Evaluation and support of Veterinary Services
editorial

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Prevention, detection and monitoring of animal diseases, including those harmful to humans: Veterinary Services are the keystone of the global system

Today more than ever, outbreaks of some animal diseases, particularly those harmful to humans (zoonoses) can cause considerable economic and social upheaval and send a wave of panic across the globe. The health crises due to bovine spongiform encephalopathy and foot-and-mouth disease were good illustrations of this new trend. The current avian influenza epizootic also shows how a serious health event for the animal kingdom can have a global impact on the rural economy and consumers and constitute a threat to public health.

Globalisation is a factor that facilitates the appearance of emerging and re-emerging diseases and considerably magnifies their impact. National Veterinary Services are crucial to prevention, detection and monitoring of animal diseases, including diseases transmissible to humans. They play a key role in all countries as guarantors of animal health and, by association, of public health. Their mission is the responsibility of the public authorities, with the involvement of private-sector partners.

In many countries, development and growth depend on agricultural performance, in terms of production, quality and safety of products of animal origin. That performance is directly linked to the quality of national Veterinary Services. To be efficient, Veterinary Services must operate according to scientific principles and in complete transparency, be technically independent and free of political and private-sector pressure. The OIE reiterates its affirmation that Veterinary Services are a global public good and that bringing them into line with international standards is a priority public investment.

The OIE undertook to produce international standards on the quality of governance of Veterinary Services and to help its member countries apply them. The OIE’s standards on the quality and assessment of Veterinary Services were democratically and unanimously adopted by its 167 members. In order to facilitate the implementation of the standards, the OIE, with the initial support from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), developed an interactive application for evaluating the quality of Veterinary Services on the basis of the adopted standards. The application, called “Performance, Vision and Strategy” (PVS), is designed to serve as a guide to help countries comply voluntarily with OIE standards through a process of self-evaluation, evaluation at the request of a trade partner or evaluation by a third party under the auspices of the OIE.

Use of PVS to monitor closely the various constituents of the OIE standards will be the topic of a training course for a
team of OIE experts from the different regions so they can act as facilitators for the evaluation process and support of OIE Member Countries. Whether for an individual country that wishes to conduct a self-evaluation, a group of countries that wants to conduct reciprocal evaluations to facilitate trade between them, or a country that wants to be evaluated by a third party under the supervision of the OIE, these experts will ensure the consistency of the evaluation process.

Organisations that fund economic development, the World Bank in particular, have supported the OIE initiative to promote the use of PVS worldwide and have requested the OIE’s assistance in conducting voluntary evaluations in more than 100 developing and in transition countries. The World Bank and the international community recognise the need for quality Veterinary Services, not only to control the current avian influenza crisis but also to prevent and bring other emerging or re-emerging diseases under control rapidly.

The evaluation of Veterinary Services using PVS, coordinated by the Central Bureau of the OIE, supported by its Regional Representations and offices on the five continents, will play a vital role in the preparation and definition of country investments needed to prevent and control disease on a global scale.

The evaluation data generated by PVS will enable the entire donor community to target investments, with the overarching goal of assisting countries that so wish to bring their services into line with international standards adopted democratically by all. The economic justification for these investments can be easily demonstrated: the cost of disease prevention is small in comparison with the cost of health crises; and appropriate animal health policies have an impact on poverty reduction and food safety. They also enable countries that wish to export animals and products of animal origin to access regional and international markets from which they would otherwise be excluded because of the presence of animal diseases on their territory or because their Veterinary Services do not meet OIE standards.

For the above reasons, Veterinary Services are now recognised as a global public good.

Rich countries also acknowledge that support for the Veterinary Services in developing and transition countries is a priority, not only to promote development around the world, but also to protect the world against the spread of animal diseases and zoonoses that had already been eradicated.

OIE’s expertise is now at the core of national programmes intended for over one hundred Member Countries so as to help them strengthen their Veterinary Services and secure the planet against natural or intentional biological disasters.

Bernard Vallat
Director General, OIE

The evaluation of Veterinary Services using PVS will play a vital role in the preparation and definition of country investments needed to prevent and control disease on a global scale
Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE on food safety throughout the food chain

Information Document prepared by the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety

Introduction

Food safety is an issue of increasing concern worldwide and prioritisation of food safety as an essential public health function was advocated recently by the World Health Assembly. Better monitoring and surveillance demonstrates that the main burden of food-borne disease is due to microbiological pathogens of animal origin and this has important implications for the veterinary profession at both the international and the national level. The possibility of chemical residues in food is also causing growing anxiety amongst consumers.

In a contemporary food safety environment, veterinarians and other health professionals have an essential and rapidly changing role in the prevention and control of food-borne zoonoses (even when animals are not clinically affected), other sources of food-borne disease and chemical contaminants of foods. In many situations, this role is achieved in parallel to prevention and control of diseases and conditions of animal health importance.

A ‘production-to-consumption’, risk-based approach to food control demands integrated involvement throughout the food chain. Where zoonoses are concerned, it is clear that there is an overlap between public health and animal health objectives, and a duality of veterinary functions. Veterinary competence can also be shared even when public health and animal health objectives are separate and distinct, and a number of countries are exploring such synergies in the reform of regulatory systems.

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has a SPS responsibility for elaborating standards and related texts for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases and zoonoses, while the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) elaborates standards and related texts for both safety and suitability aspects of food control. CAC and the OIE have strategies and mechanisms in place to co-ordinate and integrate food safety activities across the production to consumption continuum and so enhance the safety of foods of animal origin on a world-wide basis. A part of OIE’s strategy was the setting up of a permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to review, develop and/or contribute to international food safety standards and guidelines, incorporating good animal production practice (including veterinary aspects) as it relates to food safety and taking into account a risk-based ‘production to consumption’ approach.

With regard to strategies and mechanisms to integrate and implement food safety activities and develop good animal production practices, the OIE and the CAC work in close collaboration and with the support of the specialised services in FAO and WHO.

The OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety has developed a work programme to enhance the effectiveness of Veterinary Services in improving food safety at both the international and national levels. The Working Group will advise the Director General on implementation of the OIE strategy regarding:

1. Considering all food-borne hazards arising from animals according to global food safety priorities;
2. Reviewing OIE outputs to ensure animal production food safety is integrated in OIE Specialist Commissions and ad hoc Group activities;
3. Fully contributing to food standards development by CAC.

This paper proposes an approach on the inter-related roles and functionality of Veterinary Services in the outputs of OIE and CAC.

1. Production could be interpreted in such a broad manner as to cover food producing animals, feed, fertilisers, pesticides, veterinary drugs and any input of plant or animal origin, etc. It relevant for specific applications of traceability/product tracing to food.
2. A tripartite FAO/WHO/OIE mechanism has been established for improved cooperation between the three organisations.
3. For the purposes of this paper, ‘Veterinary Services’ is an official inspection system as defined in the CAC Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems. In OIE, “Veterinary Services” means the Veterinary Administration, all the Veterinary Authorities, and all persons authorised, registered or licensed by the Veterinary statutory body.
Elements of the contemporary food safety environment

Risk analysis
The emergence of risk-based approaches in elaboration of international standards has been highly influenced by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement). A primary tenet of this Agreement is that “Members shall ensure that their sanitary and phytosanitary measures are based on an assessment, as appropriate to the circumstances, of the risks to human, animal, or plant life or health, taking into account risk assessment techniques developed by the relevant international organisations”.

In developing the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, OIE focuses on standards for specified hazards of biological origin. In contrast, CAC has primarily addressed biological hazards in food by developing general hygiene provisions e.g. codes of practice for different food commodities, as well as addressing chemical hazards by establishing maximum limits and codes of practice for the reduction of levels of chemical hazards.

Risk analysis offers new opportunities to OIE and CAC in the elaboration of optimal sanitary measures, either as international standards or as technical advice to national governments. In the case of food safety, improvements must be brought about in the face of ever-changing patterns of primary production, processing technology and consumer behaviour.

The application of a generic risk management framework is increasingly being recognised as a cross-sectoral means of bringing about a reduction in risks to human and animal health (see below).

Assessment and management of hazards and risks
Consideration of all food-borne hazards and their significance in terms of risks to human health is an essential food safety activity and a core component of HACCP. Most food-borne hazards of animal origin will be either intrinsic to the live animal (as a result of production or environmental factors) or introduced during handling and processing of the product.

Food safety hazards arising from animals can be grouped into several categories e.g. zoonoses resulting from clinical disease in animals, zoonoses resulting from asymptomatic infections in animals, and chemical sources.

Hazards can also be introduced into the food chain from environmental sources, and can obviously result from occupational exposure. As some food-borne risks may occur independently of the consumption of animal products e.g. contamination via irrigation of vegetables with animal-derived pathogens, these pathways also need to be considered in terms of prevention and control.

At the same time, hazards of animal health significance that can be detected in animal populations need to be identified and managed.

Management of all these hazards by Veterinary Services needs to be carried out in a way which optimises the use of available resources.

‘Production-to-consumption’ approach
Currently, Codex General Principles of Food Hygiene and other Codex codes of practice relevant to food of animal origin constitute one expression of a ‘production-to-consumption’ approach to food control. However, for the most part, they only include general references to primary production at the farm level.

The Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005) identifies a number of generic segments in the food chain and these could be used as a partial template in the elaboration of standards for veterinary involvement in meat hygiene activities throughout the food chain. It should be noted that many aspects of meat hygiene require iterative loops between different segments in the food chain for optimal risk management. Effective functioning of good hygienic practice (GHP) and HACCP is reliant on such information exchange.

Several other OIE and Codex standards can be utilised to describe veterinary involvement in food safety throughout the food chain e.g., Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification (CAC/GL 20 - 1995), Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54-2004). A range of stakeholders may be involved in the implementation of food safety controls e.g. regulatory authorities, industry and the public, and measures that are decided on may not necessarily be mandatory regulatory controls e.g. consumer education in safe food handling practices.


6 The same principles that apply to Veterinary Services should also apply in countries where the responsibility for establishing or applying animal health measures is exercised by an organisation other than the Veterinary Services or by an authority or agency on behalf of the Veterinary Services. (See Article 1.3.3.1 of the Terrestrial Code.)
There should be an integrated approach to the design and implementation of regulatory systems covering the ‘production-to-consumption’ continuum. This approach should include:

a) monitoring and surveillance at the farm level, including consideration of data from non-regulatory sources, and monitoring at other steps in the food chain, including meat inspection;

b) monitoring and risk management of the use of veterinary drugs, including antimicrobial resistance;

c) exchange of monitoring information with all interested parties;

d) animal identification systems and traceability of animal products;

e) utilisation of diagnostic tests;

f) assessment / recognition of the competence of food safety authorities in exporting countries;

g) certification and official assurances;

h) emergency response capability;

i) integrated database management, epidemiological investigations and predictive microbiology;

j) potential effects on food safety of the transport of live animals.

**Risk assessment and risk management**

**Food-borne hazards to human health**

At present, there is room for significant improvement in many aspects of food safety, especially in the areas of ante- and post-mortem inspection and microbiological process control. Measures should be tailor-made to the range and prevalence of hazards in the particular animal population, focused on the most significant risks to human health, and focused at those steps in the ‘production-to-consumption’ continuum where they have the highest likelihood of reducing food-borne risks.

Other aspects include:

a) performance-based inspection for process control;

b) establishing decision criteria for the outcome of risk reductions;

c) risk-based surveillance of live animals and monitoring of animal products throughout the food chain;

d) effective information exchange and risk communication between all interested parties.

**Animal health hazards**

In determining the role and functionality of Veterinary Services in food safety throughout the ‘production-to-consumption’ continuum, hazards of animal health significance that can be detected in animal populations must first be identified, the risks assessed and properly managed, so as to optimise use of the available resources of Veterinary Services.

Veterinarians involved in food safety can also make a significant contribution to achieving animal health goals through application of animal health measures, and the extent to which animal health risk management functions should be carried out by veterinarians involved in food safety should be fully assessed, in order to maximise benefits to both sectors.

**Food suitability**

Beyond the assessment and management of food safety risks, assuring food suitability is a component of food hygiene.

CAC describes food hygiene as all conditions and measures necessary to ensure the safety and suitability of food at all stages of the food chain, and suitability as the assurance that food is acceptable for human consumption according to its intended use.

As a result, the detection and removal of abnormalities in animal products that are not of public health significance or should be integral part of food safety programmes. Other aspects of suitability relating to consumer expectations include certification requirements e.g. Codex General Guidelines for Use of the Term ‘Halal’ (CAC/GL 24-1997).

**Functionality**

Effective food safety requires a high level of interaction and risk communication with many interested parties. Veterinarians, and other health professionals, may be called on to play a major role in these processes, especially in respect of the interface between different Veterinary Services and other government agencies that may be involved in food safety.

Further, food safety regulatory reform in a number of countries is changing the traditional roles of such parties. In an increasing number of countries, industry now has the primary responsibility for implementing food safety measures, and regulatory authorities are increasingly moving towards verification and audit roles. This provides new opportunities and responsibilities for veterinarians.
Animal welfare

Although animal welfare is beyond the mandate of CAC, it is a part of the OIE’s mandate and international standards on this issue are included in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Multidisciplinary framework

“Effective food control requires multidisciplinary scientific and technical inputs. Further, utilising risk assessment in a contemporary food safety environment is a multidisciplinary responsibility”7.

Any standard resulting from OIE/CAC cooperation will benefit from multidisciplinary inputs to food safety.

Standards

OIE has identified that co-operation with CAC will enhance the scope and scientific quality of international standards, guidelines and related texts, especially in regard to food safety measures applicable at the farm level8.

According to its Statutes, CAC should “promote coordination of all food standards work undertaken by intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations” (Article 1(b)). Objective 3 of the CAC Strategic Framework recognises that CAC needed to interact closely with OIE. The cooperation between the CAC and the OIE currently include:

a) cooperation9 through mutual exchange of information and participation in meetings;
b) the use of a common text in the elaboration of a standard and harmonisation of definition;
c) cross-referencing to the other organisation’s standards;
d) the construction of complementary texts taking into account the existing standards.

Development of an OIE document on Veterinary Services’ involvement in food safety activities

Building on its cooperation with the CAC, the OIE proposes to develop a document on the roles and functionality of Veterinary Services in food safety. This document should cover the involvement of Veterinary Services in food safety activities which encompass food safety and suitability and zoonoses. Activities in these areas will variably contribute to ‘reducing food-borne risks to human health by preventing, eliminating or controlling hazards arising from animals prior to primary processing of animals and animal products’10.

Further, the document should cover veterinary competence in other aspects of food safety risk management e.g. public health policy, integrated design of surveillance systems for chemical hazards, certification and risk communication.

In addition, functionality aspects of Veterinary Services must be considered in respect of animal health activities that have no bearing on food safety or suitability.

Format

The suggested format for elaboration of the OIE document is:

a) Overarching principles for the involvement of Veterinary Services and other veterinary activities in food safety
b) A ‘code of practice’ format that progresses through a ‘production-to-consumption’ approach to food safety
c) Subsections that develop principles and guidelines according to the particular segment of the food chain
d) Specific linkages to other OIE and Codex texts describing detailed aspects of possible veterinary inputs e.g. on antimicrobial resistance, animal feeding.

Criteria

Suggested criteria for elaboration of the OIE document are:

a) Consideration of food-borne risks to human health as a result of hazards arising from animals prior to primary processing of animals and animal products
b) Inclusion of animal health and welfare functions (including epidemiological surveillance) that may be carried out by veterinarians whose primary focus is food safety
c) Representation of a ‘production-to-consumption’ approach to food safety

8- Resolution No. XV. 70th General Session of the OIE, 2003.
9- FAO, WHO and OIE also cooperate in providing expert advice on the basis of which international standards are developed both in the CAC and in the OIE.
11- Food suitability is described by CAC as assurance that food is acceptable for human consumption according to its intended use.
d) Reflection on effective use of Veterinary Services and other competent authorities

e) Utilisation of risk assessment wherever possible and practical

f) Inclusion of HACCP where appropriate

g) Inclusion of food safety

h) Identification of the contributions of public and private sector veterinarians, and para-professionals.

Many of the above criteria are ‘horizontal’ in nature will need to be applied at each segment of the ‘production-to-consumption’ continuum, with a description of iterative loops to veterinary inputs at other segments.

**Ad hoc Groups**

The Working Group is proposing that several *ad hoc* Groups be formed to draft different modules for the OIE document. Each *ad hoc* Group should apply a generic framework for managing food-borne risks to consumers and describe veterinary inputs.

Each *ad hoc* Group should consider modular and ‘horizontal’ aspects of:

a) regulatory frameworks and responsibilities;

b) veterinary activities relating to food safety and suitability, zoonoses and animal health, and welfare;

c) the relative contributions of public and private sector veterinarians, and para-professionals, and other stakeholders;

d) the functionality of sharing veterinary competence to meet public health and animal health goals.

The Working Group proposes that *ad hoc* Groups be set up to address specific issues:

Scope, terms of reference and membership for the *ad hoc* Groups will be developed by the Working Group as appropriate.

**Appendix**

**Generic framework for managing public and animal health risks**

To the greatest extent possible and practicable, design and implementation of sanitary measures should be based on application of four components of a generic framework:

**Preliminary activities by the risk manager**

Following identification of a public health or animal health issue by the risk manager, this initial process may include establishment of a risk profile to place the issue within a particular context, and provide as much information as possible to guide further action. The risk manager may commission a detailed risk assessment as an independent scientific process to inform decision-making, and if so, risk assessment policy should be established. Once a risk assessment has been received, the last step in preliminary risk management activities is to consider the results for completeness and appropriateness.

**Evaluation of risk management options**

This is the process whereby potential risk management options are identified, and then selected according to appropriate decision-making criteria. It will usually involve balancing expectations in light of scientific information on risks and available measures. “Optimisation” of selected measures in terms of their efficiency, technological feasibility and practicality is an important goal.

**Implementation of measures**

Implementation of public or animal health measures will usually involve regulatory requirements, with a particular focus on HACCP. Flexibility in choice of individual measures applied by industry is a desirable element, as long as the overall programme can be objectively shown to achieve stated goals. On-going verification of sanitary measures by the competent authority is an essential action.

**Monitoring and review of appropriateness of options chosen**

This is the gathering and analysing of public and animal health data. Monitoring (which includes surveillance) should identify new problems as they emerge. Where there is evidence that required public and animal goals are not being achieved, redesign of measures will be needed.

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12. Risk assessment policy refers to the documented guidelines (provided by the risk manager) for policy choices and scientific value judgements that may be necessary at specific points in the risk assessment.
The control and reduction of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases and zoonoses at their source is crucial, in order to prevent their spread, and to reduce risks to humans. This may be achieved by the reduction of the pathogen load and of its circulation in the animal population.

For this purpose, the countries should have efficient Veterinary Services to allow early detection and a rapid response.

Thanks to the OIE’s efforts, the main international multilateral organisations concerned (World Trade Organization [WTO], World Health Organization [WHO], Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Bank [WB]) now consider the Veterinary Services as a “Global Public Good”. One of the OIE’s main objectives, in its Fourth Strategic Plan, is to strengthen the capacity building of the National Veterinary Services, encouraging the improvement of legislation and resources, in order to assist the Member Countries in reaching the (OIE) international standards and guidelines for the evaluation of Veterinary Services, which are the world reference for the countries, regarding the surveillance, prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, as well as for safe trade in animals and animal products. These standards help countries, in particular developing countries and countries in transition, to justify contributions requested from national governments and international donors for the development of their capacity building and the strengthening of their Veterinary Services.

Capacity building of National Veterinary Services is a key factor for creating and reinforcing effective legal frameworks including in particular early detection networks, notification of suspected cases of diseases, quick and reliable diagnosis, rapid answer, national chain of command and public-private partnership (animal owners’ organisations and private veterinarians). This allows a rapid response, controlling and containing the diseases at their first stages.

For this purpose, the OIE and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) have joined forces to develop a useful tool to assess the Veterinary Services: the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) Instrument, in accordance with the OIE standards, under the Chapters 1.3.3. and 1.3.4 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

This important tool was adopted by the OIE International Committee democratically. Formal reference to the PVS in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code has already been adopted by the 167 OIE Member Countries during the last OIE General Session held in May 2006.

This PVS instrument is not only an assessment tool, but also a development tool that collaborates with the Veterinary Services, identifying gaps and deficiencies, facilitating the elaboration of national investment programmes and their follow-up overtime, and thus providing a framework and justification for getting funds from international donors, including from the World Bank as well as from developed countries, which have pledged funds to assist developing and countries in transition in the strengthening of their VS, mainly taking into account the current situation of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (as announced at the Beijing Conference in January 2006 and confirmed in Vienna in June 2006).

1- http://en.g8russia.ru/docs/10.html: Conclusion 13. in “Fight against infectious diseases”
2- http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/update2006_chap_1.3.3.pdf
3- http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/update2006_chap_1.3.4.pdf
These identified gaps and deficiencies will also provide detailed references for Governments to make policies directed at investments and improvement of the capacity building of their VS.

The OIE and its current Collaborating Centre for the Training of Official Veterinarians (Ecole Nationale des Services Vétérinaires (ENSV); National School of Veterinary Services) in Lyon, France, have already carried out two training sessions on the PVS instrument in May and in July 2006. A new collaborating centre in Buenos Aires, Argentina, has just been approved officially by the OIE International Committee and another centre in Minneapolis, USA, has declared its intention to become a collaborating centre.

The OIE, in close cooperation with its Regional Representations and Sub-Regional Representations, has identified and selected slightly more than 60 experts among a total of nearly 80 experts (world-wide origin) to be trained on the PVS instrument and to add inputs to the draft final version of the PVS instrument. The aim of these training sessions was to train the experts in evaluating the quality of Veterinary Services (VS), to ensure that the PVS is used in a harmonised way during the evaluation process and to discuss the use and the improvement of this evolving instrument (PVS), which has been modified from its original version, taking into account the outcomes of the seminars.

The list of OIE certified PVS experts was sent to the World Bank and the experts included in it are the only PVS experts officially recognised by the OIE and the World Bank for the assessment of VS using the OIE-PVS instrument. Some of them have already been asked by the World Bank to carry out evaluations of VS in countries that have applied for assistance from the Bank and, so far, the results are very promising.

The OIE has committed itself to send updated versions of training material and communication aids to all OIE Certified PVS Experts on a systematic basis.

Together with the World Bank, the OIE has already identified more than 100 OIE Member Countries that have shown an interest in having their Veterinary Services evaluated with the OIE-PVS tool, and to benefit from a detailed gap analysis, which would allow coordinated technical assistance in the countries concerned, on the basis of international and national investment programmes.

The OIE, on the basis of coordinated work with its Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (directly involved and in permanent contact with the countries of their respective region), is also encouraging some developing countries and countries in transition to make their own self evaluations using the PVS tool. These evaluations will be carried out by some of the OIE certified PVS experts included in the list mentioned above.

Some donors, such as the World Bank and the United States of America, are funding pilot evaluations, via the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, managed by the OIE, in identified selected voluntary countries. Fifteen countries are in the process of being “PVS evaluated” at their request, within the framework of this pilot project. The list of countries is drafted in close cooperation with the donors, after consultation with the OIE Regional Representations and Sub-Regional Representations, taking into account the country assessments already carried out by the World Bank, in particular using the PVS tool, and the acceptance of such countries to be evaluated. Following general OIE principles, the OIE has tried to maintain an even geographical distribution.

This pilot exercise will surely result in very important outcomes not only for the evaluated countries, but also for the whole assessment procedure, on the basis of experience acquired by the experts and by donors during the process. This would improve further evaluations as well as the implementation of the PVS instrument.

These internal and/or external PVS evaluations could also be used as reliable references for partner countries trading in animals and animal products between them.

A provisional version of the PVS document can be found at: 
http://www.oie.int/downld/Projet_Manuel_AuditV4-ni-en.pdf

The PVS instrument has been sent to an OIE ad hoc Group (meeting scheduled from 30 October to 3 November 2006) to prepare its regular updating within the OIE procedures (through the Code Commission and the International Committee, for presentation in May 2007, at the next OIE General Session). This reviewing process will continue as often as necessary on a yearly basis.
Summary of Avian Influenza related missions/meetings in which the OIE has participated and will participate

The probability of a human influenza pandemic occurring is directly correlated to the quantity of Avian Influenza virus type H5 (and even H7) circulating in the world’s farmed bird population. Control of the virus in animals is therefore of the utmost importance. Since the beginning of 2005 OIE has therefore participated in many meetings on Avian Influenza. An overview is presented here.
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<td>N.T. Belev</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>EC Standing Committee for the Food Chain and Animal Health</td>
<td>A. Thiermann</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Buenos Aires</td>
<td>GF-TAD’s meeting on AI</td>
<td>L. Barcos</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-15</td>
<td></td>
<td>N’Djamena</td>
<td>OIE/AU-IBAR/FAO seminar</td>
<td>B. Vallat, D. Sibartie,</td>
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<td>J.M. Berge, A. Thiermann,</td>
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<td>H. Gervers, N. Monsalve,</td>
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<td>S. Berlaud, P. Blanc, A.S. Sidibé,</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sofia</td>
<td>Meeting with the USA embassy in Sofia on AI</td>
<td>N.T. Belev</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>OIE Working Group on Wildlife, AI and Wild Birds meeting</td>
<td>B. Vallat, C. Bruschke,</td>
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<td>G. Bruckner, D. Wilson, W. Drovers</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dakar</td>
<td>Ministerial meeting on AI for Western and Central Africa</td>
<td>A.S. Sidibé</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gaborone</td>
<td>SADC Council of Ministers Meeting</td>
<td>B.J. Mtei</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nadji (Fiji Islands)</td>
<td>SPC (Secr. Pacific Community) workshop on pandemic influenza preparedness</td>
<td>Y. Oketani</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Washington D.C.</td>
<td>Bird flu summit</td>
<td>A. Thiermann</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>OIE meeting on (HPIA) in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Feb.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chiang Mai (Thailand)</td>
<td>Special meeting on AI for South East Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-March</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2-3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tangerang Municipality</td>
<td>Pilot project to control AI in parts of Indonesia</td>
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<td>2-4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chiang Mai (Thailand)</td>
<td>SEAFMD meeting on AI</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>EU coordination meeting pandemic influenza preparedness</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Washington D.C.</td>
<td>GFAID’s coordination meeting on AI</td>
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<td>7-8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>High level policy meeting with FAO/US/EC</td>
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<td>7-9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tswane/Pretoria</td>
<td>SADC/FAO Workshop on Notifiable Avian Influenza in Southern Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Paris – OIE</td>
<td>OIE/Japan special trust fund project on AI control in Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bamako</td>
<td>Regional expert meeting coordination AI prevention and response</td>
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<td>18-19</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bamako</td>
<td>Regional AI workshop harmonisation AI intervention plans Western and Central Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Curtiba (Brazil)</td>
<td>Brainstorming session on impact of AI on wildlife (prior to</td>
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<td>8thConvention of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity)</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kobe</td>
<td>UN OCHA interagency roundtable on AI</td>
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<td>22-23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Libreville (Gabon)</td>
<td>UN meeting AI response strategy in Africa</td>
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<td>23-24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Venice</td>
<td>5thEuropean conf on travel medicine and global health</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oudomxay (Laos)</td>
<td>Training course for district and provincial veterinary staff on FMD, CF</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>London</td>
<td>International Egg Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-31</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
<td>OIE/Japan special trust fund on AI in Asia meeting with Thai</td>
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<td>DG Livestock Development and FAO</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Hanoi</td>
<td>4th ASEAN AI taskforce meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>6th International Symposium on AI</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hanoi</td>
<td>14th ASEAN sectorial working group on livestock</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Manila</td>
<td>ADB AI Coordination Network Meeting</td>
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<td>10-11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nairobi</td>
<td>CMS/UNEP/AEWA Scientific seminar on AI and wildlife</td>
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<td>18-21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Beirut</td>
<td>OIE workshop on AI preparedness in the Middle East</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Mission to assess country situation and advice on technical assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>2nd planning meeting Asia Research Partnership on pandemic influenza</td>
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<td>25-26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>Japan/OIE/FAO conf on trust fund HPAI control SE Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Participant(s)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Gaborone</td>
<td>SADC Livestock Technical Committee Meeting</td>
<td>B.J. Mtei</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Da-Nang (Vietnam)</td>
<td>APEC HPAl and pandemic preparedness meeting</td>
<td>S. Forman</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
<td>ACMES (Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam) special SOM on AI pandemic preparedness</td>
<td>T. Fujita</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>FAO/OIE crisis management centre for HPAl and other TAD's</td>
<td>C. Bruschke</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
<td>Core Member Group Meeting on HPAl Control in Asia and Meeting with FAO Bangkok Office</td>
<td>T. Fujita, Y. Yoshimura, I. Koike</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>Uppsala</td>
<td>3rd joint WHO/EC/ECDC workshop on pandemic influenza preparedness planning</td>
<td>A. Thiermann</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>WB Communications on AI meeting</td>
<td>M. Zampaglione</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-18</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>FAO/IAEA consultant meeting; AI early warning devices and tools</td>
<td>I. Capua, I. Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-31</td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>FAO/OIE conference AI/wild birds</td>
<td>C. Bruschke</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>EU/USA (IPAPI=International Partnership on Avian &amp; Pandemic Influenza)Senior officials meeting on AI and pandemic influenza</td>
<td>B. Vallat, A. Thiermann, C. Bruschke, M. Zampaglione, P. Blanc</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>Almaty (Kazakhstan)</td>
<td>US/EC/WB/ADB/UNICEF round table on AI</td>
<td>N.T. Belev, C. Bruschke</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-16</td>
<td>Nairobi</td>
<td>The research community's response to AI, with special reference to the needs of developing countries ILRI-IFPRI</td>
<td>B.J. Mtei</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12-16</td>
<td>Djakarta, Vientiane</td>
<td>OIE/OAI country missions on HPAl control under the Japan Special Trust Fund Programme</td>
<td>I. Koike</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Lisbon</td>
<td>Satellite Symposium to the 12th Congress of the International Society for Infectious Diseases entitled “Early Detection and Rapid Response to Animal Diseases and Zoonoses”</td>
<td>G. Bruckner</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>IFAI – AI Task Force</td>
<td>C. Bruschke</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-21</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>FAO Inception Workshop on Emergency Assistance for the Control and Prevention of Avian Influenza in South Asia</td>
<td>Y. Yoshimura</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-23</td>
<td>Yangon (Myanmar)</td>
<td>OIE/OAI Joint Mission for Japan /OIE HPAl special trust fund programme</td>
<td>Y. Yoshimura</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-23</td>
<td>Abuja (Nigeria)</td>
<td>Ministerial Meeting AI Western Africa</td>
<td>A.S. Sidibé</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Santiago de Chile</td>
<td>Implementation Technical Cooperation Project for AI in American Continent</td>
<td>L. Barcos</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-28</td>
<td>Buenos Aires</td>
<td>Regional Workshop on risk and emergency preparedness communication in AI pandemic (PAHSC)</td>
<td>OIE Regional Representation for the Americas</td>
<td>C. Bruschke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-28</td>
<td>Oslo</td>
<td>4th International Veterinary Vaccines and Diagnostics Conference (IVVDC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>First International Conference on AI, Institut Pasteur</td>
<td>C. Bruschke</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>UN Economic and Social Council</td>
<td>A. Thiermann</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-26</td>
<td>Washington D.C.</td>
<td>Inter-Agency Avian and Pandemic Influenza Communications Task Force for the Americas</td>
<td>M. Zampaglione, L. Barcos</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-28</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>Ministerial meeting AI preparedness in South Asia</td>
<td>T. Fujita</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Guadalajara (Mexico)</td>
<td>World Poultry Forum</td>
<td>OIE Regional Representation for the Americas</td>
<td>G. Bruckner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>WHO update on basic research related to AI virus infections in humans</td>
<td>C. Bruschke, K. Ben Jebara</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Ile de France</td>
<td>INRA – Emergences 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-20</td>
<td>Strasbourg</td>
<td>European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines, European Pharmacopoeia, Symposium on requirements of AI vaccines</td>
<td>C. Bruschke</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Utrecht</td>
<td>Fac. Vet Med Utrecht –AI in birds and its control</td>
<td>C. Bruschke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lyon</td>
<td>Emerging diseases: preparedness and implementation issues</td>
<td>K. Ben Jebara, G. Bruckner</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Bamako</td>
<td>Senior officials meeting on AI and pandemic influenza</td>
<td>B. Vallat, C. Bruschke</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>Int. meeting on emerging diseases and surveillance IMED</td>
<td>G. Bruckner, K. Ben Jebara</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Verona</td>
<td>Vaccination, a tool in global control of AI, OIE/FAO conference co-organised and supported by the EC</td>
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</table>
The aim of the Aquatic Animal Health Code (hereafter referred to as the Aquatic Code) is to assure the sanitary safety of international trade in aquatic animals (fish, molluscs and crustaceans) and their products. This is achieved through the detailing of health measures to be used by the Veterinary Authorities of importing and exporting countries to avoid the transfer of agents pathogenic for animals or humans, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers. The health measures in the Aquatic Code (in the form of standards, guidelines and recommendations) have been formally adopted by the OIE International Committee. The 9th edition incorporates the modifications to the Aquatic Code agreed during the 74th General Session in May 2006. These include revised chapters on the following subjects: definitions, disease listing criteria, diseases listed by the OIE, epizootic haematopoietic necrosis, infectious haematopoietic necrosis, spring viraemia of carp, viral haemorrhagic septicaemia, infectious salmon anaemia, epizootic ulcerative syndrome, red sea bream iridoviral disease, infection with Bonamia ostreae, infection with Bonamia exitiosa, infection with Haplosporidium nelsoni, infection with Marteilia refringens, infection with Mikrocytos mackini, infection with Perkinsus marinus, infection with Perkinsus olseni and infection with Xenohaliotis californiensis. Chapters on three mollusc diseases, i.e. infection with Mikrocytos roughleyi, infection with Haplosporidium costale and infection with Marteilia sydneyi, have been deleted from this edition.

The Aquatic Code may be viewed on the OIE Web site at www.oie.int/eng/normes/fcode/en_sommaire.htm.

The purpose of this Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (referred to hereafter as the Aquatic Manual) is to provide a uniform approach to the diagnosis of the diseases listed in the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code (referred to hereafter as the Aquatic Code) and of other diseases that may be of importance to trade, so that the requirements for health certification in connection with trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products, can be met.

Although many publications exist on the diagnosis and control of aquatic animal diseases, the Aquatic Manual is a key document describing the methods that can be applied to the OIE-listed diseases and certain
The aim of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (hereafter referred to as the Terrestrial Code) is to assure the sanitary safety of international trade in terrestrial animals and their products. This is achieved through the detailing of health measures to be used by the veterinary authorities of importing and exporting countries to avoid the transfer of agents pathogenic for animals or humans, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade. Appendices contain guidelines on animal welfare.

The health measures in the Terrestrial Code (in the form of standards, guidelines and recommendations) have been formally adopted by the OIE International Committee.

This 15th edition incorporates the modifications to the Terrestrial Code agreed during the 74th General Session in May 2006. These include revised chapters and appendices on the following subjects: general definitions, evaluation of Veterinary Services, guidelines for the evaluation of Veterinary Services, zoning and compartmentalisation, criteria for listing diseases, foot and mouth disease, bluetongue, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, classical swine fever, avian influenza, equine infectious anaemia, equine piroplasmosis and equine rhinopneumonitis. Revised appendices on surveillance for foot and mouth disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and avian influenza, on bovine and small ruminant semen as well as on animal welfare (including transport of animals by sea, transport of animals by land, slaughter of animals and killing of animals for disease control purposes) have also been included. This edition includes three new appendices, on ante- and post-mortem inspection, identification and traceability of other diseases that may be of importance to trade in aquatic animal health laboratories all over the world, thus increasing efficiency and promoting improvements in aquatic animal health world-wide. The requirements published in this Aquatic Manual are recognised as international standards by the World Trade Organization.

The task of compiling the Aquatic Manual was assigned to the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), and all the chapters were circulated to OIE Member Countries for comments and revision. The Aquatic Manual will be continually revised and updated as new information on aquatic animal diseases in general, and new emerging diseases in particular, becomes available. It is intended to publish a new edition every two years; intermittent changes will be available on the OIE Web site at http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/fmanuaVA_summary.htm.
live animals and disposal of dead animals, as well as guidelines for the inactivation of avian influenza virus.

Part 1 presents definitions of the key terms or expressions used, the list of animal diseases covered by the OIE, procedures for listing and international reporting of the diseases, ethical rules for international trade and certification, the principles of import risk analysis and the organisation of import and export procedures.

Part 2 defines, for each disease regarded by the OIE as important for international trade, the animal health conditions which an exporting country should fulfil, depending on the diseases present, to allow safe trade in live terrestrial animals, semen, embryos, meat, milk and other animal products.

Appendices specify the diagnostic tests to be applied before export (thus establishing a link with the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals) and describe methods of health and hygiene supervision, with special reference to reproduction, inactivation of pathogens, requirements for the welfare of animals during international transport and during the slaughter or killing of animals for disease control purposes, general principles for surveillance and monitoring systems for the recognition of disease/infection free status, guidelines on animal production food safety and guidelines on antimicrobial resistance.

The final section of the book provides specimen international veterinary certificates approved by the OIE.

The Terrestrial Code is an indispensable reference document for all those responsible for international trade in terrestrial animals and animal products. Due to the need to incorporate the latest scientific information, a new edition is published annually. The fifteenth edition was published in August 2006.

The Terrestrial Code can be viewed on the OIE Web site at www.oie.int/eng/normes/en_mcode.htm.

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web news

The presentation of the home page of the OIE website has been improved to help visitors find information more easily. A new link has been created (‘Online Bulletin’) that will allow readers to consult the OIE Bulletins via the website, starting with the first issue of 2006.

The Aquatic Animal Health Code 2006 is also online.

The Delegate’s information site has been updated and can only be accessed by Delegates and other authorised users who have a user name and password provided by the OIE. The old site has been closed since mid-July.
meetings and visits

From February 2006 to June 2006

February 2006 (cont.)

Meeting on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Europe
Dr B. Vallat, Director General, and collaborators of the Central Bureau, Prof. N.T. Belev, President, OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe and Dr G. Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, participated at the Meeting on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Europe, held at the OIE headquarters, in Paris (France), 27-28 February 2006.

March 2006 (cont.)

Meeting on Avian Influenza (Continuation of the Beijing conference in preparation for the Vienna conference), Washington D.C.
Dr Jean-Luc Angot, Head of the Administrative and Financial Department, and Dr Philippe Blanc, Coordinator of the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, took part in a meeting organised by the World Bank on 28 March 2006 on avian influenza.

Meeting between the OIE and the United Kingdom Ministry for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Dr B. Vallat, Director General and Dr D. Sibartie, Head of the Regional Actions Department, met with Ben Bradshaw, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in order to boost cooperation between the OIE and the United Kingdom, and to define the modalities for United Kingdom support for the OIE in the context of the commitment made by the UK during the Pekin conference to combat avian influenza. This meeting took place in London (United Kingdom) on 28 March 2006.

International conference to promote animal welfare
Dr B. Vallat, Director General, and Dr A. Petrini, Deputy Head of the Animal Health Information Department, were invited by the Austrian Presidency of the European Union to address the international conference to promote animal welfare in Brussels (Belgium) on 29 and 30 March 2006.

35th meeting of the WTO SPS Committee
Dr D. Wilson, Deputy Director General and Dr T. Ishibashi, Project Officer, OIE International Trade Department, participated at the 35th meeting of the WTO SPS Committee, held in Geneva (Switzerland), 29-30 March 2006.

April 2006

General Assembly of the Member Countries of the International Plant Protection Convention (CIPV/IPPC)
Dr B. Vallat, Director General, and Dr D. Wilson, Deputy Director General, took part in the General Assembly of the Member Countries of the International Plant Protection Convention (CIPV/IPPC), which was held in Rome (Italy) on 3 April 2006.

Fourth Meeting of ASEAN Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Taskforce
Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific and Dr S. Yoshimura, Senior Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the Fourth Meeting of ASEAN Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Taskforce, held in Hanoi (Vietnam), 3-4 April 2006.
Serological surveillance project on FMD and CSF
Dr S. Forman, Technical Adviser OIE SEAFMD RCU, represented the OIE at the serological surveillance project on FMD and CSF in the Lower Mekong Zone, Vietnam and Cambodia, (defined by the SEAFMD RCU and funded by the ADB/FAO project), held in Takeo Province (Cambodia), 3-4 April 2006.

6th International Symposium on Avian Influenza
Dr Ch. Bruschke, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, Dr A. Thiermann, Special Advisor to the Director General and Mrs A. Souyri, Deputy Head, OIE Publications Department, participated at the 6th International Symposium on Avian Influenza, held in Cambridge (United Kingdom) from 3 to 6 April 2006.

First Session of the IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
Dr D. Wilson, Head, OIE International Trade Department, participated at the First Session of the IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, held in Roma (Italy) from 3 to 7 April 2006.

Annual International Conference on the regulation of veterinary medicinal products in Europe
Dr Ch. Bruschke, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated at the Annual International Conference on the regulation of veterinary medicinal products in Europe, held in London (United Kingdom) on 5 April 2006.

14th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL)
Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the 14th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL), held in Hanoi (Vietnam) from 5 to 7 April 2006.

ADB Avian Influenza Coordination Network Meeting
Dr Y. Oketani, Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the ADB Avian Influenza Coordination Network Meeting, held in Manila (Philippines) on 7 April 2006.

Scientific seminar on avian influenza, the environment and migratory birds
Dr Ch. Bruschke, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated at the Scientific seminar on avian influenza, the environment and migratory birds, held in Nairobi (Kenya) 10-11 April 2006.

23rd Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)
Dr F. Berlingieri, Deputy Head, OIE International Trade Department and Dr W. Droppers, Project Officer to the Director General, participated at the 23rd Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP), held in Paris (France) from 10 to 14 April 2006.

Inter-regional and inter-sectoral approaches to avian influenza in animal and human populations
Dr A. Thiermann, Special Advisor to the Director General and Prof. Dr N.T. Belev, President, OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, represented the OIE at the Inter-regional and Inter-sectoral Approaches to avian influenza in animal and human populations
Information meeting on the Overview of the Food Situation and implementation of the recommendations on food security in the Sahel and West Africa (OECD)
Dr. P. S. Seck, Assistant Coordinator of the World Fund for animal health and welfare, participated in the Information meeting on the Overview of the Food Situation and implementation of the recommendations on food security in the Sahel and West Africa, which was held at the OECD, Paris (France), on 20 April 2006.

Training Course for District and Provincial Veterinary Staff on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Classical Swine Fever
Dr. S. Forman, Technical Adviser OIE SEAFMD RCU, represented the OIE at the Training Course for District and Provincial Veterinary Staff on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Classical Swine Fever, held in Son La (Vietnam) from 23 to 25 April 2006.

Meeting of the Intergovernmental Council on Veterinary Affairs of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
Prof. Dr. N. T. Belev, President, OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, represented the OIE at the Meeting of the Intergovernmental Council on Veterinary Affairs of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) from 18 to 21 April 2006.

2nd meeting of Asia Research Partnership on Pandemic Influenza
Dr. R. C. Abila, Regional Coordinator, SEAFMD Campaign, represented the OIE at the 2nd meeting of Asia Research Partnership on Pandemic Influenza, held in Beijing (People’s Republic China) from 23 to 26 April 2006.

Meeting of the Intergovernmental Council on Veterinary Affairs of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
Prof. Dr. N. T. Belev, President, OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, represented the OIE at the Meeting of the Intergovernmental Council on Veterinary Affairs of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) from 18 to 21 April 2006.

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32nd International Conference of Animal Transport Association (AATA)
Dr. J. Pinto, Deputy Head, OIE International Trade Department participated at the 32nd International Conference of Animal Transport Association (AATA), held in Amsterdam (the Netherlands) from 23 to 25 April 2006.

Meeting of the Intergovernmental Council on Veterinary Affairs of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
Prof. Dr. N. T. Belev, President, OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, represented the OIE at the Meeting of the Intergovernmental Council on Veterinary Affairs of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) from 18 to 21 April 2006.

6th Executive Committee of the Alive initiative, 12th Advisory Committee of the PACE programme, 1st Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Africa, bilateral contacts with the Malian authorities
Dr. B. Vallat, Director General, Dr. D. Sibartie, Head of the Regional Actions Department, Dr. J.-M. Bergès, Project Officer, Dr. Ph. Blanc, Project Officer, Dr. A. Samba Sidibe, Regional Representative for Africa, Dr. C. Planté, Project Officer, Dr. B. Mtei, Coordinator and Dr. G. Guidot, OIE/ENSV Collaborating Centre, participated in the 6th Executive Committee of the Alive initiative, 12th Advisory Committee of the PACE programme, 1st Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Africa, and had bilateral contacts with the Malian authorities. These various committees took place at Bamako (Mali) from 23 to 29 April 2006.
1st MAFF-Japan/OIE/FAO joint conference on special trust fund programme for HPAI Control at source in Southeast Asia
Dr J-L Angot, Head of the Administrative and Financial Department and Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, participated in the 1st MAFF-Japan/OIE/FAO joint conference on special trust fund programme for HPAI Control at source in Southeast Asia, which was held in Tokyo (Japan) on 25 and 26 April 2006.

Dr F. Berlingieri, Deputy Head, OIE International Trade Department, participated at the Seminar on the dialogue and common activities between the OIE member countries of the EU and the other OIE members of the Regional Commission for Europe.

Seminar on the dialogue and common activities between the OIE member countries of the EU and the other OIE members of the Regional Commission for Europe
Prof. Dr N.T. Belev, President, OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, Dr G. Brückner, Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department and

APEC Meeting on avian and influenza pandemic preparedness
Dr S. Forman, Technical Adviser OIE SEAFMD RCU, represented the OIE at the APEC Meeting on avian and influenza pandemic preparedness, held in Da-Nang (Vietnam) from 4 to 6 May 2006.

Meeting of the Heads of European Union Veterinary Services at the invitation of the Austrian Presidency
Dr B. Vallat, Director General, participated in the meeting of Heads of European Union Veterinary Services at the invitation of the Austrian Presidency,which took place in Brussels (Belgium) on 5 May 2006.

The ACMECS Special SOM on Avian Influenza Pandemic Preparedness
Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the ACMECS Special SOM on Avian Influenza Pandemic Preparedness, held in Bangkok (Thailand) on 8 May 2006.

American and Caribbean Avian Influenza Preparedness Meeting
Dr A. Schudel, Consultant for the OIE Americas, represented the OIE at the American and Caribbean Avian Influenza Preparedness Meeting, held in Lima (Peru) from 3 to 5 May 2006.

May 2006

FAO/OIE Crisis Management Centre for HPAI and other transboundary animal diseases
Dr Ch. Bruschke, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated at the FAO/OIE Crisis Management Centre for HPAI and other transboundary animal diseases, Major Contributors Meeting, held in Roma (Italy) on 8 May 2006.

Core Member Group Meeting on HPAI Control in Asia
Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Dr S. Yoshimura, Senior Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (OIE HPAI Project Coordinator) and Dr I. Koike, Consultant of the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the Core Member Group Meeting on HPAI Control in Asia, held in Bangkok (Thailand), 9-10 May 2006.
First Pan-American Zoonoses Congress and 5th Argentinian Congress of Zoonoses

Dr A. Schudel, OIE Consultant, represented the OIE at the First Pan-American Zoonosis Congress and 5th Argentinian Congress of Zoonosis, held in La Plata (Argentina) from 10 to 12 May 2006.

3rd Joint EC/ECDC/WHO Workshop on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

Dr A. Thiermann, Special Advisor to the Director General participated at the 3rd Joint EC/ECDC/WHO Workshop on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness, held in Uppsala (Sweden) from 15 to 17 May 2006.

Special Meeting of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, and collaborators of the Central Bureau, Dr A.B. Niang, President of the OIE, Dr G. Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, Professor N.T. Belev, OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, Dr L.O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, Dr B. Mtei, Coordinator of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Africa, Dr R. Abila, Regional Coordinator for SEAFMD and Dr S. Forman, SEAFMD Technical adviser, participated at the Special Meeting of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, held at the OIE headquarters, in Paris (France) on 20 May 2006.

International Conference: Prion Diseases of Domestic Livestock

Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, Dr A. Thiermann, Special Advisor to the Director General and Dr R. Dugas, Head, OIE Publications Department participated at the International Conference: Prion Diseases of Domestic Livestock, held in Heathrow, London (United Kingdom) from 28 to 30 May 2006.

FAO/OIE conference on wildlife and avian influenza

Dr G. Brückner, Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department and Dr Ch. Bruschke, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated at the FAO/OIE conference on wildlife and avian influenza, held in Roma (Italy), 30-31 May 2006.

World Conference on Avian Influenza

Dr B. Vallat, Director General, Dr A. Thiermann, President of the Code Commission, M. Zampaglione, Communication Manager, Dr Ch. Bruschke, Project Officer and Dr Ph. Blanc, Consultant, participated on the World Conference on Avian Influenza co-organised by the Austrian Presidency of the European Union, the European Commission and the United States, held in Vienna (Austria) from 5 to 7 June 2006. They also took part in bilateral meetings with donors to report on the various OIE financial support projects in the context of combating avian influenza.

FAO-ICAR seminar on identification and traceability

Dr D. Chaisemartin, Head of the Administrative and Management Systems Department, participated in the FAO-ICAR seminar on identification and traceability held in Kuopio (Finland) from 5 to 7 June 2006.
Meeting to monitor foot and mouth disease outbreaks in Vietnam and assist the government control the ongoing epidemic
Dr R.C. Abila, Regional Coordinator, SEAFMD Campaign and Dr N. Hungerford, Communication Officer, SEAFMD Campaign, represented the OIE at the Meeting to monitor FMD outbreaks in Vietnam and assist the government control the ongoing epidemic, held in Hanoi (Vietnam) from 7 to 10 June 2006.

Policy Committee of the STDF
Dr B. Vallat, Director General, Dr D. Sibartie, Head of the Regional Actions Department, and Dr A. Thiermann, President of the Code Commission, participated in the Policy Committee of the STDF, after which Dr B. Vallat met Mr Pascal Lamy, Director General of the WTO. This meeting took place in Geneva (Switzerland) on 8 and 9 June 2006.

25th FAO Regional Conference for Europe
Dr J.-L. Angot, Head of the Administrative and Financial Department, participated at the 25th FAO Regional Conference for Europe, which took place at Riga (Latvia) on 8 and 9 June 2006.

Meeting with the leadership of the NVS
Prof. Dr N.T. Belev, President, OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, represented the OIE at the Meeting with the leadership of the NVS, held in Almaty (Kazakhstan) from 8 to 10 June 2006.

Meeting with the Focal Point of Chulalongkorn University for arrangements of the OIE/CIRAD Workshop on Epidemiology in ASEAN countries
Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the meeting with the Focal Point of Chulalongkorn University for arrangements of the OIE/CIRAD Workshop on Epidemiology in ASEAN countries, held in Bangkok (Thailand) on 12 June 2006.

OIE/FAO Joint Country Mission on HPAI control under the Japan Special Trust Fund Programme
Dr I. Koike, Technical Consultant, represented the OIE in the OIE/FAO Joint Country Mission on HPAI control under the Japan Special Trust Fund Programme, held in Jakarta (Indonesia) 12-13 June 2006 and held in Vientiane (Laos) on 15 June 2006.

General Assembly of the SIMV (Syndicat de l’Industrie du Médicament Vétérinaire et Réactifs)
Dr G. Brückner, Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department and Dr F. Diaz, Recognition procedures for Diagnostic tests, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated at the General Assembly of the SIMV (Syndicat de l’Industrie du Médicament Vétérinaire et Réactifs), held in Paris (France) on 13 June 2006.

Meeting with the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan
Prof. Dr N.T. Belev, President, OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, represented the OIE at the Meeting with the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, held in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) on 14 June 2006.

73rd Session of the Executive Committee of the European Commission for the control of foot and mouth disease (EUFMD)
Dr G. Brückner, Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated at
the 73rd Session of the Executive Committee of the European Commission for the control of foot and mouth disease (EUFMD), held in Istanbul (Turkey) 15-16 June 2006.

OIE/FAO mission to Thailand regarding Japan/OIE/FAO HPAI Control Programme in Southeast Asia and meeting with Chulalongkorn University for the OIE/CIRAD Epidemiology Workshop Dr. T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, represented the OIE at the OIE/FAO joint country mission to Thailand regarding Japan/OIE/FAO HPAI Control Programme in Southeast Asia and at the follow-up meeting with Chulalongkorn University for the OIE/CIRAD Epidemiology Workshop. These meetings held in Bangkok and Khon Kaen (Thailand) from 19 to 21 June 2006.

IFAH Avian Influenza Taskforce Dr. Ch. Bruschke, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated at the IFAH Avian Influenza Taskforce, held in Brussels (Belgium) on 20 June 2006.

Joint action in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention: Regional seminar for Southern and Eastern Africa organised by the Council of the European Union Dr. G. Brückner, Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated at the Joint action in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention: Regional seminar for Southern and Eastern Africa organised by the Council of the European Union, held in Nairobi (Kenya) 21–22 June 2006.

International Veterinary Vaccines and Diagnostics Congress Dr. Ch. Bruschke, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated at the International Veterinary Vaccines and Diagnostics Congress, held in Oslo (Norway) 25-26 June 2006.

WAHIS Seminar for Central America and Caribbean countries Dr. L.O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, represented the OIE at the WAHIS Seminar for Central America and Caribbean countries, OIE members and no OIE members and meeting with OIRSA authorities to discuss integration of WAHIS with Epi-OIRSA notification system and issues related to joint activities and programs, held in San Salvador (El Salvador) from 25 to 29 June 2006.
Meeting with FAO officials
Dr B. Vallat, Director General, met Mr Harcharik, Deputy Director General of the FAO, Mr Muller, acting deputy director in charge of health issues (replacing Mrs Louise Fresco), Dr Samuel Jutzi, Director, Animal Production and Health (AGA) and Dr Joseph Domenech, Head of the Animal Health Service (AGAH), in Rome (Italy) on 27 June 2006.

FAO/ADB Second Project Steering Committee Meeting on Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases in the Greater Mekong Sub-region
Dr Y. Oketani, Deputy Regional Representative, represented the OIE at the FAO/ADB Second Project Steering Committee Meeting on Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, held in Kunming (PR China) from 27 to 29 June 2006.

International workshop on “New opportunities for dairy and dual-purpose ruminant systems in Latin America”
Dr A. Schudel, OIE Consultant, represented the OIE at the International workshop on “New opportunities for dairy and dual-purpose ruminant systems in Latin America:

Resource management, product safety, quality and market access”, held in Ixtapan de la Sal (Mexico) from 27 to 30 June 2006.

Seminar on the dialogue and common activities between the OIE member countries of the EU and the other OIE members of the Regional Commission for Europe
Dr D. Sibartie, Head of the Regional Actions Department, Prof. Dr N.T. Belev, President, OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe and Dr V. Bellemain, Director of Ecole Nationale des Services Vétérinaires (ENSV), participated at the Seminar on the Dialogue and Common Activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Croatia and in Bosnia-Herzegovina, from 27 to 30 June 2006.

UNESCO meeting on the protection of human livelihoods through animal welfare from natural hazards
Dr A. Thiermann, Special Advisor to the Director General, participated at the UNESCO meeting on the protection of human livelihoods through animal welfare from natural hazards, held in Paris (France) on 28 June 2006.

IFAH Europe conference on innovation in animal health industry
Dr Ch. Bruschke, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated at the IFAH Europe conference on innovation in animal health industry, held in Brussels (Belgium) on 28 June 2006.

Meeting of actors in the Spanish poultry sector
Dr B. Vallat, Director General, took part in a meeting with actors in the Spanish poultry sector, then made a presentation on “the importance of health issues in international trade and the role of the OIE”. He also had bilateral contacts with the Director General of Animal Production in Spain. This meeting took place at Santo Estevo (Spain) on 29 June 2006.

First International Conference on Avian Influenza in Humans
Dr Ch. Bruschke, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, participated at the First International Conference on Avian Influenza in Humans, held at the Institut Pasteur, Paris (France), 29–30 June 2006.
Result of the elections during the 74th General Session of the OIE

Composition of Administrative, Regional, Specialist Commissions and Working Groups of the OIE

**Administrative Commission**

President: Dr Barry O’Neil (New Zealand)
Vice-President: Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay)
Members: Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria)
Dr Brian Evans (Canada)
Dr Tenzin Dhendup (Bhutan)
Dr George Khoury (Syria)
Auditors: Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria)
Dr Romano Marabelli (Italy)

**Regional Commissions**

**Regional Commission for Africa**
President: Dr Robert Thwala (Swaziland)
Vice-President: Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda)
Vice-President: Dr Daouda Bangoura (Guinea)
Secretary General: Dr Mokhtar Fall (Mauritania)

**Regional Commission for the Americas**
President: Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia)
Vice-President: Dr Juan Alcides Santandrea Gutiérrez (Colombia)
Secretary General: Dr Mokhtar Fall (Mauritania)

**Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**
President: Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil)
Vice-President: Dr Juan Alcides Santandrea Gutiérrez (Colombia)
Secretary General: Dr Sri Kamal Banjith Amarasekara (Sri Lanka)

**Regional Commission for Europe**
President: Dr Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria)
Vice-President: Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania)
Secretary General: Dr Evgeny A. Nepoklonov (Russia)

**Regional Commission for the Middle East**
President: Dr Salman Abdel Nabi (Bahrain)
Vice-President: Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)
Vice-President: Dr Mohammed Al Muhanna (Kuwait)
Secretary General: Dr Faris Al haj Mohamad Al Bakht (Jordan)

**Specialist Commissions**

**Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**
President: Dr Alejandro B. Thierrmann (France)
Vice-President: Dr Wolf-Arno Valder (Belgium)
Secretary General: Dr Stuart C. MacDiarmid (New Zealand)
Members: Dr Stuart K. Hargreaves (Zimbabwe)
Dr Jorge Caetano Junior (Brazil)
Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)

**Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**
President: Prof. Vincenzo Caporale (Italy)
Vice-President: Dr Alejandro Schudel (Argentina)
Secretary General: Dr Preben Willeberg (Denmark)
Members: Dr Salah Hammami (Tunisia)
Dr Kenichi Sakamoto (Japan)

**Biological Standards Commission**
President: Prof. Steve Edwards (United Kingdom)
Vice-President: Dr Beverly Schmitt (United States of America)
Secretary General: Dr Medhi El Harak (Morocco)
Members: Dr S.K. Bandhopadhyay (India)
Dr Vladimir Drygin (Russia)

**Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**
President: Dr Eva-Maria Bernoth (Australia)
Vice-President: Dr Barry Hill (United Kingdom)
Secretary General: Dr Ricardo Enriquez Sais (Chile)
Members: Dr Frank Berthe (France)
Dr Eli Katunguka (Uganda)

**Working Groups**

**Working Group on Wildlife Diseases**
Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
Dr Roy Bengis (South Africa)
Dr Christopher Bunn (Australia)
Dr John Fisher (United States of America)
Dr Torsten Mörner (Sweden)
Dr Michael H. Woodford (United Kingdom)

**Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety**
Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay)
Mr Michael Scannell (European Commission)
Dr Joseph Domench (FAO)
Dr Andrew McKenzie (New Zealand)
Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima (Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission)
Mr Alan Randell (Australia)
Dr Jorgen Schlundt (WHO)
Prof. Stuart Slorach (Sweden)
Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland)

**Working Group on Animal Welfare**
Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
Dr David Bayvel (New Zealand)
Dr David Fraser (Canada)
Dr Andrea Gavelli (European Commission)
Prof. Tore Håstein (Norway)
Dr Walter N. Musiga (Kenya)
Dr Sira Abdul Rahman (India)
Dr David Wilkins (United Kingdom)
Regional Activities Department meetings

First meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for the Middle East
Beirut, Lebanon, 6-7 April 2006

The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is a joint FAO/OIE initiative for the fight against transboundary animal diseases (TADs), to provide for capacity building and to assist in establishing programmes for the specific control of certain TADs based on regional priorities.

The meeting for the Middle East was the fourth of the five regional meetings scheduled to take place under the GF-TADs launching programme. The first three meetings were held in Asia, the Americas and Europe in March, April and October 2005 respectively.

A Recommendation was prepared during the meeting on the harmonisation of regional animal health activities under the GF-TADs mechanism. The most important points include:
- The compliance of national Veterinary Services with OIE international standards using the ‘Performance, Vision and Strategy’ (PVS) tool to identify gaps and weaknesses, which can subsequently be addressed through national resources or international aid.
- A Middle East OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Centre should be set up under the umbrella of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee. This will act as a centre of services providing technical assistance to Member Countries, including the preparation of new national programmes in the field of animal and veterinary public health.
- All countries should be urged to express their commitment to the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) by accelerating their progress in rinderpest freedom accreditation to ensure that the deadline of 2010 is met. As the rinderpest situation in the horn of Africa has serious implications for Middle East countries, the AU-IBAR is urged to speed up the process of demonstrating freedom from rinderpest under the Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication Coordination Unit (SERECU) project with the assistance of the OIE and FAO.
- The GF-TADs Permanent Secretariat should provide guidance to Member Countries regarding prevention and control methods for HPAI particularly with regard to the use of vaccination whenever needed. All countries are requested to ensure immediate stockpiling of vaccines complying with OIE standards and to determine priority animal populations to be vaccinated after a thorough risk analysis. Parent stocks and zoo birds should be considered as first priorities.
Middle East in March, April and October 2005 and in April 2006 respectively.

In line with the main mandate of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee, a Recommendation was prepared during the meeting on support to regional animal health activities under the GF-TADs mechanism.

The OIE, FAO and AU/IBAR will create Regional Animal Health Centres, the first of which will be set up in Bamako, Mali, to participate in the implementation of new programmes aimed at improving animal health in Africa. These centres need to coordinate their activities with the policies and programmes defined by the Executive Committee of ALive and will provide expertise in the control of animal diseases on the continent. The main purpose of the OIE/FAO/AU-IBAR Regional Animal Health Centre is to provide a framework for the coordination and harmonisation of strategies for the monitoring and evaluation of avian influenza control activities in West and Central Africa. It will constitute a Regional Animal Health Centre along the lines presented at the Beijing Conference in January 2006.

The ALive Platform will continue and reinforce its support to animal health and production activities on the continent and play a major role together with the GF-TADs Steering Committee, particularly with regard to the control of transboundary animal diseases. The governance of the Regional GF-TADs for Africa will form an integral part of the ALive Executive Committee, and meetings of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee will in future be organised within the framework of the Executive Committee meetings of ALive and of the PACE Programme.

The assessment of national Veterinary Services for compliance with OIE international standards must be undertaken with the support of accredited experts using the ‘Performance, Vision and Strategy’ (PVS) tool, which is already adapted to the African continent and is already recognised by the World Bank and other donors associated with ALive in the preparation of national programmes.

The Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Africa comprises OIE, FAO and IBAR representatives, members of the OIE Regional Commission elected by the OIE International Committee, representatives of Regional Economic Communities involved in the support of animal health policies using the mechanism of causus adopted for the ALive Executive Committee.

Creation of OIE Sub-Regional Representations and joint OIE & FAO Regional Animal Health Centres

During the special meeting of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris on 20 May 2006, the following two points were highlighted amongst other topics discussed:

Creation of OIE Sub-Regional Representations

Following various requests received and the fact that the existing OIE Regional Representations have an enormous task in covering their entire regions, it has been decided to create OIE Sub-Regional Representations wherever needed.

One such Sub-Regional office already exists, namely, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for SADC, based in Gaborone, Botswana.

A Sub-Regional Representation for Europe will be opened in Brussels, Belgium, within the next few months.

Further proposals include: OIE Sub-Representations in Central America; in North Africa and East Africa.

In addition, with regard to the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) crisis in Asia, an OIE/HPAI Coordination Unit has recently been opened in Bangkok, Thailand, under the responsibility of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific based in Tokyo, Japan.

Creation of joint OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Centres

The concept of the joint OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Centres was developed within the framework of the Beijing meeting held in January 2006, as donors wished to ensure that the OIE and FAO work together to avoid duplication of activities and resources in the implementation of animal health programmes. The Centres will provide a pool of experts who will be assigned to specific duties respecting OIE and FAO mandates. They will be accommodated by the OIE Regional Representations.

For Africa, the OIE/FAO/AU-IBAR Regional Animal Health Centre has been created in Bamako, Mali (for further details, read ‘First meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Africa’).
International Trade Department meetings

**Tripartite Meeting OIE/World Bank/Private Sector**
- **Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere (SSAFE): strengthening public/private partnerships to tackle H5N1 avian influenza – OIE Paris, 19-20 April 2006**

The OIE hosted a meeting of leaders from multi-national food system companies, academia and the World Bank to discuss public-private partnerships for prevention of Avian Influenza and other global sanitary crises and avoidance of collateral economic and social damage. Participants discussed views about the opportunity for private sector influence to improve governance and veterinary infrastructure to more effectively respond to zoonoses that threaten human and animal health and economies around the world. More effective disease prevention, control and response set the stage for sustainable trade.

**OIE Ad hoc Group on stray animal control**
- **OIE Paris, 10 to 12 May 2006**

The ad hoc Group met for the first time from 10 to 12 May 2006 at the OIE Headquarters. There, the ad hoc Group discussed definitions of terms needed to address issues involving stray animal control activities, as well as various activities currently employed in the field. Findings of this meeting were submitted to the Animal Welfare Working Group for further discussion.

Scientific and Technical Department meetings

**New job positions**

Dr Gideon Brückner has been appointed as Head of the Scientific and Technical Department replacing Dr Alejandro Schudel who retired from the OIE and Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel has been appointed as Deputy Head of the Department, replacing Dr Dewan Sibartie who is now Head of the Regional Activities Department. An additional professional post was created in the Department to attend to the processing of dossiers for country evaluations for freedom from disease. The post will come into operation during October 2006.

**Ad hoc Group on Biotechnology**

Following the recommendations of Resolution XXVIII of the 73rd General Session of the OIE in May 2005, the first meeting of the newly established ad hoc Group on Biotechnology was held at the OIE Headquarters from 3 to 5 April 2006. The Group established Terms of Reference for future work with specific emphasis on the development of a common understanding and definition of biotechnology for animal health. During discussions the Group focussed on the need for better tools for the improvement of animal health and welfare such as the use of genetic engineering for vaccine and medicine development; the safety of cloned animals in the context of animal and public health and the need for the development of guidelines for research priorities in biotechnology in relation to animal health and welfare.

The Group will also be instrumental in organising the first International Conference on Animal Genomics for Animal Health planned for October 2007.
The joint OIE/AU-IBAR/FAO Seminar on Animal Health Policies, Evaluation of Veterinary Services and the Role of Livestock Breeders in the Surveillance of Animal Diseases was held in N’Djamena, Chad, from 13 to 15 February 2006 (c.f. OIE Bulletin No. 2006-2).

The seminar adopted Recommendations relating to the main topics that were discussed during the meeting, namely:

**Delivery of animal health services**

An increasingly important number of animal diseases wherever they occur, have a zoonotic aspect and threaten animal health including food safety. Most of the animal diseases that have a commercial impact are endemic in Africa and represent a major constraint to household livelihoods as they tend to limit international and regional markets. Compliance with OIE standards, guidelines and recommendations would thus facilitate access to these markets and improve public health.

Partners of the ALive Platform (Partnership for Livestock Development, Poverty Alleviation & Sustainable Growth) have underlined the necessity for Africa to prepare and adopt livestock policies based on a common process and framework. Specific policies must be defined by each country for both veterinary public health and health care delivery to the livestock sector. These policies involve controlling the factors of production (including diseases) that limit the economic development of the animal production sectors, and aim to guarantee that quality services are accessible to everyone. The policies must be drawn up in consultation with all stakeholders in these sectors, including decisions regarding which diseases should be considered as private or public goods. As far as possible, these policies must include the private sector, livestock breeders and other stakeholders as major players, with the State retaining a guidance, coordination, facilitation, information, regulation and law enforcement, and control role, especially for zoonoses and diseases with a major economic impact. Animal health systems must be set up to ensure sufficient coverage of the territory with accessible quality services.

**Involvement of livestock breeders in epideimosurveillance in Africa**

The important role of livestock breeders was stressed, as they are in the front line regarding the detection of animal diseases. Breeder Associations must assist the breeders in this role, with the support of the National Veterinary Services.

The role of Community Animal Health Workers in epideimosurveillance in Africa, as well as the synergy between Veterinary Services and breeders’ associations in animal health control were also discussed.

**Evaluation tool for Veterinary Services**

In order to gain access to regional and international markets, improve and secure public health and ensure early detection of animal diseases and zoonoses, as well as the safety of animal products, OIE Member Countries must have Veterinary Services (VS) that abide by international standards on quality in order to guarantee confidence to the international community, trading partners and consumers. This calls for changes in organisation, structure, financial resources, responsibilities and interaction with the private sector.

A prerequisite for strengthening official Veterinary Services (VS) is to evaluate the quality of their performance, whether for undertaking internal reforms justifying the necessary investment or external support or meeting the requirements of importing countries. For this purpose, the Performance,
Vision and Strategy (PVS) instrument can be used as a guide for the auto and external evaluation of VS. The OIE will accredit a list of experts capable of using the PVS for the external evaluation of VS. This evaluation would include the network of epidemiosurveillance within VS in Africa.

OIE Member Countries are encouraged to set up a continuous quality assessment system for VS based on the utilisation of the PVS tool.

**Control of avian influenza in Africa**

As the Asian H5N1 strain of avian influenza is already present in the African continent and is spreading rapidly in domestic poultry from their point of entry in Nigeria, the risk that the virus could spread to other countries in Africa will have a considerable negative impact on African rural economies, on increasing poverty and on the trade of poultry and poultry products.

Amongst other points, the meeting recommended that all Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, as well as the three countries that are not yet members, prepare emergency plans with respect to HPAI control, in coordination with donors and in line with international recommendations. These emergency plans must comprise new legislations and regulations enabling the constitution of a national chain of command, a mechanism for compensation for poultry owners and a significant strategic stock of vaccines directed against the H5N1 Asian strain accompanied by relevant vaccination materials.

It was also stressed that the FAO, AU-IBAR and the OIE should consider the prevention and control of avian influenza as an absolute priority in accordance with their missions for the benefit of Africa, in direct line with actions already undertaken, but which need to be continued and reinforced.

Finally this Seminar allowed African countries to adopt common policy on animal health to be implemented by the ALive platform partners.

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**Workshop on avian influenza preparedness in the Middle East**

**Beirut (Lebanon), 18–21 April 2006**

Following the Beijing meeting on avian and human influenza held in January 2006 and the OIE/FAO policy statement on ensuring good governance to address emerging and re-emerging animal disease threats, a workshop was organised for countries in the Middle East by the OIE Regional Representative in Beirut to address the risks associated with the spread of avian influenza to some of the Middle East countries and Africa. The Delegates of the OIE or their representatives from Bahrain, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Sultanate of Oman, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, observers mainly from Lebanon and the FAO Regional Coordinator in Lebanon attended the meeting. The meeting was officially opened by the Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon with short introductory opening remarks by the OIE, FAO and the OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East. The main purpose was to provide an overview of the contingency plans of the various countries, the control measures applied and bring these into context with the need to improve the delivery of veterinary services to enable countries to be prepared to cope with animal disease emergencies.

In addition to other relevant points, there was general agreement that the improvement of Veterinary Service delivery was of primary importance – especially in relation to early disease detection and reliable disease surveillance strategies. The deployment (and training) of additional people to assist with surveillance, such as people within villages, etc. was considered essential in order to increase the likelihood of early detection of animal diseases.

The meeting adopted a recommendation, the most pertinent points of which are the following:
Sixth executive committee meeting of ALive

(Bamako, Mali, 24-25 April 2006)
The ALive Platform (Partnership for Livestock Development, Poverty Alleviation & Sustainable Growth), initiated by the World Bank, has already gained the support of international and regional organisations, including the African Union, FAO, the European Union, the African Development Bank, diverse research and training institutions, and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), whose 4th Strategic Plan explicitly names ALive to achieve its goals. The objective of the ALive Platform is to promote animal health and production in Africa.

ALive aims to:
– establish a common, long-term vision; broken down in strategies and cross-cutting and harmonised sector policies
– increase participation of donors/developing agencies and their coordination
– strengthen capacity-building and promote knowledge sharing
– promote technologies and their associated transfer mechanisms; and
– increase analytical support and operational assistance in countries of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

Pursuant to Operational Guidelines, ALive’s governance is formed of a General Assembly, an Executive Committee and the Secretariat, which has decisional and operational roles. During the 2004 ALive meeting, the OIE was appointed to head the presidency of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee. Since then, the Executive Committee has held four meetings, funded by ALive donors.

The 6th meeting of ALive was held in Bamako, Mali, on 24 and 25 April 2006. The meeting adopted two Resolutions, namely, on the follow-up of activities of the Partnership, and on the role of ALive in the response against Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) in Africa. The main points include:

– OIE Member Countries in the Middle East should have a preparedness plan to implement control measures against avian influenza.
– Member Countries should be encouraged to participate in the upcoming joint meetings to be held by the OIE and FAO.

– Integrating the AHI section into the programme of activities of ALive;
– The ALive platform will play a political role in the management of AHI with African governments on the urgent need for African countries to be perfectly prepared and equipped to control AHI, by encouraging them to adopt common strategies and avoid incoherent multiplication of similar initiatives;

The ALive Platform will continue and reinforce its support to animal health and production activities on the continent and play a major role together with the GF-TADs Steering Committee, particularly with regard to the control of transboundary animal diseases. The governance of the Regional GF-TADs for Africa will form an integral part of the ALive Executive Committee, and Executive Committee meetings of ALive will incorporate meetings of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee and of the Pan-African Control of Epizootics (PACE) Programme.

Although ALive was initially steered by non-African institutions in order to facilitate the first steps of the initiative, discussions are currently taking place regarding progressive transfer of ownership to the African Union (AU) and sub-regional organisations. The platform offers real hope that the zoosanitary situation in Africa can be improved and that rural African economies can achieve sustainable and risk-free development.

As a follow-up of the ALive meeting, the AU-IBAR, on behalf of the ALive Executive Committee, presented a detailed plan of action at the meeting on avian influenza held in Vienna in June 2006. It identified the needs of the countries and the Regional Economic Communities (REC) and the activities at sub-regional and continental levels. The plan was prepared by a team of experts nominated by the OIE, FAO and IBAR and coordinated by the ALive Secretariat.
Appointment of permanent Delegates

17 March 2006
Chile
Dr Hector Galleguillos Villouta
Head of Fisheries Protection
Department, Ministry of Agriculture

20 March 2006
Rwanda
Dr Théogène Rutagwenda
Director of the Rwanda Animal
Resources Development Authority
(RARDA), Ministry of Agriculture and
Animal Resources

21 March 2006
Spain
Dr Lucio Ignacio Carbajo Goñi
Deputy Director General of Animal
Health, Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

4 April 2006
Burkina Faso
Dr Mamadou Pare
Director General of Veterinary Services,
Ministry of Animal Resources

7 April 2006
Armenia
Dr Grisha Baghiyan
Head of the State Veterinary Service,
Ministry of Agriculture

10 April 2006
Mozambique
Dr Florencia A. massango Cipriano
Director of Veterinary Services,
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development

14 April 2006
Democratic Republic of Congo
Ir. Tryphon Kilek-K-Kileh
Director and Head of Animal Production
and Health Department, Ministry of
Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock,
Direction of Production and Animal
Health

21 April 2006
Panama
Dr Filiberto Frago
Nacional Deputy Director of Animal
Health, Head of Epidemiology, Ministry
of Agriculture and Fisheries

28 April 2006
Lebanon
Dr Georges Phrerm
Director of Animal Ressources,
Ministry of Agriculture

1 May 2006
Dominican Republic
Dr Ramón Antonio Quiñónez Disla
Director of Animal Health,
Ministry of Agriculture

2 May 2006
Brazil
Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza
Director of Animal Health Department,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Livestock

5 May 2006
Libya
Dr Giuma Elaerf Mohamed El Hafi
National Centre of Animal Health
and Breeding Improvement

12 May 2006
Hungary
Dr Miklós Süth
Acting Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry
of Agriculture and Rural Development

18 May 2006
Costa Rica
Dr Yayo Vicente Salazar
Director General, Animal Health
National Department, Ministry of
Agriculture and Livestock

20 May 2006
Kyrgyzstan
Mrs Jipar Umuralieva
Veterinary Expert, Food Security
Programme, Ministry of Agriculture,
Water Resources and Processing
Industry

25 May 2006
United States of America
Dr Ron DeHaven
Administrator, Department
of Agriculture, Animal
and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 June 2006
Côte d’Ivoire
Dr Kanga Kouame
Director of Veterinary Services,
Ministry of Animal Production
and Water Resources

19 June 2006
Honduras
Ing César Augusto Noé Pino
Director General of the National Service
of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture
and Livestock
New agreements

Agreement between the World Organisation For Animal Health (OIE) and the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WAVLD)

1. The World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) hereinafter referred as OIE, and the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, hereinafter referred as WAVLD, will keep the other party informed of its activities which may be of mutual interest.

2. Each organisation will invite the other party to participate as observer in these meetings where matters of mutual interest may arise and make the reports of these meetings available.

3. In particular, WAVLD will invite the OIE to select a representative of the OIE to serve as a Permanent Advisor to the WAVLD Board of Directors.

4. The OIE and the WAVLD will exchange their catalogues of available publications to enable both organisations to request publications on activities related to their work. The OIE and WAVLD will exchange a free copy of each document and publications on subjects of mutual interest.

5. Both organisations will benefit from the concessionary rates applied to their affiliated members or organisations for further orders of publications and meetings.

6. The two organisations will endeavour to cooperate further through both formal and informal consultations on issues of common interest, in particular on issues listed below.

Issues of Common interest

– The use of diagnostic tests in the control of infectious animal diseases and zoonoses.
– Facilitate the organisation of partnerships, twinning and associations of veterinary laboratories and veterinary diagnosticians in all countries of the world.
– Enhance the capability of Member Countries on the standardisation and harmonisation of the use of diagnostic techniques according with the OIE standards.
– Disseminate the latest information relating to the diagnosis of animal diseases and zoonoses through the planning and delivery of outstanding continuing educational workshops, seminars, and international conferences.
– Provide consulting assistance to Member Countries on the state of the art infrastructures technology, bio confinement standards; and accreditation for veterinary laboratory diagnostics.
– Provide advice on veterinary research related to diagnostic of animal diseases and zoonoses.
– Other activities that may be conducted to improve the health and welfare of animals through the world.

15 February 2006
Mr Craig Carter
Secretary-Treasurer
of the WAVLD

7 February 2006
Dr Bernard Vallat
Director General
of the OIE

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM)

The purpose of this Agreement is to facilitate the contacts and cooperation between the World Organisation for Animal Health (hereinafter referred to as OIE) and the International Committee of Military Medicine (hereinafter referred to as ICMM), and particularly the Commission for Veterinary Sciences.

Considering that one of the principal objectives of the ICMM is to maintain and to strengthen the bonds between all medical services of Member States in order to promote medico-military scientific activities and to participate in the development of the medical and medico-military setting of humanitarian operations,
Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Arab Organisation for Agriculture Development (AOAD)

The Arab Organisation for Agriculture Development of the
league of Arab States, hereinafter referred to as AOAD and
the World Organisation for Animal Health, hereinafter referred
to as the OIE, being desirous of coordinating their efforts in
the control of animal diseases and food safety within the
framework of their respective mandates, agree to the
following:

**Article 1**

1.1 The OIE and AOAD agree to cooperate closely in matters
of common interest pertaining to their respective fields of
competence.

1.2 For the purposes of the present Agreement: “animal”
includes livestock, birds, wild fauna, bees, fish and other
aquatic animals.
Article 2

2.1 The OIE is primarily responsible for the following:
   a) Establishment of standards, guidelines and recommendations relevant to animal diseases and zoonoses in accordance with its statutes and as defined in the WTO-SPS Agreement;
   c) Development of Animal Welfare and of Safety Standards for food of animal origin, particularly at the primary production levels.

2.2 The AOAD is primarily responsible for the:
   a) Development of programmes in member states and coordination of activities with other relevant organisations and supporting agencies for the effective prevention and progressive control of important animal diseases;
   b) Establishment of guidelines and recommendations on good agricultural practices relevant to the management of animal diseases and zoonoses.

2.3 The following activities are subject to joint action in the middle east countries:
   a) Implementation, monitoring and maintenance of the OIE existing early warning and surveillance system for major animal diseases, by the OIE sanitary and scientific information as well as other relevant sources of disease information;
   b) Joint development of international standards relating to those aspects in animal production having impact on food safety, in collaboration with other relevant international agencies;
   c) Regional promotion and co-ordination of veterinary and other related research activities on animal diseases and zoonoses and those aspects in animal production having impact on food safety;
   d) Elaborating of regional strategies and assist in the negotiation of agreements for the effective prevention and progressive control of animal diseases and zoonoses;
   e) Providing expert advice on matters covered by this agreement;
   f) Organising strategic meetings, conferences, committees, working groups and tasks forces on those aspects in animal health/production having impact on food safety, control policies and programmes of both regional and global scope;
   g) Assisting, on request, countries in developing their veterinary education, veterinary services (or other competent authorities) in compliance with the OIE international standards on quality and evaluation and extension services;
   h) Dissemination and publication and other means of technical information related to research, control methods, and those aspects in animal production having impact on food safety.

Article 3

The OIE and AOAD jointly collaborate, in particular, by the following means:
   a) Reciprocal exchange of reports, publications and information including outbreaks of animal diseases and zoonoses and the forms of agricultural statistics. Special arrangements may be made by the Director General of the OIE and the Director General of AOAD for the collection and analysis of relevant information from any Member Country and distribution of this information to countries which are not members of one or the other party;
   b) Participation of parties in the relevant meetings and conferences organised by the other, with the right to take part in the discussions on a consultative basis. The two parties agree on jointly organised meetings, conferences and workshops dealing with matters of mutual interest;
   c) All recommendations resulting from the meetings of both organisations, OIE and AOAD, will be submitted to their relative administrative committees for consideration or adoption.
   d) Each party may submit to the other proposals for technical consultation or specific action related to subjects of common interest; to this end, the two parties may decide, if necessary, to establish a joint commission or ad hoc committees or commissions, pursuant to provisions and conditions to be established by joint agreement;
   e) Continuous consultation and concerted effort by the Director General of the OIE and the Director General of AOAD to reach the same or closely connected objectives and to avoid duplication;
   f) Mutual consultation by the Director General of the OIE and the Director General of AOAD on matters of common interest, with a view to promoting arrangements for joint action in specific fields;
Regional Animal Health Centre to coordinate avian influenza control in West and Central Africa

Background
Since the PARC programme, the AU-IBAR has established a Regional Coordination Unit in the Sotuba Park (Bamako, Mali) to provide support for the countries of West and Central Africa. This arrangement has been extended within the framework of implementing the PACE programme. This Coordination Unit currently employs an African expert as Regional Coordinator, three European Technical Assistants and locally recruited administrative staff.

In January 2001, the OIE opened the office of its Regional Representation for Africa in Bamako, in the same premises as PACE. This office comprises an African expert as OIE Regional Representative for Africa and a Technical Assistant placed at the disposal of the office by France.

Since January 2006, the FAO has been financing four regional technical cooperation programmes (TCPs) to provide emergency assistance for the early detection and prevention of avian influenza in Africa, one of which is for the 13 countries of West and Central Africa and has its regional coordination unit in the premises of PACE in Bamako.

In 2004, the FAO and the OIE signed an agreement setting up the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases). This initiative is designed to combine the experience and expertise of the two organisations in the control of transboundary diseases so as to strengthen the capacities of developing countries and help them establish control programmes for specific transboundary animal diseases according to the priorities in each region.

The complementary nature of the mandates implemented by the three institutions, in particular to improve animal health in Africa and thereby contribute to poverty alleviation, has formed the basis for a long-standing collaboration, which is notably being maintained within the framework of the PACE programme (coordinated by AU-IBAR, with an Advisory Committee chaired by the OIE and including the FAO among its members) and the ALive Platform.

The occurrence in February 2006 of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) due to virus subtype H5N1 in the West and Central region of Africa, namely in Nigeria and Niger, and
the high risk of the disease spreading to the other countries led the three institutions to draw up a formal agreement to establish an operational Regional Technical Centre aimed at ensuring better coordination of their activities.

**Purpose of the Regional Centre**
The purpose of the OIE/FAO/AU-IBAR Regional Animal Health Centre is to provide a framework for the coordination and harmonisation of strategies for the monitoring and evaluation of avian influenza control activities in West and Central Africa. It will constitute a Regional Animal Health Centre along the lines presented at the Beijing Conference in January 2006.

**Modus operandi**
As soon as the institutions involved have approved the agreement on the Centre, a quarterly programme of activities will be drawn up in Bamako, defining actions to be undertaken and missions to be carried out. Monitoring/evaluation of the Centre’s programmes will be done by the Advisory Committee of PACE, on which the parent institutions of the components of the Centre are represented.

The ADB, the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS (competent Technical Departments) and the International Organisations involved are expected to take part in discussions on the reports issued by the Centre (involvement in the management of the emergency funds) within the Advisory Committee of PACE.

The members of the Centre undertake to share all relevant information concerning the fulfilment of their joint mission. The OIE Regional Representative for Africa will provide the permanent secretariat for the Centre and will report to the Executive Committee of the ALive Platform.

**Distribution of roles between the institutions**
Taking into account the inherent experience of each of the institutions, flexible orientations have been selected regarding their special areas of intervention and their areas of added value.

**Special areas of intervention for the OIE**
- Audit and evaluation of the Veterinary Services to help Governments and donor agencies target their investments in the field of animal health
- Training of OIE Delegates and their staff (focal points for animal health information, wildlife diseases, veterinary medicinal products and vaccines)
- Actions aimed at improving the disease notification system
- Dissemination of animal health information
- Assistance with harmonisation.

**Special areas of intervention for the FAO**
- Investigations into the role of migratory birds
- Training in laboratory diagnosis and support for regional networks of laboratories and epidemiological surveillance teams
- Networking and exchange of data and information with other regions
- Support for feasibility studies for national and regional investment programmes
- Provision of technical assistance, both for the Centre and at a national level to support the implementation of programmes
- Support for the development of national and regional avian influenza control strategies.

**Special areas of intervention for AU-IBAR/PACE**
- Strengthening of epidemiological surveillance in poultry and wild birds
- Extension of the epidemiological surveillance network to countries and zones not yet affected
- Monitoring/evaluation of the application of control measures (stamping out, vaccination campaign)
- Support for the development of national and regional avian influenza control strategies
- Harmonisation and technical monitoring of emergency response plans
- Validation of applications from countries seeking emergency funding from the AU-IBAR
Support for the development of control programmes for transboundary diseases and their sub-regional and regional coordination, and for associated training
- Laboratory training (diagnosis, quality assurance) and monitoring of regional laboratory networks
- Technical secretariat for the West African mechanism for avian influenza prevention and response coordination
- Support for the setting up of emergency response funds aimed at assisting countries in managing the crisis.

**Common areas of intervention**
- Definition of control strategies
- Preparation of investment programmes for sustainable strengthening of the Veterinary Services
- Preparation of a regional avian influenza control programme
- Support for laboratories
- Dissemination of technical information
- Public awareness and information campaigns
- Monitoring and evaluation of actions in the field
- Harmonisation of emergency response plans
- Support for the development of national and regional avian influenza control strategies.

**Additional experts required**
To fulfill the aforementioned missions, the team at the Centre in Bamako will need to be backed up by permanent staff as well as by consultants on an ad hoc basis.

**Additional permanent staff requirements**

**At the OIE level**
- 1 African veterinarian specialising in institutional matters and responsible for auditing Veterinary Services and training
- 2 specialist trainers, including one for electronic information systems (one English-speaking and one French-speaking)
- 1 administrative and financial officer
- 1 bilingual secretary.

**At the AU-IBAR/PACE level**
- 2 African veterinarians responsible for supporting the implementation of national programmes and for their monitoring/evaluation
- 1 epidemiologist specialising in monitoring wildlife diseases
- 1 specialist responsible for developing the poultry sector
- 1 specialist in laboratories and diagnosis
- 1 financial manager.

**At the FAO level**
- 1 veterinary economist
- 1 epidemiologist specialising in monitoring projects relating to migratory birds
- 1 administrative support officer
- 1 veterinarian responsible for monitoring projects relating to regional networks of laboratories and surveillance teams.

**Consultant requirements**
These requirements will be defined as the need arises, but will necessarily include at least one expert in communication and one trainer.

Done at Bamako, 25 April 2006

For the OIE
OIE Regional Representative for Africa
Dr Amadou Samba Sidibe

For the FAO
Chief of the Animal Health Service
Dr Joseph Domenech

For the AU-IBAR
The Director
Dr Modibo Traore
The Global Early Warning and Response System for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses, collaboration Agreement between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the World Health Organization

1. The organisations shall collaborate on the “Global Early Warning and Response System for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses, (GLEWS)” described in Annex 1 attached hereto (hereinafter referred to as “GLEWS” or the “Project”), which forms an integral part of this Agreement.

2. All decisions concerning GLEWS shall be taken jointly by the partner organisations. The implementation of GLEWS activities by an Organisation will be subject to availability of funding and to that organisation’s regulations, rules and administrative practices.

A management committee for GLEWS including representatives of their organisations shall be nominated and will be in charge of implementing this Agreement.

3. Each organisation shall be fully responsible for the funding of its own programmed activities which may be relevant for this Agreement, except as otherwise may have been agreed in this Agreement or in an amendment thereto.

4. Any fundraising for GLEWS will be decided jointly by the three organisations and will be directed primarily to governments, non-profit organisations and foundations. Any fund-raising from commercial entities or their foundations, or organisations funded mainly from commercial sources, shall be made in accordance with the rules of the parties with respect to avoidance of any perceived conflict of interest.

5. Each party shall administer the funds handled by it in accordance with its financial regulations, rules and administrative practices. The accounts shall be subject to the internal and external auditing procedures in accordance with each party’s audit rules and procedures and a copy of the report of the external auditor shall be sent to the other parties, if so requested, as soon as it becomes available.

6. As a general rule, the parties shall decide jointly what works are to be prepared under the Project and who shall be responsible for the preparation of such works.

7. The parties shall own jointly the copyright of any work that has been prepared jointly by the parties. All acts covered by the copyright shall be decided jointly, except that each party may itself reproduce or publish the work in accordance with its administrative rules and procedures. Any revision of the work shall be decided jointly.

8. Copyright of any work prepared by one of the parties on its own under this Project shall be vested in that party, who may publish the work provided that the other parties has been given the opportunity to comment on the work and any references to that other parties before publication, which comments shall be given due consideration by the publishing party.

9. The parties shall be duly acknowledged in any work resulting from the Project and the wording of such acknowledgement shall be agreed between the parties.

10. An organisation may withdraw from this Agreement with the provision of one month’s prior written notice to the other parties, subject to the orderly conclusion of any ongoing activities and settlement of any outstanding obligations.

11. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as creating a relationship of joint ventures, partners, employer/employee or agent. Neither party has the authority to create any obligation for the other.

12. Without the prior written consent of the other parties, neither party shall, in any statement or material of an advertising or promotional nature, refer to the relationship of the parties under this Agreement.

13. The use of one party’s emblem by the other parties is subject to the prior approval in writing.

14. Each party shall be solely responsible for the manner in which it carries out its part of the collaborative activities under this Agreement. Thus, a party shall not be responsible for any loss, accident, damage or injury suffered or caused by the other parties, or that other parties’s staff or sub-contractor, in connection with, or as a result of, the collaboration under this Project.

15. This Agreement may be modified by mutual written consent of the parties.

16. Nothing in this Agreement and any document or arrangement relating thereto shall be construed as constituting a waiver of privileges or immunities enjoyed by any of the parties.

17. This Agreement and any document or arrangement relating thereto shall be governed by general principles of law to the exclusion of any single national system of law.
18. Any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall, unless amicably settled, be subject to conciliation. In the event of failure of the latter, the dispute shall be settled by arbitration. The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the modalities to be agreed upon by the parties or, in the absence of Agreement, in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. The parties shall accept the arbitral award as final.

19. This Agreement comes into force upon its signature by representatives of all three organisations and expires if all activities under GLEWS have come to an end.

Agreed and signed on 18 July 2006 on behalf of:

S. Weber-Mosdorf, ADG
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

B. Vallat, DG
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
12 rue de Prony
75017 Paris
France

A. Müller, ADG
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Roma
Italy

Appendix:
The Global Early Warning and Response System

The Global Early Warning and Response System for Major Animal Diseases including Zoonoses (GLEWS) is a joint FAO, OIE and WHO initiative which combines the strengths of the three organisations to achieve common objectives. Through sharing of information on animal disease outbreaks and epidemiological analysis the GLEWS initiative aims at improving global early warning as well as transparency among countries. The response component of the GLEWS will be complementing the existing response systems of FAO, OIE and WHO (in the field of zoonoses) in order to deliver rapid coordinated international response to animal disease emergencies. Jointly, the three organisations will be able to cover a wider range of outbreaks or exceptional epidemiological events with the provision of a wider range of expertise.

Early warning of outbreaks and the capacity for prediction of spread to new areas is an essential pre-requisite for the effective containment and control of epidemic animal diseases, including zoonoses. As experienced throughout much of the globe, weaknesses of disease surveillance systems and the inability to control major diseases at their source have contributed to the spread across geographical borders of diseases confined to livestock, such as foot-and-mouth disease, as well as diseases with a zoonotic potential, e.g. BSE and avian influenza.

Early Warning and Early Response are based on the concepts that dealing with a disease incursion in its early stages is easier and more economical than having to deal with it once it is widespread. From a public health perspective, early warning of outbreaks with a known zoonotic potential will enable control measures that can prevent human morbidity and mortality. Also, new previously unknown human infectious diseases have emerged and will continue to emerge from animal reservoirs. Through sharing of information on disease alerts, unjustified duplication of efforts will be avoided and the verification processes of the three organisations will be combined and coordinated. For zoonotic events, alerts of animal outbreaks can provide direct early warning so that human surveillance could be enhanced and preventive action taken. Similarly, there may be cases where human surveillance is more sensitive and alerts of human cases precede known animal occurrence of disease. In addition, sharing assessments of an ongoing outbreak will enable a joint and comprehensive analysis of the event and its possible consequences. Joint dissemination will furthermore allow harmonised communication by the three organisations regarding disease control strategies.

Several initiatives, at national and regional level have already been developed in the field of early warning. At the international level FAO, OIE and WHO have each developed Early Warning and Response Systems that systematically collect, verify, analyse and respond to information from a variety of sources, including unofficial media reports and informal networks. In addition, the OIE and WHO have mandates to disseminate official notification of disease or infection outbreaks to the international community within
conditions determined by their Member Countries. FAO has a broad mandate to disseminate information, including all agricultural statistics, to Member Countries.

Joint dissemination of risk assessment would also benefit from the different information sources providing a comprehensive analysis of the event and its possible consequences in its specific context.

Regarding the joint response to disease emergencies, the three organisations will be able to respond to a larger number and cover a wider range of outbreaks or exceptional epidemiological events with the provision of a wider range of expertise. This will improve international preparedness for epidemics and provide rapid, efficient and coordinated assistance to countries experiencing them.

Sharing assessments of ongoing outbreak undertaken by either of the organisations, e.g. based on reports from local representation or field missions, would be of value to all three organisations and the international community. Furthermore, the organisations would, in accordance with their different mandates, bring together different pieces of information from different sources that would enable a joint assessment of the outbreak. Immediate notifications to the OIE would provide initial details of the outbreak and any immediate control measures taken. FAO would bring the integration of other data and information, e.g. on animal production systems, factors affecting movements of livestock etc, crucial for the assessment and risk of further spread. Joint analysis and assessment by the three organisations would also benefit from the different specific competencies and resources of the three different organisations and may form the basis for a joint infection control strategy. Joint dissemination would enable harmonised communications by the three organisations regarding disease control strategies.

The existing response systems of FAO and OIE enable the provision of assistance to countries facing national or regional animal disease threats. WHO and the Global Outbreak Alert Response Network (GOARN) on the other hand ensures quick and appropriate technical support to populations affected by human disease epidemics on a national, regional or even international level. For the control of animal disease epidemics with a complex epidemiological appearance, the potential for regional or international spread and/or a public health dimension, no global response network has yet been established. There is a clear need to fill this gap by building a response network ideally complementary to GOARN when relevant, so both can share their expertise in responding to disease emergencies.

A system for joint response to disease emergencies would improve international preparedness for epidemics and provide timely and coordinated assistance to countries experiencing them. Jointly, the three organisations would be able to cover a wider range of outbreaks or exceptional epidemiological events with the provision of a wider range of expertise.

- Allow member countries to better prepare themselves to prevent incursion of animal diseases/infection and enable their rapid containment
- Improve the detection of exceptional epidemiological events at country level
- Increase timelines and sensitivity of alerts
- Improve transparency among countries and compliance with reporting to OIE
- Improve field animal health information quality in near real time
- Improve national surveillance and monitoring systems and strengthen networks that include public health, medical and veterinary laboratories working with zoonotic pathogens.
- Improve international preparedness for animal and zoonotic epidemics and provide rapid, efficient and coordinated assistance to countries experiencing them.
- Improve the capacity of the three organisations for early detection of new emerging disease threats, including zoonoses
- Provide technical support to regions/nations on issues at the animal/human interface of outbreak control
- Improve integration of human and animal surveillance allowing for simultaneous recognition of disease occurrence across species

1. The World Organisation for Animal Health, hereinafter referred to as OIE, and the International Egg Commission (incorporating “Egg Processors International”), hereinafter referred to as IEC, will keep the other party informed of its activities which may be of mutual interest.

2. The IEC represents producers of eggs and egg products internationally in both developed and developing countries. The IEC will provide the OIE with information, considered comment and feedback in relation to the practical application and adoption of OIE proposals.

3. The two organisations will endeavour to cooperate through both formal and informal consultations on issues of common interest, in particular on issues listed below.

Issues of common interest

– The provision of general information on the egg production and processing sectors, particularly on its relations and interactions with official veterinary services.
– Cooperation in the development and revision of international animal welfare guidelines and standards relevant to the egg production industry.
– Cooperation in the development and revision of international standards that impact upon the trade of eggs and egg products, including international animal health and zoonoses standards.
– Veterinary research into diseases of egg producing species.
– Exchange of views on the approach by intergovernmental bodies such as WHO, FAO and their subsidiary body (Codex Alimentarius) on disease surveillance and control strategies which may impact on the egg sector and/or on international trade.
– Exchange of views and participation at meetings on relevant aspects of animal health and zoonoses, animal welfare and food safety.

4. Each organisation will invite the other party to participate as observer in its meeting where matters of mutual interest may arise and make the reports of these meetings available.

5. The OIE and IEC will exchange their catalogue of available publications to enable both organisations to request publications on activities related to their work. The OIE and IEC will exchange free copies of documents and publications on subjects of mutual interest. Both organisations will benefit from the concessionary rates applied to their affiliated members or organisations for further orders of publications.

6 July 2006
Julian Madeley
Director General
International Egg Commission (IEC)

26 June 2006
Bernard Vallat
Director General
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
First International Conference of the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres

Florianopolis, Brazil: 3 to 5 December, 2006

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) with the valuable support of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Brazil is organising the “First International Conference of the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres”, which will be held in Florianopolis, Brazil, from 3 to 5 December 2006. Designated experts from all the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, Chief Veterinary Officers from the Regional Commission of the Americas, OIE Regional Representatives worldwide, Presidents of all OIE Regional Commissions as well as national scientific and private laboratory experts, are invited to participate in the Conference.

The purpose of the Conference is to provide a multidisciplinary forum for strengthening scientific cooperation within the network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres as well as Veterinary Services. The Conference will further promote the updating and setting of standards for methodologies in the fields of diagnostics, vaccine quality and bio security; the improvement of links between existing Reference Laboratories, Collaborating Centres and national official and private laboratories; support to developing and in-transition countries through capacity building and training programmes and the discussion of initiatives for financial support.

The OIE acknowledge with appreciation the support of the Government of Brazil, and is confident that the outcome of this First Conference will benefit the international animal health community and contribute to better control and prevention of animal diseases and zoonoses.

Details of the scientific program, registration and logistical arrangements are available on the OIE website at www.oie.int
The current value of global trade has reached a staggering annual figure of $6 trillion in merchandise crossing borders. Such prolific global trading has, at the same time, begun to raise fears of pandemics and concerns for global health. Yet, investment in public health infrastructure and disease control was never designed to cope with international trade of this volume and diversity. Indeed, most health systems lag far behind, especially in poor countries. This has created new vulnerabilities for global populations to the introduction and amplification of infection through trade. Public fears have been further heightened by frightening news reports of deadly diseases such as mad cow disease and *Escherichia coli* infections.

‘Risky Trade: Infectious Disease in the Era of Global Trade’ provides a thorough examination of the actual risks posed by disease in the age of globalisation. Drawing on the economics of international trade and epidemiology, the author explores the critical health issues arising from the enormous increase in global trade and travel. Issues covered include:

- the scale of the problem with particular reference to the Sakai outbreak of *E.coli*
- risks from particular microbes, enteric and viral infections, highly infectious agents, antimicrobial resistance and stealth agents
- global outbreaks as a result of human travel and trade
- prevention, surveillance and control
- the future health of global trading.

In addition to highlighting the problems, the book also addresses some of the potential benefits the same globalisation can bring to epidemic control through surveillance, diagnostics, treatment and investigation. The empirical approach ties together existing descriptions and case studies of epidemics building a comprehensive framework for examining new events and considering historical experience with infectious outbreaks.

The volume will be a valuable guide to students, academics, practitioners, and policy makers in the areas of international trade, health economics, epidemiology, international/public health and disease control.

**Contents**

Foreword, David Heymann – Preface – The global express – Elusive enterics
La maîtrise des maladies infectieuses
Un défi de santé publique, une ambition médico scientifique
(Controlling infectious diseases
A public health challenge, a medico-political goal)
Rapport sur la science et la technologie no. 24
Éditions EDP Sciences
June 2006
Price: $59.00
Under the direction of:
Gérard Orth,
Member of the Academy of Sciences
Philippe Sansonetti,
Member of the Academy of Sciences

It was not so long ago that we thought that infectious diseases could be controlled by the generalisation of health and hygiene measures and the use of antibiotics and vaccines. This hope has unfortunately been dashed and we are now witnessing a re-emergence of infectious diseases, most frequently of animal origin. Although the most vulnerable populations of the planet are those who pay the heaviest price, we have to admit that development also generates its share of infectious pathologies.

This long-standing public health problem has been re-emerging over recent decades on a different scale and with new characteristics. There is a whole range of causes, which are analysed in the first part of the report. The second section develops the different aspects of the response of society to this challenge, which will require an unprecedented and coordinated research effort backed by public health measures.

The recommendations made are addressed to the public authorities, to the various health and research actors and to society as a whole, because full and clear information is one of the key elements for controlling infectious diseases.

L’épidémiologie humaine
Conditions de son développement en France, et rôle des mathématiques
(Human epidemiology
Conditions for its development in France and the role of mathematics)
Rapport sur la science et la technologie no. 23
Éditions EDP Sciences
May 2006
Price: $59.00
Under the direction of:
Alain-Jacques Valleron,
Member of the Academy of Sciences

Although France can boast that it was the cradle of epidemiology, an objective analysis of researchers and laboratories reveals that, in terms of manpower, it is currently lagging behind comparable countries. Nevertheless, the demand for both scientific and social epidemiology continues to grow.

Following an overview of the definition, history and current status of the discipline, this book attempts to describe the methodologies. It shows that modern epidemiology has for a long time been based on statistics, and more recently on new fields in mathematics such as calculating probabilities, numeric analysis, the theory of complex systems and modelling in general, which opens up new possibilities for applications. The current explosion in health information and management systems and powerful new epidemiological observation systems are analysed as new research opportunities.

The report describes how modern epidemiology is developing in step with biology, as well as explaining the importance of human and social sciences.

The report also examines the role of epidemiology as a scientific support system for decision making in the field of public health. Finally, it outlines the progress required in education, the need to open up epidemiology to students, teachers and researchers in non-medical disciplines, and puts forward organisational recommendations.
September

Regional Workshop on the Surveillance of Sub-Saharan Diseases (within the framework of the Priority Solidarity Fund - PSF)
4-7 September
Bamako (Mali)
OIE Regional Representation for Africa

XIIth Seminar on Harmonisation of Registration and Control of Veterinary Medicines - Americas Committee on Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET)
5-8 September
Panama City (Panama)
OIE Regional Representation for the Americas

OIE/FAO-APHCA WTO-XII European Poultry Conference – EPC 2006
10-14 September
Verona (Italy)
www.epc2006.verona.fiere.it/index.htm
epc2006@wpsa.it

Seminar on FMD control and surveillance
18-20 September
Amman (Jordan)
OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

October

International Seminar on journalism and environment
27-29 September
Cordoba (Spain)

Seminar on the dialogue and common activities between the OIE member countries of the EU and the other OIE members of the Regional Commission for Europe
2-3 October
Tbilisi (Georgia)
OIE Regional Activities Department

Seminar on the dialogue and common activities between the OIE member countries of the EU and the other OIE members of the Regional Commission for Europe
6-7 October
Baku (Azerbaijan)
OIE Regional Activities Department

OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health
9-12 October
Bergen (Norway)
www.oie.int/eng/Norway2/home.htm

24th World Buiatrics Congress
15-19 October
Nice (France)
Tel +33 4 93 92 81 61
Fax +33 4 93 92 83 38
wbc2006@nice-acropolis.com

ICLAS/AALAS International Conference
15-19 October
Salt Lake City (United States of America)
www.iclas.org

29th Regional Conference of CIS Countries
6 October
Erevan (Armenia)
OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe

Seminar on the dialogue and common activities between the OIE member countries of the EU and the other OIE members of the Regional Commission for Europe
4-5 October
Erevan (Armenia)
OIE Regional Activities Department

22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
25-29 September
Lyons (France)
OIE Regional Activities Department

Seminar on FMD control and surveillance
18-20 September
Amman (Jordan)
OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

7th International Congress of Veterinary Virology
24-26 September
Lisbon (Portugal)
Dr Carlos Martins
esvv2006@fmv.utl.pt
www.esvv2006.org/

Extraordinary Meeting of the Administrative Commission
20-22 September
headquarters of the OIE, Paris (France)
General Direction
ECOWAS/WAEMU
Seminar on strengthening of Veterinary Service governance in Africa for a better prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases
6-9 November
Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)
OIE Regional Representation for Africa

Joint WHO/MZCP – OIE/RRME International Training Course
12-15 November
Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates)
OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
28 November - 2 December
Florianópolis (Brazil)
OIE Regional Activities Department

November
Biological Crisis Management in Human and Veterinary Medicine – ‘Emerging Diseases: Preparedness and Implementation Issues’
5-8 November
Lyons (France)
www.bcm2006.org

27th IDF World Dairy Congress
20-23 October
Shanghai (P.R. of China)
www.idf2006shcn.com

OIE Regional Workshop on Harmonisation of Veterinary Drugs
6-10 November
Bogor (Indonesia)
OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

OIE Regional Workshop on Harmonisation of Veterinary Drugs
12-15 November
Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates)
OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

Sixth Working Group Meeting of Animal Movement Management and Zoning Approach for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in the Upper Mekong Basin
1-8 November, Asia
OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

5-8 November
Bogor (Indonesia)
OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Regional OIE/FAO workshop on Food and Feed Safety
6-10 November, Thailand
OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

XX Pan American Congress of Veterinary Sciences and XIV Chilean Congress of Veterinary Medicine
11-13 November
Diego Portales Convention Centre, Santiago de Chile (Chile)
www.panvet2006.cl/

OIE Regional Representation for Africa

OIE/Hiroshima University International Symposium on Viral Necrosis (VNN) of Fish
28 November - 1 December, Hiroshima (Japan)
OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Sixth Working Group Meeting of Animal Movement Management and Zoning Approach for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in the Upper Mekong Basin
1-8 November, Asia
OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

11th Meeting of the Permanent Commission of the Americas on TSEs in Animals – COPEA
24-25 November
Buenos Aires (Argentina)
OIE Regional Representation for the Americas

Joint WHO/MZCP – OIE/RRME International Training Course
12-15 November
Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates)
OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
28 November - 2 December
Florianópolis (Brazil)
OIE Regional Activities Department

Wellcome Trust Global Foot and Mouth Disease Technology Road Map Workshop
29 November - 1 December
Agra (India)
Dr V.K. Taneja, Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences)
ICAR, New Delhi
vijay_taneja@hotmail.com
vkt@nic.in

Dr B.D. Perry, Chairman
FMD Technology Road Map Workshop Organising Committee
ILRI, Nairobi, Kenya
Email: b.perry@cgiar.org

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OIE/Hiroshima University International Symposium on Viral Necrosis (VNN) of Fish
28 November - 1 December, Hiroshima (Japan)
OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific
December

*First International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres*
3-5 December
Florianopolis (Brazil)
OIE Regional Representation for the Americas
Tel.: 54-11.48.03.48.77
Fax: 54-11.48.03.36.88
rr.americas@oie.int
Local Committee: Rosane Henn, rosanehenn@agricultura.gov.br
OIE contact: Sara Linnane, s.linnane@oie.int or scientific.dept@oie.int

*World Conference on Avian Influenza*
5-7 December
Bamako (Mali)
OIE Direction and Regional Representation for Africa

*Empowerment of Veterinary Services*
9-12 December
Kuwait City (Kuwait)
OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

February

*International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance*
23-25 February, Vienna (Austria)
http://med.isid.org

*17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa*
26 February - 1 March
Asmara (Eritrea)
OIE Regional Activities Department (regactivities.dept@oie.int)

March

*Second International Seminar on Animal Health, SISA 2007*
7-9 March
San José de las Lajas, La Habana (Cuba)
Dr Siomara Martínez Marrero, Scientific Secretary
siomara@censa.edu.cu

May

*75th General Session of the OIE*
20-25 May
Palais Brongniart (Bourse)
Paris (France)

*International Conference: Towards the Elimination of Rabies in Eurasia*
27-30 May
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)
Scientific and Technical Department (scientific.dept@oie.int)

June

*7th Nordic Symposium on Fish Immunology*
17-23 June, Stirling (Scotland)
Dr Janina Costa
Tel.: +44(0) 1786 466-598
noffi@stir.ac.uk
www.noffi.org

August

*12th International Conference of the Association of Institutions for Tropical Veterinary Medicine (AITVM)*
20-23 August
Montpellier (France)
Denise Bastron
CIRAD-EMVT – TA30/B
Tel.: 33 467 593 904
Fax: 33 467 593 795
aitvm@cirad.fr

October

*International Conference on Animal Genomics for Animal Health*
23-25 October, OIE, Paris (France)
OIE Scientific and Technical Department

*9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East*
30 October - 2 November
Damascus (Syria)
OIE Regional Activities Department (regactivities.dept@oie.int)

November

*25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania*
November (New Zealand)
OIE Regional Activities Department (regactivities.dept@oie.int)
Animal welfare

I am very concerned about the cruelty involved in the culling of animals for disease control purposes, particularly in connection to avian flu. Millions of birds have been killed in the most horrible way – buried or burned alive or left to suffocate inside plastic bags. There is a strong demand for international guidelines to be followed, to avoid further atrocities to birds in areas with outbreaks of avian flu. There is a need for immediate action to prevent nations from continuing the practice of burning or burying birds alive.

The OIE emphasizes the need for veterinary services worldwide to address urgently outbreaks of avian influenza in poultry. However, as the international reference organisation for animal welfare, the OIE is committed to alerting about the necessity to use appropriate methods to kill infected and in contact birds. This action is carried out to protect other birds worldwide from the infection of the avian influenza virus. The OIE considers animal health as an essential factor of animal welfare.

The OIE has developed animal welfare guidelines for the killing of animals for disease control purposes. These guidelines were adopted by the 167 Member Countries of the OIE in May 2005. The contents of these international standards can be found on the OIE web site (www.oie.int).

In particular, these guidelines recommend that:

- When animals are killed for disease control purposes, methods used should result in immediate death or immediate loss of consciousness lasting until death; when loss of consciousness is not immediate, induction of unconsciousness should not cause anxiety, pain, distress or suffering in the animals.
- There should be continuous monitoring of the procedures to ensure they are consistently effective with regard to animal welfare, operator safety and biosecurity.
- The operational activities should be led by an official veterinarian who has the authority to appoint the personnel in the specialist teams and ensure that they adhere to the required animal welfare and biosecurity standards. When appointing the personnel, he/she should ensure that the personnel involved has the required competencies.
- A specialist team, led by a team leader answerable to the official veterinarian, should be deployed to work on each affected premises. The team should consist of personnel with the competencies to conduct all required operations; in some situations, personnel may be required to fulfil more than one function. Each team should contain a veterinarian.

Furthermore the OIE supports the use of vaccination in countries when the disease becomes endemic.

Requirements for imports

We are currently making attempts to get into contact with some officials from the World Organisation for Animal Health in order to assist us in obtaining health certificates for cattle for imports into a country.

The OIE is recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the relevant standard-setting organisations for animal health and zoonoses. The OIE defines the standards for international trade in terrestrial animals and animal products in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Terrestrial Code, http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/en_mcode.htm). Taking into account the relevant Code, each Member Country is then responsible for developing and implementing its own import standards for animal health, depending on its animal health status and that of the exporting country.

The OIE does not maintain a record of the specific health regulations of any Member Country and it is not in a position in providing information on country regulations. I recommend that you directly contact the Competent Authority of the importing country.

Finally, it is not in the mandate of the OIE to work directly with the commercial parties involved. I regret that we will not be available to assist you in getting certificates from the importing country.
Dr Raymond Dugas, former Head of the Publications Department, left the OIE in July and we wish him the very best for the future. Since September the new Head of Department has been Professor Paul-Pierre Pastoret. Professor Pastoret gained his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Liege in Belgium. After obtaining a PhD in virology/immunology he continued his post-doctorate studies at the University of Saskatoon in Canada. On returning to Belgium he was named Professor of virology/immunology and pathology of viral diseases at the University of Liege. He worked with the European Medicines Agency in London when it was first created and he continued to be involved with the Agency for seven years until taking up a post as Director of the Institute for Animal Health in the United Kingdom. Professor Pastoret will manage the OIE Publications Department with the Deputy Head of the Department, Annie Souyri.

Paloma Blandin, our graphic artist, has left Paris, but she continues to work for the OIE from Madrid on a freelance basis. She has recently completed work on new covers for our principal publications and each one now has a similar design. The new lay-out, based on a system of squares, provides an easily-recognisable design which allows for infinite variations but maintains a clear corporate image. A selection of our most recent publications is presented below.

Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards during the 73rd General Session in May 2005: Professor Paul-Pierre Pastoret receiving the OIE Meritorious Service Award
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