

Visit to Mongolia to explore future collaboration and support with Mongolia



▲ Meeting with Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Batsukh Zyat in Mongolia

Professor John Edwards visited Mongolia during 3-7 July 2012 to have meetings with the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) Dr. Batsukh Zayat and senior staff in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI) to update on progress with bilateral and multilateral projects on transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and to discuss possibilities for future collaboration and support. Topics included a detailed update on current status and strategies for dealing with zoonoses and including HPAI.

Mongolia is progressing many of the recommendations of the international meeting on TADs in April this year. It was noted that professional assistance was needed to conduct the market chain analysis of cross border movements of livestock, animal products and wildlife. Dr. Batsukh has been providing leadership in progressing the collaboration between China, Mongolia and Russia and as a result, the Russian CVO has agreed to host the next collaboration meeting and this is likely to be in November 2012. Key elements of the action plan will be progressed before then.

Dr. Batsukh observed that there is a need for more field based training at Suum or district levels and that the China Field Epidemiology Training for Veterinarians (FETPV) model could be the basis for this training. Prof. Edwards also met with representatives of relevant international and donor agencies including the European Union (Dr. Ian Leach and Dr. Nigel Brown), the Swiss Cooperation Agency (Dr. Barbara Wieland) and the new FAO/World Bank Project (Dr. Murray Maclean) to explore future cooperation opportunities. Two short field trips in the area around Ulaanbaatar were conducted, including visits to a private veterinary practice, a wildlife research centre and to traditional livestock herders.

Visit of Dr. Katinka de Balogh from FAO Rome to China

Dr. Katinka de Balogh, Senior Officer-Veterinary Public Health, Animal Health Service in FAO Headquarters Rome visited China from 30th July to 4th August 2012. During her visit, she attended a Seminar organized by FAO ECTAD China Office under the umbrella of the UN Theme Group on Health (UNTHG), Sub-working Group on Diseases at the Human-Animal Interface which was held on 30th July. Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), WHO, U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI), embassies and universities attended the meeting and had discussions on veterinary public health in China. Prof. John Edwards, Senior Technical Coordinator of ECTAD China chaired the seminar and also gave a short presentation.

On 31st July, Dr. de Balogh was invited by the Veterinary Bureau of China MoA to deliver a presentation on "FAO's Approach to Veterinary Public Health in a Globalised World" and Prof. John Edwards also made a presentation on "One Health in Action - Example of Successful Practice". DG of the Veterinary Bureau of the MoA - Dr. Zhang Zhongqiu, DDG Dr. Huang Weizhong, DDG Dr. Li Changyou, Dr. Sun Yan, and other staff from the Veterinary Bureau attended the meeting.

Dr. Katinka de Balogh and Prof. Edwards were also key note speakers at a Conference on the Prevention and Control of Zoonoses in Chongqing Municipality from 1-3 August.



▲ United Nations Theme Group on Health Meeting



▲ Meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture

Upcoming activities:

1. As part of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Program, a Vehicle Cleaning & Disinfection Station has been constructed at the Guangzhou Jiangcun Poultry Wholesale Market and a Launching Ceremony will be held in Guangzhou on 7th August 2012.
2. Under the framework of the TCP Facility (TCPF) Project, FAO ECTAD China staff will conduct a mission to Inner Mongolia, to discuss border disease surveillance with the local partners.