



EMERGENCY CENTRE FOR TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES • FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Bangkok, Thailand

Once again with sharing

USAID-funded regional Animal and Pandemic Influenza partners meet to share experiences

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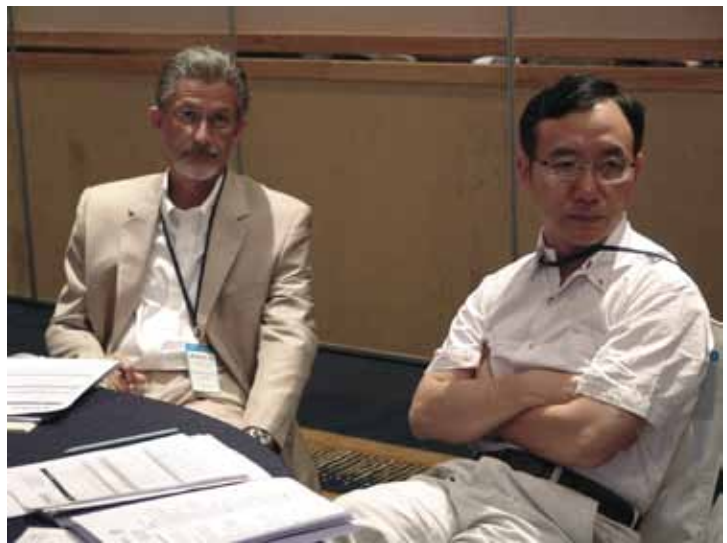
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The annual Regional Avian and Pandemic Influenza (API) USAID Partners Meeting, which brings together agencies and NGOs that receive support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Regional Development Mission in Asia (RDMA) was organized from 2-3 September 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand. The goal of the meeting was for partners to share each other's project activities during 2010 and work plan for 2011.

There were 63 participants from international organizations including the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Academy for Educational Development (AED), the Kenan Institute Asia, Measure Evaluation, the ASEAN Secretariat, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The 29 participants from FAO included Team Leaders and Chief Technical Advisors of the Emergency Centre for



(Above) Dr David Castellán, Senior Veterinary Epidemiologist at FAO ECTAD-RAP with Dr. Guo Fusheng, Technical Advisor, FAO China; (right) participants at the annual meeting of USAID partners in Asia; (below) a total of 69 participants attended, including 29 from FAO.



Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) from China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam, as well as Technical Officers

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Montreux, Switzerland

A second look at biorisk

Professional meet in Montreux, Switzerland to review WHO's laboratory biorisk management strategic plan

The International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR) require that countries notify events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern. Where laboratories are involved in providing the critical scientific evidence, countries must ensure that the workers perform their work safely, and responsibly, and that all biological materials are accurately accounted for.

To review activities relating to laboratory biorisk management and review WHO's laboratory biorisk management strategic plan, a workshop was organized from 7–9 September 2010 in Montreux, Switzerland in the Department of IHR Coordination of the Health Security and Environment Cluster. The workshop was organized by WHO's Biosafety and Laboratory Biosecurity programme under the

Laboratory Alliances and Biosafety team.

Participants included Dr Pawin Padungtod, Regional Project Coordinator of FAO ECTAD-RAP, representatives from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the European Union (EU), as well as others from Australia, Canada, Sweden and the USA. Also present were representatives from the international biosafety associations of Canada, Kenya, Singapore, Brasil and Austria.

Participants agreed upon the vision of the strategic plan to achieve safe and secure environments in every laboratory in the world, and recommended the following four outcomes: enhanced competencies in biosafety and biosecurity through training and recognition schemes for biosafety professionals; facilities

and equipment appropriately selected, operated, maintained and decommissioned through advocacy and development of assessment tools; a framework for legislation, standards and guidelines developed through the revision of existing standards and guidelines such as those for transportation and the WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual (LBM); and finally, evidence-based information platforms developed to collect and disseminate relevant information to improve biosafety and biosecurity.

Participants at the biorisk management review conference organized by WHO at Montreux, Switzerland, agreed upon the vision of the strategic plan to achieve safe and secure environments in every laboratory in the world.



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from FAO Headquarters (HQ) and FAO Region of Asia and the Pacific (RAP).

FAO's Technical Officers from HQ and Southeast Asia also made a presentation on regional approaches to API programming. Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh, Regional Project Coordinator of ECTAD-RAP, spoke on the progress of regional activities including cross-border approaches to HPAI risk reduction. Dr Mohinder Oberoi spoke on experiences from studies on poultry value chain mapping in South Asia, while Dr Nicoline de Haan spoke on the need to manage informal trade crossing the border. Dr Jan Hinrichs, Animal Health Economist at ECTAD-RAP, spoke of price monitoring as an indicator for livestock movement.

The session ended with a presentation on the molecular epidemiology of H5N1 in Asia by Dr Pawin Padungtod, Regional Project Coordinator, FAO.

Animal knowledge



At the 3rd OIE Regional Meeting on Strengthening Animal Health Information Networking in Asia, held in Tokyo, Japan on September 15 and 16, Dr Pawin Padungtod from ECTAD-RAP presented the details of EMPRESi-Asia information system, which can be used as regional platform for sharing and analysis of disease event information. The meeting was attended by OIE delegates and Chief Veterinary Officers from 22 countries/territories: Bangladesh, Brunei, Bhutan, Cambodia, PR China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Japan, RO Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

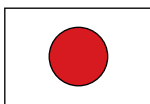
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Talking the talk

Communication professionals from Asia and the Pacific meet to harvest lessons and share stories from the fight against HPAI H5N1

REGIONAL UPDATE

Unicef, WHO, the United Nations System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC), AED and FAO.

The three days of the conference were divided thematically. The first day's themes included communication and emerging infectious diseases; looking back to move forward: reflecting on past experiences; and addressing communication challenges.

Day 2 was devoted to discussions of developing communications capacity to prepare and respond to EIDs and addressing common communication challenges. Country case studies were shared, with a discussion on preparing for the future.

The third day's theme was building collaboration for better communication outcomes, with discussions on the challenges of effective communication; examples and lessons from the region; and practical issues around developing collaboration for communication at the country levels.



A groupwork session in progress at the 1st Asia Pacific Regional Risk Communicators' Forum, held in Bangkok, Thailand (above); Ms Annu Lehtinen, Regional Avian and Human Influenza Coordinator, United Nations System Influenza Coordination (below); and Anton Schneider, Regional Behavior Change Communication Specialist, Academy for Educational Development (right).

On the third day of the 1st Asia Pacific Regional Risk Communicators' Forum, held in Bangkok, Thailand from 28 to 30 September 2010, Thomas Abraham, Director of the Public Health Media project at the University of Hong Kong, challenged everyone to re-embrace community level dialogue for bringing about better risk perception and response.



Such challenges and discussions were grist for the mill at the conference, organised by the Asia Regional Risk Communication Initiative (ARRCI), a collaboration of UN and UN-partner agencies that came together in late 2009 to support better interagency collaboration for planning and responding to the communication challenges posed by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

Sixty-nine people attended the Forum, representing 19 organisations from 24 countries; there were 31 people from regional or global offices in attendance.

CY Gopinath, Regional Communication Coordinator of FAO ECTAD-RAP, made a theme-setting presentation called *The View from the Farm*, outlining some of the communication challenges that lie ahead with the adoption of the *One Health* approach, and the shift towards addressing emerging infectious diseases (EIDs).

The conference also represented a victory of inter-agency collaboration between

FAO/OIE Sub-Regional Laboratory Network for HPAI Diagnosis Meeting

Oct 4-5, 2010 • Ipoh, Malaysia

The FAO/OIE Sub-Regional Laboratory Network for HPAI Diagnosis meeting was held on October 4 and 5 last year. The specific objectives of the meeting were to review progress made and agree upon proposed activities under the Strategic



FAO/OIE Sub-regional HPAI Laboratory Network Meeting was attended by HPAI laboratory focal persons from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet Nam, as well as laboratory experts and network coordinators from OFFLU, FAORAP, OIE SRR SEA, OIE Tokyo, the ASEAN Regional Reference Laboratory and the Australian Animal Health Laboratory.



World Bank



The Netherlands



China



European Commission



New Zealand



Ireland



France

Hands on with biosafety

Biosafety Management Training

25-29 October 2010 • Singapore

The ECTAD-RAP Regional Office, Bangkok, collaborated with the Asia-Pacific Biosafety Association (APBA) to organize the lecture and practical session at the Biosafety Management Training from 25-29 October 2010 at the National University of Singapore.

There were a total of 25 trainees (15 veterinarians and 10 scientists/engineers) from 10 countries. The training materials were presented by APBA biosafety experts and biosafety engineers led by Dr Robert



How to deal with a hazardous spill? Trainees get hands-on practice on the safe procedure for handling spills, while other participants watch.



Ms Chuk Mee Lan (right), APBA Laboratory Biosafety Expert, uses fluorescent powder to demonstrate the safe procedure for putting on and removing gloves from the hands of Dr Sohayati Abdul Rahman (Malaysia)

Heckert and Dr Barbara Johnson from the American Biosafety Association (AmBA). The post training evaluation of the trainees using the written APBA standard test showed moderate understanding among trainees. Additional training is planned for 2011.

Also discussed at the meeting were the

implementation arrangement of activities under the letter of agreement including APBA biosafety experts and biosafety engineers' visit to laboratories in South and Southeast Asia to

assess biosafety facilities, certify biosafety cabinets and provide in-house training on the correct usage and maintenance of biosafety equipment.



The training programme was led by Dr Robert Heckert (front, 1st from left) and Dr Barbara Johnson (front, 1st from right), Biosafety Experts from the American Biosafety Association.

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Framework for Capacity Building for HPAI Diagnosis and Networking; to finalize the guiding principles for animal influenza surveillance and diagnosis; and to share experience on issues related to HPAI diagnosis.

The Sub-regional Laboratory Network for HPAI Diagnosis was conceived in 2004 to support the implementation of HPAI

control strategies, bring together national authorities and experts and perpetuate the process of exchanging data and experience on HPAI surveillance and diagnosis. In 2009, the Strategic Framework for Capacity Building for HPAI Laboratory Diagnosis and Networking developed by FAO, OIE and other laboratory network partners was agreed upon by participating laboratories during the FAO/OIE Sub-regional HPAI

Laboratory Network meeting in Bangkok in September 2009. The strategic framework guided several activities carried out in the region throughout the year.

A one-day IATA certification course for shippers of infectious substances was organized the following day for 15 trainees from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet Nam.