OIE Laboratory Twinning

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Second Global Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centre
Twinning

Each project is a link between an OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre (‘parent’) and a national laboratory wishing to improve capacity and expertise (‘candidate’) for an OIE listed disease or sphere of competence.
Prerequisites

• Parent must be an OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre

• Candidate must have potential to provide support

• Project needs full support of Veterinary Services
Aims and objectives

• Improve compliance with OIE standards

• Improve access to high quality diagnostics for more OIE Members

• Eventually for Candidates to apply for ‘reference’ status

• To help countries to enter scientific debate on an equal footing with others
Aims and objectives (networking)

• To form long and lasting links between institutes

• Extend the OIE network of expertise to provide better global geographical coverage for priority diseases in priority areas

• Strengthen global disease surveillance networks

• To strengthen national scientific networks
Support from OIE

• To support the link, facilitating transfer of technical capacity and expertise
• Coordination with other capacity building projects
• Support from OIE covers:
  ▪ Flights, workshops, exchanges of experts, per diems
  ▪ Meeting costs
  ▪ Laboratory consumables directly related to training (up to a limit)
  ▪ Assessment of Candidate’s material needs
• Equipment, infrastructure, and bench fees are not covered
A range of projects

• Specific diseases

• Multiple diseases

• Topics – epidemiology, veterinary medicinal products, molecular diagnostics, food safety
Updated twinning guide

- Possibility of involving more than one Parent or Candidate in a twinning project
- Where possible develop synergies between twinings and other capacity building projects
- A limit on the number of twinning projects per laboratory
- Assistance with finding complementary funds from other donors and avoid duplication
- Possibility of richer countries funding their own OIE twinning project
The process

- Expression of interest (Parent, Candidate, or both)
- Draft proposal (template provided)
- Comments from one of the OIE Standards Commissions (Aquatic or Biological)
- OIE clears administrative aspects
- Signed letters of support from OIE Delegate and Laboratory Directors
- Contract signed and project starts
- Parent submits regular reports
Progress

• Concept launched at Florianopolis in 2006
• First project started November 2007
• Situation in 2010:
  ▪ 1 project complete
  ▪ 30 projects approved
  ▪ 20 of these are underway
  ▪ At least 10 more in the pipeline
World Distribution of the OIE-Candidate Laboratories

Number of OIE Candidate Laboratories

- No OIE Candidate laboratories
- 1 or 2 OIE Candidate Laboratories
- 3 or 4 OIE Candidate Laboratories

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## OIE laboratory twinning projects

### Completed projects or those that are underway by OIE region of Candidate Laboratory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African region</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia, the Far East, and Oceania</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European region</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Ratio of Candidate Laboratories/countries in the region)
Trends

• For projects that are complete or are underway:

  o **Candidate Laboratories**
    Largest no. /country - Americas and Middle East
    Fewest no. /country - Europe

  o **Parent Laboratories**
    Largest no. /country - Europe
    Fewest no. /country - Asia, the Far East, and Oceania
• **Subject**
  - 8 (about 40%) Twinning Projects underway are for avian influenza and Newcastle disease.
  - 3 projects for brucellosis and 3 projects for rabies.
  - Only one of the projects is for an aquatic animal disease.
Conclusions

- Countries in all 5 OIE regions are benefiting from OIE Laboratory Twinning.
- Most beneficiary Candidate laboratories are regions with the lowest density of OIE Reference Laboratories.
- OIE Laboratory Twinning is addressing the current bias in the geographical distribution of OIE Reference Laboratories.
- Greatest contribution to OIE Laboratory Twinning is being made by OIE Reference Laboratories in the European region.
Conclusions

- Avian influenza and Newcastle disease are the most popular topics for OIE Laboratory Twinning. This trend is changing as other priority diseases are addressed.

- There are currently no twinning projects underway for some priority diseases such as Rift Valley fever.

- Aquatic animal diseases are currently under represented in the OIE Twinning Programme.
The way forward

• Once each project is over
  ▪ Benefits need to be sustained
  ▪ Candidate needs to actively engage with international scientific community

• Audit of individual projects

• Assessment of overall programme