



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

Sixth GF-TADs meet in Bangkok

Third EU-HPED Steering Committee meeting also held back to back, declares programme has 'come to speed'

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The 6th annual meeting of the FAO/OIE Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Asia and the Pacific was convened in Bangkok, Thailand, on 18-19 July 2012. The 3rd Steering Committee meeting for the European Union's Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases programme (EU-HPED) was organized back-to-back with the GF-TADs meeting.

The meetings were attended by over 58 participants representing the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the two institutions who pooled their strengths in 2004 to found GF-TADs. Also represented at the meeting were the World Health Organization Southeast Asia Regional Office (WHO SEARO) and Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Thailand's Department for Livestock Development (DLD), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Donors represented included the EU, AusAid, the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Close engagement

The meeting recommended close engagement with the ASEAN and SAARC secretariats, as well as SPC, to implement activities under the GF-TADs umbrella, and also to strengthen the partnership with WHO as an important collaborating member of GF-TADs. Another recommendation was to support SAARC, ASEAN and SPC in building their coordination mechanisms and to strengthen epidemiology, diagnostic capacity, disease control capacity and information networking in member countries.

At the start of the 3rd EU-HPED Steering Committee meeting, the EU expressed its satisfaction that "the programme had come to speed and that the different measures and actions have reached a

state of maturity". It noted that implementing organizations had taken measures to address concerns expressed during the mid-term review, including the programme's visibility.

As part of the review of the progress of the EU-HPED programme against the recommendations made at the meeting in Tokyo, 2011, FAO, OIE and WHO showcased their achievements on posters. Participants studied the posters and identified the top three issues and challenges in the control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and proposed some solutions. The three organizations also shared the status of their programs and their implementation plans for 2012-13.

BELOW: Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director General, FAO RAP, speaking at the 6th Annual GF-TADs meeting. To his left is Dr Wimolporn Thitisak, Deputy Director-General, Thailand Department of Livestock Development.
BOTTOM: Participants at the GF-TADs meeting.



SAARC: A step towards regional communication

A regional conversation around the need for strategic communication and advocacy around HPEDs begins

The member countries of SAARC took a small but significant step towards increased regional communication with a workshop titled *Towards a Strategic Approach to Communication against HPEDs including HPAI in the SAARC region*, organized in Kathmandu on 2-3 August 2012.

Seventeen officials from Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka participated in this first-ever platform to bring together officials and professionals from animal health, human health, wildlife and communication to discuss regional communication and advocacy on HPEDs, including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The workshop was supported by the EU.

The workshop aimed to build consensus and agreement on a shared approach

to communication and advocacy based on current understanding of HPEDs and emerging infectious diseases (EIDs), and lessons learned from HPAI control; and to identify needs and resources in communication and advocacy in the region.

The workshop included a gallery walk, group work and presentations on overarching issues of communication and advocacy on HPED issues. The participants also held group discussions around how to develop a SAARC Communication Working Group (CWG) dedicated to handling HPEDs in the region.

The meeting recommended that each government should identify one senior-level Focal Person and one Functional Member with professional experience in communication to plan and facilitate communication

and advocacy activities in the animal health sector of each country.

It also recommended that the SAARC Regional Support Unit (RSU) should help set up the SAARC CWG; that the CWG should review the terms of reference proposed for it by this workshop; and that the CWG should assess the current status of strategic communication and advocacy in all SAARC member states and develop a one-year activity plan.

BELOW: Officials from most SAARC member countries participated in this first-ever platform to bring together officials and professionals from animal health, human health, wildlife and communication together to discuss regional communication and advocacy on HPEDs, including HPAI in the region.



ASEAN sets up a comms group for livestock



Manila, Philippines • July 9-12, 2012

The Inception Meeting of the ASEAN ad hoc Communication Group for Livestock (ACGL) was an acknowledgement of the role of communication in the prevention and control of infectious diseases in the region. The outputs of the Inception Meeting included a draft terms of reference document, a scope of work with indicative work plan, and the designation of communication and advocacy focal points in member states and in the region. Participants also learned the underlying principles of both communication and advocacy and how to use them against highly pathogenic and emerging diseases (HPED), a core objective of the group.

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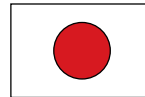
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REGIONAL UPDATE

FAO's Laboratory TAG gets together

A review of results, recommendations, and activities related to the regional laboratory network

FAO/OIE Regional Animal Health Laboratory Technical Advisory Group Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand • 30-31 July 2012

At this meeting, members of FAO's Laboratory Technical Advisory Group (Lab-TAG) were updated on results and recommendations of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) meeting that were related to the Regional Laboratory Network for Southeast Asia, as well as the required follow-up actions that can be supported by the Lab-TAG. They also heard about policy and activities carried out by each partner organization as well as issues related to the diagnosis of emerging and priority animal diseases. The progress of activities related to the regional laboratory network and progress based on the recommendations made at the previous meeting were reviewed, and a coordinated work plan developed among the key partners. This plan outlined activities that are aligned with the strategic goals of the Regional Strategic Framework for Laboratory Capacity Building and Networking in Southeast Asia.

The meeting was attended by 25 representative experts from key technical partners, in particular the leading laboratories of the region and international reference centers, major donor agencies currently supporting laboratory activities in the region, and from FAO and OIE.

Regional Laboratory Network Training on Diagnosis of Rabies and Newcastle Disease

Bangkok, Thailand • 6-17 August 2012

The Regional Laboratory Network Training on the Diagnosis of Rabies and Newcastle Disease was organized by FAO together with the National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), Thailand, and the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) at NIAH. FAO's regional laboratory capacity building program, in collaboration with OIE and

Participants at the FAO/OIE Regional Workshop on Swine Health Management in East and Southeast Asia, held in Ho Chi Minh city, Viet Nam in end August



Participants and members of the Regional Animal Health Laboratory Technical Advisory Group Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand

WHO, is supported by the USAID Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT) programme and the EU-HPED projects. The course aimed to review the diagnostic concept of available diagnostic assays and provide hands-on training on the diagnosis of rabies and Newcastle disease. Sixteen participants attended from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam. The regional trainings will be followed by proficiency testing (PT) to ensure the quality diagnostic service of the priority diseases at the participating laboratories.

FAO/OIE Regional Workshop on Swine Health Management in East and Southeast Asia

Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam • 22-24 August 2012

Sharing up-to-date information on swine diseases, focusing on classical swine

fever (CSF) and highly pathogenic porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (HP PRRS) and current information on regional swine industry profiles was the main goal of this workshop jointly organized jointly by FAO and OIE.

Partners also shared initiatives and country experiences on the control of swine diseases, and drafted a framework for a regional swine health management plan in East and Southeast Asia. Around 60 percent of the world's pig population is found in Asia, and pork is an important animal protein source for Asians. Its production system is an integral source of rural livelihoods.

Experts on pig diseases from different institutions discussed the global and regional status of swine health, including



disease situation and diagnosis, and epidemiology. The threat of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the region was also discussed.

Regional Laboratory Network Training on Diagnosis of Swine Diseases

Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam • 27-31 August 2012

The Regional Laboratory Network Training on the Diagnosis of Swine Diseases was organized by FAO in collaboration with the Department of Animal Health, Regional Animal Health Office, Viet Nam, and the Australian Animal Health Laboratory. The training aimed to review the diagnostic concept of the available diagnostic assays and provide hands-on training on the diagnosis of African swine fever (ASF), CSF and PRRS. Nineteen participants from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam attended the workshop.

Strategic Planning Workshop For Veterinary Epidemiology Capacity Development In Southeast Asia

Chiang Mai, Thailand • 30-31 August 2012

The Consultative Strategic Planning Workshop for Veterinary Epidemiology Capacity Development in Southeast Asia was organized by the ASEAN Secretariat, in collaboration with the ASEAN Regional Support Unit (ASEAN RSU). This initiative stemmed from the call for support the ASEAN RSU made during the 20th ASEAN Sectoral Working Group for Livestock (ASWGL) Meeting in 2011 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, for the development of a regional strategic framework for veterinary epidemiology capacity development.

Participants drafted a vision statement — “ASEAN has sustainable veterinary epidemiology capacity meeting international standards and the networks required to manage animal, human and environmental health challenges” — and then identified some of the regional obstacles in achieving this vision, specially with the imminent economic integration

RIGHT: Participants at a group work session at the Consultative Strategic Planning Workshop for Veterinary Epidemiology Capacity Development in Southeast Asia.

ABOVE RIGHT: Participants at the Second Preparatory Committee meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Animal Health and Zoonoses

of ASEAN by 2015.

The economic implications and impact of this integration on the regional effort to prevent and control HPEDs was presented by the ASEAN Secretariat, and became one of the central considerations during the discussions. The ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN RSU were tasked to draft the framework for the strategy.

ASEAN Coordinating Center for Animal Health and Zoonoses meeting

Chiang Mai, Thailand • 28-29 August 2012

The second-ever meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ) prepared the way for the operationalization of ACCAHZ, which was born out of the need for strong and effective coordination in addressing HPEDs in the region, particularly in the face of growing demand for livestock products, and increasing free flow of goods across borders as the region integrates.

At the meeting, the composition, roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee (SC) were elaborated



ABOVE: Dr Chris Morrissy provides hands-on training on diagnosis of swine diseases at the Regional Laboratory Training in Viet Nam

upon, and a decision taken to rename it as Governing Board/Council, to be finalized after a consultation with the Member States. The third meeting has been scheduled for the end of January 2013, and will be hosted by Indonesia.

