Strengthen the collaboration between regional and China FETPV

To align with China’s ‘One Belt and One Road’ policy, the Chinese authorities showed strong willingness to engage the development of veterinary epidemiology in Asia by partnering with FAO. To facilitate this initiative, Dr Kachen Wongsathapornchai, Regional Coordinator of FAO Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), Dr Guo Fusheng and Mr Tang Hao from FAO China ECTAD Office paid a visit to China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC), the leading institution on veterinary epidemiology in China, from 5 to 7 July 2016.

They met with the senior officials of CAHEC and had in-depth discussions on enhancing China’s role on veterinary epidemiology capacity development in the region and strengthening collaboration between regional and China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPV). CAHEC also share the same vision that engaging veterinary epidemiology capacity development in Asia could strengthen China’s capacity and will benefit both the country and the region. Following the discussions, a concrete plan was developed, which focuses on three key aspects: 1) Develop veterinary epidemiology workforce based on the skills and core competencies required; 2) Enable an environment for the application of veterinary epidemiology in support of animal health programs and policies; 3) Foster the linkages and networks at national, regional and international levels.

The Forum & Symposium on 'Health and Biodiversity' and EPT2 Asia Year 3 Regional Workplanning Meeting in Bangkok

In order to promote an interdisciplinary discussion and to generate a collaborative framework to address the biodiversity issue, the 1st Forum on ‘Health and Biodiversity’ and 2nd Symposium on ‘Biodiversity and Health - translating research to action’ were held in Bangkok from 11 to 13 July 2016. The main objectives of the forum and the symposium were to discuss the interdependencies of human health and biodiversity, to provide an operational transdisciplinary framework of ‘health and biodiversity’, and to translate the integrated knowledge into practical actions. Dr Guo Fusheng and Dr Li Shuo participated in the forum and symposium, took part in the round table discussions on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and science-policy dialogues on behalf of FAO China ECTAD Office.

The EPT2 Asia Year 3 Regional Workplanning Meeting was held in Bangkok from 14 to 15 July 2016. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss trends and developments of relevance to EPT in Asia; enhance cross-programmatic communication and coordination; highlight multi-partner efforts contributing to program outcomes; identify challenges and cultivate new partnership opportunities. Representatives from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), FAO ECTAD RAP, as well as ECTAD Asia country teams attended the meeting. Dr Guo Fusheng and Dr Li Shuo from FAO China ECTAD Office participated in the two-day meeting. Each participating country demonstrated their achievements and challenges during the
current year, and the participants had deep discussions on the technical plans for the next year, as well as possible solutions to the challenges. Prior to the workplanning meeting, Dr Guo Fusheng also attended the mid-year ECTAD Asia team meeting on 13 July. During the meeting, guidance on the preparation of the EPT2 project proposal for the next fiscal year was provided. Following the meeting in Bangkok, FAO China ECTAD team will prepare the EPT2 project proposal for the next year and submit it to FAO RAP by mid-August.

**FAO China ECTAD actively engaged in EPT2 Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)**

In the aim of facilitating impact-oriented and result-based project management, M&E is highlighted in the EPT2 project. As part of EPT2 M&E workplan, Dr Frank Pumipuntu, Regional Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Expert of FAO ECTAD RAP conducted a mission to China from 25 to 26 July 2016. The aims of the mission were to update FAO China ECTAD team on the development of the new version of EPT2 M&E framework and indicators, discuss the application of the indicators, and review the data collection tools by using data from China program. Dr Guo Fusheng, National Technical Advisor/Team Leader of the FAO China ECTAD welcomed Dr Pumipuntu and provided an overview of the EPT2 project China program. Dr Pumipuntu introduced the ECTAD team on the new EPT2 M&E framework and indicators. He then worked with Mr Tang Hao, the M&E Focal Point of FAO China ECTAD on the country indicators and the details. In the afternoon of 26 July, a debriefing session was made to introduce the team on the outcomes from the discussions over the past two days. This exercise also helped the China team to review the activities and country indicators in the project workplan of the next fiscal year.

**The CFETPV Evaluation and Planning Workshop in Qingdao**

The workshop on CFETPV 3rd cohort evaluation and 4th cohort planning was held in Qingdao from 27 to 28 July 2016, which aimed to review the evaluation results of the 3rd cohort and design the training program for the 4th cohort based on the evaluation. CFETPV Chinese trainers and Working Group members participated in the workshop. Dr Guo Fusheng, Mr Tang Hao and Ms Yu Qi from FAO China ECTAD Office attended the two-day workshop, while Mr Tang Hao provided facilitation to the workshop. The workshop focused on four main topics, including review of 3rd cohort evaluation results, design of 4th cohort training framework, brainstorm the 4th cohort program plan, and team building of CFETPV Chinese trainers.

Over the two days, participants had good discussions over these topics and brainstormed on how to facilitate the veterinary epidemiology development by using CFETPV platform. After the workshop, the draft program plan for the 4th cohort will be circulated among both Chinese and international trainers for further comments, which then will be submitted to the Steering Committee for final endorsement during the CFETPV Steering Committee Meeting in later August.

### Upcoming activities

1. Dr Guo Fusheng was invited to attend the Innovation & Entrepreneurship International Summit on Veterinary Medicine & China Vet School Deans' Joint Meeting from 1 to 2 August 2016 in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province.
2. Dr Li Shuo will attend the Regional Workshop on the Application of the FAO Laboratory Mapping Tool (LMT) from 1 to 5 August 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand.
3. The Case Study Workshop on Veterinary Epidemiology Application, and the Veterinary Epidemiology Introductory Course for University Academics in China will be held from 4 to 12 August 2016 in Wuhan, Hubei Province.
4. Mr Tang Hao will attend the ASEAN Veterinary Epidemiology Workshop from 16 to 18 August 2016 in Viet Nam.
5. The CFETPV Steering Committee Meeting will be held in late August 2016 in Beijing.