

UN health working group (animal -human ecosystem health)

The second meeting of the UNTGH 4th Sub-working group meeting was held on the 17th December in the WHO representative office. As another important issue of public health concern in China, the 2nd meeting focused on Rabies surveillance and control bringing the experience from both the veterinary and public health side. National and international Rabies experts participated in the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Vincent Martin. After the welcome address and introduction of participants, Dr. Tang Qing from China CDC gave the first presentation on Human Rabies Epidemic and Control in China. Prof. Changchun Tu from National Reference laboratory for Rabies, Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, briefed the audience on the situation and surveillance system of animal rabies in China. The effectiveness of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis during a rabies outbreak in Chongqing was introduced by Dr. Ruan Feng from Zhuhai CDC of Guangdong Province. The 4th presentation was on Surveillance of Rabies in France, given by Marc Gastellu Etchegorry, Director of International and Tropical Department of French Institute for Public Health surveillance. Marc shared a successful story about how France government controlled rabies and gained rabies-free status through collaborative efforts between wild life experts, veterinarian and public health experts.

After the presentations, meeting participants had discussion on related issues, including sampling methodology and protocol to differentiate different clusters of animals and their respective levels of risk in rabies transmission; the movement control and vaccination of stray dogs. During the meeting, it was agreed to establish a small group of national and international experts in rabies controls from both the animal and human health side and write a policy paper summarizing the main facts about Rabies in China and perspective for control.



▲ Dr. Martin presenting at UNTGH 4th Sub-working group meeting



▲ Meeting participants in UNTGH 4th Sub-working group meeting

First cohort of China Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians (FETPV)



▲ China FETPV training in December

The first training course of China FETPV was held in Beijing during 29 November - 23 December 2010. This one-month course focused on basic knowledge in field epidemiology and its applications on effective animal disease surveillance, outbreak response and risk communication. The course was also the start of a two-year field epidemiology training program. The selected 15 trainees are core technical staff from national institutions and provincial (Hunan, Guangxi, Yunnan, Chongqing and Beijing) veterinary departments. The trainees expressed their interests on such training courses, especially "Training through Service", and their willingness for systematic learning in a longer term.

The course was delivered by the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), London and International Research Center for Agriculture and Development (CIRAD), France. It also received great supports from Veterinary Bureau of Ministry of Agriculture China, China-Canada Livestock Health Extension Services Project, China Animal Health & Epidemiology Center (CAHEC) and Beijing Animal Health Inspection Institute.

Upcoming activities

- ECTAD China team will prepare the training schedule with experts from RVC, London for the next session of China FETPV training in April.
- Field mission to Guangdong Province will be conducted by ECTAD China technical staff in January 2011 to establish contacts with Guangdong and to seek collaboration opportunities.