World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

- Founded in 1924
- 167 Member Countries
- Headquarters in Paris
  - 5 Regional Representatives
- An intergovernmental organisation
  - operating expenses are paid by member country contributions
- Mandate: to improve Animal Health worldwide

OIE Objectives

1. World zoosanitary information
2. International solidarity in control of animal diseases
3. Health standards for international trade
4. Improvement of National Veterinary Services

Avian influenza, a known disease

Highly pathogenic avian influenza has been known to cause devastating losses in poultry

Wildlife has been known to carry avian influenza without showing signs of disease

The known measures to fight the disease are still the same
What is new about the current global situation

Behavior of the current H5N1 “Asian strain”
- Rapid spread through 3 continents
- Role of migratory waterfowl
- Difficult to manage in countries unable to rapidly detect and control H5N1

Economic and social consequences of the current crisis

Pandemic Potential

Links between high virus loads circulating and potential pandemic.

All countries worldwide should be able to prevent, detect early and control the virus quickly.

Improvements in Veterinary Services to address this concern are also relevant for responding to future emerging and re-emerging diseases.

Minimize Threat at Animal Source

Early warning systems

Early detection
- Awareness
- High quality Veterinary Services
- Surveillance in domestic and wild birds

Rapid and transparent notification
- Appropriate national chain of command

Minimize Threat at Animal Source

Rapid response
- Rapid confirmation of suspects
- Confinement and humane stamping out
- Use of vaccination when available and if appropriate

Governance, legislation, policies and resources, in compliance with OIE international standards
The OIE Early Warning System

Why standards necessary
- international public good
- safety of international trade
  - fewer disease outbreaks
- harmonisation of national legislation and control measures
  - fewer unjustified restrictions
- fairer trade
  - benefits to developing countries

OIE Terrestrial Code chapter on AI

Update Chapter on AI in 2004
  - taking most recent scientific findings into consideration

Develop specific risk-based recommendations for most important commodities being traded

Differentiate restrictions between HPAI and LPAI
  - encourage transparent reporting

Notifiable avian influenza (NAI)

an infection of poultry caused by any influenza A virus of the H5 or H7 subtypes
Multiple basic amino acids are present at the cleavage site of the haemagglutinin molecule (HA0) for similarities to known HPNAI isolates.

Cause at least 75% mortality in 4-to 8-week-old chickens infected intravenously.

IVPI in 6 week old chickens greater than 1.2

Poultry

all birds reared or kept in captivity for the production of meat or eggs for consumption, for the production of other commercial products, for restocking supplies of game, or for breeding these categories of birds'

Role of wildlife

Migratory waterfowl does play a role in transmission, which requires further research

OIE requires notification of HPAI detection in wildlife, however, without trade impact

Once H5N1 is introduced into a country or zone, actions must focus on poultry and not wildlife

Situation as of April 2006
Immediately needed actions

Prevent the spread of disease amongst poultry
• Direct technical assistance
• Sanitary measures and vaccination when appropriate
• Compensation mechanisms
• Emergency audit of Vet Services

Support for infected countries unable to mobilise necessary resources

Conclusions

• HPAI (H5N1) is a very contagious pathogen
• H5N1 be controlled at animal source
• Role of wildlife needs further investigation
• Control of the situation in poultry is possible but needs adequate investment and strong commitment
• Risk of Pandemic can be minimized or postponed if we act quickly to reduce virus load in poultry