2011 was a historic year for the veterinary profession which, 250 years after it was created in Lyons by a decision of King Louis XV of France, has progressively gained societal recognition for the benefits it provides. Over and above their well known function as animal doctors, veterinarians have amply demonstrated their capacity to develop prevention and control programmes for infectious diseases, including those transmissible to humans. The veterinary profession’s vital contribution to public health is now universally recognised.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) played a leading role in celebrations to mark the year 2011 since, throughout the world, the veterinary profession is in the forefront when it comes to implementing our organisation’s policy objectives in areas such as animal health and welfare, the prevention of natural or deliberate biological hazards (including those affecting food safety), the safety of meat trade, the security of livestock production, poverty alleviation, and scientific research.

Through the OIE PVS Pathway we have been working tirelessly to sustainably improve national Veterinary Services’ compliance with OIE standards regarding their quality. This is a key factor in improving animal and public health worldwide and ensuring that the standards in the World Trade Organization’s SPS Agreement are implemented more effectively at a national, regional and international level. The activities of Veterinary Services are integral to a sustainable global public goods and as such are eligible for national or international public funding. This is a key factor in improving animal and public health worldwide and ensuring that the standards in the World Trade Organization’s SPS Agreement are implemented more effectively at a national, regional and international level. The activities of Veterinary Services are integral to a sustainable global public goods and as such are eligible for national or international public funding.

Our efforts were encouraged by the declaration issued by the G20 Agriculture Ministers in 2011, which unequivocally recognised the importance of strengthening good veterinary governance, and thus the Veterinary Services, since “they guarantee an early detection and a rapid response to biological threats, facilitate trade flows and contribute to global food security.”

2011 also saw the OIE officially recognise that all countries in the world with rinderpest-susceptible animal populations are now free of this dreadful disease, which for centuries had such devastating effects. This is the first time an animal disease has been eradicated worldwide, just as smallpox is the only human disease to have been eradicated by the medical profession. This historic achievement is ample proof that animal disease control programmes can succeed if all countries are resolute in their scientific, technical, political and economic commitment. Using a similar approach, we will continue to work in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (as was the case with rinderpest) to prepare new strategies that in the years ahead will allow us to make progress with the global control of other major diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, rabies and peste des petits ruminants, while at the same time fulfilling the many other missions set out in our Fifth Strategic Plan currently being implemented.

Bernard Vallat
Director General of the OIE
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New activities and major developments

The PVS Pathway confirms its worldwide success

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TYPE OF MISSION

World Veterinary Year

The OIE actively supported World Veterinary Year, which was officially launched in France on 24 January 2011 at the Palace of Versailles, where King Louis XV instructed Claude Bourgelat, the founder of veterinary medicine, to create the world’s first veterinary school in Lyons.

G20

The agriculture ministers of the G20 countries acknowledged the role of animal health policies and OIE international standards in global food security. They adopted an “Action Plan on food price volatility and agriculture” to be submitted to world leaders and a declaration strongly encouraging the OIE, FAO, WHO, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the IPPC to continue their efforts in the fields of public health, animal health and plant health.

Eradication of rinderpest

On 25 May 2011, the recent Delegates of the 178 Member Countries of the World Organisation for Animal Health declared that rinderpest, one of the deadliest diseases of cattle, had been eradicated from the surface of the earth. At the Organisation’s 79th General Session in Paris (France), OIE Member Countries unanimously adopted Resolution 18/2011, which officially recognized, after thorough control by the OIE with the support of FAO, that all 198 countries and territories in the world with rinderpest-susceptible animals were free of the disease.

Eradication of rinderpest

OIE/EC communication campaign

The European Commission (EC) and the OIE worked together to launch the “Vets in your daily life” campaign to mark the 250th anniversary of the creation of the veterinary profession. As part of the campaign, and to raise awareness of the different benefits to society associated with the activities of veterinarians, a series of events unfolded throughout 2011, which was declared “World Veterinary Year” by the OIE and EC developed six TV spots, available in 23 languages, describing the day-to-day work of veterinarians, ranging from scientific research to crisis management, and including such aspects as food safety and care of animals. Intended to inspire future generations of veterinarians, World Veterinary Year was also celebrated at the two largest European trade fairs devoted to food and animals: International Green Week (Internationale Grüne Woche) in Berlin (Germany) and the International Agricultural Show (Salon International de l’Agriculture) in Paris (France).
International Conferences in 2011

During the Conference, some 400 participants from 116 countries examined the increasing threat of the proliferation of emerging and re-emerging pathogens originating in both wild and domestic animals. An analysis of interactions between the health of wildlife, domestic animals and humans, and their relationship with the environment has revealed the need to strengthen cross-sector cooperation to ensure a coordinated approach to the management of risks at the interface between humans, wild animals, domestic animals and ecosystems, and to cooperate more closely with parties involved, such as fishermen, hunters and wardens of protected areas.

The Conference demonstrated the important contribution of aquatic animal health policies and programmes to world food security and identified practical steps to manage health risks related to aquaculture. Several key issues were dealt with, including strengthening good governance in the aquatic animal production and health sector, better training on aquatic animal health, and raising awareness of the importance of the prudent use of veterinary products in aquatic animals.

With 99% of rabies cases in humans being due to bites by infected dogs, the Conference stressed the need to control the disease at its source in animals and concluded that Veterinary Services are best placed to do this. Furthermore, the Conference emphasised that donors, governments, local communities and dog owners must be made aware of the advantages of preventing rabies at source in animals, especially through vaccination and the control of stray dog populations throughout the world.

The Conference also highlighted the crucial need for greater efforts to be made to improve and implement international standards and guidelines on rabies control, since this will lead to thousands of human and animal lives being saved.

Around 800 people, representing OIE Member Countries and intergovernmental (FAO, WHO, World Bank, WTO, etc.), regional and national organisations, attended the annual General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates. High-ranking officials, including the President of the Republic of Paraguay and numerous government ministers of OIE Member Countries, were also present. Two Technical Items on key issues of interest to the international community in the field of animal health and welfare were debated during the Session:

- The contribution of veterinary activities to global food security for food derived from terrestrial animals;
- Implementation of a global strategy for FMD control.

The World Assembly of Delegates adopted numerous new standards and passed a Resolution declaring the global eradication of rinderpest.

The World Veterinary Day Prize 2011 was presented to the Veterinary Association of Myanmar at the World Veterinary Congress held in South Africa in October 2011.

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The OIE honours its experts

Every year, the OIE grants honorary awards to members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to the OIE.

Dr Barry O’Neil (New Zealand) received the Gold Medal.

Dr Franck Berthe (France) received the Meritorious Service Award.

Mrs Gill Dilimitis received the Meritorious Service Award on behalf of Dr Stuart Hargreaves (Zimbabwe).

Dr Yukol Limlamthong (Thailand) received the Meritorious Service Award.

Dr Bony Sitthith (New Zealand) received the Meritorious Service Award.

Dr Franziska Berle (France) received the Meritorious Service Award.
Financial matters

In 2011 the OIE’s consolidated budget totalled 18.204 million euros and included:
- Member Countries’ statutory contributions
- Member Countries’ voluntary contributions
- subsidies paid into the World Fund by various donors.

The OIE’s resources also include contributions in kind provided by Members, such as:
- the provision of buildings free of charge to house Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres
- the provision of experts and members of staff
- educational services provided by the OIE’s 265 Member Countries’ voluntary contributions
- Member Countries’ statutory contributions
- the considerable yet unpaid scientific and technical services provided by Members, such as:
  - statutory contributions of “Least Developed Countries” benefit from a 50% reduction of their statutory contribution
  - the provision of experts and members of staff remunerated by Member Countries;
  - the considerable yet unpaid scientific and educational services provided by the OIE’s 265 Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres around the world.

The OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

The World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (the World Fund) is used first and foremost to finance global, regional and national capacity-building activities, with priority being given to the provision of training for national Veterinary Services, especially those in the Developing Countries to the OIE and their close collaborators designated as OIE National Focal Points in the following areas: animal disease notification, wildlife, aquatic animals, veterinary products, animal production feed safety, animal welfare, and communication. In 2011, the World Fund co-financed 21 regional workshops and seminars for a total of 416 participants (i.e. across 1,500 persons per day, see diagram). The fund also helps to finance:
- the strengthening of national regulatory veterinary regulatory capacity in developing countries through the programme of training with OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres (135 training projects have been validated in a number of countries) (Headquarters, regional offices);
- the equality of veterinary education programmes and dissemination of a basic core curriculum by veterinary education institutions;
- support for Veterinary Statutory Bodies,
- certain types of community activities;
- specific donations, e.g. grants to buy Buildings
- Voluntary contributions
- Financial matters

The World Fund also finances all activities relating to the PVS Pathway (see page 27).

In February 2011, at the request of the European Commission, the OIE organised training for experts from 24 European Union (EU) Member States and experts from the European Commission (including from the Food and Veterinary Office) on using the OIE PVS Tool to carry out PVS self-evaluations in EU Member States. Experts from Canada and Switzerland also took part in the training, which brought together more than 70 experts in Brussels (Belgium).

The sixth meeting of the World Fund Advisory Committee, held in Paris on 23 December 2011, highlighted the OIE Bank of Vaccine Reduction Strategy and the launch of the FMD vaccine bank for Asia, which has been in operation since the end of November 2011. Participants were also presented with the other activities and programmes carried out in the different regions of the world relating to animal disease surveillance and control, capacity building for Veterinary Services and education.

The meeting brought together 40 high-level participants, including representatives of donors such as Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the World Bank and the European Union, and of several specialised agencies in the United States of America, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The meeting was also attended by the Chief Veterinary Officers of five countries (Australia, Brazil, France, Germany and Spain) and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of four countries (Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America). Also present were senior representatives of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and PAHO as well as representatives of the private sector in conjunction with multinational companies.

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Supply of Safe Affordable Food Everywhere - SSAFE).

For the first time, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Brazil and Spain were also present, as observers.

Statutory contributions

- Part of the Members’ statutory contributions is compulsorily used to finance the Organisation’s Regional Representations operations.
- Member Countries on the United Nations’ list of “Least Developed Countries” benefit from a 50% reduction of their statutory contribution
- Funding by countries hosting OIE offices in support of their activities
- Specific donations, e.g. grants to buy Buildings
- Provision of staff (Headquarters, regional offices)
- Currently, the main donors to the World Fund are: Australia, Canada, European Union, France, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, World Bank

Voluntary contributions

- 6 categories of statutory contributions
- World Animal Health and Welfare Fund
- The World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (the World Fund) is used first and foremost to finance global, regional and national capacity-building activities, with priority being given to the provision of training for national Veterinary Services, especially those in the Developing Countries to the OIE and their close collaborators designated as OIE National Focal Points in the following areas: animal disease notification, wildlife, aquatic animals, veterinary products, animal production feed safety, animal welfare, and communication. In 2011, the World Fund co-financed 21 regional workshops and seminars for a total of 416 participants (i.e. across 1,500 persons per day, see diagram). The fund also helps to finance:
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- the equality of veterinary education programmes and dissemination of a basic core curriculum by veterinary education institutions;
- support for Veterinary Statutory Bodies,
- certain types of community activities;
- specific donations, e.g. grants to buy Buildings
- Provision of staff (Headquarters, regional offices)
Up to 31 December 2011, 173 notifications relating to 53 different diseases from 70 countries had been published.
Highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1

Geographical distribution of the disease

The number of countries that reported H5N1 virus subtype in poultry remained stable in 2011 compared to 2010.

In 2011, as in 2010, highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 was considered endemic in Egypt and Indonesia.

Tracking information from non-official sources

An OIE team is dedicated to the processing of animal disease notifications and reports submitted by Member Countries, but it also actively searches for information on epidemiological events reported by the media, by members of the public, on private networks, on the Internet or from any other non-official source. In 2011, the active search for non-official information led to 107 items of information being processed, as a result of which 49 official notifications were received from the national Delegates concerned in response to the OIE’s enquiries on the subject.

The OIE shares this information with its partners, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on the OIE/WHO/FAO joint platform GLEWS (Global Early Warning System).
The OIE prepares, democratically adopts (one country – one vote) and publishes international animal health standards designed to prevent and control animal diseases, including zoonoses, and ensure the sanitary safety of world trade in terrestrial and aquatic animals and their products. These standards are published in two codes and two manuals.
Why are the prevention and control of rabies a priority for the OIE?

The disease still claims 55,000 to 70,000 human victims every year, many of whom are children in developing countries. Ninety percent of human cases are the result of bites by infected dogs, which means that canine species remain the main risk factor. Consequently, the OIE advocates preventing and controlling rabies at its animal source, thereby breaking the link between animal and human infections and avoiding human deaths. At the OIE Global Animal Health Assembly in September 2011, Seoul, Republic of Korea, rabies was identified as a priority model for the application of the ‘One Health’ concept by countries and intergovernmental organizations.

What classifies “controlling rabies at the animal source”?

Countries that wish to develop their international standards. Controlling rabies at its animal source therefore means eliminating the disease in the animal hosts, and especially in stray dogs, which would provide humans with virtually complete protection from the disease. We know that about 30% of human rabies cases worldwide are due to post-bite treatment in humans was more than for enough the national Veterinary Services to eradicate the disease in stray dogs, as in owned dogs, thereby avoiding practically all cases of human rabies.

What are the best ways to achieve this objective?

In 2010, the OIE published a study which established a link between a country’s level of development and the severity of problems related to stray dogs. The study showed that the poorer the country the more severe the problem with stray dogs. Unfortunately, many poor countries also have other problems associated with serious animal welfare issues. That is why the OIE Welfare Working Group on Animal Health Code recently recommended a global approach to stray dog population control, comprising vaccination against rabies and public awareness campaigns to encourage responsible dog ownership.

What are the animal welfare implications of these actions?

The OIE, in conjunction with FAO, has established an official control programme for FMD, a new international standard of control was unanimously adopted by OIE Members. In countries where rabies is endemic, animal welfare is frequently ignored. The seriousness of the health problem for humans, coupled with a lack of awareness of the recommended control methods for the disease, can lead to unnecessary animal suffering. Euthanasia, where necessary, should be applied in an appropriate and humane manner, but in practice it is often associated with serious animal welfare problems. That is why the OIE is pushing for action. Terrestrial Animal Health Standards

The OIE procedure for developing and updating the standards that it issues is flexible and fast, thus enabling tests to be continually improved as soon as new scientific information becomes available. The texts contained in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the Aquatic Animal Health Code, the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals were updated again in 2011.

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

In accordance with the mandate to continuously update the normative framework for aquatic animal health, the OIE’s Aquatic Animal Health Code (2011) was adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates. The OIE’s support for this programme will help to further reduce the impact of FMD worldwide, especially thanks to the strengthening of the capacity of Veterinary Services, and, in doing so, will give the countries concerned better access to international markets, improve the livelihood of small producers and reduce poverty worldwide.

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

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Food safety

Active cooperation with the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is coordinating the OIE’s new approaches on foodborne parasitic diseases, especially trichinellosis and other zoonotic parasitic diseases.

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Scientific and technical activities

The OIE network of scientific expertise

Scientific and technical activities

The Laboratories Commission

This Commission oversees the production of the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (the “Terrestrial Manual”), recognised as an international standard text by the SPS Agreement of the World Trade Organization. The Commission also selects candidates for the status of OIE Reference Laboratory for diseases of terrestrial animals and checks that laboratories that have already been awarded this status are fulfilling their mandate. The Commission promotes the preparation and distribution of high-quality reagents and vaccines that meet OIE standards.
The worldwide laboratory twinning programme

Thirty twinning projects were in progress in 2011 (twelve of which were due to be completed before the end of the year) and at least two other projects were in preparation. A further eight projects have been approved and are due to begin soon. Also in 2011, the OIE audited three twinning projects and organised a training workshop at the OIE Headquarters to review the achievements up to that point and to consider ways to improve the programme.

The Laboratory Twinning initiative provides for twinning between existing OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and candidate laboratories in developing and in-transition countries. This initiative is intended to achieve a more balanced geographical distribution of OIE Reference Laboratories and candidate laboratories in developing and in-transition countries, easier access to scientific and diagnostic expertise for developing and in-transition countries, and more balanced geographical distribution of OIE Reference Laboratories. The OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Health (SCAh) gives official recognition of the veterinary scientific excellence of the veterinary scientific communities in these countries to facilitate the participation in the scientific preparation of OIE standards.

The OIE Scientific Commission and official recognition of OIE Members’ animal disease status

Founded in 1946, the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases is tasked with identifying the most appropriate strategies and measures for disease prevention and control. It is also responsible for examining applications from Members requesting official designations of disease status, for example the important and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), foot and mouth disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP). The feasibility of including other animal diseases (African horse sickness, classical swine fever) in this list is currently being examined.

Rinderpest

The OIE Resolution 18/2011 officially recognised that all of the 198 countries in the world with rinderpest-susceptible animal populations are now free of the disease. This official declaration also marked the end of the post-eradication phase, managed jointly with FAO, which focused on regulating the management of the remaining rinderpest virus stocks held in laboratories. BSE, FMD and CBPP

In 2011 the OIE recognised Denmark and Panama as having a “negligible BSE risk” status. These two countries have previously been recognised as having a “controlled BSE risk” status: Japar, Botswana, the Philippines, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay were recognised as “free of FMD, with or without vaccination, for all or part of their territory”. The People’s Republic of China was recognised as free from CBPP.
"One Health" – The interface between humans, animals, and the environment

The OIE is focusing increasing attention on health problems occurring at the interface between humans, animals, and ecosystems. The OIE has worked hard to establish active cooperation between public health agencies, animal health experts and environmentalists and make them aware that a coordinated response is an important step forward in the control of emerging animal diseases, including those transmissible to humans.

At the OIE Global Conference on Wildlife, Nature and Humans (October 2011), represented by numerous countries and intergovernmental organisations identified values as a major priority model for the application of the One Health concept. Rabies was one of the three issues identified at this conference which was held in Paris (France) on 23-25 February 2011, stemming from growing threat from emerging and re-emerging pathogens and parasites, such as rabies, from 116 countries.

Rabies is a high-level Technical Meeting to Address Health Risks at the Human-Animal-Environment Interfac e co-organised by the WHO, FAO and the OIE (Mexico City, Mexico, 17-19 November 2011). It is a convincing example of how intervention at the animal source in the form of vaccination can prevent all cases of human infection: 10% of the resources currently used for post-bite treatment of humans would be sufficient to carry out programmes designed to eradicate rabies in dogs, thereby preventing 99% of human cases. Vaccination of dogs is already an effective and relatively cheap method of controlling rabies in humans, especially since effective veterinary services' quality that relate to public health (13 criteria out of 46). These missions are being conducted in the European Union, the United States of America, Japan and other countries and are expected to lead to the development of surveillance, early detection and rapid notification and response systems for biological events of animal origin.

The OIE, in conjunction with its Three Collaborating Centres in France, Japan and the United States of America, has developed a training programme for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products, and application of OIE standards on prudent use of antimicrobials. The OIE/FAO network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU) has also compiled an inventory of animal influenza research priorities on animal influenza. A "research agenda", the first of its kind in the animal health sector, was published at the beginning of 2011 to draw up a list of current research needs and opportunities. The results have been published in several scientific journals, including the Emerging Infectious Disease and Veterinary Public Health.

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The OIE has also set up PVS pilot missions that fully integrate the One Health concept: the aim and scope of PVS pilot missions of this type is to evaluate the quality of national Veterinary Services against the "Terrestrial Animal Health Code" of the OIE, in the right direction and emphasised the advantages for public health and animal health.

In addition to its regular work on animal health, OFFLU is also involved in the瑟斯 Influenza Group to coordinate global surveillance for influenza in swine. The group, comprising renowned international experts on swine influenza, held its first meeting at the OIE Headquarters in April 2011.

Biological threat reduction

In 2011, the OIE developed its Biological Threat Reduction Strategy, which was presented at the meeting of the States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in Geneva (Switzerland) in December 2011. This strategy involves the strengthening, improvement and development of surveillance, early detection and rapid notification and response systems for biological events of animal origin. It also implies stronger collaboration between the OIE and WHO, the Biological Weapons Convention and the G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction.

Antimicrobial resistance

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The OIE’s regional activities include providing the logistics for capacity-building programmes for national Veterinary Services and their collaborators throughout the world for the benefit of all Member Countries. Through the programmes it carries out in the field, the OIE creates a network of national decision-makers to ensure that its standards and guidelines are applied worldwide.

### Regional activities

The OIE’s regional activities provide support for the process of bringing national Veterinary Services into line with the OIE’s standards of quality, the overall aim being to improve sanitary governance worldwide. In addition, at the request of individual countries, the OIE offers to carry out a Gap Analysis and prepare a national strategic plan to strengthen the Veterinary Services’ compliance with OIE standards of quality and to provide Member Countries with support for the preparation of investment programmes to be presented to their governments, and, if necessary, to interested donors.

**PVS Pathway missions conducted between 1 January and 1 December 2011**

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<tr>
<th>TYPE OF MISSION</th>
<th>Number of official requests from countries in 2011</th>
<th>Total number of missions conducted as at 01/12/2011</th>
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<td>PVS Evaluation</td>
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<td>Gap Analysis</td>
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<td>Legislation</td>
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After five years of activity of the PVS Pathway, over 100 countries have undergone a first diagnosis of their status, carried out by independent OIE-certified experts using the PVS Tool. By the end of 2011, 71 countries that had already undergone a PVS Evaluation had asked the OIE to carry out a PVS Gap Analysis mission and 36 had already submitted a formal request for support with modernising their legislation.

Two ‘One Health’ pilot missions have taken place in countries identified as having a formal procedure for coordinating actions between the Veterinary Services, the Public Health Services and the Services responsible for managing ecosystems.

### On-boarding of new Delegates through training

The OIE also places special emphasis on training newly appointed national Delegates by regularly organising seminars to explain the rights and obligations of OIE Members, the role of Delegates in the Organisation and the OIE’s objectives and missions. Three such seminars were organised in 2011 for 28 new Delegates.

On 8 key topics

- Notification of animal diseases
- Wildlife diseases
- Animal production food safety
- Veterinary products
- Animal welfare
- Communication
- Legislation
- Aquatic animals

Training workshops for Focal Points are held every two years for each topic in each of the five OIE regions. In 2011, the Regional Activities Department arranged 22 such workshops for these key collaborators of national Delegates. Worldwide, more than 400 participants have benefited from these workshops (approx. 1500 persons per day).

### National Focal Points on 8 key topics

In May 2008, during the 78th General Session of the OIE, the World Assembly of Delegates requested that all Member Countries designate national Focal Points for the following topics: notification of animal diseases, wildlife diseases, animal production food safety, veterinary products, animal welfare, communication, legislation and aquatic animals. Training workshops for Focal Points are held every two years for each topic in each of the five OIE regions. In 2011, the Regional Activities Department arranged 22 such workshops for these key collaborators of national Delegates. Worldwide, more than 400 participants have benefited from these workshops (approx. 1500 persons per day).
The OIE has five Regional Commissions, considered as fully-fledged regional bodies, to address specific issues facing Member Countries in the different regions and to take better account of their economic and cultural specificities.

The Regional Commissions meet regularly to ensure that recommendations to be presented to the World Assembly of OIE Delegates are suitably adapted to the specific economic, cultural and epidemiological context of each region.

Each Regional Commission holds a plenary Conference every two years and issues recommendations which are then submitted to the World Assembly of Delegates for approval and subsequent implementation.

In 2011, the Regional Commissions for Africa and the Middle East, and the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania each held a conference:

- **19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa**, held in Kigali (Rwanda) on 14-18 February 2011.
- **11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**, held in Beirut (Lebanon) on 3-7 October 2011.
- **27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**, held in Teheran (Iran) on 19-23 November 2011.

The OIE has continued to take part in various global programmes:

- The implementation of agreements: the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), with FAO, and GLEW, with FAO and WHO, were actively pursued, including the development of disease surveillance policies, strategies and methods and the sharing of scientific and epidemiological information.
- The ALive platform in Africa in collaboration with FAO, AU-IBAR and interested donor agencies.
- In 2011, the Regional Commissions for Africa and the Middle East, and the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania each held a conference.
In 2011, the OIE actively pursued its policy of maintaining a strong and high-profile presence on the publishing scene by releasing a number of scientific works on topics related to animal health and welfare.

In 2011, the best-selling publications were the following:

– Atlas of Transboundary Diseases
– Review 30 (1): The spread of pathogens through international trade
– Review 30 (2): Models in the management of animal diseases

Most OIE publications can be found online on the website (http://www.oie.int/). The introduction of the Online Bookshop for OIE publications and gives free access to a database of around 5,250 indexed documents in digital form. This document database has been built up since 1993 and now includes new resources following a massive digitisation programme. Among the many items available are all the resolutions and recommendations made by the Organisation since it was created and the main reports, articles, conference proceedings and other documents recording the activities of the OIE.
Following the accession of Timor-Leste, the OIE had 178 Members at the end of 2011.

New Member Countries

The OIE Council in 2011

President of the World Assembly of Delegates
Dr Carlos A. Correa Mendieta (Uruguay)

Vice-President
Dr Karin Schwabenbauer (Germany)

Immediate Past President
Dr Barry O’Neill (New Zealand)

Members of the Council

Dr Brian R. Evans (Canada)
 member

Dr Fachirov Cipriano (Mozambique)
 member

Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria)
 member

Dr Tenzin Dhendup (Bhutan)
 auditor

Dr Nikolai Vlasov (Russia)
 auditor

Dr Nasser al Hawamdeh (Jordan)
 auditor

31 nationalities are currently represented at the OIE Headquarters in Paris (France).
OIE Working Groups

Ad hoc Groups that met in 2011

Ad hoc Group on Animal Welfare
Ad hoc Group on Wildlife Diseases
Ad hoc Group on Animal Production Food Safety

Africa (with the Middle East)
- Hammamet (Tunisia), 4-6 April
- Gaborone (Botswana), 29 November – 1 December
- Casablanca (Morocco), 6-8 December

Americas
- Buenos Aires (Argentina), 5-7 July
- Lima (Peru), 15-17 November

Asia and the Pacific
- Tokyo (Japan), 1-2 December

Training workshops for Focal Points:

Animal production food safety
Africa
- Grahamstown (South Africa), 20-23 September

Asia and the Pacific
- Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), 19-21 April

Veterinary products
Africa
- Dakar (Senegal), 20-22 September

Asia and the Pacific
- Siem Reap (Cambodia), 28 June-1 July

Middle East (with Africa)
- Casablanca (Morocco), 6-8 December

Animal welfare
Asia and the Pacific
- Shanghai (China), 25-27 January

Legislation
Africa
- Gaborone (Botswana), 31 October-2 November

Total: 1,500 persons per day of training for national elites.

COMPETENCE-BUILDING
Seminars for Delegates and National Focal Points organised by the OIE in 2011

Africa (with the Middle East)
Nairobi (Kenya), 7-9 June

Americas
Paris (France), 21 May

Seminars for recently appointed Delegates:

Training workshops for Focal Points:

Animal production food safety
Africa
- Grahamstown (South Africa), 20-23 September

Asia and the Pacific
- Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), 19-21 April

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Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale

World Organisation for Animal Health

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal