On behalf of the FAO China Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Office, Mr Tang Hao participated in the One Health EcoHealth 2016 Congress in Melbourne, Australia from 3 to 7 December 2016, and shared some practices in China during the congress. He delivered a presentation during the ‘One Health in Education’ session, who shared the practices of the joint initiatives between the two national field epidemiology training programs, i.e. China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (CFETPV) and China Field Epidemiology Training Program (CFETP). Besides, a poster which highlighted how FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) were utilizing the United Nations Theme Group on Health (UNTGH) as a vehicle to drive and promote the application of One Health approaches in China, was presented during the poster session. Promoting One Health (OH) approaches in China is one of the key focuses of FAO China ECTAD Office. The Office applies OH approaches in project activities wherever possible.

As a biennial event, the One Health EcoHealth 2016 Congress brought the One Health and EcoHealth communities together to showcase how One Health and EcoHealth approaches were contributing to more effective responses to global health challenges, and to share research on strategies, approaches and tools to understand and reduce global health risks. The congress attracted over 1,000 experts to attend. 9 plenary presentations, 200 oral presentations and 780 poster presentations were made. Many of presentations had been delivered to address global issues associated with climate change, food and water security and Antimicrobial Resistance. Through the attendance at this global event, FAO China ECTAD Office also had a chance to learn the progress of One Health at regional and global levels, and to have a better understanding of One Health from cross-disciplinary perspectives.

FAO China ECTAD attendance at the Conference on Agriculture Development in Central Asia and Workshop on Cross Border Animal Disease Control

The Conference on Agriculture Development in Central Asia and the Workshop on Cross Border Animal Disease Control were held in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province from 5 to 7 December 2016. The events were organized by the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). Dr Guo Fusheng from FAO China ECTAD Office was invited to participate in the two back-to-back events and to share his experience in transboundary animal diseases (TADs) control in the region. During the Conference on Agriculture Development in Central Asia, the importance of regional cooperation and integration for agricultural development was highlighted. In the Workshop on Cross Border Animal Disease Control, Dr Guo delivered a key presentation on Transboundary Cross Border Animal Diseases Control and also chaired one of the group discussion sessions. Dr Guo shared the TAD collaboration mechanisms that were initiated/facilitated by FAO China ECTAD Office with the participants. It was noted that TADs were a main barrier to animal trade and innovative approaches need to be considered to control the TADs in the border areas. During the workshop, the needs for international supports in the aspects of veterinary epidemiology capacity building, TADs economic losses assessment and vaccine quality were addressed by the participants.
Project Formulation Workshop on FAO-China South-South Cooperation Project on Transboundary Animal Disease Control in Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS)

In alignment with one of the priorities for FAO in Asia and the Pacific Region: control and prevention of TADs and consistent with the China’s priority to support the ‘One-Belt-One-Road’ policy, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of China were jointly developing a regional South-South Cooperation (SSC) project on TAD Control in GMS. Under this context, the Project Formulation Workshop on FAO-China SSC Project on TAD Control in GMS was held in Bangkok from 19 to 21 December 2016. The major objectives of the workshop were to discuss the detailed activities at the country levels; discuss the possible inputs required by the Chinese experts, FAO and other international partners; and formulate the logframe and workplan.

Around 50 representatives from the six participating countries (China, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Cambodia and Thailand), FAO and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) attended the meeting. Dr Guo Fusheng from FAO China ECTAD Office and Ms Zhou Lijin from FAO China Representation participated in the meeting. During the workshop, participating countries shared their country status on TAD control and livestock production, meanwhile, gaps on TADs control at country and regional levels were identified, and key activities for each project output were proposed. The key outcomes of this workshop were the agreement by all participating countries on the conceptual framework, project overall outcome and outputs. Based on the results and recommendation of this meeting, FAO will prepare the project document in the coming months, and prepare for the final consultation and approval process in May 2017. While in Bangkok, Dr Guo had side meetings with delegates from Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Myanmar, to discuss the China-Viet Nam bilateral meeting and China-Lao PDR-Myanmar trilateral meeting in 2017.

Applying Value Chain approaches to improve the effectiveness of animal disease control in China

In the past three decades, China’s remarkable economic boom has brought numerous changes in people’s daily lives. The rapid increase of consumption has posed complex challenges to animal and public health. Livestock sectors and their trade networks are constantly evolving in order to meet the changing needs. This process may bring new disease risks. The movement of animal and animal products through/from neighbouring countries to China in recent years is one of the reflections of such change. Therefore, these networks must be understood and taken into account in planning risk management strategies for disease prevention and control.

Value chain analysis provides a systematic framework for determining how people manage domestic livestock populations and their products, and can be used to drive risk based surveillance and improve the effectiveness of control activities. The combination of value chain analysis and epidemiological risk analysis is useful in national and local animal health planning to: 1) assess the epidemiological and socio-economic justification for different strategies of disease control; 2) inform the stakeholders involved in different strategies of disease control; 3) evaluate the socio-economic impact on contagious diseases and how different control strategies would influence different stakeholders; 4) plan adjustments to control strategies based on the results obtained from the epidemiological and socio-economic assessments.

Value chain analysis is increasingly used as a primary tool for controlling TADs. Concerning the growing informal animal trade between Guangxi, Yunnan and Hunan Provinces. It aimed to develop a better understanding of the risks for the threat of poultry diseases such as H7N9 influenza, thus to protect themselves from high risk provinces in China and to prevent the spread of the diseases to other areas.

1. The 14th China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (CFETPV) Steering Committee Meeting will be held in Beijing on 16 January 2017.