



EMERGENCY CENTRE FOR TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES • FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

What happened in Sapporo

The spirit of One Health ruled at a meeting of Collaborating Centres and Reference Centres in Japan

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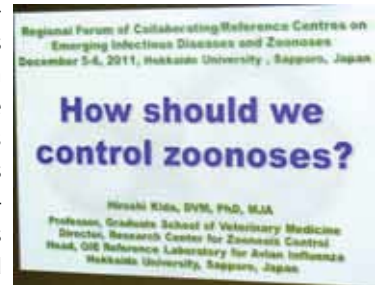
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It was a coming together of human health, animal health and wild-life sectors at the Regional Forum of Collaborating Reference Centres on Emerging Infectious Diseases and Zoonoses in Sapporo, Japan, on 5-6 December 2011. The meeting was organized with support from the Japanese Government's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in collaboration with Hokkaido University. One of the forum's objectives was to update members on the research activities and zoonotic works of the Collaborating Centres (CC) and Reference Centres (RC)/Laboratories for the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The meeting also aimed to explore the possibility of collaboration on zoonotic diseases and emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) between the participating institutes, and to discuss and agree on a research agenda for zoonotic diseases and EIDs.



The meeting provided a unique opportunity for bringing together the CCs and RCs/RLs of FAO, OIE and WHO on a single platform to share ideas and aspirations. The meeting acknowledged the important role and responsibility of CCs/RCs/RLs in strengthening the surveillance, diagnosis and response capacities of countries in the prevention and control of EIDs and zoonoses in line with WHO's Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED) and the Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs). There is consensus that to enhance further collaboration it is important to have a common platform for sharing information, learning from each other on work related to zoonoses, and generating discussions on crosscutting issues.

A key conclusion of this regional forum was that it is important to take preemptive measures to prevent and control zoonotic diseases in the region given the potential high impact and severity of EIDs and the close animal-human-interface in the Asia Pacific region. Another conclusion was that it is essential to strengthen sustainable collaboration between the human and animal health sectors, in addition to the wildlife sector. The CCs/RCs/RLs of FAO, OIE and WHO should coordinate activities, including research, under the One Health framework towards the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases.

The meeting also concluded that sustainable mechanisms for collaboration should be developed that take existing financial, cultural, ethical and institutional barriers into account, including lack of awareness

BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT:
Dr Takeshi Kasai, of the World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office; **Dr Itsuo Shimohira**, of the World Organisation for Animal Health; and **Dr Subhash Morzaria** of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

THREE FACES OF TRIPARTITE COLLABORATION

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Dr Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager of ECTAD-RAP, has been a strong advocate of the move towards the One Health approach and tripartite collaboration

on the links between animal health and human health, especially among public health practitioners, and inadequate information sharing systems between the CCs/RCs/RLs.

Among the meeting's recommendations were that FAO, OIE and WHO should regularly organize similar forums for discussion.

These could be coordinated with other tripartite meetings or run back-to-back with meetings convened to address zoonoses.

The need for FAO, OIE, and WHO to review the terms of reference (TORs) of their CCs/RCs/RLs to further the collaboration between animal and human health sectors was mentioned. Specific areas for collaboration need to be identified within and beyond the current TORs and facilitated by the tripartites, depending on whether they are global or regional.

The meeting recommended that the CCs/RCs/RLs need to work together on identified crosscutting areas of priorities, including supporting outbreak investigation and response, and the diagnosis of known and unknown pathogens responsible for the outbreaks.

They should support capacity building, including laboratory capacity (e.g. biosafety and quality management) and contribute to the development and improvement of professional training programs in human health and animal health with One Health components.

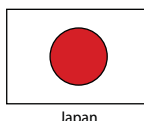
The CCs/RCs/RLs were encouraged to explore common collaborative research agendas that cover the areas of risk assessment, laboratory diagnosis, surveillance, vaccine development, antimicrobial resistance and the measurement of disease burden. The CCs/ RCs/RLs were also urged to engage proactively in technology transfer activities.

How they kicked out 2011 and brought in 2012

In keeping with the yearly tradition, all ECTAD-RAPPers who were not away on work, vacation or contract break got together at the Navalai Hotel restaurant, Bangkok, on December 20, and over a hearty lunch and beers, decided that it was high time 2011 left and 2012 was allowed to come in. And so it came to pass.



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REGIONAL UPDATE

Adding muscles to laboratories

Three regional meetings strengthen laboratory skills in information management and bioafety

Laboratory Information Management Systems: Workshop to identify needs, resources and ways forward
8–9 December 2011, Phuket, Thailand

Because the majority of EIDs in humans originate from animals, both the animal health and human health sectors have an interest in monitoring and controlling these pathogens. Using a One Health approach, FAO, OIE and WHO are coordinating global activities to address health risk at the human-animal-ecosystem interface through multisectoral cooperation and strong partnerships.

Efforts that strengthen diagnostic capacity in animal health laboratory networks and in geographic “hot spots” are directly tied to the ability of the laboratory to rapidly report results. Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) enable laboratories to track samples from submission to reporting and can facilitate the linkage between diagnostic results and response in the field.

In response to requests from many animal health laboratories for guidance on selecting appropriate LIMS, FAO collaborated with the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) to develop guidelines for selecting LIMS. In collaboration with the Department of Livestock Development, Thailand, FAO organized a workshop on LIMS titled Laboratory Information Management Systems: Workshop to identify needs, resources and ways forward from 8-9 December in Phuket, Thailand.

The goal of the workshop was to address laboratory needs and provide information on potential open source database solutions.

The workshop also provided an overview of the LIMS platforms and a road map for its implementation, while creating an opportunity for open source LIMS developers to present and discuss their database solutions, and the user perspective of leading commercial platforms.

The workshop was attended by information managers from national animal health laboratories in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao



Participants at the Advanced Biorisk Training workshop organized by FAO in collaboration with the Australian Animal Health Laboratory that was held in Geelong, Australia in November 2011

PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Advanced Biorisk Training
14-18 November 2011, Geelong, Australia

Laboratory Engineering and Equipment Maintenance Training
21 – 25 November 2011, Geelong, Australia

FAORAP had collaborated with the Asia-Pacific Biosafety Association (APBA) to improve animal health laboratory biosafety by organizing a Biosafety Management Training in October 2010 in Singapore. Apart from creating understanding and developed skills in laboratory biosafety management and practices in the region, some trainees became biosafety officers and setting up biosafety committee in their laboratories. Building upon this success, FAORAP organized two biosafety trainings in collaboration with AAHL in November.

The first training, from 14-18 November, provided biosafety officers in advanced laboratories with hands-on experience in managing laboratory biosafety and biosecurity

based on best practices, taking into account the facilities available and the difficulties they faced in their countries. Eleven laboratory biosafety officers from laboratories with BSL3 facility in China, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam participated, including those who had attended the Singapore training.

The second training, from 21-25 November, provided biosafety engineers in advanced laboratories with hands-on experience on the management and maintenance of laboratory engineering systems and equipment, also based on best practices and real-life difficulties faced by laboratory biosafety managers. Trainees are expected to become regional biosafety resource people who can provide technical recommendation and support to other laboratories in the region. A total of 14 laboratory engineers from laboratories with BSL3 facility in China, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam participated in this training including those attended previous training in Singapore.



World Bank



The Netherlands



China



European Commission



New Zealand



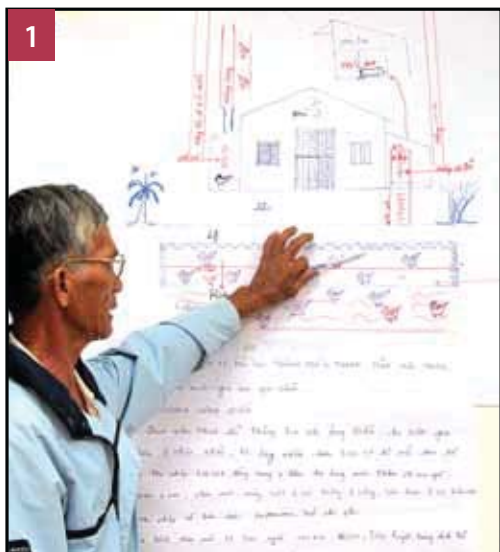
Ireland



France

Talking biosecurity to Viet Nam farmers

A basic curriculum for using dialogue tools to explain the science behind biosecurity to backyard farmers in Bangladesh proves to be a huge success



Among the activities under the USAID-supported regional project OSRO/GLO/707/US which ended in December 2011 was the development and curricular approaches and tools that can use processes of dialogue and critical reflection to create a technical understanding of infection, prevention and biosecurity among non-technical audiences such as farmers. A module had been developed and field tested in Bogura, Bangladesh in September 2011, and evaluation had indicated that the approaches were promising. Based on this, a 4-day field testing workshop was held with an audience of backyard farmers from the town of Vi Thanh, in Hau Giang province, Viet Nam, between December 6-9, 2011.

The module consisted of 13 sessions based on three principles —

A dialogue-driven approach to building knowledge. Sessions were conducted as conversations, driven by questions that provoked participants' natural curiosity and wish to understand, enhancing their enthusiasm and thirst to know before sharing new knowledge.

Learning through discovery. The sessions were structured so that participants discovered links between discrete elements of what they were learning to build a bigger picture of health, microorganisms, disease transmission and prevention.

One Health approach. The modules approached anatomy and health in a unified way, helping participants discover similarities between animal and human anatomy.

The evaluation revealed significant increases in understanding of the science behind biosecurity, and excellent skills in identifying and analyzing disease hot spots in the environment.



Anti-clockwise from top

1. A backyard farmer presents his team's analysis of virus hot spots on the farm they visited, and tracks weaknesses that will help spread the viruses.
2. Participants map the bodies of humans and poultry in detail to understand how they are similar and different, and how viruses exploit the similarities.
3. As part of their field trip, groups of farmers visited selected farm settings and mapped biosecurity, identifying virus hot spots and opportunities for transmission.
4. Participants get an understanding of the relative sizes of viruses and microorganisms by playing a game in which each one is assigned a virus card.

