including a planned meeting scheduled in association with the Regional Commission Meeting in Shanghai this coming November. Activities relating to HPAI had been particularly numerous.

The report was accepted.

6. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asian countries, gave a comprehensive presentation on the role and activities of the Representation and its work programme for the year 2009-2010.

In particular, he presented the SEAFMD 2020 Roadmap, with special emphasis on the implementation of FMD zoning in the region and the coordination meetings organised between 3 or 4 countries in order to tackle the issue of animal movement and early detection and rapid response. He then spoke about the Project on Strengthening Veterinary Services (PSVS) in South-East Asia to combat avian influenza. This 3-year project focuses on the organisation of sub-regional and national seminars on legislation, communication and emergency preparedness.

The report was accepted without comments.

7. Selection of the two technical items (with questionnaire and without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The following technical items were adopted for the 26th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

- With a questionnaire: Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1
- Without questionnaire: The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases

8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2011

The past President proposed “Future development of the One World One Health strategy” stressing the importance of collaboration with Veterinary Services and the public health sector. The Delegate from India proposed “Genetic resistance to diseases, such as A/H1N1” could be an option. As a 3rd proposal, the Delegate from the Republic of Korea proposed the issue of risk communication, quoting the difficulties his country had faced over the past few years.

The Delegates agreed that the 1st proposal on One World One Health be proposed to the Commission. The delegates agreed that the issue of risk communication could be part of the One World One Health discussion.

The Delegate of India suggested that some of the items discussed last year, such as veterinary education, should also be considered. The past President explained that the issue will be discussed at length at the Education Conference in Paris in October, and he did not think that items already discussed should be considered.

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) for the 79th General Session:

“Past and future developments in the ‘One World One Health’ approach”.

9. Organisation of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in Shanghai, the People’s Republic of China from 16 to 20 November 2009

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of People’s Republic of China, gave a presentation on Shanghai, People’s Republic of China, where the 26th Regional Commission Conference will be held from 16 to 20 November 2009. The Conference will be preceded by a special Workshop on Good Veterinary Service Practices organised by the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific. He reported on the arrangements being made for the Conference. Further information will be sent to all participants in the near future.

The issue of having a specific logo for the Regional Commission’s Conference was raised. It was noted that the OIE logo must be used at all times. Maria Zampaglione explained that the specific OIE logo is now always requested. Dr Barry O’Neil further clarified that the logo for the Regional Commission must always be used with the OIE logo to make it clear that the meeting is of the OIE. OIE should consider the option to having a PRC logo in addition to the official OIE logo.

10. Outcome of the 15th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia from 9 to 13 March 2009, the OIE Avian Influenza and Emerging Diseases Meeting and the Meeting on the OIE/AusAID Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services (PSVS) held on 13 March 2009

Dr Abila presented the outcomes of the 15th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia from 9 to 13 March 2009.

He also spoke about the OIE side meeting on Avian Influenza and Emerging Diseases and the Meeting on the OIE/AusAID Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services (PSVS).

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting as well as those adopted during the OIE Avian Influenza and Emerging Diseases Meeting and the Meeting on the OIE/AusAID Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services (PSVS), which followed immediately after.

Dr Gardner Murray emphasised the need to improve official procedures for the recognition of disease freedom according to the Terrestrial Code provisions, explaining the difficulties regarding vaccination in the Philippines. He explained that the OIE will send a mission to the Philippines but stressed that this is an exceptional case.

11. Regional Animal Welfare Strategy. Implementation plan

Dr Gardner Murray, past President of the Regional Commission, gave a comprehensive presentation of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) for Asia, the Far East and Oceania supported by the OIE Permanent Animal Welfare Working Group. He also presented the RAWS Implementation Plan for endorsement by the Regional Commission.

Dr Bayvel, Chair of the Animal Welfare Working Group agreed and further emphasised the importance of animal welfare in Asia and the Pacific and the leading position of the Region regarding this issue.

The Delegate of India requested that his country be provided with a copy of this strategic plan for internal consultation. Accordingly, he could not endorse the RAWS Implementation Plan.

Finally, the meeting noted the recommendation and agreed that this proposal be considered at the Regional Conference on Animal Welfare in November 2009. Comments from Member countries should be sent before the Conference.

12. Communication issues

Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head of the OIE Communication Unit, presented for information a document on Animal Health Communication Strategy drafted following a workshop in Cambodia in March 2009 under the OIE/AusAID Programme for the Strengthening of Veterinary Services.

It was noted that the draft South-East Asian Strategy for Animal Health Communication be submitted for consideration at the Conference of the Regional Commission in Shanghai in November 2009.

13. Position of the OIE on private and public standards

Dr Wim Pelgrim from the OIE International Trade Department presented the considerations and concerns of the OIE regarding private standards. The Cairo conference in October 2008 encouraged the private sector to respect OIE standards, particularly for the importation of animal products from developing countries. A questionnaire will soon be submitted to Delegates in order to clarify the current situation on private standards.

The Delegate from Pakistan supported the OIE initiatives.

14. OIE-PVS evaluations and GAP Analysis update in the region

Dr Marie Edan, Project Officer, Regional Activities Department, reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the use of the OIE-PVS tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services. She explained the sequence of the PVS Process, stating that the first PVS evaluation in the country is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance and the compliance of Veterinary Services (VS) with the OIE international standards on quality. Based on its outcomes, the next step is the PVS-Gap Analysis, which is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities as established by the country itself. She commented that for the PVS-Gap Analysis the OIE works in collaboration with its partner organisations, such as FAO, and with international donors, if desired by the country. Finally, to complete the process the OIE also provides, if requested by the countries, regular PVS Follow-up evaluation missions aimed at continuously monitoring the evolution of the situation and improvements achieved after the implementation of strengthening measures taken.

She highlighted some particularities of the OIE-PVS process such as the voluntary basis of each step; the harmonised approach through standardised procedures; the confidentiality of the outcomes which are the countries' exclusive property, although the OIE encourages all countries to allow their reports to be shared with OIE partners and if necessary donors to complete the process.

Besides showing the current state of play of the Programme at global level, which to date includes 94 requests for the PVS evaluation and 29 requests for PVS Gap Analysis, Dr Edan also described in detail the specific status of the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region.

15. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories

Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented 3 proposals for validation by the OIE Regional Commission and submission to the Plenary Session for adoption:

- a proposal from the Research Centre for Food Safety, Graduate School of Agriculture and Life Science of Tokyo University for its designation by the OIE as a Collaborating Centre for Food Safety. This Centre specialises in the sphere of analytical and diagnostic methods, risk assessment and management, epidemiological surveys of animal-derived pathogens and chemicals threatening food safety.
- a proposal for the joint New Zealand – Australian Application to expand the current Massey University OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis (Asia, Pacific) by including four other research centres in New Zealand and Australia and changing its title to the “OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis”.

- a proposal from the Food and Agricultural Materials Inspection Centre (FAMIC) of Tokyo to become a Collaborating Centre for animal feed safety and analysis.

The Regional Commission supported those proposals, which will be taken to the General Assembly for endorsement.

16. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Alessandro Ripani, Chargé de mission to the OIE Animal Health Information Department presented an overview of the global implementation of the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the status of its implementation in the region. Data on animal health information (immediate notifications, six-monthly and annual reports) for 2008 and 2009 were also presented. Dr Ripani emphasised the importance of countries submitting animal disease information on a regular basis to the OIE and the training of Focal Points.

17. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented the activities of the GF-TADs Programme in the region. The programme focuses on FMD, HPAI, CSF and PPR. The next Regional steering committee will meet next July in Tokyo, after meetings of each Sub-Region, namely, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), South Asiatic Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Fiji, Katmandu and Jakarta respectively.

18. GF-TADs for Asia: FAO/OIE collaboration in Asia

Dr J. Domenech summarised the activities that had been conducted in Asia jointly with the OIE, under the aegis of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) signed by the two organisations in May 2004. Many tools have been set in place and are currently operational, including the Global Early Warning and Response System for major animal diseases including zoonoses (GLEWS), the Joint OIE/FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of avian influenza (OFFLU) and the Crisis Management Centre - Animal Health (CMC-AH). FAO has set up large teams across the Region, the largest of which is based in Bangkok, Thailand. Special emphasis has been placed on providing support for national laboratories and epidemiological surveillance teams, and for region-wide networking among them. A host of joint technical meetings have been held, and joint programmes have been implemented to control H5N1 avian influenza, foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, Ebola Reston virus, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome and H1N1 influenza. Other diseases, including brucellosis and bovine spongiform encephalopathy, were addressed in specific technical workshops, while workshops on communication, risk analysis and surveillance methods, herd identification and veterinary legislation were also held. Socio-economic studies were also conducted.

The regional project on highly pathogenic emerging diseases was presented. The project will be financed by the European Commission and will involve the OIE, FAO and WHO.

19. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

Bureau of the Regional Commission

- | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President | : | Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan) (nominated by Australia seconded by India) |
| Vice-President | : | Dr Davinio Catbagan (Philippines) (nominated by Brunei, seconded by New Zealand) |

Vice-President : Dr Zhongqiu Zhang (PR China) (nominated by Pakistan seconded by Vietnam)

Secretary General : Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia) (nominated by Laos seconded by Sri Lanka)

Administrative Commission

Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand)

Dr Tenzin Dhendup (Bhutan) (nominated by New Zealand seconded by Sri Lanka)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Stuart Mc Diarmid as the secretary general (New Zealand)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Kenichi Sakamoto, Member (Japan)

Biological Standards Commission

Dr Chen Hua Lan, Member (PR China)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Huang Jie, Member (PR China)

After the election Dr O'Neil invited the warm appreciation to the work of Dr Murray from the Delegates.

20. Other Matters

Japan expressed its intention to submit another application of some collaborating centre for consideration to be adopted during the 78th GS in 2010. It will ask support of the Regional Commission.

The meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 25 May 2009

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Davinio Catbagan with Dr Gardner Murray)
2. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Gardner Murray)
3. Administrative Commission update (Dr Barry O'Neil)
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Davinio Catbagan with Dr Gardner Murray)
5. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (Dr Teruhide Fujita)
6. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries (Dr Ronello Abila)
7. Selection of the two technical items (with questionnaire and without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Teruhide Fujita)
8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2011 (Dr Teruhide Fujita)
9. Organisation of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in Shanghai, People's Republic of China from 16 to 20 November 2009 (Dr Zhang Zhongqiu)
10. Outcome of the 15th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia from 9 to 13 March 2009, the OIE Avian Influenza and Emerging Diseases Meeting and the Meeting on the OIE/AusAID Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services (PSVS) held on 13 March 2009 (Dr Ronello Abila)
11. Regional Animal Welfare Strategy. Implementation plan (Dr Gardner Murray)
12. Communication issues (Ms Maria Zampaglione)
13. Position of the OIE on private and public standards (Dr Wim Pelgrim)
14. OIE-PVS evaluations and GAP Analysis update in the region (Dr Marie Edam)
15. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories (Dr Teruhide Fujita)
16. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Dr Alexandro Ripani)
17. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms (Dr Teruhide Fujita)
18. GF-TADs for Asia: FAO/OIE Collaboration in Asia (Dr Joseph Domenech)
19. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Davinio Catbagan with Dr Gardner Murray)
20. Other Matters

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

Paris, 25 May 2009

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 25 May 2009 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 101 Delegates and observers from 47 Members of the Commission and representatives from 5 international and regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia, France, Germany, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saint Marin, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.

Observer countries/territories: None

International/regional organisations: EC, FAO-EUFMD⁶⁵, FESASS⁶⁶, FVE⁶⁷, 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 and Dr Nicolay Vlasov (Russia), Secretary General.

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, Vice President of the Commission reported that 21 Members of the region had not yet paid their contribution on time and urged them to promptly settle their arrears.

⁶⁵ EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease

⁶⁶ FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security

⁶⁷ FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

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

Prof. Nikola T. Belev, President of the Regional Commission and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, 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 2008. He made reference to joint OIE/EC Seminars that started in 2005 and ended in 2008; to OIE Regional Seminars to implement the OIE 4th Strategic Plan 2006-2010, which is aimed at strengthening Veterinary Services; to the 23rd Conference of the Regional Commission, which was held in September 2008, in Vilnius, Lithuania; and to participation in various technical and political seminars. He also mentioned several meetings with officials and parliamentarians from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Russia, Bulgaria and Turkey. Ongoing contacts with the mass media has been maintained and general communication has been improved thanks to the website.

Prof. Belev also mentioned the novel influenza A/H1N1 and the good work that the OIE Central Bureau had done in communicating that the original name that had been given to the virus, 'swine flu', was misleading. He said that the regular communication, by teleconference, between the OIE Central Bureau and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations on the subject of A/H1N1 had been most useful in keeping everyone up to date.

The Commission accepted the report.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels

Dr Caroline Planté, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, presented the report on the activities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels for the year 2008. She mentioned the work done in collaboration with the Regional Representation and participation in a considerable number of regional and international conferences at which OIE standards and policies were explained. She also said that several key documents had been translated into Russian and are available on the Regional OIE website. The Sub-Regional Representation continues to cooperate closely with the European Commission and, in particular, there was participation in activities related to the new EU animal health strategy. Dr Planté mentioned that PVS missions and follow-up activities, including PVS Gap Analysis training and a veterinary legislation mission, had been carried out in Eastern Europe and that these activities would be ongoing. The training of OIE Focal Points would be an important focus for 2009-2010, with several workshops planned for the region.

The Commission accepted the report.

5. Recommendations of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 16 to 19 September 2008

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas reminded the Regional Commission about the Recommendations approved at the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Delegates proposed that the Recommendations be presented to the Plenary Session of the General Session for adoption.

6. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2011

The Commission identified the following technical items (including a questionnaire for Members) to be proposed for the 79th General Session:

The Delegate from the United Kingdom proposed the following technical item: “The application of social science to the challenges of communicating with and changing the behaviour of livestock producers in relation to animal health and welfare”.

The Delegate from France proposed another technical item: “The role of scientific research in the face of animal health challenges and the opportunities for interaction between the public and private sectors”.

These two technical items were accepted by the Regional Commission and it was agreed that they would be presented to the International Committee for consideration.

7. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Kazakhstan in 2010

The Commission discussed three issues relating to the importance of border controls that would be combined into one technical item. These issues are: i) the importance of border control, ii) the importance of international cooperation and information exchange, and iii) the provision of assistance to countries with weaker Veterinary Services to enable them to meet international standards for border control.

The Regional Commission agreed on the following item:

The dependence of the effective border controls on appropriate resources deployment and enhanced international cooperation, including information exchange.

8. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Head of the Animal Health and Welfare Directorate of DG Sanco gave a progress report on actions carried out following the meeting of the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe, which was held in December 2007; some have been completed, some are ongoing and some are planned for the future. He commented on the importance to the EC of the OIE and the OIE Regional Commission and mentioned that the EC is continuing to provide significant support for relevant OIE activities. The strengthening of Veterinary Services is a key priority for the EC and this is linked with the training of Delegates and OIE Focal Points. Veterinary training is another priority and the EC was supportive of the forthcoming OIE International Conference for Deans of Veterinary Schools, which will be held in Paris later this year.

He mentioned that the EC has significant funds available at present to support programmes, such as the ‘Better Training for Safer Food’ initiative. The ‘One World One Health’ strategy is strongly supported by the EC and key diseases under this initiative include bovine spongiform encephalopathy, rabies and avian influenza. Dr Van Goethem indicated that the next Ministerial meeting on ‘One World One Health’ would be held in Vietnam.

The European region should work closely and more actively with southern neighbours to improve information exchange and further coordinate their activities. In this regard, diseases of particular interest are avian influenza, foot and mouth disease, bluetongue, peste des petits ruminants, African horse sickness, West Nile Virus and Rift Valley fever, as well as brucellosis, tuberculosis and rabies.

It was agreed that Dr Van Goethem’s report on GF-TADs be placed in the OIE Regional Commission’s website.

There is a need for the full commitment of stakeholders and all the authorities involved to ensure that the recommendations of the GF-TADs are implemented.

9. PVS evaluations and PVS-Gap Analysis update in the region

Dr Alain Dehove, Co-ordinator of the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the use of the OIE-PVS tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services. He explained the sequence of the PVS Process, stating that the first PVS evaluation in the country is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance and the compliance of Veterinary Services (VS) with the OIE international standards on quality and is considered as the “initial diagnosis”. After the OIE-PVS evaluation, and based on its outcomes, the next step is the PVS-Gap Analysis, which is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities as established by the country itself; this is considered as the “proposed treatment”. He commented that for the PVS-Gap Analysis the OIE works in collaboration with its partner organisations, such as FAO and with international donors. To complete the process the OIE also provides, if requested by the countries, regular PVS Follow-up evaluation missions aimed at continuously monitoring the evolution of the situation and improvements achieved after the implementation of strengthening measures.

He highlighted some particularities of the OIE-PVS process such as the voluntary basis of each step (upon requests from countries); the harmonised approach of all steps through standardised procedures; the confidentiality of the outcomes, which are the countries’ exclusive property (although the OIE encourages all countries to allow their reports to be released in order to complete the process in collaboration with OIE partners and donors if necessary). He mentioned the usefulness of the process for supporting financial and technical decisions at both national and international level.

Besides showing the current state of play of the Programme at global level, which includes, to date, 94 requests for the PVS evaluation and 29 requests for Gap Analysis, Dr Dehove also described in detail the specific status of the European region. He encouraged those countries which have not entered the process so far to do so, and those which have already applied for the first PVS evaluation to continue the process by requesting the PVS-Gap Analysis, as well as PVS Follow-up missions later if necessary.

10. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel reminded Delegates of the importance of transparency in the disease situation and of timely reporting of disease events, and added that once trust had been lost by trading partners it was hard to regain. Timely reporting is also an important element in the evaluation of Veterinary Services. She reminded the Delegates of the procedures for immediate notification, follow-up reports, six-monthly reports and annual reports. There is significant interest in the WAHID webpage, indicated by approximately 8,000 visits to the webpage daily.

There has been an improvement in six-monthly and annual reporting by countries in the region since 2007. However, some information remains partial and information on terrestrial animals is more complete than information on aquatic animals. Countries from the east of the region should maintain their efforts to submit these reports in a timely manner.

There have been fewer immediate notifications than in 2007, but this is an indicator that there has been a lower number of significant disease events. It was very encouraging to see that more reports had been received through the electronic web-based WAHIS system.

Training of Focal Points needs to be maintained and at least two people per country should be familiar with the system, including the Focal Point.

The Delegates were asked to check that country maps and boundaries on WAHIS are correct and in line with current agreed boundaries.

11. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories

Prof. Nikola T. Belev presented the list of new Reference Laboratories (RL) and Collaborating Centres (CC) to be proposed for adoption by the International Committee:

One CC for Diseases at the Animal/Human Interface in Padua, Italy.

Four RL: i) for theileriosis in Antwerp, Belgium; ii) for Rift Valley fever and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever in Paris, France; iii) for equine influenza in Kildare, Ireland ; iv) for crayfish plague in Kuopio, Finland.

The proposals were accepted by the Regional Commission.

12. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

Bureau of the Regional Commission

President	:	Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria)
Vice-President	:	Dr Patrick J. Rogan (Ireland)
Vice-President	:	Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania)
Secretary General	:	Dr Nihat Padkil (Turkey)

Administrative Commission

Dr Carlos Agrela Pinheiro (Portugal)
Dr Nikolay Vlasov (Russia)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Etienne Bonbon (France)
Dr Anton Karolov (Russia)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Kris De Clercq (Belgium)
Dr Thomas Mettenleiter (Germany)

Biological Standards Commission

Dr Vincenzo Caporale (Italy)
Dr Olga Plantova (Russia)
Dr Yuri Kosenko (Ukraine)
Dr Paul Townsend (United Kingdom)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Barry Hill (United Kingdom)
Dr Frank Berthe (France)
Dr Olga Haemen (Netherlands).

The meeting ended at 6 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 25 May 2009

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
2. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas)
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (Dr Caroline Planté)
5. Recommendations of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Lithuania, Vilnius from 16 to 19 September 2008 (Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas)
6. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2011 (Dr Patrick J. Rogan)
7. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Kazakhstan in 2010 (Dr Patrick J. Rogan)
8. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms (Dr Bernard Van Goethem)
9. PVS evaluations and GAP Analysis update in the region (Dr Alain Dehove)
10. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel)
11. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
12. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)

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

Paris, 25 May 2009

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 25 May 2009 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 36 Delegates and observers from 15 Members belonging to the Commission, 2 observer countries/territories and 2 international organisations.

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Yemen

Observer countries/territories: France, Palestinian Autonomous Territories

International/regional organisations: FAO, CIRAD⁶⁸

The meeting was chaired by Dr Salman Abdel Nabi (Bahrain), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Kassem Al Qahtani (Qatar), Vice-President.

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Regional Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter for concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they have any.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East

The President of the Commission underlined the close collaboration existing between the OIE Regional Commission and the OIE Regional Representation based in Beirut.

He mentioned that last year the Middle East hosted two main international conferences on Animal Welfare and Avian Influenza, both in Egypt, and that this year two main events will be organised: the 10th Conference of the OIE regional Commission in Doha, Qatar (26-29 October 2009) and the regional conference on veterinary drugs, Damascus, Syria (2-4 December 2009).

He addressed a motion of thanks to countries holding regional conferences, seminars or workshops last year: Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon.

⁶⁸ CIRAD: Centre International de Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement

4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

Dr Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented in detail the activities implemented over the last year. He reminded the Regional Commission about themes, conclusions and recommendations of technical workshops that focussed on the main issues affecting the region.

He described the proposed work programme for 2009-2010.

Dr Yehia mentioned that more and more important documents (notably the disease cards) have been translated into Arabic. Most of those documents are published on the Regional Representation website that is regularly updated with summaries of the most important diseases affecting the region.

He emphasised the role of the Regional Representation in providing technical expertise and assistance, principally on WAHIS, PVS implementation, training of OIE Delegates and OIE National Focal Points.

The report on activities and the work programme of the Regional Representation were adopted by the Regional Commission.

5. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the Agenda of the 79th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2011.

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire for Members) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session:

"Principles of prevention and control of zoonotic diseases"

6. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the Agenda of the 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Doha, Qatar from 26 to 29 October 2009

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Doha, Qatar from 26 to 29 October 2009:

"An approach to developing coordinated and harmonised actions for the control of brucellosis".

7. Organisation of the 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Doha, Qatar, 26-29 October 2009)

Dr Qahtani, OIE Delegate from Qatar, presented the state of advancement of the Conference organisation. A specific committee has been created for this event, working in close collaboration with the OIE Regional Representation and the OIE Regional Activities Department in Paris. The conference will be held at the Grand Regency Hotel in Doha and visits to the national wildlife conservation park, to the Qatar Islamic Museum and to a typical local market will be organised during the week.

8. Outcome of the 5th Round Table for the surveillance and control of FMD in the Middle East held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 7 to 9 April 2009

Dr George Khoury (FAO) and Dr Ghazi Yehia (OIE), on behalf the Regional Animal Health Centre for the Middle East (RAHC), summarised the main outcomes of the meeting. They described the recommendations adopted during the meeting and presented, according to recommendation n° 7, a draft of a regional framework, to be proposed during the next OIE – FAO global conference for the control of FMD in June 2009 (24-26) in Asunción, Paraguay.

They said also that the report of the meeting is available on the website of the OIE Regional Representation.

A large discussion followed the RAHC presentation with several comments from the Delegates of Iran, Yemen, Libya, Turkey and Qatar principally on the framework presented by the RAHC.

The Recommendations from the 5th FMD Round Table were endorsed by the Regional Commission.

9. OIE-PVS evaluations and PVS-Gap Analysis update in the region

Dr Gastón Funes, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the use of the OIE-PVS tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, he explained the sequence of the PVS Process, stating that the first PVS evaluation in the country is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance and the compliance of Veterinary Services (VS) with the OIE international standards on quality and is considered as the “initial diagnosis”. After the OIE-PVS evaluation, and based on its outcomes, the next step is the PVS-Gap Analysis, which is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities as established by the country itself, considered as the “proposed treatment”. He commented that for the PVS-Gap Analysis the OIE works in collaboration with its partner organisations, such as FAO, and with international donors, if desired by the country. Finally, to complete the process the OIE also provides, if requested by the countries, regular PVS Follow-up evaluation missions aimed at continuously monitoring the evolution of the situation and improvements achieved after the implementation of strengthening measures taken.

He highlighted some particularities of the OIE-PVS process such as the voluntary basis of each step (upon requests from countries); the harmonised approach of all steps through standardised procedures; the confidentiality of the outcomes, which are the countries’ exclusive property (although the OIE encourages all countries to allow their reports to be released in order to complete the process in collaboration with OIE partners and donors). He mentioned the usefulness of the process for supporting financial and technical decisions at both national and international level.

Besides showing the current state of play of the programme at global level, which to date includes 94 requests for the PVS evaluation and 29 requests for PVS-Gap Analysis, Dr Funes also described in detail the specific status of the Middle East region. He encouraged those countries which have not entered the process so far to do so, and those which have already applied for the first PVS evaluation to continue the process by requesting the PVS-Gap Analysis as well as PVS Follow-up missions later if necessary.

Kuwait, Lebanon, Djibouti, Egypt and Turkey have already sent such applications requesting the PVS-Gap Analysis.

10. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories

Dr Pierre Primot, chargé de mission at the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East, described the possibility for laboratories in the region to make a request to the OIE for twinning with existing OIE Reference Laboratories.

Twinning projects have already been approved by the OIE for Turkey (brucellosis and rabies) and Egypt (AI-ND). Other projects are still in the pipeline: Egypt (RVF), Kuwait (PPR) and Qatar (AI), which will be analysed during the next meeting of the Biological Standards Commission (“Laboratories Commission”) which will be held at the OIE headquarters in September 2009.

11. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), with its new development on wildlife diseases, and described the status of implementation in the region. Data on animal health information (six-monthly and annual reports) for 2008 were presented. Dr Ben Jebara emphasised the importance of countries submitting animal health information to the OIE on a regular basis and reminded the assembly of the reporting deadlines for each report (notification, follow-up, six-monthly and annual).

He said that there is little information on aquatic animal diseases and he encouraged the Members of the Commission to collect such data.

He underlined the importance of focal points in each country and proposed that a regional workshop on advanced training on WAHIS be organised soon.

He mentioned also that if countries are not satisfied with the map of their country presented in WAHID, they are invited to send updated maps.

To conclude, he highlighted the importance of transparency and rapid notification. He encouraged countries not to impose unjustified trade barriers as soon as a neighbouring country notifies a disease, this may discourage further disease reporting.

12. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr George Khoury (FAO) summarised the outcomes of the last Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs, held in Beirut on 7th April 2009, explaining that the main objective was to follow up the activities implemented under this framework and to develop consensus for future actions, notably through the activities of the OIE – FAO Regional Animal Health Centre, which was officially inaugurated during the meeting in the presence of the Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon.

13. Other matters

- Dr Yehia mentioned that several OIE Delegates from the Middle East are interested in developing an OIE pathway for the country's declaration of freedom from African Horse Sickness (AHS). The Regional Commission agreed to discuss this during the debate following the presentation of the 5th OIE Strategic Plan, Friday 29th of May.
- Dr Yehia explained that on Friday 29th of May, an expert meeting on RVF modelling for the Middle East will be held at the OIE headquarters with experts of the NASA, FAO, WHO and OIE. The aim of this meeting is to develop guidelines to establish a model of potential RVF virus activity in the Middle East.
- Promoting the next Global Conference on Veterinary Education organised by the OIE in Paris from 12 to 14 October 2009, Dr Yehia encouraged delegates to amend the list of Middle Eastern Veterinary faculties that the OIE had provided in order to facilitate the organisation of this conference.

14. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

The Regional Commission proposed the following candidates for the election of the:

Bureau of the Regional Commission

President : Dr Kassem el Qahtani (Qatar)
First Vice President : Dr Hamed Samaha (Egypt)
Second Vice President : Dr Ali Abdullah Al Sahami (Oman)
Secretary : Dr Ziad Namour (Syria)

Administrative Commission

Dr Nasser al Hawamdah (Jordan)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Prof. Hassan Aidaros (Egypt)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Ahmad Mustapha Hassan (Sudan)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Ibrahim al Jamali (UAE)

The meeting ended at 6.00 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 25 May 2009

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Salman Abdul Nabi)
2. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Salman Abdul Nabi)
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East (Dr Salman Abdul Nabi)
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East (Dr Ghazi Yehia)
5. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the Agenda of the 79th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2011 (Dr Ghazi Yehia)
6. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the Agenda of the 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Doha, Qatar from 26 to 29 October 2009 (Dr Ghazi Yehia)
7. Organisation of the 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Doha, Qatar, 26-30 October 2009) (Dr Kassem Nasser Al-Qahtani)
8. Outcome of the 5th Round Table for the surveillance and control of FMD in the Middle East held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 7 to 9 April 2009 (Dr Ghazi Yehia and Dr George Koury)
9. OIE-PVS evaluations and GAP Analysis update in the region (Dr Gaston Funes)
10. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories (or Twinning Projects) (Dr Pierre Primot)
11. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Dr Karim Ben Jebara)
12. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms (Dr Ghazi Yehia and Dr George Koury)
13. Other matters (Dr Salman Abdul Nabi)
14. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Salman Abdul Nabi)