



## ◆ Multi-sectoral collaboration to strengthen the influenza surveillance networks



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In order to promote the multi-sectoral collaboration and to establish integrated surveillance mechanisms for the control of zoonotic influenza in China using the One Health approach, FAO China Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Office, with support of the FAO ECTAD Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), organized the Stakeholder Consultative Workshop to Strengthen the Influenza Surveillance Networks in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province from 8 to 9 September 2016. The major objectives of the workshop were to share information on activities and results relevant to the surveillance of Influenza A in China; identify the gaps for collaboration and discuss how to address these gaps; discuss how to best utilize the surveillance results for risk assessment and interventions; and identify opportunities for future collaborations among the national and international partners to strengthen the influenza networks in China. Over 30 representatives from the human and animal health sectors in China, research institutions, universities, as well as international agencies, including United States Agency for International Development (USAID), U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (USCDC), EcoHealth Alliance, FAO ECTAD RAP and FAO China ECTAD Office attended the workshop.

The two-day workshop was hosted and facilitated by Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh, the Regional Manager of FAO ECTAD RAP, who reiterated to the participants the importance of One Health approach and joint actions at animal-human-environment interface to the detection, prevention and intervention to the threats of potential pandemic zoonosis. The workshop started with information sharing session about the surveillance activities carried out by national and international stakeholders in the past three years, followed by a series of highly participatory sessions to identify gaps, challenges and synergies. All participants were actively engaged in the participatory sessions. One of the key achievements of the workshop was a roadmap for a project of integrated surveillance on zoonotic influenza, generated by the end of the workshop, with Guangdong Province selected as the pilot province.

## ◆ China, Lao PDR and Myanmar joint efforts for safer cross-border animal trade

As a follow-up event of the trilateral meeting held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in June this year, the Veterinary Bureau (VB) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of China, Department of Agriculture of Yunnan Province, FAO China ECTAD Office jointly organized the Stakeholder Workshop for Cross-border Safer Animal Trade in Kunming, Yunnan Province from 12 to 13 September 2016. The Workshop aimed to strengthen the cross-border cooperation on the prevention and control of animal diseases in the border regions of China, Lao PDR and Myanmar, to facilitate the legal movement and safer trade of live animals and animal products, and economic and social development of the border regions. Over 60 participants from the VB of the MoA of China; General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ); Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR; Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar; FAO ECTAD RAP; FAO China ECTAD; national veterinary agencies; veterinary departments of Yunnan Province, municipal governments of Yunnan Province and private sectors attended the meeting.



China, Lao PDR and Myanmar delegates shaking hands after signing the Minutes © FAO

The meeting involved a mixture of information sharing and facilitated participatory sessions with an emphasis on the animal safer trade pilot project framework and plan, roadmap of the pilot project and future activities. During the participatory sessions, participants were very active and they made significant contributions. Fruitful outcomes were made through the two-day meeting. China, Lao PDR and Myanmar signed the minutes of the Stakeholder Workshop for Cross-border Safer Animal Trade, and reached an agreement on the recommendations of the meeting.

While in Kunming, the China, Lao PDR and Myanmar delegates and FAO also held a Consultative Meeting on South-South Cooperation (SSC) Project on the control of transboundary animal diseases in Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS). The delegates considered the priority animal diseases and key steps to proceed with further approval and implementation of the project activities. Through the meeting, the delegates agreed to participate in the SSC Project on Transboundary Animal Disease Control in Greater Mekong Sub-Region, and agreed in principle on the draft concept note.

## CFETPV 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort trainees have successfully completed the 2-year training program

The China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (CFETPV) 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort graduation ceremony was held in Qingdao on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016. Dr Ma Hongchao, Director General of China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC); Dr Huang Baoxu, DDG of CAHEC; Dr Guo Fusheng, Team Leader of FAO China ECTAD Office; Prof Dirk Pfeiffer, the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), UK; Dr Kachen Wongsathapornchai from FAO ECTAD RAP, and other international and national partners attended the ceremony. 18 trainees have successfully completed the 2-year CFETPV training program (November 2014 – September 2016) and were awarded with the graduation certificate issued by FAO and the Veterinary Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).



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In the past two years, the 18 trainees who are from 13 provincial centers for animal disease prevention and control (ACDCs) and 3 national institutes conducted 18 outbreak investigations, 18 epidemiological studies and 16 risk assessment studies. They also engaged in another 36 epidemiological studies and animal health events at national and local levels. In addition, they delivered epidemiology training to their colleagues and local staff. They conducted 56 training sessions during the two years, attended by a total of 3,705 participants.

The graduation defense session took place on 22 September. The evaluation panel was composed of 7 international and national experts from RVC, FAO, Regional FETPV, CAHEC, China Animal Disease Control Center (CADC), and China CDC/CFETP. Trainees presented their field work from the past two years and answered questions from the panel. After the panel's assessment, all 18 trainees successfully passed the evaluation.

The 4<sup>th</sup> cohort of the CFETPV is currently under preparation and will be launched in October 2016. The program framework and plan of the 4<sup>th</sup> cohort were approved by the Steering Committee. Three foci were emphasized in the new phase, i.e. sustainable development of the program, application of veterinary epidemiology, and engaging with epidemiology development in the Asia region. A four-week Introductory Course will be launched in Qingdao from 10 October 2016.

## FAO facilitating with the organization of the UNTGH meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)



Participants of the UNTGH meeting © FAO

The UN Theme Group on Health (UNTGH) meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was held on 30 September 2016 in Beijing, which was organized by the World Health Organization (WHO), facilitated by the FAO China ECTAD Office. The main objectives of the meeting were to identify the opportunities to address current challenges in promoting rational prescription and use of antibiotics across China in human health and animal health sectors; and to identify key networks that can be utilized across the diplomatic community to support advocacy efforts for Antibiotics Awareness Week in November 2016. Around 25 representatives from the China National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment, China Agricultural University (CAU), UN agencies, World Bank and embassies attended the meeting.

Dr Bernhard Schwartlander, WHO Representative in China and Dr Vincent Martin, FAO Representative in China, DPR Korea and Mongolia made opening remarks on AMR from the human and animal health perspectives respectively. Dr Vincent Martin indicated that joint efforts from multi-sectors

to put the One Health concept in action is required. Prof Chen Junshi, Senior Research Professor at the China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment was invited to make a presentation on the challenges and opportunities facing China in tackling AMR in human health, while Dr Wang Yang from the CAU presented on the current situation of antibiotic resistance in Chinese food-animal production. During the discussion session, the importance of multi-sectoral coordination was highlighted to promote rational use of antibiotics. The participants also discussed the themes to be addressed during the Antibiotics Awareness Week in November.

## Upcoming activities

1. The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting on "Cross Border Trade and Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) Risk Reduction (with a particular focus on Foot-and-Mouth Disease [FMD])" between China, Mongolia and Russia Federation will be held in Vladivostok, Russia from 12 to 13 October 2016.
2. The Introductory Course of the 4<sup>th</sup> cohort of the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (CFETPV) will be held in Qingdao from 10 October to 4 November 2016. The CFETPV Annual Seminar will be held in Qingdao on 2 November 2016.
3. The Linking Epidemiology and Laboratory Research on Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in China and EU (LinkTADs) final events will be held in Kunming, Yunnan Province from 18 to 20 October 2016.



No. 2-151C Tayuan Diplomatic Office Building, No. 14 Liang Ma He Nan Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing, P.R.China

Tel: (86 10) 8532 3634 | Fax: (86 10) 8532 3681

E-mail: [FAO-CN@fao.org](mailto:FAO-CN@fao.org)