

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 83rd General Session
in Paris, 25 May 2015**

NOTE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

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 World Assembly of Delegates during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

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

Paris, 25 May 2015

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 124 participants, including Delegates and observers from 39 Members of the Commission, 4 observer countries, and representatives from 15 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Rep. of the), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Observer countries/territories: France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR³³, AU-PANVAC³⁴, AVA³⁵, AVSF³⁶, CABI³⁷, CEBEVIRHA³⁸, EC³⁹, FAO⁴⁰, IAEA⁴¹, ICFAW⁴², ILRI⁴³, PATTEC⁴⁴, SADC⁴⁵, WAEMU⁴⁶, World Bank.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho), President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, and Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

One minute of silence was observed in the honour of Dr Philip Salia, former Delegate of Ghana, and Dr Joseph Mubanga, former Delegate of Zambia, who passed away.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

³³ AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

³⁴ AU-PANVAC: African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre

³⁵ AVA: African Veterinary Association

³⁶ AVSF: Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières

³⁷ CABI: Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International

³⁸ CEBEVIRHA: Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)

³⁹ EC: European Commission

⁴⁰ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

⁴¹ IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency

⁴² ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare

⁴³ ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute

⁴⁴ PATTEC: Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign

⁴⁵ SADC: Southern African Development Community

⁴⁶ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

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

Dr Marosi Molomo, Delegate of Lesotho and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, gave a brief review on the meeting of the Commission during the 82nd General Session. She summarised the most important discussions during the meeting. She also reminded that the World Assembly of Delegates had approved in 2014 the membership application of two new countries from the Africa region: Liberia and South Sudan, raising to 180 the number of OIE Member Countries. She added that Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa, had been elected Vice-President of the Council.

Dr Molomo then commented on the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, reminding Members to study the document thoroughly to enable them to take part in the decision on endorsing the plan during the current General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates.

She then discussed the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015, which had been attended by 120 participants, including OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 36 Member Countries, as well as numerous senior officials and representatives of international and regional organisations. She commented on the two Technical Items presented, saying that further topics of discussion had included: the animal health situation throughout the region and the efforts required to enable Member Countries in the region to progress with controlling animal diseases; the tsetse-transmitted trypanosomosis issue; and the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials.

Dr Molomo explained that the recommendations adopted in Rabat would be presented for endorsement to the World Assembly of Delegates at the plenary on Thursday 28 May 2015 for subsequent implementation at regional and global level. She also mentioned that the next Regional Conference would be held in February 2017 in Swakopmund (Namibia), while Cameroon expressed interest in hosting the Conference to take place in 2019.

Dr Molomo said that the Conference had been preceded by a one-day seminar for African national Delegates to the OIE on the development of public-private-partnership in support of Veterinary Services. It was co-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr Molomo said that the seminar had emphasised the need to strengthen partnerships between official Veterinary Services and private veterinarians, and the vital collaboration between Veterinary Services, livestock producers and other stakeholders.

Dr Molomo reminded participants about the elections to be held during the General Session to select the new Director General and members of the Bureau of the Commission, Council, and Specialist Commissions.

3. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and Vice President of the Council, began his presentation by informing Delegates that two meetings of the OIE Council had taken place after the 82nd General Session (October 2014 and February 2015). These meetings looked at major issues of strategic importance for the OIE, including major administrative matters, some of which will be presented during the 83rd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates in the form of draft resolutions, as well as further discussions concerning the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan (2016-2020). He reminded Delegates that the draft Strategic Plan had been presented at various meetings including the Regional Commission meetings, at the 82nd General Session and at the Regional Conference.

Regarding the General Session, Dr Modisane gave details on the various issues discussed and proposed by the Council in order to improve organisational matters, such as dispatching information and documentation to participants. The Council also requested the OIE to improve media coverage of the General Session.

Referring to the elections, Dr Modisane said that the Council had agreed to monitor systematically the quorum and to issue important reminders to Delegates during any voting process about the importance of attending for the purposes of forming a quorum.

In view of the important elections to take place during the 83rd General Session, he said that, after considering the necessity to maintain or even improve the quality of the Specialist Commissions' work, the Council had supported the proposal that critical competencies, commitment and geographical balance of the candidates were some of the key elements for this improvement to take place. He explained that the Council examined the candidatures in order to give its opinion on their eligibility.

He also reported that the Council had taken the opportunity to interview the sole candidate for the position of Director General.

Regarding official agreements between the OIE and other organisations, Dr Modisane said that the Council had stressed the need to review the relevance of existing agreements and some proposed agreements and had decided that future agreements must include a renewal clause. New proposals will be presented to the 83rd General Session including a new version of the Agreement between OIE and AU-IBAR.

He also referred to several finance and administration issues, including the validation of the revised budget for 2015 for presentation to the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

Dr Modisane finally commented on the regional and global conferences planned for 2015, some of which have already taken place.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Southern Africa, North Africa, and Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, on behalf of all OIE Representatives in the region, provided a summary of the activities carried out by the Regional Representation and the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Africa between 1 January and 1 May 2015, and their planned activities for the rest of the year.

He began by reporting on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa (RRA), which had focused on providing support to Member Countries in general and, in particular, to countries affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza (Burkina Faso, Niger and Nigeria) and those at risk of its introduction (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Togo), as well as to countries affected by rabies.

He added that the RRA continued to strengthen its collaboration with WHO-Africa within the "One Health" framework and with African Union institutions (AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, PATTEC), as well as with Regional Economic Communities – particularly WAEMU, CEBEVIRHA and ECOWAS⁴⁷ – and international partners such as the FAO.

The Regional Representation for Africa is continuing to support the development of the regional project on pastoralism in the Sahel (*Projet Régional d'Appui au Pastoralisme dans le Sahel - PRAPS*) in liaison with CILSS⁴⁸ and ECOWAS.

Referring to the OIE PVS Pathway, Dr Samaké said that it continued to be very successful in Africa, with all countries being currently engaged at different stages.

He went on to report that the RRA had attended the seventh Pan African Meeting of Chief Veterinary Officers in Nairobi (Kenya) from 4 to 6 May 2015. The RRA continues to act as temporary secretariat for the Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako (Mali) until ECOWAS become operational and as permanent secretariat of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Africa, in

⁴⁷ ECOWAS : Economic Community of West African States

⁴⁸ CILSS : Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel

preparing the 2015 meetings for GF-TADs/Africa (tenth meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Africa) and for Global GF-TADs (eighth meeting of the Global Steering Committee).

The Regional Representation for Africa also attended the meetings of CILSS from 9 to 15 April 2015; the 22nd meeting of the Regional Programming and Monitoring Committee; the 50th Ordinary Session of the CILSS Council of Ministers; and the 17th Conference of Heads of State and Government of CILSS Member States.

Dr Samaké reported that the RRA, together with the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations, had helped to prepare and successfully hold the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Rabat (Morocco) from 17 to 20 February 2015 and the OIE-FAO International Conference for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants in Abidjan (Cote D'Ivoire) from 31 March to 2 April 2015.

The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa (SRR-NA) continues to support OIE Member Countries in the region to strengthen animal disease surveillance and control by implementing relevant recommendations and strategies.

Dr Samaké said that the SRR-NA had participated in the 10th meeting of the Joint Permanent Committee (JPC) of the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA), in Heraklion (Greece) from 16 to 17 March 2015, which was attended by around 30 people, including Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs/Delegates), representatives of international and regional organisations and experts from OIE Reference Laboratories for avian influenza and foot and mouth disease (FMD). The agenda of the meeting focused on the priority diseases identified by the region, including FMD and peste des petits ruminants (PPR), as well as avian influenza on account of its recent upsurge. Lumpy skin disease and sheep and goat pox were also on the agenda, as these diseases are attracting increasing attention in the Mediterranean region. A session was dedicated to the good governance of Veterinary Services, emphasising the importance of continuing education for public and private veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.

Next he referred to the third Executive Committee meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education (REEV-Med), which had been scheduled in parallel with the First Edition of the International Veterinary Forum held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the National School of Veterinary Medicine in Sidi Thabet (Tunisia).

At the 40th anniversary celebrations, the OIE was represented by Dr Monique Eloit (OIE Deputy Director General) and Dr Rachid Bouguedour (OIE Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa), who delivered presentations highlighting the OIE's missions, especially in the field of veterinary education.

More specifically, the third REEV-Med Executive Committee meeting focused on such issues as the status of REEV-Med members' commitment, which was to be evaluated with a view to improving the quality of veterinary education. In this connection, there was a discussion on how to strengthen collaboration with the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) in order to promote a process for evaluating veterinary establishments in the region.

Dr Samaké also reported that the farmers' crop and livestock health association (Groupement de Défense Sanitaire – GDS France) had invited the SRR-NA to present REMESA and to provide an overview of the main diseases observed in the Mediterranean basin. Around 150 people attended this event and the OIE presentation was well received.

The SRR-NA also participated in the preliminary technical meeting on the FMD vaccine bank for the REMESA region, held on 13 April 2015 at OIE Headquarters. The objective of the meeting was to prepare a concept note – with the support of experts from OIE

Reference Laboratories for FMD – to select, in accordance with the epidemiological situation, what can be considered as “core strains” and “optional strains” for inclusion in the vaccine bank. This concept note will be discussed with the CVOs/Delegates in the region to check whether the preliminary selection meets their expectations.

The SRR-NA also participated in the Inter-regional Conference on “Rift Valley fever: new options for trade, prevention and control”, held in Djibouti from 21 to 23 April 2015, to present a review of the recent outbreaks of Rift Valley fever that had occurred in North Western Africa.

The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa (SRR-SA) continued to conduct activities and make contributions to the sub-region’s development.

During the reporting period, the SRR-SA participated in several conferences and planned to host a number of training workshops.

The SRR-SA participated in the Conference on Policies for Competitive Smallholder Livestock Production in Botswana on 4 and 5 March 2015, where the Representative presented the OIE intergovernmental standards, providing background on standard-setting and explaining how standards assist Member Countries in controlling animal diseases, animal welfare and veterinary public health, thereby facilitating market access for livestock products. The topic is particularly relevant to Southern Africa where smallholder farmers, who are in the majority, are able to access international markets for livestock products by applying OIE concepts such as zoning (disease-free country/zones). The support given by OIE to the Veterinary Services of its Member Countries by such means as capacity-building, twinning projects, and the overall PVS Pathway was also highlighted.

Dr Samaké commented on the SRR-SA’s participation in the FAO-ICAR African Symposium on “Animal identification and recording (AIR) systems for traceability and livestock development in sub-Saharan Africa”, held from 14 to 16 April 2015 in Pretoria (South Africa), where the SRR-SA presented the OIE standards on animal identification and traceability. OIE’s contribution to animal identification and traceability since the late 1990s, when Member Countries requested the OIE to set standards on animal identification and traceability, was outlined.

The SRR-SA is at an advanced stage of organising two workshops in the sub-region: one on the harmonisation of veterinary legislation (6-8 July 2015) and the other on the preparation of application dossiers for disease freedom (28-30 July 2015). The workshop on harmonisation of veterinary legislation is being led by OIE Headquarters, along with AU-IBAR’s Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VET GOV) programme, and its objective is to assist SADC member countries in modernising and harmonising their veterinary legislation to facilitate integration and comply with OIE standards. The workshop on preparing disease-freedom dossiers is designed to equip Member Countries with the skills to prepare an application for disease freedom recognition by the OIE, using FMD and PPR as examples.

Dr Samaké then listed the following activities in which the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa (SRR-EA) was involved:

- AU-IBAR Advisory Committee meeting;
- Steering Committee meeting of AU-IBAR’s project for the participation of African nations in sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting organizations (PAN-SPSO) (standard-setting, SPS Agreement);
- National policy framework on disaster risk reduction for livestock: a scoping study commissioned by World Animal Protection (WAP) and Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA);

- Launch of the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards Handbook (2nd edition);
- “One Health: impacts, measures and metrics”. Vetworks Eastern Africa in cooperation with the Livestock Development Group at the University of Reading (United Kingdom), with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation;
- Project on integrated surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in Uganda by the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR). Makerere University;
- “Linking veterinary para-professionals and veterinarians in Africa”. Three coordination meetings with GALVmed and the African Veterinary Technicians Association (AVTA) with a view to the upcoming regional seminar on veterinary para-professionals in Johannesburg (South Africa) in September 2015;
- Response to the epizootic ulcerative syndrome situation in the Congo River basin and preventive measures in the immediately threatened surrounding countries. Coordination meetings with the staff of the AU-IBAR’s FishGov project;
- FAO/OIE International Conference for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants;
- Rift valley fever: FAO/OIE Inter-regional Conference on Rift Valley Fever in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East: new options for trade, prevention and control (jointly with the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East);
- Berbera II export quarantine station in Berbera (Somalia). Official OIE visit, together with the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East;
- Annual CVO meeting to prepare for the OIE General Session (common position). AU-IBAR (PAN-SPSO);
- Steering Committee meeting of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) project “Breaking barriers, facilitating trade”, funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF);
- Steering Committee meeting of the European Commission-funded Bee Health Project (International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology [ICIPE] and AU-IBAR); and
- Joint training on sanitary, phytosanitary and technical barriers to trade by WTO and the Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Dr Samaké said that SRR-EA activities had been significantly affected by the absence, for health reasons, of the Regional Representative, Dr Walter Masiga, between January and March 2015. Dr Masiga resumed his duties at the beginning of April.

He concluded by reporting that the no-cost extension of the VET GOV project had recently been approved.

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session:

- “Making the global eradication of dog mediated rabies an achievable goal”

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

- “Pastoralism: opportunities for livestock and challenges for Veterinary Services”

7. Recommendations of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, described the outcomes of the 21st Conference of the Regional Commission.

Dr Rutagwenda listed the main recommendations following the discussions of each of the two Technical Items.

The subject of Technical Item I, prepared by the speaker in collaboration with OIE Headquarters on the basis of Member Countries’ answers to a questionnaire, was “*Impact of animal diseases on animal productivity and public health in Africa*”. It led to the adoption of a recommendation suggesting a number of actions, including: Member Countries should consider the methodology published by the OIE, as well as economic analyses, in the prioritisation and planning of animal disease control and eradication programmes, and Member Countries should take advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway, especially PVS Gap Analysis, to advocate proper allocation of resources to Veterinary Services; the OIE and Member Countries should explore options, including public-private partnerships, for increasing the participation of farmers, as well as all livestock sector stakeholders, in disease surveillance and control; the OIE should strengthen its commitment, in particular with National Focal Points, to improve animal disease notification, among other things.

With respect to Technical item II on “*The role of cross-border movements of animals and animal products in the epidemiology of animal disease in Africa*”, a recommendation was adopted by all Delegates suggesting that the OIE, through the PVS Pathway, should continue to build the capacity of the Veterinary Services of Member Countries in the Africa region and that the OIE should continue to provide technical assistance and support for actions to improve the animal health status of countries and regions with regard to the main transboundary animal diseases. It was recommended that OIE Member Countries in the Africa region should progress along the OIE PVS Pathway, particularly by requesting PVS Evaluation Follow-up missions, Veterinary Legislation Support Programme missions and laboratory support, and that Member Countries and Regional Economic Communities in the Africa region should initiate or pursue efforts towards long-term bilateral and regional collaboration, based on complementarity, harmonisation and adaptation of tools to control animal diseases and cross-border livestock movements, in accordance with existing OIE standards.

Regional Commission Members were reminded that the adopted recommendations would be presented for endorsement at the seventh plenary session of the 83rd General Session on 28 May 2015, making their implementation binding on the entire OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

8. Confirmation of the venue of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2017

Dr Yacouba Samaké asked Namibia to confirm the proposal to host the next Regional Conference.

Dr Albertina Shilongo, Representative of Namibia, informed the Regional Commission that her country had agreed to host the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, to be held in Swakopmund, Namibia, in February 2017.

9. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in Africa

Dr Lina Awada, veterinary epidemiologist at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 19 May 2015.

She started by providing detailed regional information on the compliance with the reporting for 2014, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. She went on to show the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2014 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by the countries/territories through WAHIS and of providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control.

Dr Awada also gave an overview on the diseases most and least notified in the region in 2014, for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Dr Awada highlighted the improvement that had been achieved since 2014 in the report verification process by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, going on to describe its impact on the quantity and quality of information.

Finally, Dr Awada presented the most successful story regarding notification to the OIE in the region, and concluded by introducing the departmental staff responsible for the validation of the reports for Africa.

10. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

Prof. Ahmed Elswalhy, AU-IBAR Director, began by saying that, following the recommendation of the ministers responsible for livestock in Africa, the Executive Council of the African Union had requested the African Union Commission to develop a Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA).

He added that AU-IBAR and AU-PANVAC had led the development of LiDeSA, a long-term framework for transforming Africa's livestock sector.

Prof. Elswalhy reported that LiDeSA had been approved by the African Union Heads of State and Government in January 2015. He said that LiDeSA was aligned with the goals of Africa Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation in the Malabo Declaration (June 2014) and with the results framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

He added that AU-IBAR had secured a financial commitment from the European Union for a three-year Continental Livestock Development Programme (LIVE2) to strengthen the systemic capacities of continental, regional and national livestock sector stakeholders in order to lay the foundation for the implementation of LiDeSA. A complementary programme for coordinated interventions at national and regional levels is under preparation to mobilise resources from African Union Member States and development partners.

He reported that AU-IBAR and its partners had formulated a strategy for African swine fever and a Strategic Framework for the Progressive Control of Neglected Animal Diseases (PROCNADA) with a view to ensuring coordinated and harmonised control of transboundary animal diseases. AU-IBAR assisted the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in formulating a regional strategy for peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and is currently aligning the pan African PPR strategy with the global strategy.

Prof. Elsalwalhy concluded by saying that AU-IBAR continued to support African Union Member States in maintaining animal health information systems and in compiling and disseminating information on their animal health status by means of training and the provision of information and communication equipment. AU-IBAR also continues to support disease surveillance and control activities, the coordinated participation of Africa in animal health standard-setting and the development of responsive policy and regulatory environments for the delivery of Veterinary Services.

European Commission (EC)

Dr Bernard Rey, Representative of the European Commission, highlighted the European Commission's long-standing cooperation with developing countries in the field of animal health.

He said that animal health contributed to major European Union (EU) development objectives, such as building the resilience of the livestock-dependant population and reducing stunting.

He also described the status of the EU livestock portfolio, which met the EU's strategic objectives on food security and nutrition and addressed key challenges and trends in the livestock sector. Dr Rey mentioned that the scenario could change quickly, given that nearly 60 countries had chosen food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture as the main focal sector for the EU programming period 2014-2020.

Finally, Dr Rey emphasised the EU's specific support for a major 2015 initiative namely the implementation of the African Union's Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA).

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Cheikh Ly, Regional Animal Production and Health Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Africa, explained that FAO was implementing projects in the Africa region in line with its strategic objectives, regional initiatives and country programming frameworks. He added that early-warning and capacity-development work were ongoing and were specifically targeted in the upcoming periods at: PPR control and eradication; control of anthrax, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, African swine fever and other diseases; and support for the assessment and strengthening of veterinary laboratories.

Dr Ly added that multidisciplinary approaches had been mainstreamed into FAO's work on animal health and zoonosis control. He explained that dynamic agri-businesses and stronger value chains for animal-source foods were promoted, in addition to livestock sector coordination through sound national and regional livestock development policies.

Dr Ly concluded by saying that FAO supported networks and platforms by various means, depending on the priorities of beneficiaries. Action is aimed at improving the performance of livestock production systems at country level, with appropriate consideration of the animal-human-ecosystem interface.

World Bank

Dr Stephane Forman, World Bank representative for Africa region started his presentation by introducing his colleague, Dr Myriam Chaudron, who joined the World Bank in 2014 and is participating to her first OIE General Session. Then, he recalled the role that livestock and animal health play to achieve the World Bank twin goals of eradicating poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

However, he highlighted that this should materialise more in World Bank operations and investments. Worldwide, and following the 2008 World development Report on Agriculture, investments by the World Bank in agriculture more than doubled, from less than US\$2 billion in 2007 and 2008 to between US\$3 to 5 billion yearly from 2009 to 2014. Unfortunately, livestock investments did not follow the same trend and only increased slightly worldwide.

With 39% of projects and more than US\$1 billion (out of 3.3 billion worldwide) over the past 10 years, Africa is the region investing the most in livestock development, even if animal health, welfare and “One Health” represent less than 10% of these investments.

Dr Forman reminded the participants that the World Bank continues recognising the OIE PVS Pathway as the only pre-operational tool to invest in strengthening the Veterinary Services and that the efforts by the CVOs and Ministries in charge of livestock to convince decisions-makers, including Ministries of Finance, using the OIE PVS Pathway should further continue. He highlighted that the trend was changing, and that, for instance, in the two recent Regional Pastoralism Project (for the Horn of Africa (RPLRP) and the Sahel (PRAPS), interventions in animal health represent 20% of the total investments.

Dr Forman ended his presentation by underlining what the World Bank has done recently to support Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Niger to control the recent re-occurrence of HPAI in West and Central Africa, and how existing ongoing projects can be mobilized to finance preparedness and rapid response.

11. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)

Dr David Sherman, Coordinator of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), began his presentation by saying that the VLSP was an integral component of the OIE PVS Pathway, which provided OIE Member Countries with the opportunity to assess the quality and scope of their veterinary legislation through VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions and to pursue legislation reform efforts under VLSP Agreements.

He explained that veterinary legislation was an essential element of a nation's infrastructure, conferring the powers and authority necessary for Veterinary Services to carry out their key functions in the veterinary domain efficiently in order to ensure public safety and promote the public good.

Dr Sherman reported that, since the 82nd OIE General Session in May 2014, six new requests for veterinary legislation identification missions had been received, including five in Africa and one in Asia. Seven veterinary legislation missions have been completed, including four in Africa, one in Asia, one in the Americas and one in Europe. Overall, as of 18 May 2015, 62 veterinary identification missions have been requested, 43 veterinary identification missions have been carried out, 39 veterinary identification mission reports have been received and 12 veterinary legislation agreements have been requested, 9 of which are currently active.

He added that the OIE had been actively involved in activities on the regional harmonisation of veterinary legislation through partnership with AU-IBAR and FAO under the Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa Programme (VET GOV). Two seminars were held for Regional Economic Communities on harmonisation of animal disease control legislation: the first for ECCAS⁴⁹ countries in Yaoundé (Cameroun) from 27 to 31 October 2014 and the second for IGAD⁵⁰ in Khartoum (Sudan) from 23 to 27 November 2014. Two additional seminars for harmonisation of regional veterinary legislation are already scheduled, one for AMU⁵¹ in Tunis (Tunisia) from 8 to 12 June 2015 and a second for SADCin Maseru (Lesotho) from 6 to 10 July 2015.

Dr Sherman noted that veterinary legislation had also been introduced as a topic for the training of OIE Focal Points for animal production food safety. He reported that the first such training for Focal Points in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region had taken place in Hanoi (Vietnam) from 24 to 26 June 2014. The training for the Americas will be provided in Mexico in September 2015 and tentatively, for Europe, in November 2015.

He went on to say that, since the last General Session, a new, second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts had been prepared and completed. It contains three volumes: Volume 1 – Technical guidance; Volume 2 – Procedures for veterinary legislation identification missions and veterinary legislation agreements; and Volume 3 – Working examples of primary veterinary legislation. It is currently available in English and is being translated into French and Spanish.

Dr Sherman also reported that a training seminar for new VLSP experts had been successfully conducted in Paris, from 24 to 26 March 2015. The purpose was twofold: first, to expand the team of experts available to conduct VLSP missions and, second, to add lawyers and jurists to the team so that future missions would include experts with technical veterinary and legal expertise. A total of 45 participants attended the training session. This included 8 existing veterinary experts, 12 new trainees who were veterinarians and 15 new trainees who were lawyers or jurists. All training was based on the new second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts.

Finally, Dr Sherman said that there were 14 outstanding requests for VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions. It is expected that, with the expanded team of VLSP experts now available, all these missions will be scheduled and completed prior to the 84th General Session.

12. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by reminding the participants that Chapter 4.16 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code describing the general principles underlying the HHP concept had been approved in May 2014.

She explained that, in the interim, the concept had been developed further by the OIE Ad hoc Group on international horse movement for equestrian sport and that a model HHP veterinary certificate had been developed and circulated to Members for comment. This

⁴⁹ ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

⁵⁰ IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development

⁵¹ AMU: Arab Maghreb Union

model certificate describes the uniform animal health requirements that would apply worldwide to the temporary movement of HHP horses for no more than 90 days.

Dr Münstermann reported that several other important supporting documents had been developed, including: guidelines for equine disease-free zones (EDFZ); biosecurity guidelines; and an explanatory note on the veterinary certificate. They will be further refined and made available to Members in parallel with the comment and adoption processes.

She pointed out that the general principles included in the veterinary certificate and on EDFZs had been tested successfully during the Asian Games in Incheon (Rep. of Korea) in September/October 2014.

She also informed the Delegates that an adapted HHP veterinary certificate had been published by Brazil's Veterinary Authorities for use during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and its test events in 2016 and 2015 respectively. The Brazilian authorities are in the process of establishing an EDFZ for the venue.

Dr Münstermann noted that other countries (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan) had requested OIE technical assistance for the establishment of EDFZs in order to host international equestrian events in which horses from Europe and elsewhere can participate.

Dr Münstermann added that the OIE had launched a call for proposals to carry out specific scientific studies and research projects on equine influenza, African horse sickness and glanders, which will further strengthen the scientific basis for practical implementation of the HHP concept. The research proposals will be selected in early June and work should begin shortly thereafter.

Dr Münstermann concluded by acknowledging the special situation of many countries in Africa due to the endemic presence of African Horse Sickness.

She noted that the OIE ad hoc Group has given special attention to this situation and made provision in the HHP Veterinary Certificate for importation of horses from AHS affected countries. However, more work to strengthen the scientific basis of the proposed measures is needed, such as the validation of PCR testing of horses destined for export and the development of a vaccine acceptable for use in non-endemic countries. She added that it is hoped that the studies previously mentioned will assist in this regard.

13. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015

Dr Joseph Domenech, Advisor to the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, reminded the participants that in accordance with Resolution No. 24 adopted by the Assembly at the 82nd General Session of the OIE in May 2014, and following the recommendations of the 24th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and of the 150th Session of the FAO Council at the end of 2014, an FAO/OIE International Conference for the Control and eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 31 March to 2 April 2015. The main aim was to present the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR, prepared by the OIE and FAO. The adoption of this strategy by the participants has laid the foundations for the launch of an OIE/FAO joint programme for the control and eradication of PPR by 2030.

14. Proposal of candidates for the election: (closed session)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Komla Bataste Batawui (Togo)
Vice-President: Dr Theogen Rutagwenda (Rwanda)
Vice-President: Dr Karim Boughalem (Algeria)
Secretary General: Dr Gaston Djonwe (Cameroon)

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa)
Dr Nicholas Kauta (Uganda)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Prof Emmanuel Couacy Hymann (Côte d'Ivoire)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Gideon Brückner (South Africa)
Dr Baptiste Dungu (Congo (Rep of))

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Mehdi El Harrack (Maroc)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Maxwel Barson (Zimbabwe)

The meeting officially ended at 6:40 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, Monday 25 May 2015

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda ;
 2. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa ;
 3. Report on OIE Council meetings ;
 4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Southern Africa, North Africa, and Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa ;
 5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017 ;
 6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa ;
 7. Recommendations of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015 ;
 8. Confirmation of the venue of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2017 ;
 9. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in Africa ;
 10. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE ;
 11. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP) ;
 12. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies ;
 13. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015 ;
 14. Proposal of candidates for the election.
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 25 May 2015

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 107 participants, including Delegates and observers from 25 Members of the Commission and representatives from 11 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay.

International/regional organisations: CVP⁵², FAO, IFAH, IICA⁵³, IMS, OIRSA⁵⁴, PAHO-PANAFTOSA⁵⁵, SSAFE⁵⁶, WAP⁵⁷, WFO⁵⁸, World Bank.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, seconded by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, and Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was adopted unanimously.

2. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates, reminded participants that members of the OIE Council act as the conduit for putting the region's concerns to the OIE to ensure they are properly addressed, including matters pertaining to the logistics of the current General Session.

He also urged countries to participate actively in the process of standard-setting and adoption of OIE standards by sending their comments on the reports of Specialist Commissions and, in particular, by continuing to participate in the online conferences organised by the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas.

⁵² CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

⁵³ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁵⁴ OIRSA: *Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria*

⁵⁵ PAHO: Pan American Health Organization - PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

⁵⁶ SSAFE: Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere

⁵⁷ WAP: World Animal Protection

⁵⁸ WFO: World Farmers' Organisation

Dr Correa and Dr Clifford reminded participants about the elections to be held during the 83rd General Session to select the new OIE Director General and members of the Council, Specialist Commissions and Regional Commissions.

Finally, they commented on the list of candidates for Specialist Commissions, which had been discussed at the latest Council meeting in the week prior to the General Session, saying that the Commission would approve the proposed list of candidates during the candidate selection process later in the meeting.

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

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, reported that the Bureau had met face to face twice in the last period. The meetings had addressed administrative and technical matters and followed up the outcomes of the 22nd Regional Conference in Mexico.

The President of the Regional Commission informed that the latest meetings of the Bureau of the Regional Commission had been held on 5-7 August 2014 and 12-13 March 2015. He added that the videoconferencing system provided by the Regional Representation continued to be used for technical meetings concerning specific issues and for promoting greater involvement by Delegates in issuing comments on OIE texts.

On the technical side, Dr Figueiredo Marques said that it had been agreed to circulate to all Delegates the schedule of meetings held and planned in the region for 2015, including: workshop for Focal Points for animal welfare (Bolivia); workshop for Focal Points for animal production food safety (Mexico); and seminar of the Committee of the Americas for Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET) (Guatemala). Other events organized by countries in the region include: sub-regional meeting on antimicrobial resistance for Delegates and Focal Points of OIE Member Countries and health ministers of countries in the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) in April 2015; seminar on avian influenza to be held by the United States of America in June 2015; and 17th International Symposium of the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians in Canada, also to be held in June 2015.

Among the activities to support Members, Dr Figueiredo Marques highlighted the virtual meeting on avian influenza, sponsored by the Delegates of the United States of America and Canada, which had led to speedy dissemination of first-hand information on the status of avian influenza on the continent, and he reiterated the need for countries in the Americas to play an active part in the discussions. He also took the opportunity to comment briefly on the discussions regarding progress with foot and mouth disease (FMD) status across the continent, with the ultimate goal of achieving FMD freedom without vaccination.

He added that, as in previous years, a meeting had been held on the Sunday prior to the General Session (in this instance, on 24 May 2015) to discuss the standards under review and adopt a regional position.

He concluded by commending the excellent efforts being made by Dr Luis Barcos, Dr Montserrat Arroyo Kuribreña and Dr Martín Minassian, together with the team working to strengthen the actions of countries in the Americas.

4. Report on the 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, presented a summary of the activities of the Regional Representation (Buenos Aires) and Sub-Regional Representation (Panama).

Dr Barcos reported that regular meetings of the Bureau of the Regional Commission would be organised in order to follow up on: the work programme for the Americas; the conclusions of the Regional Conference in Mexico in 2014; and the organisation of the next regional conference to be held in Bolivia from 14 to 18 November 2016.

He said that the participation of Member Countries in updating OIE standards would be promoted by building the capacity of Veterinary Services, including in the area of aquatic animal health, through seminars for Delegates and National Focal Points and by promoting the implementation of OIE PVS Pathway missions. He also underlined the usefulness of teleconferencing for holding meetings to resolve specific issues.

Dr Barcos reviewed the status of the Laboratory Network of the Americas and the future changes to the database, asking Delegates to support their Focal Points in providing and updating information to make it operational.

He described the favourable outcomes of the sub-regional meeting on antimicrobial resistance for OIE Delegates and National Focal Points for veterinary products and MERCOSUR health ministries, and stressed the need for joint action between Veterinary Services and ministries of health in the Americas.

He reported on efforts to encourage membership by countries in the Caribbean sub-region that are not yet OIE Members, including future visits to these countries for meetings with senior officials, all with the support of the Regional Commission. He announced Brazil's decision to financially support the cost of membership for these countries for at least two years.

Dr Barcos reviewed the outcomes of the meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), at which the updated performance indicators were presented. He reported on activities to ensure the effective implementation of OIE standards on FMD, involving on-site expert missions and interaction with regional and international organisations based on the FAO/OIE Global FMD Control Strategy.

He described the results of a survey relating to the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy, which had pointed to the need to build the region's capacity for effective implementation of the strategy.

He also reported on veterinary education-related actions in the region, which continue to require participation and liaison with universities and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSBs).

He presented a novel project for the OIE – the OIE Knowledge Olympics – which will be open to students and private practitioners in the Americas in collaboration with universities and VSBs. The “Olympics” will consist of qualifying rounds of questions leading to the selection of an overall winner for the continent in each category. The winners will be invited to the General Session and will have the opportunity to undertake scientific and educational visits in May 2016. This project is awaiting the approval of the OIE's hierarchy.

On the subject of communication, he presented the latest version of the Regional Representation website, which provides a platform for disseminating information relevant to countries in the region.

Dr Barcos concluded by detailing the programme of activities for the current year and by thanking Member Countries that help to fund OIE's activities in the region.

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session:

- “Traceability of veterinary products as part of a responsible use strategy”

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas:

- “Implementation and maintenance of animal traceability: a challenge for international trade”

7. Recommendations of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, held in Guadalajara, Mexico, from 10 to 14 November 2014

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil, said that the recommendation stemming from Technical Item I entitled “*Veterinary education in aquatic animals and its impact on aquatic animal disease control strategies in the region*” had been based on the need to promote compliance with OIE-recommended competencies in the area of veterinary education on aquatic animal health, at both initial and continuing education level.

The recommendations for Veterinary Authorities included the need to strengthen initial veterinary education and continuing education for aquatic animal health professionals, as well as participation in existing regional networks, coupled with implementation of the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of the Aquatic Animal Health Services. The recommendation for the OIE was to strengthen training for National Focal Points for aquatic animals in such areas as: risk analysis; organisation of Veterinary Services, pharmaceuticals; certification procedures; and communication skills.

With regard to Technical Item II entitled “*Implementation of the compartmentalisation concept: practical experience and perspectives*”, Dr Figueiredo Marques said that it was important to promote the use of compartmentalisation as a useful tool for defining and managing animal sub-populations with a specific health status, in compliance with OIE standards. He added that compartmentalisation could also be used as a tool for the prevention, management and eradication of animal diseases, as well as to provide a basis for the continued export of animals and animal products in the event of a country experiencing a disease outbreak.

Member Countries were recommended to consider using compartmentalisation as a trade facilitation measure and as a tool for safeguarding animal health through better biosecurity and for reducing the likelihood and impact of disease outbreaks. The OIE was

recommended to promote the use of compartmentalisation in Member Countries by participating in capacity-building and by disseminating success stories and best practices on the establishment of compartments in accordance with OIE standards.

8. Confirmation of the date and venue of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in November 2016

The Delegate of Bolivia confirmed his country's offer to host the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas. The Conference will be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) from 14 to 18 November 2016.

9. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan

Dr Carlos Correa, Delegate of Uruguay and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates, in collaboration with Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America and member of the Council, gave a brief presentation on the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan and the challenges ahead.

They started by commenting on key aspects, such as the legacy and the impact of the Strategic Plan on OIE activities. They also described the main steps in the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, which will guide the work of the OIE for the 2016-2020 period.

They went on to provide a general overview of the strategic objectives of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, namely: securing animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management; establishing trust through communication; and ensuring the capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services.

They then briefly described the OIE's projections for 2020, highlighting the key priorities for the period covered by the Plan.

Dr Correa and Dr Clifford placed particular emphasis on the main challenges faced by the OIE, including sanitary concerns and societal and environmental issues. In that respect, they stressed the need for modernising the Organisation's governance to ensure that its statutory bodies are ready to face these challenges.

They presented the different programmes and activities that the OIE had already developed or would be implementing in order to meet these challenges and so fulfil its Member Countries' expectations effectively. They also gave an overview of a number of proposals to consolidate the scientific excellence of the OIE's work. Dr Correa and Dr Clifford underlined the Organisation's commitment to the transparency of its various activities, highlighting the importance of communication tools and updating of procedures to ensure good administrative management of the OIE.

They reminded the Regional Commission of the importance, for the OIE as a whole, of meeting the objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan as a prerequisite for preserving the Organisation's credibility and legitimacy.

Dr Correa and Dr Clifford concluded by thanking the Delegates who had contributed to the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan. Their valuable feedback and the excellent work of the Council and the experts having supported it had resulted in a robust draft final version, to be adopted later in the week.

10. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in the Americas

Dr Paula Cáceres-Soto, Head of the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the Region as of 19 May 2015.

She started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2014, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. She went on to show the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2014 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by the countries/territories through WAHIS and of providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control.

Dr Cáceres-Soto also gave an overview on the diseases most and least notified in the region in 2014, for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Dr Cáceres-Soto highlighted the improvement that had been achieved since 2014 in the report verification process by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, going on to describe its impact on the quantity and quality of information.

Finally, Dr Cáceres-Soto presented the most successful story regarding notification to the OIE in the region and concluded by introducing the departmental staff responsible for the validation of the reports for Americas.

The Delegates of Mexico, Haiti, Canada and Brazil thanked Dr Paula Cáceres and the technical staff of the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department for their support and willingness in resolving countries' difficulties with disease reporting, by remaining in direct contact at all times with both Delegates and Focal Points for animal disease notification.

11. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre

Proposal by the United States of America

Dr Michael David, on behalf of Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH) of Iowa State University as an OIE Collaborating Centre for "Online veterinary education".

Dr Michael David provided a brief review of the Centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission provided its support to the proposal by the United States of America, which will be presented for endorsement of the Council and then by the World Assembly of Delegates in 2016.

12. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)

Dr Edgardo Vitale, Technical Secretary of the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP), began by explaining that the CVP comprises the official Veterinary Services of its member countries. He added that the CVP's 12 years of uninterrupted work had enabled it to position itself as a lead agency for animal health and food safety in the sub-region.

Dr Vitale reported that one of the CVP's main activities had been preparing stage two of the MERCOSUR Foot and Mouth Disease-free Action Programme (PAMA), which had been presented to MERCOSUR for approval in late April 2015. He affirmed that stage one had been a success.

He said that the CVP's activities had been carried out on the basis of transparency and region-wide progress with respect to the FMD situation. He pointed out that the latest FMD outbreak had occurred more than three years earlier (January 2012) and that this progress had to be accompanied by actions to consolidate the favourable animal health situation. Dr Vitale explained that a final stage for FMD eradication was planned and that, as 85% of the region was free of the disease with vaccination, countries tended to adopt more intensive, risk-based FMD surveillance measures that included official and private veterinarians and farmers, to move towards FMD freedom without vaccination.

As part of the effort to strengthen official Veterinary Services, Dr Vitale reported that 42 professionals been trained in the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool), in order to provide a mechanism for systematically evaluating official Veterinary Services. He added that the OIE was conducting PVS Pathway follow-up missions in CVP countries, with CVP experts participating as observers.

Referring to the work of the CVP's *ad hoc* groups, Dr Vitale reported that the efforts of its *ad hoc* group on food safety (GIdEA) had led the CVP to schedule a training and knowledge-sharing workshop in the second half of 2015, to reduce contamination with Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) organisms. He said that the CVP *ad hoc* group on poultry health would be convened to analyse the avian influenza outbreaks in the north of the continent. Back in April 2014, this group had revised the national programmes currently being implemented by CVP countries for avian influenza prevention and emergency action, as well as the CVP's regional strategy for the prevention of avian influenza, which dates from 2008 and needs to be updated.

Dr Vitale concluded by saying that, with the aim of strengthening the Committee, CVP focal points (appointed by the Chief Veterinary Officers) were developing a Strategic Plan 2016-2020 with methodological support from the IICA.

Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)

Ing. Efraim Medina Guerra, Executive Director of OIRSA, said that OIRSA's mission was to support its member countries in their efforts to develop plans for agricultural health, quarantine services and food safety, thereby contributing to their people's economic and social development through healthy and environmentally friendly agricultural production that facilitates trade.

He reported that in 2015, OIRSA had established its Strategic Plan 2015-2025 with the following objectives: strengthening and developing health programmes defined for animals of different species and alternative livestock; preventing the introduction of emerging and transboundary diseases in the region; early detection and implementation of rapid-response animal health measures; controlling, and where possible, eradicating endemic diseases that undermine the productivity of economically important animal species and public health; supporting the implementation of biosecurity, traceability and animal welfare programmes that enhance production management and market access for economically important species; maintaining cooperation agreements with international organisations and friendly countries to promote actions for the benefit of OIRSA member countries.

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA)

Dr Ottorino Cosivi, Director of the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA), presented the veterinary public health activities conducted by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) through PANAFTOSA, specifically in the areas of zoonoses, food safety and food security. He said that PANAFTOSA was a unique network that integrates both the public health and animal health sectors, including government administrations, academia, the private and philanthropic sectors, and non-governmental and international organisations.

Dr Cosivi explained that PANAFTOSA's technical cooperation was implemented by a technical team based in Brazil, coupled with two advisors based in the Andean and Caribbean sub-regions and one senior adviser based at PAHO headquarters in Washington DC.

With regard to food safety, Dr Cosivi said that a growing number of institutions in the region were contributing to regional inter-sectoral food safety networks for the prevention of foodborne diseases, including: the Inter-American Network of Food Analysis Laboratories (INFAL); the Global Foodborne Infections Network (GFN); and the PulseNet Latin America and Caribbean network. In particular, they were addressing the impact of antimicrobial resistance and promoting an integrated approach involving different stakeholders and sectors.

Eight Latin American countries and six Caribbean countries are working to implement integrated surveillance of antimicrobial resistance under the GFN.

With regard to zoonoses, Dr Cosivi reported that PANAFTOSA was implementing an Action Plan to eliminate human rabies transmitted by dogs that included: inter-laboratory exercises and proficiency testing; capacity-building on post-exposure prophylaxis; direct technical cooperation to priority countries; definition of dog surveillance indicators; development of a decision support tool; advocacy; and inclusion of the dog rabies vaccine in the PAHO revolving fund.

He added that PANAFTOSA also provided technical cooperation and promoted and supported research and capacity-building in the fields of: echinococcosis/hydatidosis; leptospirosis; leishmaniasis; sylvatic rabies; and surveillance of the animal reservoirs and vector of yellow fever.

He also described the region's historic achievement with respect to FMD, saying that, for the first time since PANAFTOSA's establishment in 1951, more than three consecutive years had elapsed without any reported cases of FMD in the region.

Dr Cosivi said that the South American Committee for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (COSALFA) had called for the establishment of a regional FMD antigen and vaccine bank, and that options were being developed for the bank's operation.

He added that PANAFTOSA continued to provide direct technical cooperation to key countries for strengthening national FMD programmes. He reported that, as a result, Bolivia and Paraguay had received official OIE recognition of FMD freedom in 2014, and Ecuador was expected to receive it in 2015.

Dr Cosivi concluded by stating that the challenges were now to: maintain this accomplishment and move towards an FMD-free hemisphere without vaccination; continue supporting countries, in particular by introducing new surveillance and emergency response tools and mechanisms in order to address the growing susceptibility of the population to the FMD virus; and strengthen Venezuela's national FMD programme.

The Delegate of Haiti commented on the worrying canine rabies situation in his country. Dr Cosivi and the Delegates of Brazil, Mexico and Cuba expressed their willingness to help remedy this situation.

World Bank

Dr Laurent Msellati, Manager for Agriculture Global Practice in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, summarised the World Bank's programmes in the region, with special emphasis on the livestock subsector. He confirmed that, in late 2014, the agricultural portfolio in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region included 29 active operations in 15 countries, with a total commitment of around USD 2.5 billion, supplemented by 10 major trust operations worth a total of USD 100 million. This portfolio includes a specific project for livestock (Colombia – Mainstreaming sustainable cattle ranching). However, virtually all the lending projects have a livestock component (27 of the 29 projects).

Dr Msellati added that the projects funded were aimed at pasture restoration and improvement, traceability, food safety, animal welfare and land tenure. He gave three examples: a project worth USD 1 billion for better linking small farmers with markets; support for low carbon agriculture in Brazil; and support for the private sector through the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for investment projects aimed at poultry farmers in Mexico, pig farmers in Ecuador, and meat and dairy farmers in Brazil and Paraguay. He added that the World Bank's ever increasing investment in animal health and food safety took into account the OIE PVS Pathway and gave examples of projects conducted in the past three years in Paraguay, Argentina, Haiti and Peru. He ended his presentation by providing a list of publications on the livestock sector between 2010 and now, saying that the World Bank was likely to increase financial support for the sector and to develop closer cooperation with all partners involved in livestock development and animal health, especially the OIE.

World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)

Dr Luis M. Etchevehere, President of the Argentine Rural Association (SRA), President *pro tempore* of the Federation of Rural Associations of MERCOSUR (FARM) and Director of the World Farmers' Organisation for the Latin American Region, began by stating that producers in the Expanded MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil; Uruguay, Paraguay; Chile and Bolivia) had a strong commitment to producing safe and nutritious food for a population whose demand for more and better quality protein was growing continually.

Dr Etchevehere emphasised that, as it represents producers of all animal species, WFO considers health to be one of the cornerstones of successful animal production, which is why it promotes the full range of measures to care for, protect and preserve the health of animals as effectively as possible.

He added that WFO recommended the need for effective, technologically proficient animal health services able to implement all provisions for diagnosing, preventing and reducing the incidence of infections and to establish all necessary steps for guarding against potential outbreaks of infectious, contagious or parasitic diseases.

He highlighted WFO's active participation in the activities of national and international organisations working in the field of animal health, including the OIE, COSALFA, Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (PHEFA) and CVP.

With regard to FMD, he underlined the significant progress achieved in recent decades by FMD control and eradication programmes, which has transformed territories and cattle populations with endemic or epidemic FMD and a high incidence of outbreaks caused by several types of virus into FMD-free ones, based on effective systematic vaccination campaigns. This has led to international recognition of most of the regional bloc as FMD-

free with vaccination, while consolidating the Southern Cone as a trustworthy supplier of beef to the world.

Dr Etchevehere expressed concern over the ability of several Expanded MERCOSUR member countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and associate member Chile) to maintain their current FMD-freedom in view of the fact that, across South America as a whole, only 85% of countries are FMD-free. He felt that this posed a risk to countries, especially as PHEFA was considering suspending FMD vaccination by 2020.

He concluded by explaining that producers in the region saw it as a priority to consolidate the animal health status achieved by countries by pursuing risk characterisation actions and enhancing vaccine coverage through routine vaccination. The feasibility of eventually discontinuing use of the vaccine as an FMD control tool should be assessed against the risk of reintroduction of the disease, with its adverse impact on countries' economic and social development.

13. Proposal of candidates for the election (closed session)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed candidates:

President: Dr Guilherme Marques (Brazil)
Vice-President: Dr Miguel Azañón (Guatemala)
Vice-President: Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados)
Secretary General: Dr Martine Dubuc (Canada)

Council:

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following candidates:

Dr Joaquín Delgadillo (Mexico)
Dr Hugo Idoyaga (Paraguay)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following candidates, indicated in order of preference:

Dr Gastón Funes (Argentina)
Dr Cristóbal Zepeda (United States of America)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following candidates, indicated in order of preference:

Dr Juan Antonio Montaña Hirose (Mexico)
Dr Ernesto Mendoza Mainegra (Cuba)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following candidates, indicated in order of preference:

Dr Beverly Schmitt (United States of America)
Dr Ana María Nicola (Argentina)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following candidates, indicated in order of preference:

Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Chile)
Dr Joanne Constantine (Canada)

The meeting officially ended at 7:45 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS
Paris, Monday 25 May 2015**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda ;
 2. Report on OIE Council meetings ;
 3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas ;
 4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America ;
 5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017 ;
 6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas ;
 7. Recommendations of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, held in Guadalajara, Mexico, from 10 to 14 November 2014 ;
 8. Confirmation of the date and venue of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in November 2016 ;
 9. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan ;
 10. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in the Americas ;
 11. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre ;
 12. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE ;
 13. Proposal of candidates for the election.
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 25 May 2015

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 122 participants, including Delegates and observers from 26 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries/territories and representatives from 1 international organisation:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of), Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America.

Observer countries/territories: France, Hong Kong, United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: FAO

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of the People's Republic of China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of regional and international organisations and introduced the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and member of the OIE Council, gave a brief presentation regarding the main issues addressed by the Council. He stated that the Council meets three times per year.

Regarding the 83rd General Session, Dr Schipp indicated that the Council had validated the agenda, the list of Guests of Honour invited to the Opening Ceremony and the list of International Organisations invited to present their activities. The Council examined three new draft agreements with Interpol and the World Customs Union, and a revised agreement with the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

Referring to the elections, Dr Schipp commented that the Council had agreed to systematically monitor the quorum and to issue important reminders to Delegates during any voting process on the importance of being present for purposes of forming a quorum.

With regard to the major elections that would be taking place during the 83rd General Session, he said that the Council, after considering the necessity to maintain or even improve the quality of work of the Specialist Commissions, had supported the proposal that, amongst other things, critical competencies, commitment and geographical balance of the candidates were important for this improvement to take place. He explained that the Council examined the candidatures in order to give its opinion on their eligibility.

He also stated that the Council had taken the opportunity to interview the only candidate for the position of Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, the official candidate of France and the European Union, and acknowledged her professional merits for this post.

Regarding the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, he indicated that the Council had worked closely on drafting the document. The document was reviewed in detail, to ensure both the overall content and the consistency between the different chapters. He reminded participants that the draft Strategic Plan had been presented at the meeting of the Regional Commission during the 82nd General Session and had been discussed within the Bureaus of the Regional Commissions, whenever possible with the contribution of the members of the Council from these regions. The Council validated the final version of the draft Sixth Strategic Plan at the Council meeting in February 2015 with a view to its presentation to the Assembly for approval this year.

Dr Schipp also informed participants that, at the meeting of the Council in October 2014, the Director General had suggested that a Resolution be prepared with a view to increasing the number of members of the Specialist Commissions from six to eight, to enable a better distribution of the workload between the experts, improve the geographical balance within the Commissions and ease the current constraint for all of the elected members to be systematically physically present throughout all of the meetings. The Council decided not to adopt the proposal to increase the number of experts, but validated the proposal for a draft Resolution establishing a system of evaluation, to be submitted to the World Assembly of Delegates for approval.

Dr Schipp also referred to several financial and administrative matters, including the validation of the Director General's report on activities and the revised budget for 2015 for presentation to the World Assembly of Delegates. He also stated that the Council had validated the principle of creating a Pension Fund for the staff of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. The proposed increase in contributions for the year 2016 was discussed in light of the budgets for the previous years and the draft Sixth OIE Strategic Plan.

Finally, he commented that the Council had approved the OIE's interest in the topic of reptiles, both with regard to the welfare aspects and with regard to the animal health and food safety aspects. This dossier would only be taken on if the OIE were to develop a partnership with the private sector to fund an ad-hoc Group and a chargé de mission be devoted to this new topic.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, including the development of Regional Work Plan Framework 2016-2020

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of the People's Republic of China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, gave a presentation on the activities of the Commission.

Dr Zhang explained that the Regional Core Group, established pursuant to a recommendation in the Regional Work Plan Framework 2010-2015, continued to have meetings/teleconferences on an *ad hoc* basis while maintaining communication through email, to enhance communication and coordination between the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and Members in the Region. The discussion items included the nomination of experts in the region for the election of Specialist Commissions.

Dr Zhang reported that he had attended the 7th Global Steering Committee (GSC) Meeting of GF-TADs, held in Paris in October 2014 in his capacity as Chairman of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific. He explained that, in that occasion, he had provided an update on the activities of the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific. The GSC had reported on their activities including that it is in process to revise various indicators in the Five Year Action Plan; that the document on Cost-Effectiveness of Investments in Prevention of TADs was being improved; that the committee agreed on the final draft of GF-TADs Website; for prioritizing diseases, that a guideline had been developed but needed to be improved.

He touched upon several important Global or Regional meetings that took place after the 82nd OIE General Session to which Members of the Region participated, including:

- OIE-CIC Joint International Meeting on early detection and prevention of African Swine Fever (ASF) and other animal health issues at the wildlife-livestock-human interface, Paris, France, 30 June - 1 July 2014;
- Third Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 14-16 October 2014;
- Third OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health: Riding the Wave to the Future, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 20–22 January 2015;
- FAO & OIE International Conference on the control and eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, 31 March - 2 April 2015; and
- 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, Guadalajara, Mexico, 10-14 November 2014.

He encouraged Regional Commission Members to take steps to action the recommendations adopted by OIE Member Countries during these important Conferences. He also thanked the Republic of Korea and Vietnam for hosting these important OIE events, which had certainly helped to improve regional participation.

Dr Zhang explained the progress of the discussions on the Regional Work Plan Framework (RWPF) 2016-2020. In particular, Dr Zhang listed the timeframe for the adoption of the plan at the 29th Conference of the Regional Commission.

As proposed at the Regional Commission meeting during the 82nd General Session in May 2014, the Regional Core Group had commenced working on the RWPF to ensure continuing alignment with the 6th OIE Strategic Plan and to reflect the current needs and priorities in the Region. A discussion document had been developed by the Regional Core Group by reviewing the current RWPF in order to facilitate discussion among Members. He had distributed the document to Members and requested to consider more particularly nine questions identified and to submit comments.

Dr Zhang introduced some comments from members: Australia proposed to address engagement on aquatic animal health matters in the region; the People’s Republic of China proposed adding activities relevant to “Scientific excellence” as it was the key element of “cross-cutting areas” in the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan; Japan proposed including a progress review mechanism of the work plan; Malaysia proposed adding emerging and re-emerging diseases to the objectives.

He informed the Delegates of the steps to be further taken towards the adoption of the second RWPF at the upcoming 29th Regional Conference in September 2015 and encouraged the Regional Commission Members to review draft to be distributed soon and send comments to improve our RWPF to address the regional needs and priorities.

Dr Zhang then explained the improvement of communication among regional Members. As the Delegates had been already informed in the past Regional meetings, the Regional Delegate website had been developed and was soon to be launched within the regional website. He expected that the Regional Delegate website would become a good fora for improving communication among the Members.

He concluded by reminding the Commission that the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania would be held in Mongolia in September 2015, and that the OIE Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction in Paris, France, on 30 June - 2 July 2015. He urged Delegates to participate in these important events.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RR-AP), started his presentation by summarising RR-AP activities and informing the Commission on the recent staff changes at the Regional Representation.

He reported on RR-AP's role as secretariat for the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, and touched upon the Regional Commission's major activities, including coordinating members with regard to nominations for the Specialist Commissions at the 83rd General Session and reviewing the current Regional Work Plan Framework taking into account the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan.

Dr Kugita then reported on progress at RR-AP under the technical programmes. As the Permanent Secretariat of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, RR-AP is co-organising with FAO the GF-TADs sub-regional meetings for each sub-region, namely ASEAN⁵⁹, SAARC⁶⁰ and SPC⁶¹, with the one for ASEAN having been held in Chiang Mai (Thailand) in March 2015.

He informed the Commission about the various activities conducted under the OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) projects, including: "Advanced training on FMD⁶² laboratory data analysis for Mongolian laboratory staff"; "FMD vaccination campaigns using donated vaccine from Japan in Laos and Myanmar"; "Regional joint risk assessment for H7N9⁶³ under FAO/OIE/WHO tripartite collaboration"; "Influenza surveillance in live bird markets in Cambodia"; and "Regional rabies scientific conference in China". "Regional hands-on laboratory training on PRRS⁶⁴ and other swine disease diagnosis" was also held in Beijing (China) in April 2015 with the support of the China Veterinary Bureau and OIE Reference Laboratory for PRRS in China (People's Rep. of).

⁵⁹ ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations

⁶⁰ SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

⁶¹ SPC : Secretariat of the Pacific Community

⁶² FMD: foot and mouth disease

⁶³ H7N9: avian influenza A (H7N9) virus

⁶⁴ PRRS: porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome

Dr Kugita went on to describe aquatic animal health activities, which had included publishing quarterly aquatic animal disease reports and a related year publication in collaboration with the Network of Aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific Region (NACA), as well as holding the third round seminar for National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) in January 2015.

He added that RR-AP served as the secretariat for the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group (RAWS CG) and that the ninth meeting of RAWS CG had been held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) in March 2015.

Dr Kugita informed the Commission about planned activities for the rest of 2015, including the 29th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held from 14 to 18 September 2015 in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), where the Regional Work Plan Framework for 2016-2020 will be discussed for adoption. He also took the opportunity to confirm the Delegates that, thanks to the financial support of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a Seminar on the “Development of public private partnerships to support Veterinary Services” would be held on Monday 14 September 2015, just before the start of the Regional Conference.

The following activities were also listed, some of which are still under development.

- The OIE and FAO will jointly hold sub-regional meetings of GF-TADs for SAARC and SPC;
- Under the OIE/JTF Project on FMD Control in Asia, the fourth Coordination Committee meeting and 2nd scientific meeting will be held in Tokyo in June 2015;
- The Regional Workshop on Prevention and Control of Neglected Zoonoses will be held jointly with APHCA⁶⁵ in Japan in July 2015;
- As a part of the FAO/OIE/WHO tripartite coordination mechanism in the region, the sixth Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multisectoral Collaboration for the Prevention and Control of Zoonoses will be held in Japan in October 2015;
- Under the JTF Project for Controlling Zoonoses in Asia under the One Health Concept, further coordination or capacity-building activities on highly pathogenic avian influenza, rabies and antimicrobial resistance will also be considered;
- Regional Workshop on Safe International Trade in Aquatic Animals and Aquatic Animal Products to be held in Japan in July 2015; and
- Training seminar on the OIE PVS Tool will be organised in 2015 for selected regional members.

To conclude, he reported that, in order to facilitate regional members’ involvement in OIE activities, the OIE would soon introduce a section dedicated to Delegates on the RR-AP website.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia, presented a report on the role and responsibilities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (SRR-SEA). He described the three programmes of the Sub-Regional Representation under the Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) initiative, funded by the

⁶⁵ APHCA: Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Australian Government's overseas aid program (AusAID): the South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) Campaign; the Strengthening Initiative for Veterinary Services (STRIVES); and the One-Health programme with a focus on rabies.

Dr Abila provided details of the following activities of the Sub-Regional Representation.

SEACFMD (South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign)

SRR-SEA has undertaken a range of activities in 2015 in support of SEACFMD member countries' goals of control, prevention and eradication of FMD, or maintenance of FMD freedom. These include control activities, studies of factors contributing to disease spread, capacity-building, drafting the third edition of the SEACFMD Roadmap, coordination meetings, and developing projects and partnerships for the future.

Following the launch of the northern Laos FMD Vaccination Project in 2014, vaccinations have been administered to more than 330,000 animals in 4,000 villages, across 80 districts in 10 provinces. In order to monitor the efficacy of the vaccinations and protection of the livestock population against FMD in these hot-spots and high risk areas, a post-vaccination monitoring programme is underway based on measuring antibody titres to FMD in livestock in selected villages. SRR-SEA also developed a database, which has been provided to project staff to integrate all data concerning vaccinations, villages and post-vaccination monitoring.

A similar FMD vaccination project has commenced in the Mandalay and Sagaing districts of central Myanmar, which are major livestock production areas. Vaccinations began in February 2015, with over 230,000 cattle and buffalo vaccinated in the first round within less than two weeks. The second round of vaccinations was completed within a similar time frame in late March/early April. SRR-SEA will be coordinating a post-vaccination monitoring programme as part of this project, to monitor vaccination responses and the FMD protection conferred by the vaccination campaign. The database developed by SRR-SEA has also been rolled out for this project, to capture vaccination and township data to support effective analysis of the project.

A study of animal movements in the Upper Mekong Sub-Region commenced following a planning workshop held by SRR-SEA in Bangkok in January 2015. Study sites in northern Vietnam, northern Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and China were identified, and national consultants were appointed to conduct surveys of traders and key industry personnel in these areas. Preliminary results have identified significant market factors that are driving animal movements across South-East Asia and China, with the direction of trade changing in some areas since a previous study six years ago.

The third edition of the SEACFMD Roadmap, covering the period from 2016 to 2020, has been drafted and presented to the 21st Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission on FMD in South-East Asia and China. The draft roadmap was endorsed by the Sub-Commission, and will be finalised and published during the course of 2015.

Coordination meetings have been completed successfully with the Upper Mekong Working Group meeting held in Vietnam in February 2015 and the 21st Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission on FMD in South-East Asia and China held in the Philippines in March 2015.

One Health and rabies

SRR-SEA's One Health Programme under the STANDZ Initiative focuses on advancing rabies elimination and promoting One Health coordination in South-East Asia.

The STANDZ One Health programme continues to support and strengthen regional inter-sectoral coordination in South-East Asia. One of the highlights for this period is its continuing support for the ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES), the concept and drafting of which has been one of the programme's contributions to the region. ARES was endorsed by the 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) and the 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) in September 2014, and is now at the implementation stage. On 30-31 March 2015, ASEAN – supported in part by the STANDZ Initiative – held the AEGCD⁶⁶-ASWGL⁶⁷ joint consultative workshop for the plan of action of the ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy. Together with other international rabies partners (FAO, GARC⁶⁸, WAP), the workshop developed a work plan and identified lead countries and supporting partners for its implementation.

Another major regional coordination activity of SRR-SEA, in conjunction with RR-AP, Chinese Preventive Medicine Association, Chinese Association of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine, and China Working Dog Management Association, is the 2015 Regional Scientific Conference held in Wuhan (China) on 16-17 April 2015. The two-day conference covered: (a) rabies prevention and control; (b) rabies epidemiology and surveillance; (c) rabies vaccines and vaccination; (d) dog ecology and population management; and (e) advances in rabies diagnosis. It was attended by around 350 participants, including leading global rabies experts.

The benchmarking document on rabies and rabies elimination activities in ASEAN Member States has been finalised, printed and distributed. Now in circulation, the document compares the current situation and practices in South-East Asia with international standards relevant to dog rabies elimination.

SRR-SEA also presented the OIE's views on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and highlighted international standards on AMR during panel discussions on "Challenges and control keys for AMR in Asian Livestock" as part of the seminar on "Food Safety Strategy: Antimicrobial Resistance in ASEAN Livestock (AMRAL)" at VIV Asia (12 March 2015).

In support of mass dog vaccination in the Philippines, SRR-SEA is also developing a post-vaccination monitoring plan for the pilot areas, in coordination with the Project Coordination Office (PCO) in the Philippines for the STANDZ Rabies Project. Guidance from the OIE Reference Laboratory has also been sought, and the study in the pilot areas will soon commence under the STANDZ Rabies Project. In addition, a knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) survey is also underway in the pilot areas to determine progress in these areas following public awareness initiatives.

Currently, the major rabies intervention work of SRR-SEA is the STANDZ Rabies Project in the Philippines, which commenced on 1 September 2014 and will last until June 2016. The first progress report of the project has been submitted and, having complied with all other requirements, the Philippines have been advised that the second tranche will soon be

⁶⁶ AEGCD: ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases

⁶⁷ ASWGL: ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock

⁶⁸ GARC: Global Alliance for Rabies Control

transmitted. Project orientation and rabies fora in the four pilot provinces (Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Masbate) have been conducted targeting field officers and other stakeholders involved in mass dog vaccination, rabies surveillance and dog population management. Utilising the first delivery of 300,000 doses from the OIE vaccine bank funded by STANDZ, along with funding support for implementation, the pilot areas also started to prepare and conduct mass dog vaccination during this period, with a combined total of 149,942 dogs vaccinated as of February 2015 in Albay, Masbate, Camarines Sur, and Camarines Norte.

STRIVES (Strengthening Initiative for Veterinary Services)

SRR-SEA has continued to support the strengthening of the Veterinary Services of South-East Asian countries through the OIE PVS Pathway. Using findings from PVS Evaluation and PVS Gap Analysis Reports, SRR-SEA has been able to provide specific technical assistance, financial support, workshops and seminars for supporting the report recommendations.

In connection with the OIE PVS Pathway, Myanmar made an official request for an OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission, which was then conducted and completed in January 2015. In addition, the OIE laboratory twinning project on brucellosis between France and Thailand has led the National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) in Thailand to apply for OIE Reference Laboratory recognition. The application is currently being processed by the OIE.

High-quality veterinary education is key to equipping future veterinarians with the necessary competencies for entry into the national Veterinary Services. In an effort to strengthen the provision of veterinary education in SEA, SRR-SEA organised the OIE information seminar for veterinary education establishments (VEEs). This half-day seminar was held first at Chulalongkorn University (Thailand) on 20 March 2015 and then at Universiti Putra Malaysia on 10 April 2015.

SRR-SEA is providing OIE information seminars to public and practising veterinarians in South-East Asia in order to encourage partnerships between these two sectors while, at the same time, enhancing their knowledge of these standards. SRR-SEA collaborated with the Thai Veterinary Medical Association and the Department of Livestock Development to organise the OIE information seminars for practising veterinarians in Thailand on 3 April 2015. It also collaborated with the Veterinary Association of Malaysia and the Department of Veterinary Services to organise another seminar in Malaysia on 11 April 2015.

Acknowledging the importance of training laboratory staff on occupational health and safety, SRR-SEA is continuing to provide such training to veterinary diagnostic laboratory staff. The first training course was held at NIAH in Thailand from 21 to 23 April 2015. During the training, laboratory members learned about health and safety in the laboratory, as well as how to conduct their own risk assessment and to draft an updated health and safety policy for NIAH. SRR-SEA will work with NIAH to ensure that these health and safety guidelines be developed and implemented.

SRR-SEA held a sub-regional workshop on the OIE PVS Pathway in Bali (Indonesia) from 28 to 30 April 2015. The workshop objectives were successfully achieved and included: (a) discussion of recommendations and conclusions from previous PVS Evaluation and PVS Gap Analysis missions; (b) acknowledgement and discussion of progress and outcomes, as well as best practices and approaches in strengthening their Veterinary Services; (c) facilitation and promotion of collaboration amongst the Veterinary Services of ASEAN

Member States in bridging and strengthening common sub-regional gaps; and (d) recommendations for the consideration of OIE and countries on the subject of current and future OIE PVS Pathway activities in the sub-region.

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session:

- “Veterinary Education: a pathway to international accreditation.” (Building upon the 2013 Global conference, examine veterinary school standards and accreditation with a view to building international accreditation)

7. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Mongolia in September 2015

The following technical item (without questionnaire) was adopted for the 29th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

- “How can we progress the cooperation between animal health sector and public health sector?”

8. Organisation of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 14 to 18 September 2015

Dr Bolortuya Purevsuren, Delegate of Mongolia, informed the Regional Commission on the arrangements being made by the authorities of her country to host the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held from 14 to 18 September 2015 in Ulaanbaatar. She mentioned that OIE had already sent invitation letters to all Delegates of the region.

She invited all Delegates of the region to the conference and underlined the importance of attending this event which, together with the General Session, is one of the OIE statutory meetings and thus one of the OIE Delegates’ obligations.

She also mentioned the Seminar on private public partnership of Veterinary Services organised back to back with the Regional Conference.

The Delegate of Afghanistan confirmed that the invitation for Afghanistan to participate in the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania should be delivered through diplomatic channel.

9. Outcome of the 21st Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Manila, Philippines, from 10 to 13 March 2015

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia, gave a brief presentation regarding the 21st Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in South-East Asia and China, held in Manila (Philippines) from 10 to 13 March 2015. He said that the purpose of the meeting had been to review recent developments in FMD in the region and worldwide, assess programme progress, disseminate key developments, and make recommendations on policy, strategic, technical and governance matters.

He reported that the meeting had been opened by Dr Monique Eloit, Deputy Director-General of the OIE, and Dr Davinio Catbagan, Assistant Secretary for Livestock at the Philippines Department of Agriculture.

Dr Abila explained that an update on the global FMD situation and on the activities of the World Reference Laboratory for FMD had been presented. Specific information had also been given on the FMD situation in the Asian region. The continuing risk of serotype A epidemic in some countries in South-East Asia was highlighted.

He said that the meeting had presented the debut screening of a video produced by SRR-SEA with the assistance of prominent regional figures in the area of FMD prevention and control. The video emphasises the importance of FMD in the region and details the role of SEACFMD and its partners in fighting the disease.

Apart from the customary country reports and partner's presentation on the first day, Dr Abila mentioned the various technical papers that had been presented on the second day, including: (a) proficiency testing; (b) FMD-related research; (c) vaccine matching and post-vaccination monitoring; (d) OIE standards on FMD and endorsement of national control plans; (e) FMD control projects supported by OIE in Myanmar and Lao People's Democratic Republic; and (f) the Philippines's experience in achieving and maintaining freedom from FMD. He said that these presentations had highlighted aspects that SEACFMD needs to address in order to advance FMD control in the region. He added that, during the discussions, countries had asked for further assistance in preparing their national plans for OIE endorsement.

Dr Abila said that a session based on risks for FMD control in South-East Asia and China had updated participants on progress with a recent animal movement study in the Upper Mekong Region. A presentation had been made on FMD risk factors within South-East Asia and China, including the different serotypes and their spread over time, price factors, production systems and changing r-values in vaccine matching tests. Strategies to mitigate risks, including vaccination and interventions at source and critical points were also presented.

He reported that the last session on the second day had focused on revisions to the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap. Participants were informed of the rationale used when developing the roadmap, the various iterations, and the framework and major strategies of the roadmap. A resource mapping exercise was then presented, with members being provided with examples of what can be done with resource mapping in the region and its uses.

Dr Abila noted that the following issues had been highlighted at the workshop on the third day: need for a multi-disciplinary approach to analysis and intelligence-gathering and synthesis; need to engage policy makers from the top-down and across the range of relevant government departments; importance of contingency planning (particularly for free countries); need to ensure consistency of national FMD plans with the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap; and importance of bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

He reported that a special session had been held on One Health, with presentations on updates to OIE standards on rabies and the Regional Rabies Control Strategy, bridging the OIE PVS Pathway and WHO International Health Regulations Monitoring Framework, tripartite activities, and ASEAN animal health activities. A presentation on OIE vaccine banks (FMD and rabies) was also given.

Finally, Dr Abila commented on the key recommendations that emerged from the meeting, which will help to guide the SEACFMD Campaign's work in the coming year. Key recommendations included: endorsement of the strategic framework of the third edition of the SEACFMD Roadmap 2020 and timeframe-related components; agreement to develop an application for OIE recognition of national FMD control programmes; organisation of a meeting of Directors General in mid-2015 to review the final report of the Upper Mekong animal movement study; agreement to maintain and promote the OIE FMD vaccine bank; encouragement of Member Countries to pursue PVS Evaluation Follow-up missions; and agreement to pursue high-level advocacy at the ASEAN and national levels and for private sector engagement to be furthered.

10. Report on the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS)

Dr Gardner Murray, OIE Special Adviser and Chair of the RAWS Coordination Group, began his presentation by saying that RAWS, now in its second edition, provided an overarching approach to supporting the implementation of OIE animal welfare and related standards in the region. He added that it also provided a useful framework for the development of national animal welfare strategies and noted, with satisfaction, that the model had been used by other OIE regions, in particular Europe, the Middle East and the Americas.

He added that Australia, through the (now) Department of Agriculture, had funded the development of RAWS, including RAWS Coordination Group meetings, under an agreement with the OIE.

He reported that funding support for the RAWS initiative would cease at the end of May 2015.

Given the value of RAWS, Dr Murray stressed that the Regional Commission needed to consider its future, build on the successes achieved so far, and support a sustainable approach to regional implementation of good animal welfare practices.

He mentioned that a full copy of the RAWS Coordination Group 9 meeting report had been sent to all Member Countries of the Regional Commission and was also available in the working document provided to all participants.

Dr Murray then referred to the options considered by RAWS Coordination Group 9 to support the continuation of RAWS. These included, but were not confined, to: (a) abolish the RAWS Coordination Group and promote acceptance of RAWS by countries in the region with general Regional Commission overview; (b) the Regional Commission assumes full responsibility for RAWS and establishes an appropriate management framework; and (c) a country assumes responsibilities for RAWS as per the Australian model, while noting that, to date, there had been no expressions of interest on such an approach.

Dr Murray noted that, on balance, RAWS Coordination Group 9 was of the view that the Regional Commission should assume full responsibilities for ongoing RAWS activities and should develop terms of reference based on the existing terms of reference, as well as a *modus operandi*. He added that the RAWS Coordination Group had suggested that an advisory group be formed to advise the Regional Commission and the OIE, that the advisory group members be nominated by the OIE Director General, and that members be rotated after a period in office.

Should this option be chosen, Dr Murray explained that the Regional Commission would need to examine funding support for meetings and, if necessary, small projects. Self-funding is an option, as are contributions from individual Regional Commission Members and the holding of meetings in association with other relevant OIE activities. The secretariat will continue to be provided by the OIE Regional Representation for Asia Pacific (Tokyo). Should funding be available, the RAWS Coordination Group was of the view that a

regional workshop for selected participants should be held to develop specific proposals for RAWs continuation and transitional arrangements.

He reported that RAWs Coordination Group 9 had considered the action plan to support RAWs and had agreed that it should be simplified to improve clarity. A small writing group was established to refine the existing document.

Dr Murray pointed out that reports from RAWs Coordination Group members and observers had indicated that significant progress was being made on animal welfare by those countries that had reported. However, he noted with concern that not all countries reported, making it difficult, if not impossible, to assess overall progress. He added that countries were strongly recommended to produce short annual reports, even if only a page in length. Dr Murray considered that OIE Animal Welfare National Focal Points could play a key role in this regard.

Finally, Dr Murray said that RAWs is an innovative and significant regional and global initiative and that all those involved in its development, past and present, should be thanked for their efforts. The Australian Government should be thanked for funding the initiative.

The Delegate of New Zealand thanked Australia and stated that all forward looking opportunities should utilise existing structures and capacities in place, so that future funding from donors be used to finance activities.

The Delegate of Bhutan recognised Australia's financial support to RAWs and posed the following questions in view of the fact that funds are coming to an end: What are the strategies? What have governments of the Region done to ensure its sustainability?

Dr Murray cited examples from different countries, for example in the field of legislation and strategy development as well as the implementation of training activities. He furthermore underscored various actions which overall illustrate countries' commitment to improve animal welfare, consistent with national priorities and OIE standards.

11. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan

Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia and member of the Council, gave a brief presentation on the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan and the challenges ahead.

He started by commenting on key aspects, such as the legacy and the impact of the Strategic Plan on OIE activities. He also described the main steps in the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, which will guide the work of the OIE for the 2016-2020 period.

Dr Schipp went on to provide a general overview of the strategic objectives of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, namely: securing animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management; establishing trust through communication; and ensuring the capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services.

He then briefly described the OIE's projections for 2020, highlighting the key priorities for the 2016-2020 period covered by the Plan.

Dr Schipp placed particular emphasis on the main challenges faced by the OIE, including sanitary concerns and societal and environmental issues. In that respect, he stressed the need for modernising the Organisation's governance to ensure that its statutory bodies are ready to face these challenges.

He presented the different programmes and activities that the OIE had already developed or would be implementing in order to meet these challenges and so fulfil its Member Countries' expectations effectively. He also gave an overview of a number of proposals to consolidate the scientific excellence of the OIE's work. Dr Schipp underlined the Organisation's commitment to the transparency of its various activities, highlighting the importance of communication tools and updating of procedures to ensure good administrative management of the OIE.

He reminded the Regional Commission of the importance, for the OIE as a whole, of meeting the objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan as a prerequisite for preserving the Organisation's credibility and legitimacy.

Dr Schipp concluded by thanking the Delegates who had contributed to the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan. Their valuable feedback and the excellent work of the Council and the experts having supported it had resulted in a robust draft final version, to be adopted later in the week.

12. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Neo Mapitse, Deputy Head of the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 19 May 2015.

He started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2014, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. He went on to show the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2014 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries/territories through WAHIS and of providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control.

Dr Mapitse also gave an overview on the diseases most and least notified in the region in 2014, for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Dr Mapitse highlighted the improvement that had been achieved since 2014 in the report verification process by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, going on to describe its impact on the quantity and quality of information.

Finally, Dr Mapitse presented the most successful story regarding notification to the OIE in the region and concluded by introducing the departmental staff responsible for the validation of the reports for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

13. Proposals for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre

OIE Collaborating Centre for “Veterinary Services Capacity Building”

Dr Ayuth Harintharanon, OIE Delegate of Thailand, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the “Department of Livestock Development (DLD) in collaboration with the Veterinary Public Health Centre for Asia-Pacific, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiangmai University (CMU)” as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Veterinary Services Capacity Building”.

He provided a brief review of the centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission approved the proposal by Thailand.

14. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)

Dr David Sherman, Coordinator of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), began his presentation by saying that the VLSP was an integral component of the OIE PVS Pathway, which provided OIE Member Countries with the opportunity to assess the quality and scope of their veterinary legislation through VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions and to pursue legislation reform efforts under VLSP Agreements.

He explained that veterinary legislation was an essential element of a nation's infrastructure, conferring the powers and authority necessary for Veterinary Services to carry out their key functions in the veterinary domain efficiently in order to ensure public safety and promote the public good.

Dr Sherman reported that, since the 82nd OIE General Session in May 2014, six new requests for veterinary legislation identification missions had been received, including five in Africa and one in Asia. Seven veterinary legislation missions have been completed, including four in Africa, one in Asia, one in the Americas and one in Europe. Overall, as of 18 May 2015, 62 veterinary identification missions have been requested, 43 veterinary identification missions have been carried out, 39 veterinary identification mission reports have been received and 12 veterinary legislation agreements have been requested, 9 of which are currently active.

He added that the OIE had been actively involved in activities on the regional harmonisation of veterinary legislation through partnership with AU-IBAR and FAO under the Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa Programme (VET GOV). Two seminars were held for Regional Economic Communities on harmonisation of animal disease control legislation: the first for ECCAS countries in Yaoundé (Cameroun) from 27 to 31 October 2014 and the second for IGAD in Khartoum (Sudan) from 23 to 27 November 2014. Two additional seminars for harmonisation of regional veterinary legislation are already scheduled, one for AMU in Tunis (Tunisia) from 8 to 12 June 2015 and a second for SADC in Maseru (Lesotho) from 6 to 10 July 2015.

Dr Sherman noted that veterinary legislation had also been introduced as a topic for the training of OIE Focal Points for animal production food safety. He reported that the first such training for Focal Points in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region had taken place in Hanoi (Vietnam) from 24 to 26 June 2014. The training for the Americas will be provided in Mexico in September 2015 and tentatively, for Europe, in November 2015.

He went on to say that, since the last General Session, a new, second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts had been prepared and completed. It contains three volumes: Volume 1 – Technical guidance; Volume 2 – Procedures for veterinary legislation identification missions and veterinary legislation agreements; and Volume 3 – Working examples of primary veterinary legislation. It is currently available in English and is being translated into French and Spanish.

Dr Sherman also reported that a training seminar for new VLSP experts had been successfully conducted in Paris, from 24 to 26 March 2015. The purpose was twofold: first, to expand the team of experts available to conduct VLSP missions and, second, to add lawyers and jurists to the team so that future missions would include experts with technical veterinary and legal expertise. A total of 45 participants attended the training session. This included 8 existing veterinary experts, 12 new trainees who were veterinarians and 15 new trainees who were lawyers or jurists. All training was based on the new second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts.

Finally, Dr Sherman said that there were 14 outstanding requests for VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions. It is expected that, with the expanded team of VLSP experts now available, all these missions will be scheduled and completed prior to the 84th General Session.

15. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by reminding the participants that Chapter 4.16 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code describing the general principles underlying the HHP concept had been approved in May 2014.

She explained that, in the interim, the concept had been developed further by the OIE Ad hoc Group on international horse movement for equestrian sport and that a model HHP veterinary certificate had been developed and circulated to Members for comment. This model certificate describes the uniform animal health requirements that would apply worldwide to the temporary movement of HHP horses for no more than 90 days.

Dr Münstermann reported that several other important supporting documents had been developed, including: guidelines for equine disease-free zones (EDFZ); biosecurity guidelines; and an explanatory note on the veterinary certificate. They will be further refined and made available to Members in parallel with the comment and adoption processes.

She pointed out that the general principles included in the veterinary certificate and on EDFZs had been tested successfully during the Asian Games in Incheon (Rep. of Korea) in September/October 2014.

She also informed the Delegates that an adapted HHP veterinary certificate had been published by Brazil's Veterinary Authorities for use during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and its test events in 2016 and 2015 respectively. The Brazilian authorities are in the process of establishing an EDFZ for the venue.

Dr Münstermann noted that other countries (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan) had requested OIE technical assistance for the establishment of EDFZs in order to host international equestrian events in which horses from Europe and elsewhere can participate.

Dr Münstermann added that the OIE had launched a call for proposals to carry out specific scientific studies and research projects on equine influenza, African horse sickness and glanders, which will further strengthen the scientific basis for practical implementation of the HHP concept. The research proposals will be selected in early June and work should begin shortly thereafter.

Dr Münstermann concluded by acknowledging and commending Korea (Rep. of) for its demonstration of leadership in the adoption of the principles for the HHP concept, in its formulation of import measures and the exemplary approach to setting up of an EDFZ for the hosting of the Asian equestrian games.

16. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh, Regional Manager, Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, began her presentation by

explaining that the Asia-Pacific region faced the risk of the emergence and spread of high-impact diseases affecting animal production and public health – stemming from growth in human populations, rapid urbanisation, intensification of farming systems, forest encroachment and globalisation of trade in animals and animal products – while continuing to shoulder the burden of some endemic diseases.

She noted that, with the overall goal of ensuring food security and safety, including the livelihoods of poor communities, and of promoting animal health and public well-being, five animal health thrusts had been identified for the region: (a) support for national efforts to control select high-impact diseases/syndromes present in the region, such as FMD, swine diseases, rabies and animal influenza; (b) generic enhancement of national disease control systems; (c) fostering regional cooperation and the development of regional approaches and coordination capacity for the management of priority transboundary and emerging diseases, which includes regional epidemiology and laboratory capacity development and networking programmes; (d) promotion of human-animal sector collaboration through multidisciplinary and multisectoral approaches to address a broader range of drivers of zoonotic diseases; and (e) information generation and dissemination.

She concluded by mentioning that, in implementing the above activity thrusts, FAO continued to engage with partners like OIE, WHO, ASEAN, APHCA and SAARC to support the strengthening of existing animal and public health surveillance, prevention and preparedness, and response systems.

17. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015

Dr Joseph Domenech, Advisor to the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, reminded the participants that in accordance with Resolution No. 24 adopted by the Assembly at the 82nd General Session of the OIE in May 2014, and following the recommendations of the 24th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and of the 150th Session of the FAO Council at the end of 2014, an FAO/OIE International Conference for the Control and eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 31 March to 2 April 2015. The main aim was to present the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR, prepared by the OIE and FAO. The adoption of this strategy by the participants has laid the foundations for the launch of an OIE/FAO joint programme for the control and eradication of PPR by 2030.

18. Proposal of candidates for the election (closed session)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (P. R. China)
Vice-President: Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia)
Vice-President: Dr Keshav Prasad Premy (Nepal)
Secretary General: Dr Matthew Stone (New Zealand)

Council:

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Mark Schipp (Australia)
Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan)
Prof. Stuart MacDiarmid (New Zealand)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Jef Hammond (Australia)
Dr Zhiliang Wang (P.R. China)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Peter Daniels (Australia)
Dr Hualan Chen (P.R. China)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Ingo Ernst (Australia)
Prof. Dato' Dr Mohammed Shariff bin Mohamed Din (Malaysia)

The meeting officially ended at 7 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA
Paris, Monday 25 May 2015**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Report on OIE Council meetings;
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, including the development of Regional Work Plan Framework 2016-2020;
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific;
5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia;
6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017;
7. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania;
8. Organisation of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 14 to 18 September 2015;
9. Outcome of the 21st Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Manila, Philippines, from 10 to 13 March 2015;
10. Report on the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS);
11. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan;
12. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Asia, the Far East and Oceania;
13. Proposals for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre;
14. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP);
15. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies;
16. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE;
17. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015;
18. Proposal of candidates for the election.

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

Paris, 25 May 2015

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 121 participants, including Delegates and observers from 46 Members of the Commission and representatives from 10 international or regional organisations:

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

International/regional organisations: Council of the European Union, European Commission, EEC⁶⁹, FAO, FEEVA⁷⁰, FESASS⁷¹, FVE⁷², IZSAM⁷³, IZSLER⁷⁴, IZSVE⁷⁵.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Ago Pärtel (Estonia), President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, assisted by Dr Ivan Bisiuk (Ukraine), Vice-President of the Commission, Dr Lucio Carbajo Goñi (Spain), Vice-President of the Commission, Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia), Secretary General of the Commission, Professor Nikola T. Belev, Regional Representative for Eastern Europe and Honorary President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, and Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels.

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. However, the topic on Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015 was added.

⁶⁹ EEC : Eurasian Economic Commission

⁷⁰ FEEVA: Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations

⁷¹ FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security

⁷² FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

⁷³ IZSAM: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise

⁷⁴ IZSLER : Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna

⁷⁵ IZSVE : Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie

2. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany and President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, gave a brief presentation regarding the main issues addressed by the Council. She stated that the Council meets three times per year.

Regarding the 83rd General Session, Dr Schwabenbauer indicated that the Council had validated the agenda, the list of Guests of Honour invited to the Opening Ceremony and the list of International Organisations invited to present their activities. The Council examined three new draft agreements with Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, and a revised agreement with the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

Referring to the elections, Dr Schwabenbauer commented that the Council had agreed to systematically monitor the quorum and to issue important reminders to Delegates during any voting process on the importance of being present for purposes of forming a quorum.

With regard to the major elections that would be taking place during the 83rd General Session, she said that the Council, after considering the necessity to maintain or even improve the quality of work of the Specialist Commissions, had supported the proposal that, amongst other things, critical competencies, commitment and geographical balance of the candidates were important for this improvement to take place. She explained that the Council examined the candidatures in order to give its opinion on their eligibility.

She also stated that the Council had taken the opportunity to interview the only candidate for the position of Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, the official candidate of France and the European Union, and acknowledged her professional merits for this post.

Regarding the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, she indicated that the Council had worked closely on drafting the document. The document was reviewed in detail, to ensure both the overall content and the consistency between the different chapters. She reminded participants that the draft Strategic Plan had been presented at the meeting of the Regional Commission during the 82nd General Session and had been discussed within the Bureaus of the Regional Commissions, whenever possible with the contribution of the members of the Council from these regions. The Council validated the final version of the draft Sixth Strategic Plan at the Council meeting in February 2015 with a view to its presentation to the Assembly for approval this year.

Dr Schwabenbauer also informed participants that, at the meeting of the Council in October 2014, the Director General had suggested that a Resolution be prepared with a view to increasing the number of members of the Specialist Commissions from six to eight, to enable a better distribution of the workload between the experts, improve the geographical balance within the Commissions and ease the current constraint for all of the elected members to be systematically physically present throughout all of the meetings. The Council decided not to adopt the proposal to increase the number of experts, but validated the proposal for a draft Resolution establishing a system of evaluation, to be submitted to the World Assembly of Delegates for approval.

Dr Schwabenbauer also referred to several financial and administrative matters, including the validation of the Director General's report on activities and the revised budget for 2015 for presentation to the World Assembly of Delegates. She also stated that the Council had validated the principle of creating a Pension Fund for the staff of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. The proposed increase in contributions for the year 2016 was discussed in light of the budgets for the previous years and the draft Sixth OIE Strategic Plan.

Finally, she commented that the Council had approved the OIE's interest in the topic of reptiles, both with regard to the welfare aspects and with regard to the animal health and food safety aspects. This dossier would only be taken on if the OIE were to develop a partnership with the private sector to fund an ad-hoc Group and a chargé de mission be devoted to this new topic.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Dr Ago Pärtel, Delegate of Estonia and President of the Regional Commission, presented a report on the activities of the Regional Commission and listed the current members of the Bureau: President, Dr A. Pärtel (Estonia); Vice-President, Dr I. Bisiuk (Ukraine); second Vice-President, Dr L. Carbajo Goñi (Spain); and Secretary General, Dr B. Plavšić (Serbia). He also pointed out that the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe based in Sofia (Bulgaria), the Regional Representation in Moscow (Russia), the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (Belgium) and the Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana (Kazakhstan) would be providing an overview of their activities.

Dr Pärtel commented that, in compliance with the OIE Basic Texts, the OIE Regional Commission for Europe had held its 26th Conference in Berne (Switzerland) in September 2014, where it examined and discussed animal health, animal welfare and animal food production safety issues within Europe. The Conference was well attended, with 36 Member Countries (out of 53) represented, as well as other key stakeholders in the region. The main outcomes of the Conference included two technical recommendations: one on "Animal health in the light of natural disasters and bioterrorism" and the other on "Porcine epidemic diarrhoea: current global situation and possible threat for Europe". The two recommendations were scheduled for submission to the World Assembly of Delegates for approval in May 2015, after which they were expected to become important roadmaps for the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

It was decided that the continuing coordination mechanism for a common regional position would be managed through a Task Force. This Task Force is comprised of the Delegates of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission as well as the Delegates of Russia, Serbia, Norway, Austria, France and a representative of the European Commission. The Regional Commission has organised two meetings of the Task Force – one in Madrid (Spain) in December 2014, and the other in Oslo (Norway) in April 2015 – to discuss the modus operandi of the Task Force and possible topics for a joint regional position.

In addition, Dr Pärtel, in his capacity of President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, participated in: (i) an OIE regional seminar for National Focal Points on Communication, held in Tallinn (Estonia) from 1 to 3 July 2014; (ii) the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltic and Eastern European region under the auspices of GF-TADs:– first meeting, on the topic of ASF control in wild boar, held in Minsk (Belarus) on 2 and 3 December 2014; second meeting on the topic of biosecurity in commercial pig production and smallholdings, held in Tallinn (Estonia) on 11 and 12 February 2015.

Dr Pärtel concluded by mentioning that the main tasks of the OIE Regional Commission are: (i) to present OIE technical and capacity-building activities in the region; (ii) to select the Technical Items (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agendas of the General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates and the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Portugal, September 2016); (iii) to propose new Collaborating Centres; and (iv) to coordinate the proposal of regional candidates for the election of the new Bureau of the Regional Commission. This agenda will be implemented in close collaboration with the OIE Representations of the region.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow, and the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana

Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, presented the work programme of all the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and Office in Europe, on behalf of Prof. N. Belev, OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria), Dr K. Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative in Moscow (Russia), and Dr Mereke Taitubayev, Head of the OIE Sub-Regional Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Coordination Unit Office in Astana, Kazakhstan (SRO-Astana).

She started by describing the activities carried out by the OIE Regional Representation in Eastern Europe, highlighting the work of Prof. N. Belev in maintaining regular dialogue with the highest authorities in the region.

She explained that the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe is staffed by Prof. N. Belev (Regional Representative), Dr A. Miteva (technical assistant) and Mrs R. Kostova (secretary).

Next she described the different activities in which the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe had participated, including: 62nd General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) in Bulgaria in April 2015; a seminar at Bulgaria's Trakia University as part of its Veterinary Administration Master's programme – participation in the Animal Welfare Workshop "Improving animal welfare: a practical approach", organized by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) in co-operation with the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANTE), the Union of Veterinarians in Bulgaria (UVB) and the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (25-26 March 2015, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria); participation in the meeting of the Veterinary Consultative Council of the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, held in Sofia (Bulgaria) on 2 April 2015.

Dr Leboucq reported that, during the second semester of 2015, the activities of the OIE Regional Representation in Eastern Europe would focus mainly on supporting National Focal Point activities and on participation in OIE Global Conferences.

Dr Leboucq went on to discuss the work programme of the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (SRR-Brussels) for 2015. She started by mentioning that the SRR-Brussels team, which had previously consisted of Dr S. de la Rocque, Dr S. Ralchev and Dr N. Leboucq, had been strengthened by the addition of Mr O. Stucke, placed at the disposal of the OIE by the World Health Organization (WHO) for matters relating to risk communication.

She explained that the work programme of SRR-Brussels for 2015 carried on from the work of previous years and focused on the following main areas of intervention:

- Participation in OIE regional activities in Europe, where appropriate, in collaboration with the OIE Representations and Office in Sofia, Moscow and Astana. SRR-Brussels, in its capacity as secretariat for the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, continued to implement the Platform's 2014-2016 Action Plan and, in this connection, it had: (a) prepared and organised a first series of 'train the trainers' workshops on animal welfare during transport and slaughter (Georgia, March-April-May 2015) for six Russian-speaking countries, based on the OIE's flagship Improved Animal Welfare Programme (IAWP); (b) prepared and organised the fourth meeting of the Platform's Steering Group (SG4, Serbia, May 2015), which served to validate the programmes for the ongoing six-month period (first semester 2015) and the forthcoming one (second semester 2015); and (c) updated the Platform's website (<http://rpawe.oie.int>), including the addition of examples of country best practices and experiences in the field.

- Interfacing with institutions and organisations with headquarters in Brussels, through work meetings primarily on European (but sometimes also global) issues. During the first semester of 2015, SRR-Brussels has taken part in some 20 coordination meetings with its partners (including the European Commission, FVE, WCO⁷⁶ and NATO⁷⁷). SRR-Brussels also helped to prepare the revised agreement with WCO and the exchange of letters with NATO.
- Implementation of the OIE/WHO joint work programme within the framework of the ‘One Health’ approach: based on the document “WHO-OIE Operational framework for good governance at the human-animal interface: bridging WHO and OIE tools for the assessment of national capacities”, which was published in 2014. The two organisations are preparing national workshops in various regions of the world.
- Implementation of the activity programme of GF-TADs for Europe, in particular with regard to African swine fever (ASF): SRR-Brussels provides the secretariat for the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltic and Eastern European aimed at defining coordinated control measures between the seven infected countries. The group’s second meeting (Estonia, February 2015) focused on biosecurity in pig production systems (including backyard systems); during the meeting, it was decided to organise expert missions to the seven countries involved to gain a clearer understanding of the control measures being implemented locally and, where appropriate, to put forward recommendations for improvements.
- Contribution to the work of the Global GF-TADs Working Groups on foot and mouth disease (FMD) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR). Within this framework, SRR-Brussels participated in the regular meetings of these two groups, leading to the following: (a) organisation of the sixth West Eurasia FMD Roadmap Meeting (Kazakhstan, April 2015); (b) organisation of a meeting of FMD experts to develop a guide for countries to evaluate the socio-economic impact of FMD ; and (c) drafting of the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR, which was adopted at the first International Conference for the Control and Eradication of PPR (Côte d’Ivoire, March 2015).

Dr Leboucq explained that, during the second semester of 2015, the SRR-Brussels’ activity programme would include the following: (a) technical support as and when required for the four seminars for National Focal Points (aquatic animals; animal welfare; animal production food safety; veterinary laboratories); (b) continuation of the activities of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, and especially the organisation of a workshop on stray dog population management for West Eurasia countries (Kyrgyzstan, October 2015) and the launch of an awareness campaign on stray dogs in Balkan countries, focusing on responsible dog ownership to reduce dog abandonment. Lastly, SRR-Brussels will play a leading role in organising an event at the European Parliament in October 2015 to continue to bring the OIE’s mandate and activities to the attention of members of the European Parliament.

Regarding the activities of the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow (RR-Moscow) for 2015, Dr Leboucq explained that the Regional Representation in Moscow provided technical advice and had participated in several meetings, including the meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltic and Eastern European region, and the workshop on the OIE procedure for the official recognition of Member Countries’ disease status and for the endorsement of official national control programmes with regard to foot and mouth disease (FMD), held in Astana (Kazakhstan) on 26-27 March 2015.

As regards the planned activities of RR-Moscow for 2015, Dr Leboucq noted that the focus was on supporting National Focal Point activities.

⁷⁶ WCO: World Customs Organization

⁷⁷ NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Dr Leboucq said that the OIE Sub-Regional Foot and Mouth Disease Coordination Unit Office in Astana (SRO-Astana) had been involved in several activities during the reporting period, including: the meeting of the Intergovernmental Council for cooperation in the veterinary field between Chief Veterinary Officers of member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), held in Sochi (Russia) on 19 and 20 February 2015; participation in the press conference on World Health Day “Food Safety 2015” in Astana (Kazakhstan) on 7 April 2015; and the sixth Regional FMD West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting, held in Almaty (Kazakhstan) from 28 to 30 April 2015.

5. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer gave a brief presentation on the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan and the challenges ahead.

She started by commenting on key aspects, such as the legacy and the impact of the Strategic Plan on OIE activities. She also described the main steps in the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, which will guide the work of the OIE for the 2016-2020 period.

Dr Schwabenbauer went on to provide a general overview of the strategic objectives of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, namely: securing animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management; establishing trust through communication; and ensuring the capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services.

She then briefly described the OIE’s projections for 2020, highlighting the key priorities for the 2016-2020 period covered by the Plan.

Dr Schwabenbauer placed particular emphasis on the main challenges faced by the OIE, including sanitary concerns and societal and environmental issues. In that respect, she stressed the need for modernising the Organisation’s governance to ensure that its statutory bodies are ready to face these challenges.

She presented the different programmes and activities that the OIE had already developed or would be implementing in order to meet these challenges and so fulfil its Member Countries’ expectations effectively. She also gave an overview of a number of proposals to consolidate the scientific excellence of the OIE’s work. Dr Schwabenbauer underlined the Organisation’s commitment to the transparency of its various activities, highlighting the importance of communication tools and updating of procedures to ensure good administrative management of the OIE.

She reminded the Regional Commission of the importance, for the OIE as a whole, of meeting the objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan as a prerequisite for preserving the Organisation’s credibility and legitimacy.

Dr Schwabenbauer concluded by thanking the Delegates who had contributed to the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan. Their valuable feedback and the excellent work of the Council and the experts having supported it had resulted in a robust draft final version, to be adopted later in the week.

6. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)

Dr David Sherman, Coordinator of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), began his presentation by saying that the VLSP was an integral component of the OIE PVS Pathway, which provided OIE Member Countries with the opportunity to assess the quality and scope of their veterinary legislation through VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions and to pursue legislation reform efforts under VLSP Agreements.

He explained that veterinary legislation was an essential element of a nation's infrastructure, conferring the powers and authority necessary for Veterinary Services to carry out their key functions in the veterinary domain efficiently in order to ensure public safety and promote the public good.

Dr Sherman reported that, since the 82nd OIE General Session in May 2014, six new requests for veterinary legislation identification missions had been received, including five in Africa and one in Asia. Seven veterinary legislation missions have been completed, including four in Africa, one in Asia, one in the Americas and one in Europe. Overall, as of 18 May 2015, 62 veterinary identification missions have been requested, 43 veterinary identification missions have been carried out, 39 veterinary identification mission reports have been received and 12 veterinary legislation agreements have been requested, 9 of which are currently active.

He added that the OIE had been actively involved in activities on the regional harmonisation of veterinary legislation through partnership with AU-IBAR and FAO under the Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa Programme (VETGOV). Two seminars were held for Regional Economic Communities on harmonisation of animal disease control legislation: the first for ECCAS countries in Yaoundé (Cameroun) from 27 to 31 October 2014 and the second for IGAD in Khartoum (Sudan) from 23 to 27 November 2014. Two additional seminars for harmonisation of regional veterinary legislation are already scheduled, one for AMU in Tunis (Tunisia) from 8 to 12 June 2015 and a second for SADC in Maseru (Lesotho) from 6 to 10 July 2015.

Dr Sherman noted that veterinary legislation had also been introduced as a topic for the training of OIE Focal Points for animal production food safety. He reported that the first such training for Focal Points in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region had taken place in Hanoi (Vietnam) from 24 to 26 June 2014. The training for the Americas will be provided in Mexico in September 2015 and tentatively, for Europe, in November 2015.

He went on to say that, since the last General Session, a new, second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts had been prepared and completed. It contains three volumes: Volume 1 – Technical guidance; Volume 2 – Procedures for veterinary legislation identification missions and veterinary legislation agreements; and Volume 3 – Working examples of primary veterinary legislation. It is currently available in English and is being translated into French and Spanish.

Dr Sherman also reported that a training seminar for new VLSP experts had been successfully conducted in Paris, from 24 to 26 March 2015. The purpose was twofold: first, to expand the team of experts available to conduct VLSP missions and, second, to add lawyers and jurists to the team so that future missions would include experts with technical veterinary and legal expertise. A total of 45 participants attended the training session. This included 8 existing veterinary experts, 12 new trainees who were veterinarians and 15 new trainees who were lawyers or jurists. All training was based on the new second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts.

Finally, Dr Sherman said that there were 14 outstanding requests for VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions. It is expected that, with the expanded team of VLSP experts now available, all these missions will be scheduled and completed prior to the 84th General Session.

The United Kingdom raised a question about the coordination on veterinary legislation with other international organisations such as the FAO and the World bank, referring notably to the outcomes of the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation held in Djerba (Tunisia) in 2010.

Dr Sherman indicated that there was no formal agreement to work on veterinary legislation with other organisations but pointed out that several OIE VLSP experts conducting PVS legislation missions are coming from various organisations including the FAO and the World Bank. Experts from the FAO and the World Bank were notably trained during the recent VLSP training organized by OIE in March 2015.

7. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by reminding the participants that Chapter 4.16 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* describing the general principles underlying the HHP concept had been approved in May 2014.

She explained that, in the interim, the concept had been developed further by the OIE *Ad hoc* Group on international horse movement for equestrian sport and that a model HHP veterinary certificate had been developed and circulated to Members for comment. This model certificate describes the uniform animal health requirements that would apply worldwide to the temporary movement of HHP horses for no more than 90 days.

Dr Münstermann reported that several other important supporting documents had been developed, including: guidelines for equine disease-free zones (EDFZ); biosecurity guidelines; and an explanatory note on the veterinary certificate. They will be further refined and made available to Members in parallel with the comment and adoption processes.

She pointed out that the general principles included in the veterinary certificate and on EDFZs had been tested successfully during the Asian Games in Incheon (Rep. of Korea) in September/October 2014.

She also informed the Delegates that an adapted HHP veterinary certificate had been published by Brazil's Veterinary Authorities for use during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and its test events in 2016 and 2015 respectively. The Brazilian authorities are in the process of establishing an EDFZ for the venue.

Dr Münstermann noted that other countries (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan) had requested OIE technical assistance for the establishment of EDFZs in order to host international equestrian events in which horses from Europe and elsewhere can participate.

Dr Münstermann added that the OIE had launched a call for proposals to carry out specific scientific studies and research projects on equine influenza, African horse sickness and glanders, which will further strengthen the scientific basis for practical implementation of the HHP concept. The research proposals will be selected in early June and work should begin shortly thereafter.

Dr Münstermann concluded by stating that the HHP concept is in line with the free movement of registered horses in the European Union (EU) and that the intention is to expand this movement beyond the 28 EU Member States and its approved third countries, particularly into the Eastern, non-EU region.

She finally reminded that a more comprehensive presentation on the concept and its accompanying tools had been given to the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in Bern (Switzerland) in September 2014.

8. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015

Dr Joseph Domenech, Advisor to the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, reminded the participants that in accordance with Resolution No. 24 adopted by the Assembly at the 82nd General Session of the OIE in May 2014, and following the recommendations of the 24th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and of the 150th Session of the FAO Council at the end of 2014, an FAO/OIE International Conference for the Control and eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 31 March to 2 April 2015. The main aim was to present the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR, prepared by the OIE and FAO. The adoption of this strategy by the participants has laid the foundations for the launch of an OIE/FAO joint programme for the control and eradication of PPR by 2030.

9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 85th General Session:

- “Global action to counter the threat of antimicrobial resistance: a review of progress and opportunities for future activities under the One Health initiative”

10. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Portugal:

- “Control and elimination of rabies in Europe: challenges and strategies for a rabies-free Europe”

11. Recommendations of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Bern, Switzerland, from 22 to 26 September 2014

Dr Lucio Carbajo Goñi, Delegate of Spain and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, described the outcomes of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, which had been attended by a total of 98 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 36 Members and senior officers from 10 regional and international organisations.

Dr Carbajo Goñi listed the main recommendations following the discussions of each of the two technical items.

The subject of Technical Item I, prepared by the speaker in collaboration with OIE Headquarters on the basis of Member Countries' answers to a questionnaire, was “Animal health in the light of natural disasters and bioterrorism”. It led to the adoption of a recommendation suggesting a number of actions, including: Member Countries should foster the development of collaborative mutual support to augment the capacity of Member Countries to prepare for and respond to disasters, and Member Countries should assess and share lessons learned and best practices on animal disaster related events; the OIE should support the development of training on animal health and welfare and veterinary public health in disasters, including regional workshops, online training, and table-top exercises, considering existing tools such as the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS).

Regarding Technical Item II on “Porcine epidemic diarrhoea: current global situation and possible threat for Europe”, a recommendation was adopted by all Delegates suggesting that the OIE should: through its network of Reference Centres, encourage scientific research into routes of transmission of porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED), such as feed, aerosols and contacts, and into the development of effective vaccines; continue to provide its Members with guidance on PED and other emerging diseases as new scientific evidence becomes available. It was recommended that OIE Member Countries should: direct their efforts to building and enhancing the laboratory capability and capacity for rapid PED diagnosis in Europe; and include PED in their animal disease education and awareness programmes with relevant stakeholders so as to assist with early detection of PED.

Regional Commission Members were reminded that the adopted recommendations would be presented for endorsement during the 83rd General Session, making their implementation binding on the entire OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

12. Confirmation of the venue of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2016

Dr Ago Pärtel asked the Delegate of Portugal to confirm his country’s proposal to host the next Regional Conference.

Prof. Álvaro Mendonça, Delegate of Portugal, informed the Regional Commission that his country agrees to host the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in Porto, Portugal, in September 2016.

13. Initiative regarding the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever (ASF) in Eastern Europe

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Representative of the European Commission, began his presentation by introducing the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltic and Eastern Europe region (SGE). He informed participants that the Standing Group had been created in September 2014 on the initiative of the European Commission and organised with the support of the OIE.

Dr Van Goethem explained that the SGE is a Standing Group under the umbrella of the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Europe. It brings together on a regular basis the Chief Veterinary Officers / OIE Delegates of the following countries concerned by ASF in the region: Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine.

Regarding the objectives of the Standing Group, he mentioned that they were to strengthen mid-term regional cooperation on this disease by, inter alia, regular exchange of information on the ASF situation and control measures applied (with regard to both the domestic pig sector and wild boar), and by a regular review of national control strategies by experts, based on scientific risk assessments, experience and best practice in the region, with a view to harmonising control policies and building a science-based regional control strategy.

He then stated that two regular meetings of the SGE had taken place so far, in December 2014 and February 2015, which were facilitated by renowned European experts on ASF and on wild boar management, and dealt with the topics of ASF management in wild boar, and biosecurity in commercial and the so-called backyard pig sectors, respectively.

Dr Van Goethem also stated that, further to a common decision by all participating countries, a series of expert country missions is currently on-going in the seven countries concerned, which will gather data and allow the formulation of expert recommendations on ASF disease management. The results of these country missions will be presented by the experts at the third meeting of the SGE, which is scheduled to take place in Vladimir, Russia, in late June 2015.

14. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Europe

Dr Marija Popovic, chargée de mission at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 19 May 2015.

She started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2014, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. She went on to show the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2014 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries/territories through WAHIS and of providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control.

Dr Popovic also gave an overview on the diseases most and least notified in the region in 2014, for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Dr Popovic highlighted the improvement that had been achieved since 2014 in the report verification process by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, going on to describe its impact on the quantity and quality of information.

Finally, Dr Popovic presented the most successful story regarding notification to the OIE in the region and concluded by introducing the departmental staff responsible for the validation of the reports for Europe.

15. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre

OIE Collaborating Centre for Infectious Reproductive Diseases of Europe

Dr Loic Evain, OIE Delegate of France, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the “National laboratory for health controls in breeding stock (LCNR)” as an OIE Collaborating Centre for “Infectious Reproductive Diseases of Europe”.

He provided a brief review of the Centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission unanimously approved the proposal by France.

16. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:

Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)

Dr Subbotin informed that the Eurasian Economic Union (the EEU, the Union) is an international organization of regional economic integration with international legal personality. On 1st January 2015 the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union entered into force.

He presented the Member States of the Union comprising Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia. On 8 May 2015, the final documents on accession of Kyrgyzstan to the Union were signed. After its ratification by Member-States, Kyrgyzstan will become the fifth full member of the Union.

He underlined that the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) is a permanent supranational regulatory body of the Union, EEC decisions being binding within the territory of the Union Member-States.

The main task of the EEC in the sphere of SPS measures is to elaborate (in the development of the EEU Treaty) normative legal acts of the Union in the epizootic and veterinary-sanitary field of its territory.

European Commission

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Director for Veterinary and International Affairs at the European Commission, highlighted the activities of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers in the area of animal health and animal welfare in Europe, including; transboundary animal disease control programmes in the EU and neighbouring countries; activities relating to the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) instrument and the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme; the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe and other OIE capacity-building activities financed by the European Commission.

He also gave an update on the state of play of the EU Animal Health Law.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Andriy Rozstalnyy, FAO Animal Production and Health Officer, explained that FAO was implementing its assistance programmes within a context marked by decentralisation, merging emergencies and development action in line with renewed strategic framework and regional initiatives.

He commented on the Country Priority Frameworks jointly developed by individual countries and FAO as drivers for effective action to assist member countries in planning and implementing priorities.

He added that, in the animal health and livestock sector, FAO cooperates extensively with the OIE, WHO, European Commission of the EU, United States of America (USDA⁷⁸/USAID⁷⁹/other), the EBRD⁸⁰, and other partners.

Dr Rozstalnyy underlined the following key areas for assistance: prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (e.g. ASF, FMD, PPR, animal influenza) and neglected zoonoses (e.g. brucellosis); animal identification and traceability; risk assessment and information provision; capacity-building of public and private veterinarians; strengthening of professional and community-based organisations, such as private veterinarians', farmers' and dairy producers' associations; technical assistance with food safety; emergency assistance to livestock farmers affected by floods; conservation and sustainable management of animal genetic resources.

To conclude, he said that Veterinary Services in the region were also provided with advice and capacity development for good emergency management practice and for reinforcing the existing efforts to control brucellosis and FMD in the framework of the West Eurasia Roadmap.

17. Proposal of candidates for the election (Closed session)

This session was chaired by Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, President of the OIE General Assembly of Delegates and Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov, member of the OIE Council.

⁷⁸ USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

⁷⁹ USAID: United States Agency for International Development

⁸⁰ EBRD: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Ago Pärtel (Estonia)
Vice-President: Dr Siala Rustamova (Azerbaijan)
Vice-President: Dr Lucio Carbajo Goñi (Spain)
Secretary General: Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia)

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov (Russia)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Etienne Bonbon (France)
Dr Taras I. Aliper (Russia)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Kris De Clercq (Belgium)
Dr Silvia Bellini (Italy)
Dr Viktor Irza (Russia)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Franck Berthe (France)
Dr Anthony Fooks (United Kingdom)
Dr Alexei Zaberezhny (Russia)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Edmund Peeler (United Kingdom)

The meeting officially ended at 6:15 p.m.

/Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Paris, Monday 25 May 2015**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Report on OIE Council meetings;
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe;
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow, and the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana;
5. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan ;
6. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP) ;
7. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies;
8. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015;
9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017;
10. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe;
11. Recommendations of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Bern, Switzerland, from 22 to 26 September 2014;
12. Confirmation of the venue of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2016;
13. Initiative regarding the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever (ASF) in Eastern Europe;
14. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notifications by Members in Europe;
15. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre;
16. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE;
17. Proposal of candidates for the election.

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

Paris, 25 May 2015

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 40 participants, including Delegates and observers from 13 Members of the Commission, 1 observer, and representatives from 2 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates.

Observer countries/territories: Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

International/regional organisations: FAO and WAP.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani (Qatar), President, assisted by Dr Abdulghani Y. Al Fadhl (Saudi Arabia), Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East.

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

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

Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter of concern.

He encouraged Members of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to upgrade their level of statutory contributions to the OIE in line with their national level of economic development in order to better support the activities of the Regional Commission and Regional Representation, adding that further efforts should also be made to find new sources of funding OIE activities in the region.

Dr Al-Qahtani reminded the meeting of the main objectives of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East which are to tackle specific issues relating to the region's animal health situation and to establish cooperation at regional level in order to improve the quality of Veterinary Services, in compliance with OIE standards, through active and efficient collaboration. He said that regular seminars for OIE National Focal Points in the various fields of activity were a vital part of the process of strengthening Veterinary Services in the region.

He explained that the Regional Commission will prepare its 13th Regional Conference to be held in Beirut (Lebanon) from 10 to 14 November 2015. He also took the opportunity to confirm the Delegates that, thanks to the financial support of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a Seminar on the “Development of public–private partnerships to support Veterinary Services” would be held on Monday 9 November 2015, just before the start of the Regional Conference.

Dr Al-Qahtani concluded by inviting Member Countries to participate in the regional conference on vector-borne diseases to be held in Doha (Qatar) tentatively scheduled from 14 to 17 September 2015, back to back with a one-day seminar dedicated to foot and mouth disease (FMD) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR).

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

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, described the main objectives of the activities implemented by the OIE Regional Representation during the previous 12 months, which had focused mainly on building the capacity of Veterinary Services and contributing to animal disease prevention and control in the Middle East.

Dr Yehia provided details of the assistance given to countries wishing to take part in laboratory twinning projects (Kuwait-CIRAD⁸¹ for PPR, Yemen-South Africa for RVF⁸², and ADFCA⁸³-IZS⁸⁴ for camel diseases).

He presented the conclusions of the “OIE Inter-Regional Conference on Rift Valley Fever: new options for trade, prevention, and control” held in Djibouti; the Regional Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance held in Cairo; and two meetings on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (*MERS-CoV*), held respectively in Doha and Cairo.

He also provided a brief summary of activities planned over the coming seven months, including: seminars for OIE Focal Points for communication and veterinary products (Byblos, October 2015); 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission (Beirut, November 2015); vector-borne diseases conference and FMD/PPR Roundtable (Doha, September 2015); and Sub-regional Conference on Camel Diseases (Abu Dhabi, December 2015).

4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session:

- “Biosecurity risk assessment at farm level”

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

Since a Regional Conference on Vector-Borne Diseases will be most likely held in Doha (Qatar) on September 2015, few weeks before the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, the President of the Regional Commission requested Member Countries to propose a new topic for the Technical Item I to avoid redundancy.

⁸¹ CIRAD: French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development

⁸² RVF: Rift Valley fever

⁸³ ADFCA: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

⁸⁴ IZS: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale (Italy)

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Lebanon:

- “Control of rabies in the Middle East region, with emphasis on stray dog control”

6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The following technical item (without questionnaire) was adopted for the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Lebanon:

- “The use of non-structural proteins in vaccination”

7. Organisation and confirmation of the venue of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in November 2015

Dr Elias Ibrahim, Delegate of Lebanon, informed the Regional Commission about the arrangements being made by his country’s authorities to host the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, to be held from 10 to 14 November 2015 in Beirut.

He invited all Delegates of the region to the conference and underlined the importance of attending this event which, together with the General Session, is one of the OIE statutory meetings and thus one of the OIE Delegates’ obligations.

The Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon invited, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, OIE Member countries to attend this important Conference. He emphasised the experience of his Ministry in logistical and security aspects for international meetings.

8. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan

Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, gave a brief presentation on the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan and the challenges ahead.

She started by commenting on key aspects, such as the legacy and the impact of the Strategic Plan on OIE activities. She also described the main steps in the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, which will guide the work of the OIE for the 2016-2020 period.

Dr Eloit went on to provide a general overview of the strategic objectives of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, namely: securing animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management; establishing trust through communication; and ensuring the capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services.

She then briefly described the OIE’s projections for 2020, highlighting the key priorities for the 2016-2020 period covered by the Plan.

Dr Eloit placed particular emphasis on the main challenges faced by the OIE, including sanitary concerns and societal and environmental issues. In that respect, she stressed the need for modernising the Organisation’s governance to ensure that its statutory bodies are ready to face these challenges.

She presented the different programmes and activities that the OIE had already developed or would be implementing in order to meet these challenges and so fulfil its Member Countries’ expectations effectively. She also gave an overview of a number of proposals to consolidate the scientific excellence of the OIE’s work. Dr Eloit underlined the Organisation’s commitment to the transparency of its various activities, highlighting the importance of communication tools and updating of procedures to ensure good administrative management of the OIE.

She reminded the Regional Commission of the importance, for the OIE as a whole, of meeting the objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan as a prerequisite for preserving the Organisation's credibility and legitimacy. Dr Eloit concluded by thanking the Delegates who had contributed to the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan. Their valuable feedback and the excellent work of the Council and the experts having supported it had resulted in a robust draft final version, to be adopted later in the week.

The Delegate of Jordan supported the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan and stressed the importance of addressing the issue of zoonotic diseases for its implementation in the Middle East Region.

The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of Palestinian Autonomous Territories raised the importance of transparency between countries regarding notification of animal diseases to OIE. Dr Eloit replied that transparency remains one of the founding objectives of the OIE.

9. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)

Dr David Sherman, Coordinator of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), began his presentation by saying that the VLSP was an integral component of the OIE PVS Pathway, which provided OIE Member Countries with the opportunity to assess the quality and scope of their veterinary legislation through VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions and to pursue legislation reform efforts under VLSP Agreements.

He explained that veterinary legislation was an essential element of a nation's infrastructure, conferring the powers and authority necessary for Veterinary Services to carry out their key functions in the veterinary domain efficiently in order to ensure public safety and promote the public good.

Dr Sherman reported that, since the 82nd OIE General Session in May 2014, six new requests for veterinary legislation identification missions had been received, including five in Africa and one in Asia. Seven veterinary legislation missions have been completed, including four in Africa, one in Asia, one in the Americas and one in Europe. Overall, as of 18 May 2015, 62 veterinary identification missions have been requested, 43 veterinary identification missions have been carried out, 39 veterinary identification mission reports have been received and 12 veterinary legislation agreements have been requested, 9 of which are currently active.

He added that the OIE had been actively involved in activities on the regional harmonisation of veterinary legislation through partnership with AU-IBAR and FAO under the Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa Programme (VET GOV). Two seminars were held for Regional Economic Communities on harmonisation of animal disease control legislation: the first for ECCAS countries in Yaoundé (Cameroun) from 27 to 31 October 2014 and the second for IGAD in Khartoum (Sudan) from 23 to 27 November 2014. Two additional seminars for harmonisation of regional veterinary legislation are already scheduled, one for AMU in Tunis (Tunisia) from 8 to 12 June 2015 and a second for SADC in Maseru (Lesotho) from 6 to 10 July 2015.

Dr Sherman noted that veterinary legislation had also been introduced as a topic for the training of OIE Focal Points for animal production food safety. He reported that the first such training for Focal Points in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region had taken place in Hanoi (Vietnam) from 24 to 26 June 2014. The training for the Americas will be provided in Mexico in September 2015 and tentatively, for Europe, in November 2015.

He went on to say that, since the last General Session, a new, second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts had been prepared and completed. It contains three volumes: Volume 1 – Technical guidance; Volume 2 – Procedures for veterinary legislation identification

missions and veterinary legislation agreements; and Volume 3 – Working examples of primary veterinary legislation. It is currently available in English and is being translated into French and Spanish.

Dr Sherman also reported that a training seminar for new VLSP experts had been successfully conducted in Paris, from 24 to 26 March 2015. The purpose was twofold: first, to expand the team of experts available to conduct VLSP missions and, second, to add lawyers and jurists to the team so that future missions would include experts with technical veterinary and legal expertise. A total of 45 participants attended the training session. This included 8 existing veterinary experts, 12 new trainees who were veterinarians and 15 new trainees who were lawyers or jurists. All training was based on the new second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts.

Finally, Dr Sherman said that there were 14 outstanding requests for VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions. It is expected that, with the expanded team of VLSP experts now available, all these missions will be scheduled and completed prior to the 84th General Session.

The CVO of Palestinian Autonomous Territories asked about the availability of the VLSP Manual for experts on the OIE website. Dr Sherman replied that, for the moment, it is only available for OIE VLSP certified experts.

10. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by reminding the participants that Chapter 4.16 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* describing the general principles underlying the HHP concept had been approved in May 2014.

She explained that, in the interim, the concept had been developed further by the OIE *Ad hoc* Group on international horse movement for equestrian sport and that a model HHP veterinary certificate had been developed and circulated to Members for comment. This model certificate describes the uniform animal health requirements that would apply worldwide to the temporary movement of HHP horses for no more than 90 days.

Dr Münstermann reported that several other important supporting documents had been developed, including: guidelines for equine disease-free zones (EDFZ); biosecurity guidelines; and an explanatory note on the veterinary certificate. They will be further refined and made available to Members in parallel with the comment and adoption processes.

She pointed out that the general principles included in the veterinary certificate and on EDFZs had been tested successfully during the Asian Games in Incheon (Rep. of Korea) in September/October 2014.

She also informed the Delegates that an adapted HHP veterinary certificate had been published by Brazil's Veterinary Authorities for use during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and its test events in 2016 and 2015 respectively. The Brazilian authorities are in the process of establishing an EDFZ for the venue.

Dr Münstermann noted that other countries (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan) had requested OIE technical assistance for the establishment of EDFZs in order to host international equestrian events in which horses from Europe and elsewhere can participate.

Dr Münstermann added that the OIE had launched a call for proposals to carry out specific scientific studies and research projects on equine influenza, African horse sickness and glanders, which will further strengthen the scientific basis for practical implementation of the HHP concept. The research proposals will be selected in early June and work should begin shortly thereafter.

Dr Münstermann concluded by informing participants that a Regional Conference on the HHP Concept was held in Dubai in September 2014 for the countries of the Middle East and North Africa during which the currently existing conditions for horse movement were analysed and the use of the HHP concept to overcome the identified shortcomings promoted.

Dr Yehia emphasized that the implementation of the HHP concept in the Middle East Region will certainly need further support.

11. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in Middle East

Dr Aziza Mustafa, chargée de mission at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 19 May 2015.

She started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2014, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. She went on to show the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2014 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries/territories through WAHIS and of providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control.

Dr Aziza also gave an overview on the diseases most and least notified in the region in 2014, for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Dr Aziza highlighted the improvement that had been achieved since 2014 in the report verification process by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, going on to describe its impact on the quantity and quality of information.

Finally, Dr Aziza presented the most successful story regarding notification to the OIE in the region, and concluded by introducing the departmental staff responsible for the validation of the reports for Middle East.

12. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Markos Tibbo, FAO Livestock Officer from the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, began by explaining that FAO assisted member countries by building their capacity in: disease surveillance; prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (FMD, LSD⁸⁵, PPR) and zoonoses (highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N1, MERS, brucellosis); improving animal productivity and efficiency; and assessing the status of animal genetic resources.

He added that interrupted Veterinary Services in countries affected by conflict and an increase in unregulated animal movements are two of the factors that have heightened the threat of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in the region. Dr Tibbo said that, in

⁸⁵ Lumpy skin disease

response, FAO had provided training in: good emergency management practices; biosecurity measures; and preparedness for and response to animal disease emergencies. In addition, FAO had provided a neutral forum interface with a variety of stakeholders.

He reported that FAO also provided direct support in animal disease surveillance, diagnosis and control of priority animal diseases (FMD, PPR, LSD, RVF, H5N1 avian influenza, Newcastle disease).

Dr Tibbo added that FAO, in collaboration with the OIE, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners, had organised several meetings and relevant events on such issues as PPR eradication, RVF, and “MERS-CoV and One Health”.

Dr Tibbo concluded by saying that FAO provided technical, institutional or policy advice through capacity-building, knowledge management and mobilising experts in specialised fields to transfer technologies for sustainable livestock production; assisted countries in assessing the status of local breeds and animal feed resources; and assisted smallholders engaged in dairy and small ruminant production to improve their output, income, access to markets and resilience to shocks.

The Delegate of Sudan asked whether strengthening public-private partnerships (PPP) was supported by specific FAO programmes. Dr Tibbo replied that PPPs are not specific programmes of FAO, but are encouraged when appropriate.

13. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, in March 2015

Dr Joseph Domenech, Advisor to the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, reminded the participants that in accordance with Resolution No. 24 adopted by the Assembly at the 82nd General Session of the OIE in May 2014, and following the recommendations of the 24th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and of the 150th Session of the FAO Council at the end of 2014, an FAO/OIE International Conference for the Control and eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) was held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, from 31 March to 2 April 2015. The main aim was to present the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR, prepared by the OIE and FAO. The adoption of this strategy by the participants has laid the foundations for the launch of an OIE/FAO joint programme for the control and eradication of PPR by 2030.

14. Proposal of candidates for the election (closed session)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Kassem N. Al-Qahtani (Qatar)
Vice-President: Dr Abdulghani Y. Al-Fadhl (Saudi Arabia)
Vice-President: Dr Elias Ibrahim (Lebanon)
Secretary General: Dr Salah F. Abbas (Iraq)

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Hadi Al Lawati (Oman)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr George Khoury (Syria)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Hassan Aidaros (Egypt)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Prof Ahmad Al-Majali (Jordan)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

No candidate was proposed.

The meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
Paris, Monday 25 May 2015**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East;
3. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East ;
4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017;
5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East;
6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East;
7. Organisation and confirmation of the venue of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in November 2015;
8. Challenges of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan;
9. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP);
10. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies;
11. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in Middle East;
12. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE;
13. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015;
14. Proposal of candidates for the election.