

**FAO/OIE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON
FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE CONTROL**



Opening Session

**Speech by Dr Bernard Vallat,
Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)**

Excellency Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand

Excellency Ambassador of the European Union

Excellency Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Dr. Konuma FAO Regional Representative for Asia and Pacific

Dear Ministers, General Secretaries, Directors General, OIE Delegates, Colleagues from FAO and OIE

Dear Participants,

It is a great honor for me to represent the World Organisation for Animal Health in this opening session of this Global Conference for FMD Control, as a co-organiser with FAO and the Government of Thailand.

After the successful eradication of rinderpest officially endorsed last year, the OIE believes that we must work with all potential partners for controlling, at global level, other animal diseases which have a great impact on public health, food security, trade and poverty.

Foot and mouth disease is an important candidate for global control, as well as PPR (peste des petits ruminants) and rabies in dogs that every year kills one thousand times more humans than avian influenza.

It is easy to demonstrate that global control of such diseases is a global public good benefiting all people and all coming generations. We will demonstrate during this Conference, that the cost/benefit ratio of FMD control is very attractive.

Global control of animal diseases is impossible without strong alliances, starting at international agencies level: OIE, the United Nations represented by FAO, the community of international donors supporting animal health, regional organisations and very importantly, countries.

It is also impossible without good governance of national Veterinary Services. Good governance includes appropriate legislation, appropriate veterinary education programmes, appropriate human and financial resources allocated to Veterinary and Livestock Services, and finally relevant public-private partnerships applicable to national disease control programmes.

OIE Members have adopted relevant standards and guidelines for guiding countries with the improvement of governance for disease control.



Then FMD global control will become possible when all countries will be ready, allowing official implementation of the necessary heavy investments needed.

This Conference will be really historic not only for providing key scientific information and statements to policy makers and to the donor community for starting FMD control worldwide, but also for paving the way for the control of other very dangerous animal diseases.

I thank you, other co-organisers as well as donors and sponsors who have supported the event.

I wish you a very interesting Conference and I thank again all who have worked to make this global event a successful one.

Bangkok, Thailand June 27 2012