

## Steering Committee

### Terms of Reference

1. decide on priority activities of the Scientific Committee and the Secretariat on the assistance to be provided to Member Countries and provide general guidance on avian influenza control
2. provide recommendations on synergies of OIE/FAO activities on avian influenza control
3. seek funding for research and other related activities.
4. periodically review the activities of the Network
5. provide other logistics support.
6. advise on synergies with the WHO companion influenza network

## Scientific Committee

### Terms of Reference:

1. Provide advice especially to developing Member Countries on the diagnosis, management, control and eradication of avian influenza
2. Coordinate standardisation of diagnostic techniques and biologicals and develop reagents for rapid identification of animal influenza viruses
3. Develop and coordinate research projects within the framework of priorities decided by the Steering Committee on the ecology and molecular biology of animal influenza viruses
4. Facilitate training and academic exchange on diagnosis and surveillance of animal influenza viruses
5. Provide the necessary linkages with the WHO Global Influenza Programme on the animal-human interface
6. Expand the genomic database for animal influenza viruses
7. Promote the collection and characterisations (antigenic and genetic) of animal influenza viruses including those with potential significance to human health.
8. submit for support by the Steering Committee, country and regional programmes to be funded by donor organisations



### Composition

1. Professor Steven Edwards (UK), President of the OIE Biological Standards Commission (Chairman)
2. Dr Dewan Sibartie (OIE)
3. Dr Juan Lubroth (FAO)
4. Dr Cristóbal Zepeda Sein (OIE-FAO Collaborating Centre, USA)

### Composition

1. Dr Ilaria Capua, Reference laboratory, Italy (Chairperson)
2. Dr Dennis Alexander - *molecular biology*
3. Dr S. Marangon (Italy) - *epidemiology*
4. Dr David Swayne (USA) - *pathogenesis and pathology*
5. Dr Dennis Senne (USA) - *diagnostics*
6. Dr Ian Brown (UK) - *molecular biology, diagnostics*
7. Dr P. Selleck (Australia) - *diagnostics*
8. Dr H. Kida (Japan) - *molecular biology*
9. Dr José Naranjo (Chile) - *epidemiology and management*
10. Dr H. Chen (PR of China)
11. Dr Guus Koch (Netherlands) - *diagnosis and management*
12. Dr C. Bunn (Australia) - *wildlife*
13. Dr F. Roger (France) - *epidemiology*

### Remarks:

- i Members of the Steering Committee and the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee will meet formally at twice a year to review policies and activities of the network.
- ii A page on the OIE and FAO Websites will be reserved for the activities of the network. The Website page will contain updates, relevant publications, availability of diagnostic reagents and any other information of public or scientific interest. Part of the information may also be published in the OIE and FAO publications. Such information will be provided by the Secretariat.
- iii WHO will be kept permanently informed of the outputs of the Network and will be invited to participate in all relevant events.

# OIE/FAO Network of expertise on avian influenza (OFFLU)



Protective gear before entering poultry house in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



### Introduction

*The OIE and FAO have created a joint Network of expertise on avian influenza for the benefit of Member Countries. The Network was presented and strongly endorsed during the recent International Scientific Conference on Avian Influenza (AI) held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France on 7-8 April 2005.*

### Objectives

1. *To develop research on avian influenza (AI) and to offer veterinary expertise to Member Countries to assist in the control of AI*
2. *To collaborate with the WHO Influenza Network on issues relating to the animal-human interface*

## Structure and Organisation

The Network consists of a Steering Committee, a Scientific Committee, a Secretariat and a Team of Scientific Collaborators.

The Steering Committee comprises a representative from each of the two organisations (OIE and FAO), a scientist from an OIE-FAO Epidemiology Collaborating Centre and the President of the OIE Biological Standards Commission (Laboratories Commission). The President of the Laboratories Commission is elected by the OIE International Committee comprising representatives of the 167 OIE Member Countries. The terms of Reference for the Steering Committee will be reviewed after one year based on experience.

The Scientific Committee comprises experts of international repute with proven

laboratory expertise (molecular diagnostics, vaccinology) and/or field experience on AI. The activities of the Scientific Committee are supported by a Secretariat to be nominated on a rotational basis by the Steering Committee. For the first three years, this Secretariat will be located at the OIE Reference Laboratory for avian influenza (AI) in Padova, Italy.

The Team of Scientific Collaborators comprises scientists having first hand experience of avian influenza outbreaks especially in developing countries and other scientists with proven national or regional expertise in laboratory work, epidemiology and field control programmes related to AI.

Through an active and permanent cooperation, the Network will develop and harmonise synergistic research projects in different parts of the

world thus avoiding duplications of activities and wastage of resources. The network will also provide advice on risk management issues for the benefit of Member Countries. Close collaboration with the companion WHO Network on Influenza in terms of sharing of scientific information and virus strains related to the human-animal interface will provide a pro-active approach in facing a possible human flu pandemic.

The Network will be in the forefront in providing guidance through the OIE and FAO and their interface mechanism with WHO in the management of outbreaks with the technical support provided by the Scientific Committee. The network will gather information on national and regional epidemiological research activities and will be instrumental in the collection

and despatch of virus strains to OIE/FAO Reference Laboratories. Wherever required, virus strains will be shared with the WHO Network of Influenza Reference laboratories.

## Team of scientific collaborators

### Terms of Reference

1. liaise with the Scientific Committee to advise at national or regional level in the diagnosis, management, control and eradication of avian influenza
2. promote the collection of animal influenza viruses for further identifications and characterisations
3. assist at national or regional level in the training in laboratory diagnosis of avian influenza and field surveillance of the disease.
4. promote linkages between diagnostic laboratories in developing countries with those in industrialised countries.

### Composition

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Dr Ruth Manvell (UK)                            | 9. Dr Adrian Olivier (South Africa)   |
| 2. Dr Alberto Laddomada (European Commission)      | 10. Dr Chantane Buranathai (Thailand) |
| 3. Dr Kitman Dyrting (SAR, Hong Kong, PR of China) | 11. Dr John Pasick (Canada)           |
| 4. Dr Khalid Naeem (Pakistan)                      | 12. Dr Nguyen Tien Dung (Vietnam)     |
| 5. Dr Véronique Jestin (France)                    | 13. Dr Giovanni Cattoli (Italy)       |
| 6. Dr S. Yamaguchi (Japan)                         | 14. Dr Arunee Chaisingh (Thailand))   |
| 7. Dr Bjorn Olsen (Sweden)                         | 15. Dr Baoxu Huang (PR of China)      |
| 8. Dr Alberto Back (Brazil)                        |                                       |

Note: The above is a first list of experts and scientists. This group will remain open for other scientists and experts to join in as long as they are approved by the Scientific Committee

## Secretariat

### Composition

Dr Ilaria Capua and Support Staff, OIE Reference Laboratory, Padova, Italy

### Terms of Reference

1. provide logistical support for the general organisation of the Network for a period of three years
2. act as an operational link between the Steering Committee, Scientific Committee and the Team of scientific collaborators
3. responsible for the preparations of technical and administrative reports pertaining to the network
4. responsible for the publications of information on relevant web sites
5. perform cognate duties as requested by the Scientific Committee