The OIE and its network of excellence
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Pathogens have an extraordinary ability, that some might call an ‘evil genius’, to adapt. Only science can provide the continuous help we need to adapt our disease prevention and control methods accordingly.

The OIE is firmly committed to playing a central role in the worldwide control of animal diseases, including those transmissible to humans, by providing all countries with its know-how in the areas of governance and general policies for the prevention and control of these diseases. Furthermore, the Organisation also obtains far more specific recommendations on how to deal with each of the identified health hazards falling within its mandate.

To this end, the OIE collects and analyses the latest veterinary scientific information so as to ensure that its animal disease prevention and control methods can be constantly updated. This information is then disseminated to all its Member Countries. The system relies on a network of over 220 OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres throughout the world, covering more than 100 different diseases.

The function of OIE Reference Laboratories is to serve as world centres of expertise for OIE official listed diseases; they have particular responsibility for carrying out confirmatory diagnostic tests for these diseases and transmitting the results to the competent authorities of the Member Countries. Each Reference Laboratory has a designated expert, a renowned specialist, enabling it to provide the OIE and its Member Countries with high-level scientific and technical assistance and advice on topics within its mandate.

OIE Collaborating Centres are centres of expertise in a designated sphere of competence relating to the management of a particular issue (e.g. epidemiology, risk analysis, animal welfare or veterinary training) and their expertise in these different fields is placed at the disposal of all countries.

Thanks to the work and voluntary commitment of all these internationally renowned experts, the OIE ensures that the standards and guidelines it issues are soundly based on science. These standards and guidelines, regularly published in the OIE’s Codes and Manuals for terrestrial animals and aquatic animals, serve as the official reference for the World Trade Organization (WTO), which bases its rules on trade in live animals and products of animal origin solely on scientific evidence.

The OIE’s network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres provides Members Countries, and indeed the whole of the international community, with authoritative scientific opinions and advice on key topics, such as animal health and welfare, diagnostic techniques, food safety or veterinary training.

Since 2006, a laboratory twinning programme under the auspices of the OIE has been facilitating close cooperation between experts in the North and those in the South, thereby helping to extend still further the OIE’s network of excellence.

This network is the central core that enables our Organisation to remain at the forefront of world veterinary scientific expertise and successfully carry out its key activities.

However, the challenge that we are facing today, given the worldwide emergence and recrudescence of zoonoses and their potentially serious public health consequences, is to strengthen the activities of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. We must enable these centres of excellence to maintain a high level of effectiveness, continuously capitalise on technical and scientific advances and, wherever possible, carry out the appropriate research programmes. The OIE is, therefore, seeking to promote mechanisms at the worldwide, regional and national level.
to strengthen support and funding for the scientific activities of existing and future laboratories in developing countries, while at the same time consolidating the activities of laboratories located in developed countries.

In the scientific field, the OIE works with other international organisations, notably FAO, WHO and IAEA. The OIE and FAO, for example, have set up a new global scientific network (OFFLU) to assist Veterinary Services in controlling animal influenzas. This network of laboratories continuously monitors avian influenza and other animal influenza viruses and works closely with the WHO influenza network to enhance public health protection.

Furthermore, the OIE/FAO joint programme ‘GF-TADs’ is aimed at achieving better control of priority animal diseases and, through its ‘GLEWS’ network (a component of the programme which is implemented in collaboration with WHO), takes into account information derived from disease surveillance and early warning systems.

Within the context of the ‘One World, One Health’ concept, it is important to mention the alliance between the OIE, FAO and WHO in this field. Recognising their joint responsibility in the fight against zoonoses and some other diseases, they have set up early warning systems and coordination and cooperation systems for the management of diseases at the human–animal interface. The OIE and its partners share the same vision, namely to improve diagnostic and health data analysis capabilities worldwide, a field in which the OIE’s Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres are playing a crucial role.

Moreover, the OIE, in conjunction with FAO and WHO, is committed to facilitating the international transport of biological samples, which all too often encounters reluctance on the part of transporters.

The success of the first International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, held in Brazil in 2006, proved that the only way to address and resolve these different questions and topics is through the continuous strengthening of regional and global networks of veterinary scientific expertise. Four years on, I am extremely pleased that the OIE can once again demonstrate its commitment and gratitude to all the experts of its Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres by inviting them to OIE Headquarters in Paris, on 21–23 June 2010, for the Second Global Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.

This will provide an opportunity to strongly reaffirm that scientific excellence is the basis of good governance and of every animal health achievement worldwide.
Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is a zoonotic, vector-borne disease caused by a virus in the Bunyaviridae family, of the genus Nairovirus. This disease affects humans and animals very differently. In humans, CCHF can vary from asymptomatic infection to severe haemorrhagic fever, with death occurring in up to 30% of severely ill patients. Many other species of mammals and some birds can be infected with CCHF virus, but clinical disease has not been described in any species other than humans. The occurrence of asymptomatic infection poses a significant challenge to national Veterinary Services in the prevention, detection and control of CCHF among animals.

Animals and ticks play a key role in the epidemiology and maintenance of CCHF virus. The natural cycle of the virus is associated mainly with ticks, predominantly those from the Hyalomma genus. Immature and adult stages of these ticks feed on small vertebrates (hares, hedgehogs and ground-feeding birds, among others) and large vertebrates (including cattle, sheep, goats, wild boar and ostriches), respectively. The majority of human cases are associated with a history of tick bite or unprotected exposure to biological fluids or tissues from infected animals or CCHF patients. Humans can also be exposed to CCHF virus through crushing the ticks that infest animals or exposure to the infective blood or tissues of animals. An increased circulation of the CCHF virus has historically been associated with ecological changes, particularly changes in land use and agricultural practices, that have resulted in the differential distribution of ticks, susceptible animal hosts and human contact.

The ad hoc Group on CCHF noted that, since 2004, there has been an increase in the number of documented human CCHF cases, occurring sporadically to hyper-endemically over the past decade, from countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Russia and the Middle East. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) recently convened an ad hoc Group on CCHF (16 to 17 February 2010). This Group noted that, since 2004, there has been an increase in the number of documented human CCHF cases, occurring sporadically to hyper-endemically over the past decade, from countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Russia and the Middle East. It is possible that increased public awareness and surveillance of CCHF are contributing to the increase in reported human cases. Current knowledge of animal infection with CCHF virus is limited and comes from investigations conducted during human outbreaks of the disease. There is potential for the CCHF virus to exist or be introduced into any area where Hyalomma ticks are found or could become established.

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever was added to the OIE list of notifiable diseases in May 2005 (implemented January 2006). Member Countries must report the occurrence of CCHF in animals, in accord with the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever is also identified as a priority disease within the Global Early Warning and Response system for major animal diseases, including zoonoses (GLEWS), a network in which the OIE, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization have agreed to share official and unofficial information on the potential or confirmed occurrence of CCHF in animals or humans.

As of the end of February 2010, no immediate notification of CCHF infection in animals had been officially reported to the OIE, although six countries had reported the confirmed or suspected presence of CCHF in animals at least once, during the period from 2005 to 2009, in their six-monthly reports to the OIE. In the absence of specific OIE guidance on surveillance and diagnostic measures, reporting the disease and interpreting these reports remains a challenge. There is some suggestion that CCHF may be occurring among animals in some countries but it is either not identified or not reported. For example, there are countries in which human cases have been reported, yet no animal cases have been reported – even though animals play a crucial role in maintaining the presence of CCHF virus in a given area. In addition, there are reports in the scientific literature documenting animal or tick infections in countries that have not officially reported any animal infection to the OIE.

At present, experimental research on CCHF in animals is very limited

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever was added as an OIE-listed disease due to its zoonotic potential. Viraemic animals are considered to pose a risk of blood-borne transmission to slaughterhouse workers and anyone slaughtering infected animals. Human cases have been associated with the slaughter of infected livestock, including ostriches. Additional risk factors for human infection include other kinds of direct animal contact (e.g. milking or sheep shearing). In slaughter or animal husbandry situations, it can be difficult to discriminate between tick exposure and blood-borne exposure as the transmission route for individual human cases.

At present, experimental research on CCHF in animals is very limited. This is, in part, due to the fact that there is no described disease in animals, but also to the high levels of biosafety concern about the CCHF virus, which is considered a Biosafety Level- (BSL-) 4 agent in most non-endemic areas, and a BSL-3 agent in several endemic countries. Crucial data are missing when attempting to describe natural infection with CCHF in animal species. It is challenging to fully characterise transmission risks and to identify comprehensive prevention and control measures. Acaricide treatment of livestock and, in special circumstances, of the environment,
has been implemented as a control measure. No clear data are available on the usefulness and efficacy of this procedure for preventing CCHF virus circulation and human disease.

Continuing collaboration between animal health and human health agencies on CCHF at all levels is crucial to its overall detection, prevention and control

There are many routes by which the CCHF virus could potentially be spread internationally. Infected animals are asymptomatic but capable of virus transmission. Therefore, there is a risk of spreading CCHF virus into a new geographic area through the introduction of infected livestock, other infected animals (wildlife or migrating birds) or infected ticks. If a viraemic animal is introduced into a previously unaffected area, where a local competent vector exists, transmission of the CCHF virus could occur and the virus could become established in the new area. The trade of animals infested with CCHF virus-infected ticks could also allow the introduction of the virus into a new area. Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus could become persistent in areas where either the tick vector exists or both a suitable habitat and preferred host are present. Acaricide treatment and implementation of a quarantine period would reduce the risk of international spread.

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever is an important zoonotic disease, with substantial effects on humans and potentially severe impacts on trade. Unfortunately, the information currently available on the characteristics of CCHF infection in animals and its potential transmission to humans, as well as on host, pathogen and vector interaction, remains insufficient to serve as the evidence base for detailed OIE standards and guidance. Continuing collaboration between animal health and human health agencies on CCHF at all levels is crucial to its overall detection, prevention and control.

References
For almost a decade, the world has recognised the pandemic potential of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1, which causes substantial mortality and morbidity in poultry, and infrequent but largely fatal disease in humans. Efforts focused on stopping avian influenza at its source – the animal population – have had parallel effects or their origins in animal populations. The human H1N1 influenza pandemic that started in 2009 was caused by a virus containing the genes of historical human, avian and porcine influenza viruses. This is not a new scenario, as at least 60% of emerging infectious diseases affecting humans have their origins in domestic or wild animals.

In the face of zoonotic disease emergence, including influenza, multi-sectoral and trans-disciplinary responses are crucial to the most effective prevention, detection and control of such diseases in both animal and human populations. Over the years, responses to these disease-specific events have improved by incorporating previous experience. One question facing the joint animal and human health community is whether there may be approaches to emerging zoonotic disease that are horizontal and not specific to the disease itself.
To answer this question, the FAO, OIE and WHO convened the Second Joint Scientific Consultation on Influenza and Other Emerging Zoonotic Diseases at the Human-Animal Interface in Verona, Italy, in April 2010. The theme of this second meeting was: ‘Past Experiences – New Paradigms – Future Threats’. Experts representing various aspects of animal and human health accepted the challenge of examining emerging zoonoses, including influenzas, to identify commonalities at the point where humans and animals interact.

The fundamental basis of all discussions was a technical perspective on the human – animal interface and its application to the detection, prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases.

Being able to identify commonalities among emerging zoonoses, including influenzas, should allow the veterinary community to better ‘expect the unexpected’, and to identify approaches that could be developed to prepare for and respond to the next emerging event effectively, regardless of its origin or pathogen. The participants in this meeting discussed their experiences and drew conclusions from: what has worked in previous situations with various diseases (such as influenza H5N1 and pandemic H1N1 2009, Ebola virus haemorrhagic fever, Rift Valley fever, SARS and human immunodeficiency virus), the reasons why certain approaches may or may not have worked, and their expert understanding of the factors behind disease emergence. The fundamental basis of all discussions was a technical perspective on the human-animal interface and its application to the detection, prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases. Outcomes of this consultation should provide a technical basis for developing or modifying policies and strategies to prepare for and respond to the next emerging event much more effectively.
Invasive ‘alien’ species may compete with already existing local biodiversity and domestic animals, introduce infectious transboundary diseases (often emerging), and have a detrimental effect on the environment. Invasive animal species may belong to any species, including molluscs, arthropods, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds or mammals. Moreover, invasive plants can have an impact on the animal kingdom.

Natural ‘alien’ species invasions, notably through migrations, have always occurred, and there have also been accidental or intentional introduction by man, often with deleterious effects. Livestock or companion animals, have accompanied man during his own historical migrations.

After a definition of what can be considered an invasive species, these issues of the Review intend to give an overview of all aspects of animal invasions and their mechanisms, largely based upon historical records of known animal invasions; they will also describe the impacts, both negative and positive, of the invasions and look to the future. Finally, these Reviews will consider how to prevent the introduction of invasive ‘alien’ species and how to control or mitigate their effects.
The aim of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* is to assure the sanitary safety of international trade in aquatic animals (fish, molluscs, crustaceans and amphibians) and their products. This is achieved through the detailing of sanitary measures to be used by the Veterinary Authorities of importing and exporting countries to avoid the transfer of agents pathogenic for aquatic animals or humans, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers.

The value of the *Aquatic Code* is twofold: that the measures published in it are the result of consensus among the Veterinary Authorities of OIE Member Countries, and that it constitutes a reference within the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the WTO as an international standard for animal health and zoonoses. The *Aquatic Code* is an indispensable reference document for all those responsible for international trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products as well as for veterinarians and professionals involved in the prevention and control of aquatic animal diseases.

The 2010 *Aquatic Code* is scheduled for release in August 2010.

The *Atlas of Transboundary Animal Diseases* is intended to assist Veterinary Service field staff involved in animal disease surveillance and diagnostics in identifying important transboundary diseases of livestock. The publication replaces the 1988 two-volume reference, *Illustrated Manual for the recognition and diagnosis of certain animal diseases*, which is no longer available. The focus of this new publication is on key images of clinical signs and post mortem lesions associated with 29 OIE-listed animal diseases supplemented by basic disease information from the OIE technical disease cards. Input for this consolidated reference volume comes from the OIE’s global network of veterinary epidemiologists and experts and is published with the support of the United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS).
meetings and visits

Names and positions of OIE permanent staff who participated in meetings or visits: January to March 2010

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OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations

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<td>Luis Osvaldo Barcos: Regional Representative for the Americas (Buenos Aires, Argentina)</td>
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<td>Yolanda P. De Conte: Secretary (Panama City, Panama)</td>
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<td>Khun Chutikarn Dhebhasit: Secretary (Bangkok, Thailand)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Silvia Moraes Soares: Secretary (Bangkok, Thailand)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eastern Europe: Nikola T. Belev: Regional Representative for Eastern Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria) and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rina Kostova: Secretary (Sofia, Bulgaria)</td>
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<td>Stanislav Ralchev: Technical Assistant (Sofia, Bulgaria)</td>
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<td>Anatoly Vlasov: Expert (Sofia, Bulgaria)</td>
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<td>Caroline Planté: Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels (Belgium)</td>
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<td>Middle East: Ghazi Yehia: Regional Representative for the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pierre Primot: Chargé de mission (Beirut, Lebanon)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mustapha Mestom: Consultant (Beirut, Lebanon)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rita Rizk: Secretary (Beirut, Lebanon)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hani Imam: Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Khodr Rejeili: Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mahmoud Gaddaf: Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asia and the Pacific (cont.): Alex Bouchot: Chargé de mission (Bangkok, Thailand)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharie Michelle Razo Aviso: Project Officer (Bangkok, Thailand)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jaruwan Angvanitchakul: Secretary (Bangkok, Thailand)</td>
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<td>aka Ning: Secretary (Bangkok, Thailand)</td>
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<td>Mahmoud Gaddaf: Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Name and position of experts who represented the OIE in meetings or visits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gideon Brückner</td>
<td>President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kris de Clercq</td>
<td>Vice-President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teruhide Fujita</td>
<td>OIE Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne A. MacKenzie</td>
<td>OIE Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardner Murray</td>
<td>OIE Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Pearson</td>
<td>Member of the FAO/OIE Joint Committee on Rinderpest Eradication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda J. Saif</td>
<td>OIE Expert on Transmissible Gastroenteritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daoula Sylla</td>
<td>Member of the FAO/OIE Joint Committee on Rinderpest Eradication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
meetings and visits

### January 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the event</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Réunion Joint FAO/OIE/WHO ‘Identify’ Project Coordination Meeting (FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations / WHO: World Health Organization)</td>
<td>Lyons (France)</td>
<td>11-12 January 2010</td>
<td>Dr K. Glynn &amp; Dr A. Thiermann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The European Network of Excellence for Epizootic Diseases, Diagnosis and Control (EPIZONE) – 4th half- yearly meeting</td>
<td>Lelystad (Netherlands)</td>
<td>14-15 January 2010</td>
<td>Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Green Week (IGW) 2010 and the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture</td>
<td>Berlin (Germany)</td>
<td>14-18 January 2010</td>
<td>Mr M. Nissen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of avian influenza surveillance on wild birds and domestic animals along migratory flyways under the OIE/JTF Project for strengthening HPAI control in Asia (JTF: Japan Trust Fund / HPAI: highly pathogenic avian influenza)</td>
<td>Nam Dinh Province (Vietnam)</td>
<td>14-22 January 2010</td>
<td>Dr K. Sakurai</td>
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<td>The European Network of Excellence for Epizootic Diseases, Diagnosis and Control (EPIZONE) – 4th half- yearly meeting</td>
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<td>Nam Dinh Province (Vietnam)</td>
<td>14-22 January 2010</td>
<td>Dr K. Sakurai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening of the programme: ‘Panama Free from Bovine Brucellosis’</td>
<td>Ocu (Panama)</td>
<td>15 January 2010</td>
<td>Dr J.J. Oreamuno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126th Session of the WHO Executive Board</td>
<td>Geneva (Switzerland)</td>
<td>17-19 January 2010</td>
<td>Dr K. Miyagishima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th meeting of the Upper Mekong Working Group on Zoning for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Animal Movement Management</td>
<td>Hanoi (Vietnam)</td>
<td>20-22 January 2010</td>
<td>Dr K. Sakurai, Dr R.C. Abila, Dr J. Stratton, Dr A. Bouchot, Dr S.M. Razo Razo &amp; Dr G. Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inauguration of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa</td>
<td>Tunis (Tunisia)</td>
<td>25-26 January 2010</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat, Dr M. Elot, Dr A.B. Niang, Dr F. Rechidi, Dr V. Brioudes &amp; Dr A. Petrini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations System Workshop on Avian and Pandemic Influenza</td>
<td>Bangkok (Thailand)</td>
<td>27-29 January 2010</td>
<td>Dr I. Shimohira, Dr R.C. Abila &amp; Dr G. Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar: ‘Recipes for Success in Capacity Building’ at the invitation of the Dutch Veterinary Services</td>
<td>The Hague (Netherlands)</td>
<td>28 January 2010</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat &amp; Dr W. Pelgrim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47th Plenary Meeting of the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) Animal Health and Animal Welfare Panel (AHAW)</td>
<td>Parma (Italy)</td>
<td>28-29 January 2010</td>
<td>Dr C. Planté</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### February 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the event</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,016th Wilton Park Conference: ‘G-8 Global Partnership Approach to Combating the Global Biological Threat’, in partnership with the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Defence for the United Kingdom and the Department of State of the United States</td>
<td>Steyning (United Kingdom)</td>
<td>1-2 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Laos to discuss the control of FMD and other transboundary animal diseases</td>
<td>Vientiane (Laos)</td>
<td>1-2 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr R.C. Abila &amp; Dr G. Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine Influenza Surveillance Panel (ESP) meeting</td>
<td>Amelia Island (United States of America)</td>
<td>2 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE/FAO/WHO – GLEWS (Global Early Warning and Response System) Task Force Meeting</td>
<td>Rome (Italy)</td>
<td>2 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr K. Ben Jebara, Dr L. Weber-Vintzel &amp; Dr D. Chaisemartin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa Regional Workshop on Biosafety and Biosecurity Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety</td>
<td>Nairobi (Kenya)</td>
<td>2-4 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr G. Brückner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Workshop on Animal Welfare during Transport and Related Operations, organised by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Moine, within the framework of the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme of the European Commission (DG Sanco: Directorate General for Health and Consumers)</td>
<td>Kuwait City (Kuwait)</td>
<td>2-4 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr W. Pelgrim, Dr G. Yehia &amp; Dr P. Primot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Workshop on Animal Welfare during Transport and Related Operations, organised by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Moine, within the framework of the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme of the European Commission (DG Sanco: Directorate General for Health and Consumers)</td>
<td>Perugia (Italy)</td>
<td>2-5 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Symposium on Neglected Influenza Viruses, organised by the International Society for Influenza and other Respiratory Virus Diseases (ISIRV)</td>
<td>Amelia Island (United States of America)</td>
<td>3-5 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Annual Coordination and Executive Meeting</td>
<td>Rome (Italy)</td>
<td>3-5 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat, Dr K. Miyagishima, Dr A. Dehove, Dr D. Chaisemartin &amp; Dr K. Ben Jebara</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## meetings and visits

### February 2010 (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the event</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<th>Participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSVS Sub-Regional Workshop on the OIE PVS Pathway in Southeast Asia (PSVS: OIE/AusAID Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services / AusAID: The Australian Government's overseas aid programme / PVS: Performance of Veterinary Services)</td>
<td>Chiang Mai (Thailand)</td>
<td>8-9 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr S. Tagawa, Dr R.C. Abila, Dr J. Stratton, Dr A. Bouchot, Dr S.M. Razo Aviso &amp; Dr G. Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint FAO/OIE/WHO ‘Identify’ Project Coordination Meeting</td>
<td>Geneva (Switzerland)</td>
<td>8-9 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr K. Glynn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive Training Workshop on Regional Integration (SPS measures in Africa) (SPS: Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures)</td>
<td>Dakar (Senegal)</td>
<td>9-10 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr D. Bourzat &amp; Dr C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitation from the Iranian Veterinary Services</td>
<td>Tehran (Iran)</td>
<td>9-11 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat &amp; Dr G. Yehia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE National Hands-on Training Workshop on Diagnosis of HPAI with a Real-Time PCR System, in collaboration with the Department of Animal Production and Health (PCR: polymerase chain reaction)</td>
<td>Kandy (Sri Lanka)</td>
<td>9-11 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr I. Koike &amp; Dr T. Fujita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory meeting for the OIE Regional Training Seminar for Newly Assigned OIE Delegates</td>
<td>Bangkok (Thailand)</td>
<td>10 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr S. Tagawa &amp; Dr R.C. Abila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with the Lebanese Minister of Agriculture</td>
<td>Beirut (Lebanon)</td>
<td>11-12 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat &amp; Dr G. Yehia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trilateral Conference for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease in Pakistan and Afghanistan</td>
<td>Islamabad (Pakistan)</td>
<td>16-17 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr T. Ishibashi &amp; Dr P. Primot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPS-WTO Regional Workshop for Central Europe and Central Asia (WTO: World Trade Organization)</td>
<td>Tashkent (Uzbekistan)</td>
<td>16-19 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr Y. Atagi &amp; Dr A. Vasov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symposium: ‘Practical Alternatives to Reduce Animal Testing in Quality Control of Veterinary Biologicals in the Americas’</td>
<td>Buenos Aires (Argentina)</td>
<td>18-19 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr L.O. Barcos, Dr L.J. Saif &amp; Dr K. de Clercq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory meeting for the organisation of a seminar on communication strategies for Veterinary Services in the Middle East</td>
<td>Muscat (Oman)</td>
<td>20-22 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr G. Yehia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting of the SEAFMD Epidemiology Network (EpiNet) (SEAFMD: Southeast Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign)</td>
<td>Tagaytay City (Philippines)</td>
<td>23-24 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr R.C. Abila, Dr A. Bouchot &amp; Dr S.M. Razo Aviso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Europe (GF-TADs: FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases)</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>24-25 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Dehove, Dr M.E. González Ortiz, Prof. Dr N.T. Belev, Dr C. Planté &amp; Dr J.-P. Vermeersch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th OIE/OFA-APHCA Regional Workshop and Working Group Meeting on BSE and other Prion Diseases (APHCA: FAO Regional Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific / BSE: bovine spongiform encephalopathy)</td>
<td>Seoul (Republic of Korea)</td>
<td>24-26 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr L. Knopf &amp; Dr K. Sakurai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with the OIE Regional Representation for Africa</td>
<td>Bamako (Mali)</td>
<td>24-26 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr M. Eloit &amp; Ms A. Weng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE Regional Hands-on Training Workshop on Genetic Analysis (Sequencing) of HPAI Viruses</td>
<td>Kathmandu (Nepal)</td>
<td>24 February – 2 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr I. Koike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENHanCE Agency Meeting (ENHanCE: ERA NET Health and Climate in Europe)</td>
<td>London (United Kingdom)</td>
<td>25 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr K. Miyagishima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Conference: ‘One Health in Relation to Q fever in the Netherlands’</td>
<td>Breda (Netherlands)</td>
<td>25-26 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr W. Pelgrim &amp; Dr L. Weber-Vintzel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder meeting to explore the development of a certification scheme for certification against CWA 15793, organised by Sandia Laboratories and Det Norske Veritas (CWA: CEN Workshop Agreement / CEN: European Committee for Standardisation)</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>26 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr F. Diaz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting of GRIPAVI Project (GRIPAVI: Ecology and Epidemiology of Avian Influenza in Developing Countries)</td>
<td>Montpellier (France)</td>
<td>26 February 2010</td>
<td>Dr K. Hamilton</td>
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### OIE news

#### March 2010

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<th>Title of the event</th>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAO International Technical Conference on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Developing Countries</td>
<td>Guadalajara (Mexico)</td>
<td>1-4 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. A.A. MacKenzie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems</td>
<td>Surfers Paradise (Australia)</td>
<td>1-5 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. T. Ishibashi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Steering Committee Meeting of VACNADA (Vaccines for the Control of Neglected Animal Diseases in Africa)</td>
<td>Nairobi (Kenya)</td>
<td>2 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitation from the Swiss authorities to participate in and to speak at the launch of the ‘Strategy for Animal Health in Switzerland 2010’+</td>
<td>Bern (Switzerland)</td>
<td>2-3 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. B. Vallat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of avian influenza surveillance on wild birds and domestic animals along migratory flyways under the OIE/JTF Project for strengthening HPAI control in Asia</td>
<td>Vientiane Province (Laos)</td>
<td>2-10 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. K. Sakurai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inception Workshop for ASEAN-ADB Project on Strengthening Regional Coordination in the Control and Eradication of HPAI in ASEAN (ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations / ADB: Asian Development Bank)</td>
<td>Bali (Indonesia)</td>
<td>3-5 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. I. Shimohira &amp; Dr. R.C. Abila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE National Hands-on Training Workshop on Diagnosis of HPAI with a Real-Time PCR System</td>
<td>Kathmandu (Nepal)</td>
<td>3-5 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. I. Koike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of avian influenza surveillance on wild birds and domestic animals along migratory flyways under the OIE/JTF Project for strengthening HPAI control in Asia</td>
<td>Bac Lieu Province (Vietnam)</td>
<td>7-16 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. K. Sakurai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID Meeting – Emerging Pandemic Threats Program (USAID: United States Agency for International Development)</td>
<td>Washington, DC (United States of America)</td>
<td>8-9 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. K. Glynn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting organised by DG Sanco for veterinary students in the frame of the European Union Veterinary Week 2010</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>8-9 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th GALVMed Board Meeting (GALVMed: Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines)</td>
<td>Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)</td>
<td>9-10 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety</td>
<td>Buenos Aires (Argentina)</td>
<td>9-11 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. S. Kahn, Dr. L.O. Barcos &amp; Dr. J.J. Dremunro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Information Seminar for Recently Appointed OIE Delegates</td>
<td>Gaborone (Botswana)</td>
<td>9-12 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. A. Thiermann, Dr. K. Ben Jebara, Dr. M.E. Gonzalez Ortiz, Dr. B.J. Mie, Dr. P. Bastiaensen, Dr. F. Kechrid, Dr. V. Brüdges &amp; Dr. G. Brückner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with the new Minister of Agricultural Policy of Ukraine, his Deputies and Representatives of the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Science</td>
<td>Kiev (Ukraine)</td>
<td>10-11 March 2010</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. N.T. Belev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Steering Committee Meeting of the PAN-SPSO programme (PAN-SPSO: Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organisations)</td>
<td>Douala (Cameroon)</td>
<td>11 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. Y. Samaké</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start-up meeting of project on: ‘Implementation of Surveillance, Prophylaxis and Contingency Plans for Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Rabies, Foot and Mouth Disease and Anthrax in GIS countries’ (GIS: Commonwealth of Independent States)</td>
<td>Kiev (Ukraine)</td>
<td>11-12 March 2010</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. N.T. Belev &amp; Dr. C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Sub-Regional Meeting of the SEAFMD Laboratory Network</td>
<td>Vientiane (Laos)</td>
<td>11-12 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. R.C. Abila &amp; Dr. S.M. Razo Aviso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of the preliminary study on future activities of the STDF in relation to the Commission of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (STDF: Standards and Trade Development Facility)</td>
<td>Douala (Cameroon)</td>
<td>12 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. Y. Samaké</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avian Influenza Scientific Task Force, FAO Headquarters</td>
<td>Rome (Italy)</td>
<td>15-16 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47th Meeting of the WTO SPS Committee</td>
<td>Geneva (Switzerland)</td>
<td>15-18 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. Y. Atagi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in Southeast Asia</td>
<td>Vientiane (Laos)</td>
<td>15-19 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. B. Vallat, Dr. A. Dehove, Dr. M.E. Gonzalez Ortiz, Dr. I. Shimohira, Dr. R.C. Abila, Dr. J. Stratton, Dr. A. Bouchot, Dr. S.M. Razo Aviso &amp; Dr. G. Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint FAO/OIE/WHO ‘Identify’ Project Coordination Meeting</td>
<td>Lyons (France)</td>
<td>16-17 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. K. Glynn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79th Session of the Executive Committee of the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (EuFMD)</td>
<td>Stockholm (Sweden)</td>
<td>16-17 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. L. Knopf, Prof. Dr. N.T. Belev &amp; Dr. C. Planté</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Meetings and visits*
## March 2010 (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the event</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OIE National Hands-on Training Workshop on Diagnosis of HPAI with a Real-Time PCR System</td>
<td>Thimphu (Bhutan)</td>
<td>16-18 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. I. Koike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife</td>
<td>Arusha (Tanzania)</td>
<td>16-19 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. E. Erlacher-Vindel, Dr. K. Ben Jebra, Dr. A.B. Niang, Dr. B.J. Mtei, Dr. P. Bastiaensen, Ms. M. Mantsho, Dr. F. Rechini, Dr. W. Masiga, Dr. G. Yehia &amp; Dr. P. Primot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecting Health Organizations for Regional Disease Surveillance (CHORDS) Conference</td>
<td>Annecy (France)</td>
<td>17-19 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. K. Miyagishima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STD Working Group Meeting</td>
<td>Geneva (Switzerland)</td>
<td>19 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. D. Chaisemartin &amp; Dr. Y. Atagi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSVS Steering Committee Meeting – 1st Meeting of OIE ASEAN Delegates</td>
<td>Vientiane (Laos) &amp; Bangkok (Thailand)</td>
<td>20-26 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. G. Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Partnership – Combating the Global Biological Threat</td>
<td>London (United Kingdom)</td>
<td>21-22 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. K. Miyagishima &amp; Ms J. Sheahan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation on compartmentalisation with the Government of Thailand</td>
<td>Bangkok (Thailand)</td>
<td>21 March – 2 April 2010</td>
<td>Dr. A. Thiermann &amp; Dr. A. Bouchot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East</td>
<td>Beirut (Lebanon)</td>
<td>22-24 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. M. Eloit &amp; Ms A. Weng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE National Hands-on Training Workshop on Diagnosis of HPAI with a Real-Time PCR System</td>
<td>Dhaka (Bangladesh)</td>
<td>22-24 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. I. Koike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th Pan-American Dairy Congress</td>
<td>Belo Horizonte (Brazil)</td>
<td>22-25 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. L.O. Barcos &amp; Dr. J.J. Oreamuno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop on: ‘Animal Welfare: from cure to prevention’ for Serbia and other Balkan countries, organised by FVE and TAIEX (FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe / TAIEX: Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument)</td>
<td>Belgrade (Serbia)</td>
<td>24-25 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Stakeholders’ Meeting for the WHO Disease Reference Group Zoom In, the Disease Reference Group (DRG) for Zoonoses and Marginalised Infectious Diseases</td>
<td>Cairo (Egypt)</td>
<td>29 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. K. Glynn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination Meeting on FSP (Strengthening Food Safety Systems through SPS measures)</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>29 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. A. Dehove &amp; Dr. C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th SERECU Cross-border Technical Harmonisation Meeting (SERECU: Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication Coordination Unit)</td>
<td>Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)</td>
<td>29-31 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. L. Knopf, Dr. J. Pearson &amp; Dr. D. Sylva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO meeting – GF-TADs evaluation and follow-up</td>
<td>Rome (Italy)</td>
<td>29-30 March 2010</td>
<td>Dr. A. Dehove &amp; Dr. D. Chaisemartin</td>
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news from headquarters

Staff changes

Departure

International Trade Department

**Dr Leopoldo Stuardo**

After three and a half years at the OIE, working in the area of animal welfare, Dr Leopoldo Stuardo Escobar has returned to his native Chile. Before joining the OIE, Leopoldo had worked for five years at Chile’s Agricultural Office to the European Union, based in Brussels, where he took an active part in the negotiations for the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement between Chile and the European Union. He had also been an academic in the Faculty of Veterinary and Livestock Science at the University of Chile and worked in the Livestock Protection Division of Chile’s Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG), where he was responsible for all SAG animal welfare activities and for relations with the European Union.

At the OIE, Leopoldo played a key role in organising the 2nd OIE Global Animal Welfare Conference in Cairo in 2008, and promoted the development of new OIE animal welfare standards (stray dog control, laboratory animal welfare, animal welfare and production systems). In addition to this, he was a personnel representative and president of the Amicale (the OIE employee association). Leopoldo has a great gift for getting along with others and made a big contribution to creating a friendly and supportive working environment. In Chile, Leopoldo will work for the recently created SAG Animal Welfare Unit.

Scientific and Technical Department

**Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima**

Deputy Director General

Having been appointed Head of the Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE in August 2009, Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima has also been named Deputy Director General in charge of animal health, veterinary public health and international health standards from 1 January 2010. He is now in charge of co-ordinating the activities of the Departments of International Trade and Animal Health Information, while continuing his responsibilities as Head of the Scientific and Technical Department.

Regional Activities Department

**Dr Luis Barcos**

Acting Head of the Regional Activities Department

Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, the OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, was temporarily called into OIE Headquarters to occupy the position of Acting Head of the Regional Activities Department, as of 1 January 2010, following the departure of Dr Gastón Funes, who left the OIE in November 2009.
Activities of the General Directorate
Administration, Management, Human Resources and Regional Actions

OIE Information Session for Embassies and Representatives
5 February 2010 at OIE Headquarters

The first OIE Information Session for Embassies and Representatives took place on 5 February 2010 at the OIE Headquarters. Ambassadors, representatives and agricultural and economic advisers from the various diplomatic missions of OIE Member Countries in Paris were invited.

The main purpose of this meeting was to introduce the activities, objectives and role of the OIE in the scientific and technical fields, as well as in international trade, animal health information and regional activities. Diplomatic aspects of the relationship between the OIE and the embassies, representatives and reference institutions of its Member Countries (such as Ministries, Delegates, Veterinary Services, etc) were also dealt with.

This initiative was warmly welcomed by the participants, a large number of whom attended and took an active part in the meeting.

Administrative and accounting audit of the OIE Regional and Sub-regional Representations

Bamako (Mali) from 24-26 February 2010,
and Beirut (Lebanon) from 22-24 March 2010

Dr Monique Eloit, Deputy Director General of the OIE, and Ms Alix Weng, Head of the Accounts Unit, visited Bamako (Mali) from 24 to 26 February 2010, and Beirut (Lebanon) from 22 to 24 March 2010, to meet the teams from the Regional Representations for Africa and the Middle East.

These visits are part of a larger series of planned visits to all the regional and sub-regional offices of the OIE over the next two years to ensure efficient management of their administrative and accounting operations. These visits should also enable procedures to be fine-tuned and recommendations to be put into place to improve the efficiency of the Organisation.

Visit to the Regional Representation in Bamako (Africa)

Front row (from left to right): Mr Karim Coulibaly, Mr Niania Coulibaly & Mr Souleymane Koné. Back row (from right to left): Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, Mr Alou Sangaré, Ms Ndilaye Youma Diawara, Dr Yacouba Samaké, Ms Alix Weng, Ms Bagayoko Aïssata Konaté, Dr Monique Eloit, Ms Minta Mariam Konaté, Mr Mamadou Simaga & Mr Namory Keita
(see colour photo on page 57)

Visit to the Regional Representation in Beirut (Middle East)

From left to right: Mr Mahmoud Al Ghadaf, Dr Pierre Primot, Ms Alix Weng, Dr Ghazi Yehia, Dr Monique Eloit, Ms Rita Rizk, Ms Laure Zoghbi-Mr Karzel, Hany Imam & Mr Khoder Rejeili
(see colour photo on page 57)
Activities of the Scientific and Technical Department

New technical disease cards on-line

Collaboration among scientists from OIE Reference Laboratories around the world and in discussion with other experts has led to an updated compilation of 33 technical disease cards, including 32 OIE-listed priority diseases, such as foot and mouth disease (FMD), highly pathogenic avian influenza, Rift Valley fever and bluetongue. This update was possible due to the greatly appreciated support of the United States Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The cards, which are available in English on-line at www.oie.int/eng/maladies/en_technical_diseasecards.htm will also be translated into French and Spanish. They are directed mainly towards a specialised scientific audience and represent the constant striving of the OIE for scientific excellence. In the coming months, the OIE intends to publish an illustrated Atlas of Transboundary Animal Diseases, based on work that has already been finalised and to be completed with a major addition of technical disease-specific pictures.

To make the information on the cards more easily understandable for a broader audience, the OIE also presents information on selected animal diseases, including zoonoses, in a new ‘question-and-answer’ format, available on-line in French, Spanish and English at www.oie.int/eng/ressources/en_diseasecards.htm.

Meetings of the Specialist Commissions

Meeting of the OIE Biological Standards Commission

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 26-28 January 2010

The OIE Biological Standards Commission met at the OIE Headquarters from 26 to 28 January 2010 and continues to work on the regular items considered at its meetings: reviewing new applications for Collaborating Centre and Reference Laboratory status; examining proposed changes of designated experts and new proposals for twinning projects; updating the International Standardisation of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, the List of Prescribed and Alternative Tests, the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (the Terrestrial Manual); etc. The Commission endorsed an application for an OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Animal Diseases and Related Veterinary Products Assessment in Asia (National Institute of Animal Health and National Veterinary Assay Laboratory, Japan), along with two requests for the designation of OIE Reference Laboratories: one for Newcastle disease at the National Veterinary Research & Quarantine Service, Republic of Korea; and one for West Nile fever at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Molise ‘G. Caporale’, in Teramo, Italy. These requests were submitted for endorsement by the OIE Council.

The annual reports of Reference Laboratory and Collaborating Centre activities in 2009 were also received and analysed. This set of reports was judged very impressive, demonstrating the high level of commitment from the global scientific community to the work of the OIE.

The Commission endorsed the reports of the second meeting of the ad hoc Group on Vaccines in Relation to New and Emerging Technologies, including the report of the OIE/FAO/WHO Meeting on the Assessment of Food Safety Related to the Use of Recombinant Vaccines in Food-producing Animals, and the report of the third meeting of the ad hoc Group on Validation of Diagnostic Assays. The Commission also endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Surveillance Panel on Equine Influenza Vaccine Composition on the composition of equine influenza vaccines for 2010 (see Epidemiology and Animal Disease Control Programmes in this Bulletin, page 44).

The Commission reviewed the document entitled: ‘Global Rinderpest Eradication: Guidelines for Rinderpest Virus Sequestration’, which was drafted by the OIE ad hoc Group on Evaluation of Rinderpest Disease Status of Members, with the assistance of various invited experts. The Commission endorsed the draft guidelines with suggested amendments and agreed that the document be forwarded to the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Rinderpest Eradication.

An update on the OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza (OFFLU) was also provided. This network continues to make progress and to raise its international profile. Several of the OFFLU technical activities have
provided outputs, including global biosafety guidelines and
guidance on pandemic H1N1 detection in pigs. The OFFLU
Applied Epidemiology Group is developing a strategy for
influenza surveillance in animals. Another technical meeting
for active members of the network is being planned and will
probably take place in November 2010.

Meeting of the OIE Scientific
Commission for Animal Diseases
OIE Headquarters, Paris, 2-5 March 2010
The Scientific Commission followed up on some issues from
the last meeting, with particular emphasis on the evolution
of the OIE/FAO programme for a global FMD control strategy,
the continuing importance of the spread of peste des petits
ruminants, the draft strategy for the interface between wildlife
and domestic animals, conceptual issues related to protection
zones, containment zones and compartmentalisation, and the
request of the Director General to convene an ad hoc Group
to discuss the subject of climate change and environmental
change and how these will affect animal diseases and animal
production. The Director General and OIE Headquarters staff
updated the Scientific Commission on all relevant issues from
other Specialist Commissions; progress in the development
of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS);
issues arising from the present training on OIE Focal Points
(in particular, Focal Points on wildlife); scheduled OIE
international and global conferences and the increasing
number of projects carried out in collaboration with the
FAO and/or WHO.

The Scientific Commission then reviewed and discussed
details of the report from the Working Group on Wildlife
Diseases (WGWD), as well as 14 reports, including additional
documentation, submitted by the ad hoc Groups that report
to the Commission. Several OIE Member Countries,
and some non-OIE Members, had applied for recognition
of their disease-free status from rinderpest. Six new Member
Countries had applied for a BSE risk classification.

The recommendations of the relevant ad hoc Group on all
these evaluations were endorsed in toto. However, in the light
of new evidence, recommendations on evaluated proposals
for recognising some Members as being free from FMD led
to an in-depth discussion on the matter. The Commission
decided that one additional Member Country could be
accepted into the category as long as an expert mission
was sent to that country to follow up on the implementation of
control measures, which had only recently been introduced.

A representative of Colombia discussed the experience
of that country in being the first Member to make use of the
concept of containment zones. The Commission considered
the suggested amendments to the Terrestrial Animal Health
Code (Terrestrial Code) and the excellent foundation
discussions of the ad hoc Group on African Horse Sickness.
The Council of the OIE was requested to evaluate the
possibility of adding classical swine fever to the list of
diseases that have an official procedure for recognising
disease status. The Scientific Commission also supported
the recommendation of the Ad hoc Group on Crimean-Congo
Haemorrhagic Fever that diagnostic tests for other
haemorrhagic fevers should be included in the Terrestrial
Manual and that more scientific evidence should be sought
on the epidemiology and importance of haemorrhagic fevers
in animals and humans.

The WGWD report revealed several items of interest to
other departments and Specialist Commissions of the OIE.
These included the considerable contribution of the WGWD
to the further development of WAHIS-Wild; proposals for
amendments to the OIE standards; a draft guidance
document on the most reliable diagnostic tests to use when
testing wild animal species for OIE-listed diseases; advice on
emerging diseases in wildlife and the draft strategy document
on the interface between wildlife and domestic animals that
was jointly developed with the ad hoc Group on Epidemiology.

Finally, the Scientific Commission suggested how the draft
strategy document on global FMD control might be developed
to provide more comprehensive coverage of the issue, and
prioritised its additional working programme in accordance
with information received and newly arising topics.
Meetings of OIE Working Groups

On Wildlife Diseases

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 1-4 February 2010

The WGWD acknowledged the progress of the on-line reporting system WAHIS-Wild, and reported on newly emerging issues and diseases; in particular, white nose syndrome in bats and the increase in the prevalence of chronic wasting disease among cervids including moose in some areas, despite efforts to manage the disease.

The WGWD further provided input on the text of a draft policy document for the OIE on the wildlife/livestock interface that has been prepared by the ad hoc Group on Epidemiology. In addition, it contributed to a draft protocol for surveillance on avian influenza in wild birds to complete the OFFLU Strategy Document for Surveillance and Monitoring Influenzas in Animals.

Another high-priority issue was discussed: that of the diagnostic tools available for wildlife diseases. Documents developed in previous years were reviewed. The WGWD proposed updating an existing document, ordered by disease, on a yearly basis.

The Working Group also discussed its support for the OIE training workshops for National Focal Points for Wildlife, a programme developed together with the Collaborating Centre on Wildlife Disease Surveillance and Monitoring, Epidemiology and Management (Canada) and the Collaborating Centre on Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management (South Africa).

As requested by the Director General, the WGWD will be significantly involved in developing the programme for the OIE Global Conference on Wildlife, to be held in Paris from 23 to 25 February 2011, and evolved a first draft concept at the meeting.

Finally, the WGWD agreed to schedule its next meeting in October 2010, to enable both the Scientific and Code Commissions to consider its inputs and suggestions on issues that may be presented for adoption at the World Assembly.

Meetings of OIE ad hoc Groups

On Epidemiology

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 5-7 January 2010

The ad hoc Group on Epidemiology continued its work on the draft concept paper on the interface between wildlife and livestock that was begun at its last meeting, and finalised the document for consideration by the Scientific Commission.

The Group was asked to provide guidance on the establishment and maintenance of protection zones. It developed a checklist to guide the discussion on protection zones and reviewed the historical evolution of the definitions of buffer, surveillance, protection and containment zones. The debate resulted in a draft article on principles for the establishment of a protection zone. For its future working programme, the Group consulted representatives from the Scientific and Technical Department on the best methods to develop guidelines for the surveillance and control of new emerging zoonotic diseases.

On Rabies

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 12-13 January 2010

The ad hoc Group on Rabies was asked to thoroughly review the chapter on rabies in the Terrestrial Code, in the light of new evidence and the current worldwide rabies situation. This chapter has not been substantially revised since the mid-1990s. Vigorous discussions were held on the different lyssavirus genotypes and the roles of various species, both domestic and wild, in maintaining and spreading the disease.

This led to the conclusion that the chapter should focus principally on classical (canine) rabies (lyssavirus genotype 1). As an incentive for countries to invest more resources into rabies control, a new intermediate step in the process of reaching rabies-free status (in which all terrestrial mammals are rabies-free) was identified. This intermediate phase is defined as a country being free from dog-to-dog transmission of rabies. The Group emphasised the importance of cross-referencing all other chapters of the Code that are significant in rabies control, and agreed to meet again to finalise its work.
OIE/FAO/WHO Meeting on the Assessment of Food Safety Related to the Use of Recombinant Vaccines in Food-Producing Animals

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 18-19 January 2010

This meeting was organised to provide input for consideration by the ad hoc Group on Vaccines in Relation to New and Emerging Technologies and, subsequently, by the OIE Biological Standards Commission. The OIE/FAO/WHO Meeting recommended that a new appendix should be added to Chapter 1.1.8, ‘Principles of Veterinary Vaccine Production’, of the Terrestrial Manual. The appendix would cover benefit-risk assessments of veterinary vaccines, including genetically engineered vaccines, with a specific section on safety, including food safety. The Biological Standards Commission believed that this issue could be addressed by adding food safety information to the introduction of the existing Appendix 1.1.8.2, ‘Risk Analysis for Veterinary Vaccines’, rather than creating a new appendix.

On Evaluation of Rinderpest Disease Status of Members

OIE, Paris, 19-21 January 2010

The Group analysed ten dossiers from OIE Member Countries and three from non-OIE Members applying for recognition of their rinderpest-free status, and recommended all of them for acceptance. The Group also analysed documentation provided by a Member Country on the maintenance of its rinderpest-free status, following reports on isolates from sheep that were suggestive of the rinderpest virus. It concluded that there was no evidence for the rinderpest virus circulating but rather that the laboratory results were due to cross-contamination of the samples at the local laboratory level. The Group received an overview and general feedback from the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) meeting and the FAO/OIE Joint Committee on Global Eradication of Rinderpest (held on 1-2 December 2009, FAO Headquarters), as well as from the subsequent discussion on activities that would be required after the eradication of rinderpest. The Group identified the need for amendments in several areas of the OIE, such as the rinderpest chapter of the Terrestrial Code, which would be affected by rinderpest eradication requirements; in particular, the sections dealing with surveillance, trade measures and veterinary certification.

It was agreed that a small sub-group of the ad hoc Group would be formed to draft a proposal for revising the relevant standards. Further discussions will take place at the next meeting of the Group in July 2010. The Group also began a discussion on the FAO/OIE project on rinderpest virus sequestration. It was decided that questionnaires would be sent to laboratories, confirming the presence of rinderpest virus-containing material, with a view to drawing up the first worldwide inventory of rinderpest virus-containing materials, including vaccines. Draft recommendations from the sequestration of the smallpox virus were used as a starting point, as the Group detailed a set of guidelines for rinderpest virus sequestration and destruction, which will be considered by the Biological Standards Commission of the OIE.

On Validation of Diagnostic Assays

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 20-22 January 2010

The ad hoc Group on Validation of Diagnostic Assays met for the third time, with the main objective of discussing and finalising the appendices on ‘Best Practices’ for the introductory chapter on ‘Principles and Methods of Validation of Diagnostic Assays for Infectious Diseases’ of the Terrestrial Manual. Owing to a lack of time, the Group could not finalise all of the appendices and agreed to complete the work by e-mail, so that final versions could be provided to the Biological Standards Commission at its next meeting. However, after further consideration, it became clear that it would be difficult to be both concise and complete and that the length of the chapter plus appendices might therefore prove too long for the Terrestrial Manual. Among the different options proposed by the Group, the Biological Standards Commission agreed on the suggestion to have the introductory chapter stand alone in the Terrestrial Manual, and to publish the introductory chapter with all the appendices in a parallel publication. Finally it was decided that, once the introductory chapter and appendices have been finalised, the guidelines proposed at the first meeting, to accompany the template used in the OIE procedure for validation and certification of diagnostic assays, would be finalised by the authors, so that all the documents would be harmonised and consistent.
On Diseases of Honey Bees

*OIE, Paris, 25-27 January 2010*

The principal task of the *ad hoc* Group on Diseases of Honey Bees was to review the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) and *Terrestrial Manual*, with the aim of providing greater security for the international trade in bees and bee products. The Group also reviewed all the comments received from OIE Members on the revised *Terrestrial Code* chapters on honey bees and provided the scientific rationale to the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases. The Group reviewed the OIE list of diseases and concluded, based on the decision-tree in the *Terrestrial Code*, that it was not yet certain whether any new honey bee diseases met the criteria for addition to the list. An update on the current global health situation of bees was provided, in which each Group member presented a brief account of the bee health situation in his or her region.

It was pointed out that there have been significant declines in domestic honey bee populations in Europe and North America, while, in other regions, the health status of honey bees has not been clearly documented. Finally, the Group stressed the vital role played by honey bees in pollinating agricultural crops. Fruit, nuts and vegetables add invaluable diversity and nutrients to the human diet, and these crops are approximately 80% reliant on honey bees for pollination. Thus, the Group believes that maintaining a healthy and productive honey bee population is crucial to global food security.

On Official Disease Status Recognition of African Horse Sickness

*OIE Headquarters, Paris, 27-29 January 2010*

The participating experts discussed the broad technical needs and possibilities of including African Horse Sickness (AHS) in the OIE list of diseases, with an accompanying procedure for official recognition of disease status. Since AHS would be the first vector-borne disease to be included, and since it is a disease of equidae rather than classical livestock, this proposition was considered challenging. The Group described a proposal to adjust the current chapter on AHS in the *Terrestrial Code* chapter to allow for both official recognition of AHS-free status and for self-declaration of AHS-free status, as well as seasonal AHS-free status. Questionnaires were drafted to support Members in the submission of a country-wide and zonal application for official recognition of disease-free status. The concept of containment zones was introduced into the AHS chapter, after in-depth discussions on how this could be achieved for a vector-borne disease. In addition, the Group provided more guidance on vector-proof transportation and protecting equidae from vectors in general. Finally, the Group reviewed Member comments on the other chapters on horse diseases in the *Terrestrial Code*.

On Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status – Evaluation of Members

*OIE Headquarters, Paris, 9-10 February 2010*

The *ad hoc* Group on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) evaluated nine dossiers in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*. Six applications were from new Members, seeking a BSE risk classification, and four of these were recommended for recognition of a BSE risk category. The other three applications were from Members which are currently classified as having a ‘controlled BSE risk’. These Members considered that they were now eligible for the category of ‘negligible BSE risk status’, and their requests were evaluated in detail. However, the Group concluded that these countries do not yet meet the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* to qualify for a change in risk status.
On Swine Vesicular Disease

*OIE Headquarters, Paris, 16-17 February 2010*

Owing to numerous Member comments on the circulated Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD) chapter of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *ad hoc* Group on Swine Vesicular Disease was reconvened. Its task was to consider revisions in the light of the epidemiological evolution of SVD towards, in most cases, an absence of clinical signs, and a lower risk of transmission in comparison to FMD. The Group slightly revised the criteria for SVD-free status and amended the import provisions on swine and their products. Finally, it added further guidance for Member Countries on specific surveillance for SVD.

On Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever

*OIE Headquarters, Paris, 16-17 February 2010*

The first meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) examined the current worldwide situation of this disease, with special emphasis on CCHF infection in terrestrial animals; the potential impact of infected animals on public health (e.g. the slaughtering of infected animals); and the implications for the safety of animal products. The Group reviewed recent research developments and CCHF initiatives and discussed trade implications. It also reviewed the current state of surveillance, diagnosis and control measures for CCHF among animals, including vector-related issues. Building upon this foundation, the Group evaluated existing OIE advice on CCHF to determine whether it accurately reflected current diagnostic standards, surveillance methods, and control measures, including vector-related matters. Based on its conclusions, the Group advised the OIE that there was a need for specific guidelines on the diagnosis, surveillance, and reporting of CCHF in terrestrial animals.

Furthermore, the Group concluded that the information currently available on the characteristics of CCHF infection in animals, its potential transmission to humans, and the interaction between host, pathogen and vector was not sufficient to serve as the evidential basis for comprehensive OIE standards and guidelines. Nevertheless, the Group highlighted some areas where the available data might provide an adequate basis for initial or preliminary guidance.
Activities of the International Trade Department

Meetings of OIE *ad hoc* Groups

**On the Responsible Use of Antimicrobials in Aquatic Animals**

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 19-21 January 2010**

This *ad hoc* Group met for the first time from 19 to 21 January 2010. The terms of reference of the Group are to draft text on the responsible use of antimicrobials in aquatic animals for inclusion in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*.

The *ad hoc* Group discussed specific issues related to antimicrobial resistance in aquatic animals and, in light of these discussions, proposed draft Chapters 6.1.: ‘Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance’ and 6.2.: ‘Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine’.

In addition, the *ad hoc* Group decided to develop more detailed recommendations on the prudent use of antimicrobials in aquatic animals, along similar lines to those found in the *Terrestrial Code*, Chapter 6.10. The Group recommended publishing this document on the OIE Internet site, to provide guidance to OIE Members wishing to develop or update their governance systems for using antimicrobials in this way.

The *ad hoc* Group report was submitted to the Aquatic Animals Commission for consideration at its February 2010 meeting.

**On Disposal of Aquatic Animal Waste**

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 26-28 January 2010**

The *ad hoc* Group considered Member comments on the draft chapter on handling and disposal of carcasses and wastes of aquatic animals, and made appropriate amendments. Key changes involved:

- amending the title to more accurately reflect the syntax of the chapter
- removing unnecessary duplications
- changing the order of the articles to provide a more logical flow
- amending the Introduction
- clarifying the scope of the Chapter
- deleting redundant definitions

The *ad hoc* Group made the relevant amendments and submitted its report to the Aquatic Animals Commission for consideration at its meeting in February 2010.

**On Safety of Products Derived from Aquatic Animals**

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 1-3 February 2010**

The *ad hoc* Group considered comments from Member Countries on the proposed amendments to:

- the text for Articles 3, 9 and 12., which will now be included in all specific disease chapters
- Chapter 5.3.: ‘Criteria to Assess the Safety of Aquatic Animal Commodities’
- the text on epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (Articles 10.1.3., 10.1.9. and 10.1.12.), Taura syndrome (Articles 9.4.3., 9.4.9. and 9.4.11.) and infection with *Bonamia ostreae* (Articles 11.2.3., 11.2.9. and 11.2.11.)
- the text for Article 5.9.1.: ‘Measures concerning the international transport of aquatic animal disease agents and pathological material’
- new articles on the disinfection of salmonid eggs for the chapters on viral haemorrhagic septicemia, infectious salmon anaemia and infectious haemotopoietic necrosis.

The *ad hoc* Group made the relevant amendments and submitted its report to the Aquatic Animals Commission for consideration at its meeting in February 2010.
On Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 8-10 February 2010**

The *ad hoc* Group met to develop the template for the disease-specific surveillance chapters in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*. On the first day, the *ad hoc* Group simplified and refined the template. For the following two days, they were joined by three experts, from the OIE Reference Laboratories, on the diseases of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia, infection with *Bonamia ostreae* and white spot disease, to discuss what would be required to prepare the model chapters for these diseases. The next step is for each of these three experts to draft the disease-specific chapter to which they have been assigned. Each chapter will be drafted with the assistance of a selected member of the *ad hoc* Group. The draft chapters will be collectively reviewed by the *ad hoc* Group and experts at the second joint meeting, to be held in July 2010, and then submitted to the Aquatic Animals Commission for consideration at its meeting in October 2010.

On the OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases – Crustacean Team

**E-mail exchanges, December 2009 to February 2010**

The *ad hoc* Group assessed milky haemolymph disease of spiny lobsters (*Panulirus* spp.) and concluded that it does not meet the criteria for listing that are outlined in Articles 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*. The Group therefore recommended that this disease (listed as being ‘under study’) should not be included as an emerging disease or a listed disease.

The *ad hoc* Group report was submitted to the Aquatic Animals Commission for consideration at its meeting in February 2010.

Meetings of OIE Specialist Commissions

Meeting of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

**OIE Headquarters, Paris, 8-12 February 2010**

The Commission met from 8 to 12 February in Paris to address comments from Member Countries on the report of its September 2009 meeting, as well as on the work conducted by the OIE *ad hoc* Groups on Trade in Animal Products (‘Commodities’), Private Standards, Evaluation of Veterinary Services and the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety. The Commission proposed several texts for adoption at the 78th General Session. Highlights include:

– revised chapters on semen and embryos, based on recommendations from the International Embryo Transfer Society
– a revised chapter on the disposal of animal carcasses, confirming the effectiveness of a thermal hydrolysis system
– revised chapters on animal welfare, with new recommendations on poultry
– a revised chapter on foot and mouth disease, incorporating updated recommendations on compartmentalisation
– a revised chapter on scrapie, listing sheep embryos derived *in vivo* as a safe commodity.

The Commission continues to work on several important issues, including biosecurity procedures in poultry production; controlling hazards of animal health and public health importance in heat-treated pet food; communication, with relevant experts; and the ongoing work of OIE Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups.
Meeting of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 22-26 February 2010

The Aquatic Animals Commission addressed Member comments on the draft texts that were provided with the report of the October 2009 meeting, as well as on the work done by OIE ad hoc Groups (OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases – Crustacean Team; Safety of Commodities Derived from Aquatic Animals; Disposal of Aquatic Animal Waste; Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance; and Responsible Use of Antimicrobials in Aquatic Animals).

The Aquatic Animals Commission reviewed texts from the Aquatic Animal Health Code (the Aquatic Code) and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals, (the Aquatic Manual) revised these as required, and proposed the following texts for adoption at the 78th General Session:

- **Aquatic Code**: Glossary; Diseases listed by the OIE (Ch. 1.3.); Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal commodities (Ch. 5.3.); Amended text for epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (Articles 10.1.3., 10.1.9., 10.1.12.), Taura syndrome (Articles 9.4.3., 9.4.9., 9.4.11.) and infection with *Bonamia ostreae* (Articles 11.2.3., 11.2.9., 11.2.11.); Measures concerning international transport of aquatic animal disease agents and pathological material (Ch. 5.9.); Import risk analysis (Ch. 2.2.); Quality of aquatic animal health services (Ch. 3.1.); Zoning and compartmentalisation (Ch. 4.1.); Application of compartmentalisation (new ch.); Control of hazards in aquatic animal feeds (Ch. 4.5.); General obligations related to certification (Ch. 5.1.); Certification procedures (Ch. 5.2.); Model international aquatic animal health certificates (Ch. 5.10.); Welfare of farmed fish during transport (Ch. 7.2.); Infection with abalone herpes-like virus (new ch.); Necrotising hepatopancreatitis (new ch.); Disinfection of salmonid eggs – Chapters 10.4., 10.5. and 10.9.; Welfare aspects of stunning and killing of farmed fish for human consumption (Ch. 7.3.); Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance (Ch. 6.1.); Control of aquatic animal health risks associated with transport of aquatic animals (Ch. 5.4.); Handling, disposal and treatment of aquatic animal waste (new ch.);

- **Aquatic Manual**: references to non-susceptible species in mollusc chapters, and a new chapter on infection with abalone herpes-like virus.

Finally, the 2010/2011 work programme for the Aquatic Animals Commission was updated.
Following the invitation of the Government of the People’s Republic of China, the 26th Conference of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania was held in Shanghai from 16 to 20 November 2009, with a total of 112 participants, comprising representatives from 27 OIE Member Countries, senior officers from nine regional and international organisations and six observers. Some representatives of the private sector were also present.

The Conference was honoured by the presence of Ms Uyunqimg, Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress, who welcomed participants and expressed her pleasure at being present at such an important event; Mr Gao Hongbin, Vice-Minister of Agriculture of the People’s Republic of China, who described the significance of this conference to the region and to the world, in the field of animal health, and Ms Yang Dinghua, Vice-Director of the Shanghai People’s Congress, on behalf of the Shanghai Municipal Government, who congratulated the opening ceremony of the conference and welcomed the delegations.

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of the People’s Republic of China to the OIE and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, chaired the Conference, with the support of OIE Headquarters and the vice chairperson, Dr Herath Mudiyanelage Swarnalatha, Sri Lankan Delegate to the OIE and the Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the animal health situation of Member Countries in the region. After a summary of the livestock population, and a review of the immediate notifications received in 2009, a report on the animal health situation in 2008 and the first half of 2009 was presented for the following important diseases in the region:

- foot and mouth disease (FMD)
- classical swine fever
- peste des petits ruminants
- sheep pox and goat pox
- highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)
- the 2009 pandemic strain of influenza H1N1 virus
- white spot disease
- white tail disease.

The report concluded with a summary of existing contingency plans and simulation exercises conducted in the region. Also included was a review of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), focusing on the six-monthly reporting carried out by Member Countries in this region.

Professor Hiroshi Kida, from the Research Centre for Zoonosis Control and Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan, presented Technical Item I: Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1.
He reminded the Conference that, since late 2003, the H5N1 HPAI virus has seriously affected poultry in Asia. Moreover, he drew attention to the 442 people who have been infected with the H5N1 virus since 2004, in Asia, the Middle East and Africa, 60% of whom have died. Dr Kida also reported on the spread of the H1N1 influenza virus in humans, which started in April 2009 and caused an influenza pandemic. Now, although the epidemiological situation has remained unchanged, the H5N1 HPAI virus seems to have been forgotten.

Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, advised that the OIE has produced a new document on the H1N1 influenza pandemic in 2009 and that this has been distributed to OIE Delegates in the region.

Dr Gardner Murray, consultant and OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southeast Asia, presented Technical Item II, entitled: The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases, including the example of China. He began his presentation by referring to the OIE procedures for officially recognising countries as being free from FMD, contagious bovine pleuroneumonia, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and rinderpest. He explained that, for all other diseases, freedom is based on self-declaration, if the country can provide sufficient evidence to substantiate its claims, as described in the relevant chapter of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Dr Murray explained that the OIE, through the Scientific Commission, is considering adding some specific equine diseases to the official OIE procedure for recognising the disease-free status of countries, beginning with African horse sickness and glanders. He commented on an OIE Expert Mission to assist the People’s Republic of China.

Other items on the agenda were as follows:

- the OIE Strategic Plan and OIE Global Programme of Strengthening Veterinary Services, including the performance vision strategy (PVS) and gap analysis, legislation, communication and management support in the region
- the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
- the activities of the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific
- the activities of the OIE Sub-regional Representation for Southeast Asia
- the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Asia
- the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy and implementation plan
- an update on aquatic animal health activities conducted by the OIE
- an update on the activities of the OIE Terrestrial Code Commission.
of China in preparing for the 2008 Beijing Olympics equestrian events. He noted that optimal surveillance programmes can be designed based on risk, taking into account the diseases known to occur in the wider region and the requirements of countries sending horses to equine disease-free zones (EDFZ). He described the laboratory network involved in surveillance and import testing, highlighting the necessity of using test methods prescribed by the OIE, as well as standardised reagents that are used by and obtained from, or exchanged with, OIE Reference Laboratories. He ended by stressing that the key to the integrity of an EDFZ and effective animal health standards is a sound Veterinary Service, strong veterinary leadership and an effective chain of command.

Reports on both technical items will be published by the OIE in its Compendium of Technical Items – 2009.

Dr Masiga qualified as a veterinarian at the University of East Africa in 1967. He was awarded an academic diploma in Bacteriology (Dip. Bact.) by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London. In addition, he obtained a PhD degree in microbiology from the University of Nairobi. He was awarded a Doctor of Science degree (Honoris Causa) by Tufts University, Boston, United States of America, in 1993. Dr Masiga has published widely in the field of the development of veterinary diagnostics, vaccines and drugs. He has carried out many consultancies.

Dr Masiga is a former Director of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources of the African Union (AU-IBAR, 1985-2000), and was instrumental in the design and implementation of the Pan African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC) and the Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE). He had earlier worked at the former East African Veterinary Research Organization (EAVRO) in Muguga, Kenya, becoming its Director in 1976. Following the dissolution of the East African Community in 1977, Dr Masiga carried on as the Director of this institution under the newly formed Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI).

Dr Masiga was a member of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare between 2001 and 2008 and a council member of the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) between 1998 and 2004.

He is now supporting the establishment of the office of OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa and collaborating with AU-IBAR and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at the Regional Animal Health Centre in Nairobi, Kenya.
On Tuesday, 26 January 2010, the Tunisian Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Mr Mansour Abdessalam, and the Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, inaugurated the offices of the OIE Representation for North Africa (see OIE Bulletin No. 2010-1 p. 35) in Tunis, in the presence of official representatives from countries of North Africa (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) and southern Europe (France, Italy, Portugal and Spain). The Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources of the African Union (AU-IBAR) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) were also present, as well as the main African, Euro-Arab and Tunisian institutions and veterinary associations.

About 80 people attended the presentation of the OIE, during which the Director General delivered, on behalf of the 175 Member Countries of the OIE, a speech in which he warmly thanked the Tunisian Government, including the Ministry of Agriculture, for their generous provision of the building to host this new Sub-Regional Representation. The gracious support of bilateral and multilateral partners was also acknowledged by Dr Vallat. One such party is Italy, which has signed a financing agreement of EUR 3 million with the OIE (2009 to 2014), to support this Sub-Regional Representation in Tunis, as well as to enhance animal disease surveillance and food safety in the Mediterranean area. Many others were included in the vote of thanks from Dr Vallat, including the European Commission, for funding the training of OIE delegates and OIE focal points in Africa (under the Better Training for Safer Food initiative); the donors to the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund for assessment missions (Performance of Veterinary Services); and France, which has generously seconded a veterinarian to the OIE in Tunis.

The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa will be involved as a key actor in all OIE projects aimed at building the capacity of Veterinary Services in the sub-region.
These tasks include the implementation of the overall process of assessing the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS); strengthening disease control legislation; holding workshops for OIE Delegates and focal points, and the twinning of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories with existing institutions in the sub-region. Twinning projects, in particular, will contribute to strengthening the veterinary scientific community in the region, to participate in international arbitration on the preparation and adoption of global health standards published by the OIE and Codex Alimentarius.

Mr Mansour and Dr Vallat also announced that the first OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, with the theme ‘Modernising Veterinary Legislation for Good Governance’, will be held in Djerba, Tunisia, from 7 to 9 December 2010. This conference has the objective of strengthening good governance of the national animal health systems and Veterinary Services of OIE Members, consistent with the OIE mandate of safeguarding animal health and animal welfare and contributing to the improvement of public health and safety in food production. Approximately 400 participants from around the world are expected to attend this conference.

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Fax +216-71 237 339
rsr.afriquedunord@oie.int

Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives

Annual Meeting of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives

*OIE Headquarters, Paris, 15-18 December 2009*

The annual meeting of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives was held at the OIE Headquarters from 15 to 18 December 2009, under the chairmanship of Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE.

A total of 21 participants from all the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations attended the meeting and presented past and future activities to the staff of the OIE Headquarters. Representatives from all Departments and Units of the OIE also presented their continuing programmes. Co-ordination mechanisms between the OIE and its regional and sub-regional offices were strengthened during this meeting.

Participants from the OIE Regional Representations, Sub-Representations and Headquarters

(see colour photo on page 57)
Improving laboratory capacity and veterinary governance

The Conference recommended that, at the regional level, significant effort should be invested into improving the capacity of laboratories to manage their systems and methods of testing veterinary drugs more effectively. Networking and training will be improved for laboratories and national authorities responsible for the registration and quality control of veterinary drugs. This will be achieved, in part, through the OIE Twinning Initiative, which promotes the direct exchange of scientists from twinned laboratories among OIE Member Countries.

Member Countries in the Middle East also recommended the establishment of a common regional procedure for registering veterinary medicinal products. At the national level, OIE Member Countries decided to enhance their veterinary governance, harmonise legislation and strive to meet the quality standards recommended by the OIE for Veterinary Services, using the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluation tool. Personnel will be designated as ‘focal points’ to liaise with the OIE and act as direct contacts with this organisation. These people will be trained by the OIE and become responsible for establishing a network of experts within their own country.

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Appointment of permanent Delegates

1 November 2009
Nigeria
Dr Joseph Nyager
Director of the Department of Livestock and Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture

1 January 2010
Vietnam
Dr Hoang Van Nam
Director General, Department of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

1 January 2010
Netherlands
Dr Christianne Bruschke
Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

12 January 2010
Kyrgyzstan
Dr Sovetbek Joldoshov
Chief State Veterinary Inspector, Ministry of Agriculture

15 January 2010
Cyprus
Dr Pavlos Toumazos
Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

1 January 2010
Netherlands
Dr Christianne Bruschke
Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

1 February 2010
Belize
Dr Miguel Angel Depaz
Head of Agricultural Health Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives

7 February 2010
Nepal
Dr Ram Krishna Khatiwada
Programme Director, Directorate of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

11 February 2010
Mali
Dr Abdel Kader Diarra
Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries

17 February 2010
Ukraine
Dr Volodymyr Horzheiev
Acting Head, State Committee for Veterinary Medicine, Ministry of Agricultural Policy

22 February 2010
Fiji
Mr Tomasi Tunabuna
Acting Director, Animal Health and Production Division, Ministry of Primary Industries

23 February 2010
Moldova
Dr Vasile Bahau
Director General, Sanitary, Veterinary and Animal Origin Food Safety Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry

5 March 2010
Honduras
Dr José Heriberto Amador Salinas
Director General of SENASA, National Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
5 March 2010
Panama
Dr Pablo Constantino Moreno Vázquez
Director of Animal Health, Ministry of Agricultural Development

7 March 2010
Bangladesh
Dr Sunil Chandra Gain
Director General, Department of Livestock Services, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

9 March 2010
Ghana
Dr Samuel William Hanson
Acting Director and Chief Veterinary Officer, Veterinary Services Directorate, Ministry of Food and Agriculture

14 March 2010
Egypt
Prof. Dr Mohamed Mostafa El Garhy
Chairman of the General Organization for Veterinary Services (GOVS), Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

19 March 2010
Côte d'Ivoire
Dr Yobouet Charlotte Amatcha-Lepry
Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Animal Production and Water Resources

22 March 2010
Sri Lanka
Dr Alawattage Don Nimal Chandrasiri
Director General, Department of Animal Production and Health, Ministry of Livestock Development

26 March 2010
Belgium
Dr Pierre Naassens
Director of the General Directorate of Control Policy and Chief Veterinary Officer, Directorate of Animal Health and Animal Product Safety, Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain

28 March 2010
Mauritania
Dr Baba Doumbia
Director of Livestock Services, Ministry of Rural Development

30 March 2010
Ecuador
Dr Angel Rafael Morales Astudillo
Executive Director of AGROCALIDAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries

30 March 2010
Dominican Republic
Dr Rafael Bienvenido Nuñez Mieses
Director, Department of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture
Co-operative Agreement with the World Intellectual Property Organization

In March 2010, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) signed a co-operative agreement with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

This is an intergovernmental organisation of 184 Member Countries, whose aim is to develop an accessible international intellectual property system while encouraging creativity and economic development.

This agreement will be particularly important in safeguarding the intellectual property rights of the OIE, in terms of copyright on its international health standards, guidelines and publications, and the validation and certification of diagnostic assays for infectious animal diseases. It will be equally relevant to the activities undertaken by OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.

Co-operation agreement between
the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and
the World Organisation For Animal Health (OIE)

The World Intellectual Property Organization
(hereinafter referred to as WIPO),
having its Headquarters at 34, chemin des Colombettes,
1211 Geneva 20 – Switzerland
Represented by Dr François GURRY, Director General and

The World Organisation for Animal Health
(hereinafter referred to as the OIE),
having its Headquarters at 12, rue de Prony
75017 Paris – France
Represented by Dr Bernard VALLAT, Director General

WIPO and the OIE are hereinafter designated ‘the Parties’ or ‘the Party’, as appropriate,

Preamble

Considering that WIPO is an intergovernmental organisation, created in Stockholm in 1967, with currently 184 Member States, whose aim is to stimulate creativity and economic development by promoting an international intellectual property system, notably by encouraging cooperation between States;

Considering that the OIE is an intergovernmental organisation, created in Paris in 1924, with currently 175 Member Countries, whose aim is to improve animal health worldwide;

Given that it is in the interests of the Parties to undertake to cooperate together in their capacity as intergovernmental organisations;

Convinced that that industrial property is a fundamental tool to achieve their objectives;

Believing that a partnership between WIPO and the OIE can considerably improve cooperation and technical assistance in the Parties’ respective fields of interest;

Considering that strengthening the links between WIPO and the OIE is bound to give renewed impetus to international cooperation within the framework of their respective mandates;

The Parties have decided to conclude the following Cooperation Agreement:

Article 1: Scope

The aim of the present Agreement is to facilitate and strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the Parties in all their fields of interest, where their respective mandates, and where their respective activities could present a common interest between intellectual property and animal health, in particular:

— the dissemination of general information on intellectual property law;
— protection of the intellectual property of the output of each of the Parties; for the OIE: standard’s copyright, guidelines and publications, validation and certification of diagnostic tests for infectious animal diseases…
— the activities of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and the status of their experts with regard to the OIE;
— any other topic on which the two Parties decide to collaborate.

This cooperation also includes technical assistance that each Party may, in its respective field of competence, give the other Party, or that Party’s members, in accordance with each Party’s internal rules.
Article 2: Information on the activities of each Party
The Parties undertake to keep each other informed of activities undertaken in the field of intellectual property and the field of animal health that could be of mutual interest or give rise to a joint activity of mutual cooperation.

Article 3: Participation in meetings
Each Party will invite the other Party to participate in meetings where matters of mutual interest may arise, and make the reports of these meetings available to the other Party.
In particular, each Party will have observer status at meetings of the other Party, in accordance with each Party’s internal rules.

Article 4: Exchange of publications
The Parties will exchange their catalogue of publications to enable each Party to request items relating to its activities published by the other Party. The Parties will exchange free copies of documents and publications on topics of common or individual interest. Where appropriate, the Parties will benefit from the concessionary rates applied to their Members or affiliated organisations for further orders of publications.

Article 5: Other forms of cooperation
The Parties will decide on any other forms of cooperation and collaboration that they consider relevant, and in particular:
– promotion of the use of international standards concerning the mandates of the Parties;
– dissemination of international treaties administered by each Party;
– exchange of information and work programmes of mutual interest;
– organisation of workshops, meetings or seminars on topics of mutual interest;
– strengthening of the coordination of joint regional activities relating to topics of mutual interest.

Article 6: Consultations on cooperation
The two Parties will endeavour to extend their cooperation through formal or informal consultations on issues of common interest and periodically assess the results of this cooperation.

Article 7: Duration of the Agreement
This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of signature by both Parties and shall remain valid until termination.
Each Party may propose termination of this Agreement by giving the other Party three months’ written notice of its intention to terminate the Agreement.

Article 8: Amendments
Either Party may propose amendments to this Agreement by giving a written notification. Agreement on proposed amendments shall be reached through an exchange of letters.

In witness whereof, the Parties have signed this Agreement.
Signed in two copies, one copy to be held by WIPO and the other by the OIE.

For the World Intellectual Property Organization
Francis Gurry
Director General
Place and date: Geneva, 13 March 2010

For the World Organisation for Animal Health
Bernard Vallat
Director General
Place and date: Paris, 4 March 2010
strengthening of veterinary services

OIE PVS Global Programme

State of Play – as at 14 April 2010

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<th>OIE Regions</th>
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<th>Requests received</th>
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OIE-PVS missions

- Africa (45)

- Americas (17)
  - Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay.

- Asia-Pacific (16)

- Europe (12)
  - Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

- Middle East (12)
  - Afghanistan, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian N.A. (not an OIE Member), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

In red: completed missions
PVS - Gap Analysis
State of Play – as at 14 April 2010

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**Gap Analysis missions**

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- **Americas (8)**
  Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama.

- **Asia-Pacific (10)**

- **Europe (5)**
  Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey.

- **Middle East (2)**
  Kuwait, Lebanon.

In red: completed missions

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Legislation missions
State of Play – as at 14 April 2010

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<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table does not include the missions to Botswana and South Africa nor the first mission carried out in Zambia since the project was in pilot phase.

**Legislation missions**

- **Africa (14)**

- **Asia-Pacific (3)**
  Bhutan, Cambodia, Vietnam.

- **Europe (2)**
  Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan.

- **Middle East (4)**
  Afghanistan, Kuwait, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates.

In red: completed missions
Feedback meeting on the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of *Performance of Veterinary Services* and meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services

OIE Headquarters, Paris, France, 9-10 December 2009

The meeting was conducted to collect feedback on the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of *Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS Tool)* from experienced PVS assessors on applying the *PVS Tool and Manual* in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. The aim of the meeting was to define what was good, what could be improved and what should be included in the new edition of the *PVS Tool and Manual*.

The main topics discussed were:
- how to incorporate animal welfare into the *PVS Tool*, considering recent developments in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*
- the current status of the OIE legislation guidelines, the lessons learned from the legislation missions to date, and the future development of the OIE veterinary legislation initiative
- the use of the *PVS Tool* for evaluating aquatic animal health Services
- how to incorporate management into the *PVS Tool*
- the importance of education in a PVS evaluation and how to improve on this in the future,

In addition, OIE economic studies and the follow-up process of the OIE PVS Gap Analysis were presented as effective methods of demonstrating the benefits of investing in Veterinary Services.

The outcomes of the OIE PVS feedback meeting were examined by the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services during its meeting, held on 11 December 2009. Its aim was to fine-tune some competencies and indicators in the OIE *PVS Tool* with provisional indicators to produce a fifth edition of the *PVS Tool*.

The fourth edition of the *PVS Tool*, issued in August 2009, is currently in use. A fifth edition (scheduled for release in 2010) is in preparation. Among other additions, it will include critical competencies for:
- managing resources and operations
- animal welfare
- food safety.

A modified *PVS Tool* will be used to evaluate the performance of aquatic animal health Services.
Seminar on Good Governance of Veterinary Services
Shanghai, People’s Republic of China, 16 November 2009

At the invitation of the Government of the People’s Republic of China, a Seminar on Good Governance of Veterinary Services was held in Shanghai on Monday, 16 November 2009, before the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

This Seminar was organised by the OIE in the context of its Global Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services.

A total of 95 people participated in the seminar, including representatives from 24 Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, as well as representatives from international, regional and national organisations. The seminar was led by officials from the OIE Headquarters, based in Paris; the OIE Regional Representation for Asia, based in Tokyo; and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southeast Asia, based in Bangkok.

The main topics included in the programme were:
- the evaluation and strengthening of Veterinary Services using the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) tool
- Asian experience in the use of the OIE PVS tool
- twinning of veterinary laboratories
- veterinary legislation
- capacity building around national focal points.
Between January and March 2010, four meetings were conducted in the OIE Regions to provide recently appointed Delegates, and the national focal points nominated by the Delegates, with practical information on the OIE and the role and responsibilities of Veterinary Services.

**Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety (Middle East)**

*Kuwait City, Kuwait, 2-4 February 2010*

Within the global framework of regional workshops for OIE Focal Points, the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East organised a workshop for the Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety from 2 to 4 February 2010, in Kuwait City. This workshop was hosted by the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries (PAAF) of the State of Kuwait.

In conjunction with this workshop, a practical session on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was also held, in collaboration with France and the European Commission, at the Central Veterinary Laboratory facilities in Kuwait.

Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety attended the workshop from the following 11 countries: Bahrain, Cyprus, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The PAAF also invited various observers involved in food safety in Kuwait. In all, a total of 69 people attended the workshop.
The OIE Regional Representation for the Americas organised a workshop for the Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety from 9 to 11 March 2010, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

A total of 25 recently appointed OIE Delegates from African OIE Member Countries met in Gaborone, Botswana, from 9 to 12 March 2010, for a regional seminar about the OIE and its activities.

The agenda covered the traditional mandates of Delegates to the OIE, as well as the new mandates introduced in the Fourth Strategic Plan and the upcoming Fifth Strategic Plan, such as animal welfare, legislation, communication, veterinary education, and so on.

The seminar was facilitated by experts from both within and outside the OIE and was complemented by field visits to the Botswana Meat Commission, the Mokolodi Game Reserve and the Botswana Vaccine Institute.

This seminar was attended by OIE Delegates (or their deputies) from Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Comoros, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, São Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania and Togo.

The meeting was also attended by all four Representatives of the OIE in Africa, based in Bamako, Gaborone, Tunis and Nairobi.

The new OIE Delegate from Mali, Dr Abdel Kader Diarra, receives his attendance certificate from Dr Mara Gonzalez of the OIE Regional Activities Department.

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety (Americas)

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-11 March 2010

The OIE Regional Representation for the Americas organised a workshop for the Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety from 9 to 11 March 2010, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife (Africa and the Middle East)
Arusha, Tanzania, 16-19 March 2010

A joint workshop for wildlife focal points from Middle Eastern countries and English-speaking African countries was organised in Arusha, Tanzania, from 16 to 19 March 2010.

This workshop was initiated by the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa in Gaborone, Botswana, in close collaboration with the OIE Regional Representation for Africa; the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East; OIE Headquarters; the OIE Collaborating Centre on Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management, based at the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Pretoria, South Africa; and the OIE Collaborating Centre on Wildlife Disease Surveillance and Monitoring, Epidemiology and Management, based at the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre.

Financial support for the workshop came from the European Commission Directorate General for Health and Consumers, under the Better Training for Safer Food programme for Africa.

The workshop addressed the following areas:
- the terms of reference for national focal points for wildlife
- the collection and submission of wildlife disease information
- disease surveillance
- animal disease reporting using the WAHIS Wild system
- the basic principles of sample collection and submission
- data collection and management
- disease control interventions for wildlife and livestock at their interface
- an appreciation of the interrelatedness of wildlife and livestock health and production, and human health
- diagnostic protocols and tests.

In accordance with the overall mandates of the OIE, the workshop aimed to provide participants with the necessary information, updates and skills to better assume their responsibilities and obligations towards their national Delegates to the OIE, thus strengthening interaction with the OIE, and, in particular, to ensure adequate notification on wildlife diseases to the OIE.

The workshop was interactive, thanks to the facilitation of both Collaborating Centres, and involved integrated, small-group, working sessions on practical examples.

Speakers and participants at the Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife (see colour photo on page 57)
Influenza activity in 2009
During 2009, outbreaks of disease caused by A (H3N8) viruses were reported in Finland, France, India, Ireland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (UK), the United States of America (USA) and Uruguay. The most recent activity in Japan was in mid-2008.

Equine influenza A (H3N8) viruses were isolated and/or characterised from India, Ireland, the UK and USA. Viruses isolated in India in 2008 to 2009 were described by Virmani et al., 2010.

Field data
Equine influenza virus infections were confirmed in both vaccinated and unvaccinated horses. Most current vaccines do not contain currently recommended strains, but insufficient information was available to conclude whether infection occurred in the face of high levels of post-vaccination antibody.

Characterisation of viruses isolated in 2009
Nineteen viruses isolated in 2009 from sources in the UK and USA and three viruses from India (Virmani et al., 2010) were characterised antigenically by haemagglutination inhibition (HI), using ferret and/or horse antisera and/or genetically by sequencing of the haemagglutinin (HA) gene. Sequence data submitted to Genbank or published were included in the analyses.

Genetic characterisation
All HA1 sequences obtained for viruses from different countries were of the American lineage (Florida sublineage) and were similar to those of viruses isolated in 2008, comprising two clades.


Clade 2 viruses were represented by isolates from the UK (A/Perthshire/2/2009, A/Yorkshire/1/2009) and India (A/Ahmedabad/2009).

Antigenic characteristics
Haemagglutination inhibition data, including antigenic cartography analysis of HI data (Smith et al., 2004), available for viruses isolated in 2009 indicated that the HAs of clade 2 viruses, represented by A/Richmond/1/2007, were
antigenically distinguishable from those of A/South Africa/2003-like clade 1 viruses.

**Conclusions**

The absence of identification of Eurasian lineage viruses in 2009 supported the panel’s view that Eurasian lineage viruses should not be included in vaccines.

Genetic and antigenic data indicate that viruses of the American lineage (Florida sublineage) clade 1 have spread to Europe. The panel is of the view that the antigenic difference between clade 1 and clade 2 viruses of the American lineage could potentially compromise the effectiveness of a vaccine containing a representative of a single clade.

**Level of surveillance**

The disparity in levels of surveillance and virus collection in different countries results in potentially biased information about the relative prevalence of different viruses. The panel wishes to emphasise the importance of increased surveillance and rapid submission of viruses to reference laboratories for characterisation. This is essential in order that antigenic and genetic drift or the appearance of a novel influenza virus can be monitored effectively on a global basis and the information relayed to vaccine manufacturers in a timely manner.

**Recommendations**

As recommended in 2009, the panel does not support the inclusion in vaccines of an H7N7 virus or an H3N8 virus of the Eurasian lineage.

Vaccines for the international market should contain both a clade 1 and a clade 2 virus of the Florida sublineage. This conclusion is based on the continuing antigenic evolution and co-circulation of these viruses internationally.

- Clade 1 is represented by A/South Africa/2003-like or A/Ohio/2003-like viruses.

- Clade 2 is represented by A/Richmond/1/2007.

While earlier viruses of the American lineage (A/Newmarket/1/1993, A/Kentucky/1994, A/Kentucky/1997, A/Kentucky/1998, A/Kentucky/2002) are more closely related antigenically to clade 2 than clade 1 viruses, and are expected to give some protection against current clade 2 viruses, it is recommended that they are replaced with an A/Richmond/1/2007-like virus for optimum protection.

Manufacturers producing vaccines for a strictly national market are encouraged to liaise with reference laboratories to use reference reagents in the selection of cross-reactive and immunogenic local strains.

**Reference reagents**

Reference Preparations (EP BRPs) for serological testing of equine influenza (anti-A/eq/Newmarket/77 [H7N7], anti-A/eq/Newmarket/1/93 [H3N8], anti-A/eq/Newmarket/2/93 [H3N8] and anti-A/eq/South Africa/4/2003 [H3N8]) by the single radial haemolysis assay are available from the European Pharmacopoeia and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Reference Laboratory in Newmarket (UK) for use as primary standards in diagnostic serological testing.

**References**


Information submitted on 29 March 2010, by Professor Milan Malena, OIE Delegate for the Czech Republic and Chief Veterinary Officer for the State Veterinary Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Czech Republic

Within the framework of routine monitoring, performed under European legislation (Council Directive 2005/94/EC; Commission Decision No. 2007/268/ES on the implementation of surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds), 20 cloacal swabs from mallards for restocking supplies of game were tested. Tracheal swabs were also tested. Laboratory tests were carried out in accordance with the avian influenza diagnostic manual (Commission Decision 2006/437/EC). All animals were without clinical signs.

One sample, a cloacal swab, tested positive for low pathogenicity avian influenza, serotype H5N3. The positive result was announced by the National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza at the State Veterinary Institute, Prague, on 3 November 2009. The positive finding originated from a duck farm at Třebín, in the district of České Budějovice, southern Bohemia – co-ordinates: 48° 58’ 6.21’’ N; 14° 22’ 48.73’’ E, by global positioning system (Fig. 1). A total of 280 mallards for restocking game were kept on the farm.

To prevent the spread of the virus and aid in eradicating the disease, the Regional Veterinary Administration (RVA) for southern Bohemia ordered emergency disease control measures and established a restricted zone, to a diameter of 1 km, around the outbreak. These control measures were ordered on 5 November 2009.

On 6 November 2009, all susceptible animals (280) on the farm were slaughtered, using T 61, applied by injection, at a dose of 2 ml per animal. All carcasses were immediately destroyed in rendering plants. All feed was destroyed as well (100 kg of compound feed and 100 kg of barley). Litter and feed from the floor were burned in a free area in front of the aviary and all these activities were carried out under the supervision of the official veterinarian. All those who came into contact with the outbreak were equipped with protective clothes and tools and informed of the health risks. The list of these personnel was forwarded to the Regional Public Health Authority.

After the completion of mechanical cleansing, final disinfection of the hall and yards (using 1% Virkon) was carried out. The total area of the disinfected premises was 1,500 m².

On 13 November 2009, the RVA lifted the emergency veterinary measures, since the farmer had completed all these required disease control measures. A census was conducted of all poultry in the restricted zone. There were no commercial holdings in the zone and only one municipality (where 176 exotic birds and 376 head of poultry were kept).

The restriction zone was lifted on 1 December 2009.

After the restriction zone was lifted, and with the approval of the RVA, the farmer...
repopulated his holding with 50 mallards. Twenty-one days after repopulation, the farmer took blood, tracheal and cloacal samples from 20 birds, in accordance with national and European legislation. This sampling was performed under the supervision of the official veterinarian. All tests returned negative results.
On 29 December 2009, the official veterinarian conducted clinical examinations of the repopulated flock. No clinical signs of the disease were detected; nor were any deaths.
In accordance with Articles 10.4.2 and 10.4.3. of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the Delegate of the Czech Republic hereby advises that his country has fulfilled the requirements of Article 10.4.3., point 2: namely, that a stamping-out policy was applied, that three months were allowed to elapse after disinfection of the affected premises and that surveillance, in accordance with Articles 10.4.28 to 10.4.34., was conducted during that three-month period. The Delegate of the Czech Republic declares that his country regained its disease-free status from notifiable, low pathogenicity avian influenza in the zone of southern Bohemia, as from: 17 February 2010. The surveillance period started on 13 November 2009 and ended on 17 February 2010.
In this context, OIRSA will sponsor the participation of nine countries in the First OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, to be held from 7 to 9 December 2010, in Djerba, Tunisia.

The OIE Global Conference will provide a favourable environment for initiating worldwide debate on this subject of growing importance, in view of the threats posed by globalisation, climate change and bioterrorism, as well as the occurrence of emerging and re-emerging diseases at the interface between humans, animals and ecosystems.

The Global Conference will highlight the importance of promoting the harmonisation of veterinary legislation and the role of such legislation as the cornerstone of veterinary infrastructure. At the same time, it will encourage governments and donors to invest in harmonising and reinforcing legislation as a key element of good governance in developing countries, to reduce poverty and to improve public health and animal health and welfare worldwide.

At the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, OIRSA will present a successful example of the implementation of harmonised legislation, using OIE international standards, in the countries of its sphere of influence.

This successful model of co-operation with a strategic OIE partner will help to increase the attendance of developing countries and those in economic transition.

Under the agreement between the International Regional Organization for Animal and Plant Health (OIRSA) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) adopted in May 2005, these two organisations have been working together to achieve their mutual interests and objectives through technical co-operation.
Activities of Reference Laboratories & Collaborating Centres

Annual reports of Reference Laboratory and Collaborating Centre activities for 2009

Reports have been received from 152 out of 156 Reference Laboratories and 30 out of 34 Collaborating Centres for terrestrial animal diseases or topics. The Biological Standards Commission expressed its continuing appreciation for the enthusiastic support and expert advice given to the OIE by these Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. The full set of reports for 2009 will be supplied to Members and to all the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres on a CD-ROM. Those international activities that are relevant to the work of the OIE are summarised in the following table:

Reference Laboratories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General activities</th>
<th>Percentage of laboratories carrying out these activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test(s) in use or available for the specified disease</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production and distribution of diagnostic reagents</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specific OIE activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International harmonisation/standardisation of methods</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation and supply of international reference standards</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research into and development of new procedures</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection, analysis and dissemination of epidemiological data</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of consultant expertise</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of scientific and technical training</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of diagnostic testing facilities</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation of international scientific meetings</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in international scientific collaborative studies</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations and publications</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<td>Inscription of diagnostic kits on the OIE Register</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</table>

Collaborating Centres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General activities</th>
<th>Percentage of Collaborating Centres carrying out these activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activities as a centre of research, expertise, standardisation and dissemination of techniques</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal or development of any procedure that will facilitate the harmonisation of international regulations on the surveillance and control of animal diseases, food safety or animal welfare</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement of expert consultants at the disposal of the OIE</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specific OIE activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of scientific and technical training to personnel from OIE Members</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation of scientific meetings on behalf of the OIE</td>
<td>54%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-ordination of scientific and technical studies in collaboration with other laboratories or organisations</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication and dissemination of any information that may be useful to OIE Members</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

Co-published with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Edited by G. Bianchi (FAO, Italy) & H.R. Skjoldal (Institute of Marine Research, Norway)

December 2008

In English

363 pp.


orders@cabi.org

The ecosystem approach to fisheries management is high on national, regional and international agendas for sustainable fisheries management. The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries covers both theoretical and applied aspects of this concept, with a particular emphasis on practical experience in the form of case studies from around the world and tools for solutions. Researchers, practitioners and policy-makers in fisheries, aquaculture, marine biology and ecology will find this book an invaluable overview and guide to fisheries management.

Principles of Cattle Production

2nd Edition

C.J.C. Phillips

(University of Queensland, Australia)

November 2009

In English

256 pp.


orders@cabi.org

This introductory-level textbook covers the welfare and environmental implications of producing cattle, as well as more traditional subjects, such as nutrition, reproduction and housing. Its broad, international coverage includes feedlot systems, transport, subsistence farming systems and the contribution of cattle production systems to land, air and water pollution.
Improving Animal Welfare
A Practical Approach
2nd Edition
Edited by T. Grandin (Colorado State University, United States of America)
December 2009
In English
336 pp.
orders@cabi.org

New legislation on animal welfare standards has created the need for welfare programmes to be implemented on farms, during transportation, and in slaughterhouses. While there is a wealth of information on animal behaviour and ethics, there is little to guide veterinarians and managers in evaluating animal welfare and improving it. This textbook aims to help those working with animals to apply practical methods for improving welfare, bridging the gap between scientific research and practical application. Drawing on the editor’s extensive experience in teaching and auditing, as well as contributions from international experts, this book provides a guide to the practical evaluation and auditing of welfare problems, emphasising the importance of measuring conditions that compromise welfare.

Meat Science
An introductory text
2nd Edition
P.D. Warriss (University of Bristol, United Kingdom)
Modular Texts Series
November 2009
In English
240 pp.
ISBN: 978-1-84593-593-1
orders@cabi.org

Outlining the core principles of the subject, this introductory-level textbook covers the production of meat, its structure and chemical composition, meat quality and hygiene, and animal welfare, handling and slaughter. The new edition has been updated to cover significant advances, such as the process of conditioning, leading to the tenderisation of meat, and the use of molecular genetic techniques to try to select animals for improved meat quality.

This second edition has been fully revised and updated, including its coverage of genomics. It appears in a new larger format, in two colours throughout, with carefully selected references and titles for further reading.
2010

June

29th World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science
6-10 June
Nairobi (Kenya)
secretariat@akmlsoifbls2010.org

Colloquium ‘Paratuberculosis of ruminants’
10 June
Paris (France)
French National Veterinary School of Alfort
Virginie Piquerel
Tel: +33 01 43 96 70 27
vpiquerel@vet-alfort.fr

Animal health: helping to feed a growing population
10 June
Brussels (Belgium)
Myriam Alcain
Tel: +32 2 543 75 64
m.alcain@ifahsec.org
www.ifaheurope.org

Second Global Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres
21-23 June
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)
scientific.dept@oie.int

Meeting of the OIE ad hoc Group on Terrestrial Animal Disease / Pathogenic Agents Notification
29 June – 1 July
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)
oie@oie.int

July

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare
29 June – 1 July
Santiago (Chile)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

Meeting of the OIE ad hoc Group on Laboratory Animal Welfare
6-8 July
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)
trade.dept@oie.int

August

Novel Vaccines: Adjuvants & Delivery Systems
18-19 August
Cambridge
(United Kingdom)
Mary Ruberry
mruberry@healthtech.com
September

4th China International Food Safety & Quality Conference
1-2 September
Shanghai (People's Republic of China)
Angela Cheng
angela.cheng@infoexws.com
www.chinafoodsafety.com

International conference on infectious salmon anaemia
13-15 September
Oslo (Norway)
isa@vetinst.no
www.vetinst.no/isa-oie

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products
20-22 September
Cartagena (Colombia)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

39th International Congress of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine and
3rd National Congress of the Turkish Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine and Professional Ethics
20-23 September
Antalya Belek (Turkey)
tahvmpe@gmail.com

24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
20-24 September
Astana (Kazakhstan)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

16th CAMEVET Seminar on Harmonization of Veterinary Drug Registration and Control
22-24 September
Cartagena (Colombia)
rr.americas@oie.int

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points
National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals
27-29 September
Umm el Quwain (United Arab Emirates)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals
27-29 September
Umm el Quwain (United Arab Emirates)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

October

4th Annual vaccine congress
3-5 October
Vienna (Austria)
conferences@mail.elsevieralerts.com
www.vaccinecongress.com

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife
5-7 October
Bangkok (Thailand)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

Prato Conference on the Pathogenesis of Bacterial Diseases of Animals
6-9 October
Prato (Italy)
Prof. Julian Rood
Julian.Rood@med.monash.edu.au

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Disease Notification
30 August – 2 September
Gaborone (Botswana)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Disease Notification
30 August – 2 September
Gaborone (Botswana)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

18th IMS World Meat Congress
27-30 September
Buenos Aires (Argentina)
info@ipcva.com.ar
www.worldmeatcongress2010.com/

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety
12-14 October
Singapore
trade.dept@oie.int
www.oie.int/eng/secu_sanitaire/en_introduction.htm

SPS Committee (Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures)
18-22 October
Geneva (Switzerland)
www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm

Meeting of OIE Regional Representatives
26-29 October
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

OIE Regional Seminar on Communication
7-8 October
Rabat (Morocco)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife
5-7 October
Bangkok (Thailand)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals
27-29 September
Umm el Quwain (United Arab Emirates)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

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isa@vetinst.no
www.vetinst.no/isa-oie

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regactivities.dept@oie.int

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info@ipcva.com.ar
www.worldmeatcongress2010.com/

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Singapore
trade.dept@oie.int
www.oie.int/eng/secu_sanitaire/en_introduction.htm

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www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm

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26-29 October
OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

OIE Regional Seminar on Communication
7-8 October
Rabat (Morocco)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife
5-7 October
Bangkok (Thailand)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals
27-29 September
Umm el Quwain (United Arab Emirates)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Disease Notification
30 August – 2 September
Gaborone (Botswana)
2010

November

10th International Conference on Molecular Epidemiology and Evolutionary Genetics of Infectious Diseases
3-5 November
Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
www.meegidconference.com

International Conference on Antimicrobial Research (ICAR2010)
3-5 November
Valladolid (Spain)
icar2010@formatex.org
www.formatex.org/icar2010

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products
23-25 November
Roatán (Honduras)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals
16-18 November
Dubrovnik (Croatia)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
16-19 November
Montevideo (Uruguay)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals
16-18 November
Dubrovnik (Croatia)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare
9-11 November
Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

26th World Buiatrics Congress
14-18 November
Santiago (Chile)
World_buiatrics_2010@mail.vresp.com

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare
16-18 November
Beirut (Lebanon)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

2011

January

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Disease Notification
22-24 January
Beirut (Lebanon)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

February

19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa Rwanda
23-25 January
Beirut (Lebanon)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

1st International One Health Congress
Human Health, Animal Health, the Environment and Global Survival
Melbourne (Australia)
14-16 February 2011

June

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Disease Notification
15-17 June
Vladimir (Russia)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products
28-30 June
Cambodia

September

Global Conference on Rabies Control
7-9 September
Seoul (Republic of Korea)
oie@oie.int

December

OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation
7-9 December
Djerba (Tunisia)
trade.dept@oie.int

OIE Global Conference on Wildlife: ‘animal health and biodiversity – Preparing the future’
23-25 February
Maison de la Chimie
Paris (France)
scientific.dept@oie.int
It was with great sadness that the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) learned of the death of Dr Petro Ivanovich Verbitsky on 12 February 2010. He was born on 1 January 1953, in the village of Novo-Mykilske, in the Milovsky district of Lugansk, in Ukraine. He graduated as a veterinarian in 1977, eventually deciding to specialise in veterinary epidemiology.

In 2009, Dr Verbitsky became the head of Veterinary Services in Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Delegate to the OIE. Between 2003 and 2006, he was the General Secretary of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

His death is a huge loss, not only for his country but also for our organisation. On behalf of the 176 Member Countries of the OIE, we send our deepest condolences to his family and to his Ministry.
OIE MEMBERS (176)

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AZERBAIJAN
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BARBADOS
BELARUS
BELGIUM
BELIZE
BENIN
BHUTAN
BOLIVIA
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BRAZIL
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VANUATU
VENEZUELA
VIETNAM
YEMEN
ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE
7-9 December
OIE Global Conference
on Veterinary Legislation
Djerba (Tunisia)

28 September
World rabies day