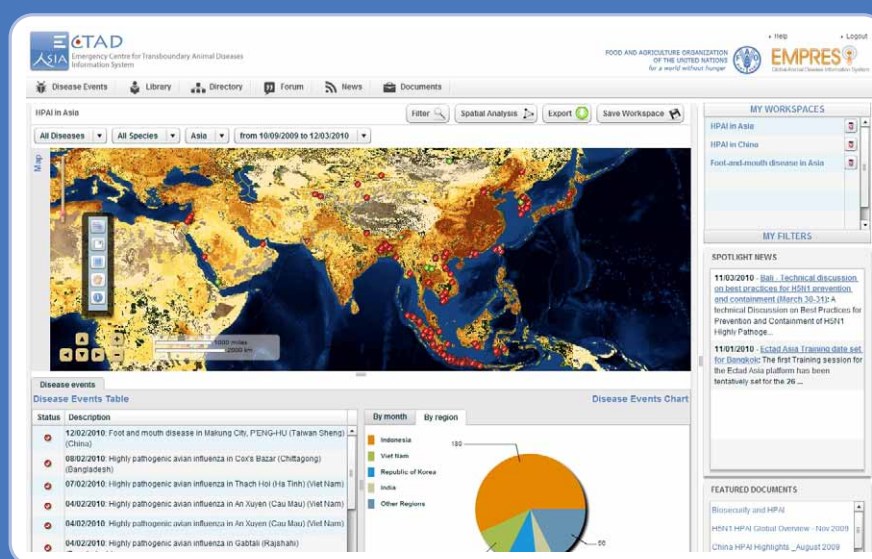# Regional ECTAD Asia Information System Training Workshop in Bangkok, February 26, 2010

The development of the ECTAD Asia Information System started in late 2008 as an extension to the existing Global EMPRES Early Warning information system (EMPRES-i) based in FAO Headquarters to provide a regional animal health information system for the regional ECTAD team in Asia. The first prototype of the application has now been finalized and is under pilot testing in several countries of the region before the application goes live in early April 2010.

The system has been jointly developed by the ECTAD China team leader and a team of developers based in Rome and coordinated by Ken Barron. A workshop was held in Bangkok on the 26th of February to provide to future ECTAD Asia users in the region hands-on training on using this sub-regional GIS platform tool that will support surveillance and control efforts for HPAI and other diseases of transboundary and zoonotic significance. About 20 people including Senior Technical Advisors, Epidemiologists, GIS experts from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam as well as the regional office in Bangkok and a representative from the EMPRES-I team in Headquarters participated this training.

▲ *ECTAD Asia Information System-Homepage*

Operation and procurement activities

During the past month, several letters of agreements have been finalized and signed with the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), the International Research Center for Agriculture and Development (CIRAD) and the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe) to conduct trainings on risk analysis, diseases outbreak investigations and surveillance protocols as well as laboratory biosafety, management and test validation. Procurement list and bidding procedures for laboratories in Guangxi, Hunan, Yunnan provinces, Chongqing and Harbin National Reference have been finalized and the procurement implementation plan will start in early March.

Upcoming activities

1. Launching of Mongolia project: under the framework of the project "Avian and Human Influenza Control, Preparedness and Response" in Mongolia funded by the AHI facility of the World Bank and the agreement between FAO and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MoFALI) of Mongolia, FAO ECTAD China team will launch technical activities in Mongolia in support of : (1) identification of transmission risk pathway for avian influenza and, (2) design of an incident response information system (IRIS) in mid-March, involving the Royal Veterinary Colleague in London (RVC) and Avia-GIS from Belgium.

2. A technical discussion on Best Practices for Prevention and Containment of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza will be held on 30-31 March 2010 in Bali. The meeting will be attended by representatives from Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health from five countries: Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Indonesia and Vietnam and will bring together key technical stakeholders and Ministry-level decision makers. The meeting will focus on identifying key programmatic successes or "best practices" that have led to important outcomes or impacts, identifying how these successes were achieved, and identifying opportunities to replicate these successes in other countries.