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منظمة  
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للأمم المتحدة

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# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**Thirty-seventh Session**

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**Report of the Animal Production and Health Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA)**

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1. The Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) was created in 1974 at the request of FAO Member Nations at the 5th FAO Regional Conference on Animal Production and Health. APHCA was established as an Article XIV FAO Regional Body and became operational in December 1975, and its membership currently comprises 18 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
2. APHCA's mission is to enhance levels of nutrition and standards of living of livestock keepers, livestock producers and livestock value-chain actors through equitable, sustainable and safe livestock sector development. Furthermore, APHCA supports sustainable improvements in rural livestock agriculture and resource use through information sharing and capacity development for Member Nations. Some of the most important areas currently addressed by APHCA relate to promoting sustainable climate-smart livestock and dairy production, reducing the use of antimicrobials in animal feed and production, improving farm biosecurity, transportation and processing practices, mitigating the impact of transboundary animal diseases, and transforming food systems and value chains through a One Health lens.
3. The APHCA Secretariat is based at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and the Senior Animal Production and Health Officer has the function of APHCA Secretary. The Member Nations make annual contributions determined by their respective national gross domestic product and their livestock numbers, productivity and economic value.

#### *The 81st APHCA Executive Committee Meeting and 43rd Business Session of APHCA*

4. The meeting was chaired by Dr Sharon Kolek (Director, Office of the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer at the Australian Department of Agriculture) on behalf of Dr Mark Schipp, Chief Veterinary Officer (Australian Department of Agriculture and APHCA Chairperson - attending online) and co-facilitated by Dr Scott Newman (APHCA Secretary), Sonevilay Nampanya (APHCA Budget Holder), Paolo Motta (Technical Consultant) and Benjalak Assawasathitip (Programme Assistant).
5. The meeting, held in hybrid format, was attended by ten APHCA Member Nations, representatives of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), APHCA technical partners (City University of Hong Kong), and representatives of FAO's Animal Production and Health Division, including the FAO Chief Veterinary Officer and the Head of FAO's Emergency Prevention System.
6. The Commission commended the work of the Secretariat for the technical support provided by FAO to APHCA Member Nations and FAO's support to initiatives to build capacity, and promote and strengthen regional cooperation, information sharing and the provision of advice to APHCA Member Nations.
7. The Executive Committee members reviewed the 2022 activities and deliverables, providing technical and policy support and guidance, and capacity development to APHCA Member Nations. This included the publication of the guidelines *Livestock transportation and slaughter practices* (<https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CC6002EN>), which provide guidance to ensure that both animal welfare and food safety issues are addressed appropriately when transporting and slaughtering livestock in the region.
8. The proposed workplan and budget (USD 95 000) for 2023 was approved by the Executive Committee, and nominations were made for APHCA's incoming Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Executive Committee members.
9. Partners from the City University of Hong Kong presented results of an assessment of APHCA and regional priorities and interests to guide the upcoming planning of APHCA. APHCA national focal points identified biodiversity, antimicrobial resistance, and wildlife–livestock interface and diseases as thematic areas where knowledge and skill gaps exist. Additional recommendations were to support: capacity building on balancing production in relation to biodiversity and the health of the environment; planning and policy development to promote sustainable livestock production and

transformation; expanded opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing; and providing further support to APHCA Member Nations on national and regional initiatives.

10. The participants agreed on the cost-saving advantage of holding the 82nd APHCA Executive Committee Meeting and 44th Business Session in 2023 in parallel with another relevant regional event.

#### *Recommendations of the Commission*

11. Consider reviewing and revising the priorities, strategic plan, functions and special functions of the Commission within the Agreement for the Establishment of a Regional Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which was most recently amended in 1986. The aim would be to better align with current Member Nations' priorities and regional livestock production issues, including but not limited to sustainable livestock transformation.

12. Consider revising annual contribution rates and the management of Member Nations' annual contributions, and develop an APHCA funding strategy to identify options for in-kind or other contributions that complement APHCA Member contributions, including options to attract additional Member Nations in Asia and the Pacific region.

13. Continue developing a strategic communication plan, including updating and improving the APHCA website (<https://www.fao.org/aphca/en>).

14. The APHCA Chairperson-elect (India) proposed that the 82nd APHCA Executive Committee Meeting and 44th Business Session be held with the WOAHA Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific to be organized in India in November 2023.