

China, Mongolia and Russia Strengthen Cooperation on Transboundary Animal Diseases

Animal Health leaders in China, Mongolia and Russia signed a Letter of Intent to strengthen cooperation among the three countries at a meeting in Vladimir, Russia on 24 January 2013. The third meeting of the FAO Technical Cooperation Program Facility (TCPF) Project on “Cross border trade and Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) risk reduction (with a special focus on Foot-and-Mouth Disease [FMD])” was held from 22 to 25 January 2013. Attendees included Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Director General of the Veterinary Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture of China; Dr Evgeniy Nepoklonov, Chief Veterinary Officer for Russia, Dr Nikolay Vlasov, Deputy Chief, Rosselkhozadzor; Dr Vasily Grubyy, Director of the Federal Centre for Animal Health of the Russian Federation; and Dr Purevkhuu Tsedenkhu representing Dr Togoonyam Baatar, CVO of Mongolia.

Participants reviewed progress since the previous meeting and refined the Annual Action Plan. In addition to FMD, this meeting extended the agenda to include other TADs and EIDs, such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and African Swine Fever (ASF).



▲ Discussion among the three c

Meeting participants expressed their enthusiasm and strong hopes for an ongoing collaboration. Amongst the major outcomes of the meeting, such as sharing information on TADs and EIDs, initiation of joint activities, a Letter of Intent to “Strengthen cooperation on animal health” was signed by representatives of China, Mongolia and Russia, which would provide a framework for further collaboration among the three countries, and assist with obtaining resources and commitment from the countries, donors and other stakeholders.

It was agreed that China would host the next meeting in March/April 2014.



▲ Signing the Letter of Intent in Vladimir

New Advances in HPAI and One Health Highlights of UNTGH Working Group Meeting

Dr Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager, FAO ECTAD in the Asia Pacific Region was the keynote speaker at a meeting of United Nations Theme Group on Health (UNTGH), Sub-Working Group on Diseases at the Human-Animal Interface held in Beijing on 5 March 2013.

Dr Morzaria gave presentations on "FAO's initiatives on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and other influenzas in Asia" and "A World United Against Infectious Diseases: Cross-Sectoral Solutions". The presentations highlighted the continuing evolution and movement of H5N1 influenza viruses in the region and the adoption of an eco-zone approach by FAO to the study and management of these viruses. Dr Morzaria also described the main outcomes of the second global one health conference held in January



▲ UNTGH meeting

and described the continuing progress with adoption of one health approaches. There was active discussion and great interest in the new information provided.

Dr Javier Buchard, EU-China Trade Project (II) and Mr Tang Hao, FETPV Coordinator, reported on the very successful joint Workshop on the Epidemiology of Zoonotic Diseases at the Interface between Animal and Human Public Health held in December 2012.

During a short business meeting participants reviewed the annual action plan and noted that there had been good progress with its implementation. They also discussed and refined a scoping paper for a One Health Event, which is scheduled to be held in June/July 2013.

Upcoming activities:

1. The Ceremony for the recognition of the Animal Influenza Laboratory (AIL), Harbin Veterinary Research Institute (HVRI) as an FAO Reference Centre for animal influenza will be held in Harbin on 4 March 2013.
2. China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPV) – Veterinary Epidemiology for Executives Workshop and Launching Ceremony of the China FETPV second cohort will be held in Beijing from 9 to 10 March 2013.
3. FAO ECTAD China will organize a training on Epidemiological mapping and spatial analysis to staff at Beijing Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Station from 26 to 27 March 2013.