

The UNTGH 4th Sub-working group meeting (diseases at the human-animal interface)

Under the umbrella of UN Theme Group on Health (UNTGH), a sub-working group under the theme "One Health (OH)", addressing diseases at the human-animal interface was created in 2010 and its first meeting held on the 13th of October. Embedded into the UN coordination mechanism and within the UNTGH led by the WHO office in China, the FAO through its ECTAD office has convened this working group to answer the need for a better integration and multidisciplinary approach when responding to Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID).

The UNTGH 4th Sub-working group meeting was held in the WHO representative office large conference room. The meeting was attended by 28 participants from national CDC, China Agriculture University, State Forestry Administration, US CDC, Embassies, IFRC, European Union, UC Berkeley, WHO and FAO.



▲ Group Discussion

Following the welcome remarks and introduction of participants, Dr. Vincent Martin introduced the objectives of the meeting and gave a presentation to set the scene on agriculture, livestock and health issues. After Dr. Martin's presentation, a thematic presentation was given by Dr. Li Dexin, Director of Virology Institute of China CDC, who presented the findings of his research on a new bunyaviridae, phlebovirus that was recently isolated in some provinces of China responsible for clinical signs characterized by hemorrhagic fever and human death.

The two presentations were followed by a group discussion. It was agreed that more collaboration between disciplines is required and that some initiatives are already existing and heading in this direction. Overall, the meeting participants found this first meeting useful. The newly created sub-working group will be used as a forum of exchange of scientific information on animal and human health related issues, in the spirit of the OH approach and will meet once every two months.



▲ Prof. Li Dexin's Presentation.

Upcoming activities

- The China FETPV second steering committee meeting and trainee recruitment panel meeting will be held on 4 November 2010 in Beijing to update the progress, review applications and decide the final FETPV trainee name list.
- First cohort of China FETPV training will be launched on 29 November 2010; experts from Royal Veterinary College, London and CIRAD, France will deliver the first training courses to the trainees.