



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

[Sapporo, Japan](#)

One Health: A step closer

The European Union supports an important meeting of FAO, WHO and OIE to advance the One Health agenda

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It isn't every day that folks from animal health and human health sit around a table and look for ways to work together. But the meeting hosted by Hokkaido University at Sapporo, Japan, from December 17 to 19, was attended by about 42 participants from Ministries of Agriculture and Health from South and Southeast Asian countries and international agencies — the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the International Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC) — as well as the Veterinary Faculty and Research Centre for Zoonosis of Hokkaido University. The European Union supported the participation of eight people from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

and Professor Hiroshi Saiki, President of Hokkaido University, all emphasized the importance of zoonoses and the need for greater collaboration between the animal and human health sectors.

The meeting was structured to provide information on new initiatives by international and regional organizations and various countries on inter-sectoral collaboration to control zoonoses and emerging infectious diseases (EIDs). Dr Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager, FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases, Regional office for Asia and the Pacific (ECTAD-RAP), spoke on the *One Health* approach for addressing EIDs at the human-animal-ecosystems interface and the tripartite WHO-FAO-OIE guidelines for intersectoral collaboration. The presentation included some of the challenges of implementing the *One Health* approach nationally, regionally and internationally.

The presentation from ASEAN covered both the animal health and human health sectors. ASEAN values the livestock sector and considers it important for economic development, and gives priority to foot

The need to collaborate

In their remarks, Dr. Takeshi Kasai, Director, Health Security and Emergencies, Professor Hiroshi Kida, Research Centre for Zoonosis, Hokkaido University

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And who are the gifts for?



One year ended, 2011 began. The hard-working people at ECTAD-RAP decided it was a time for giving — and receiving. More on back page.

Strengthening ASEAN

A visionary project funded by the European Union to strengthen ASEAN to address HPEDs is flagged off in Bangkok

The Inception Workshop of the ASEAN component of the European Union's Regional Cooperation Programme on highly pathogenic emerging diseases (HPEDs) in Southeast Asia was held on November 29, 2010, at Plaza Athenee Hotel, Bangkok, to flag off a visionary project to strengthen the ability of ASEAN and its member states in their ability to prevent HPEDs including HPAI through improved veterinary and public health services and regional intersectoral collaboration.

Main outputs

The three main outputs of the ASEAN component of the EU Project are the establishment of a Regional Support Unit (RSU) for ASEAN to strengthen regional cooperation, disease response capacity and policy development through sustained coordination and partnership with stakeholders; the establishment of a regional epidemiology network (REN) through sharing training, expertise and information that will strengthen regional capacity to understand the epidemiology of HPAI and other HPEDs in animals and humans in order to design appropriate control measures; and the establishment of a regional laboratory network (RLN) to share

training, expertise, reagents, facilities and information,

In addition to refining the workplan, there were discussions on the terms of reference for the RSU, the functions of the REN and RLN coordination mechanisms and linkages with relevant sectors. Linkages with SAARC to share regional experience with its component will be considered whenever it is possible through meetings, newsletters or other means.

Participants at the Inception Workshop of the ASEAN component of the European Union's Regional Cooperation Programme on highly pathogenic emerging diseases in Southeast Asia



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and mouth disease (FMD), highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and classical swine fever (CSF).

Country presentations were also made by representatives from Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Mongolia and Thailand, focusing on their experiences of intersectoral collaboration. Thailand shared examples of strong intersectoral collaboration in its surveillance programme while dealing with HPAI and also on providing training through the Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) and Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians (FETPV). Thailand also has a joint policy for the elimination of rabies that covers both the animal and public health sectors.

Under resourcing

There was recognition that lack of well-trained manpower and under-resourcing of the veterinary sector were constraints to intersectoral collaboration. The need for technical support from international agencies

was highlighted as was the need to address cross-cutting issues between the animal and human health sectors.

Research studies

Research studies on various zoonoses were presented. Notably, Professor Thiravat Hemachuda from Thailand presented studies of non-encephalitis patients with unknown etiology and evaluated whether such patients had links with vector-borne diseases such as Japanese encephalitis, dengue or corona viruses. The research is being conducted by a unified team comprising medical and veterinary professionals working together in the surveillance of emerging zoonotic diseases under government funding.

Several group discussions took place to explore different areas of collaboration between the human and veterinary sectors. Key recommendations were:

1. Countries should establish a functional coordination mechanism between

animal and human health sectors by 2011.

2. One Health should be advocated by countries and regional and international partners to raise awareness and to obtain support from policy makers.

3. Countries should implement activities that will utilise and ensure sustainability of the coordination mechanism, such as compiling a list of priority zoonotic diseases for both animal and human sectors; joint advocacy for One Health; sharing of information necessary for early detection and timely response; and coordinating activities under new initiatives and projects.

4. FAO, OIE and WHO should continue collaboration and work closely to support countries and regional organizations (i.e. ASEAN, SAARC) in capacity building and developing a coordination mechanism.

5. Countries and international organizations should review progress with recommendations in a follow-up meeting in 12 months' time.

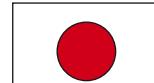
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REGIONAL UPDATE

How to make a best practice travel

The Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians receives a warm welcome in the Indian subcontinent

FAO sponsored International Field Veterinary Epidemiology Training Programme in GADVASU

Ludhiana, India, 25 November 2010

How do best practices travel? The Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians (FETPV) has emerged over the last few years as one of FAO's flagship programmes in the Asia and the Pacific. A meeting of CVOs from this region in August 2010 unanimously endorsed a decision to adopt FETPV in their countries. It also stands out as a trail-blazing collaboration between animal and human health sectors as the global conversation shifts to the *One Health* approach.

And now this high-profile and popular course is set to take root in India. From 17 to 26 November this year, a high-level FAO committee of experts comprising Dr David Castellan, Regional Veterinary Epidemiologist, Dr Leo Loth, Chief Technical Advisor, FAO India, and Dr M. V. Subba Rao, National Project Consultant to FAO India on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) held meetings with key stakeholders and

Dr Venkatasubbarao Mandava explains the importance of epidemiology in research to staff at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute in Bareilly.



Dr David Castellan, Dr Leo Loth and Dr Subba Rao Mandava receive a warm welcome at Project Directorate on Animal Disease Monitoring and Surveillance in Bangalore.

possible partners to share the concept of FETPV, ideas for its implementation in India and to explore collaboration mechanisms.

Strong interest in FETPV

All agencies and institutions indicated their strong interest to support and contribute to the development of FETPV in India. Key issues included identifying incentives for trainees and adapting the training for faculty and field staff while preserving the

essential emphasis on field training.

The Director of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) indicated his full support for developing FETPV in India and will identify focal points in key institutions that can provide support.

Medical epidemiologists at WHO dealing with health issues in India also indicated their strong support and willingness to be involved in developing FETPV in India.



Kachen Wongsthapornchai, Regional Project Director of Technical Cooperation Project on emergency assistance for surveillance of novel influenza A subtype H1N1 Viruses in pig and poultry production sectors in high risk Southeast Asian countries, presented the project outcomes to participants from ASEAN, ASEAN member countries, FAO HQ, OIE, and other regional partners during the project's closing workshop. The accomplishments were well received and participants noted a continuing need to support surveillance and monitoring of animal influenza in the region.



World Bank



The Netherlands



China



European Commission



New Zealand



Ireland



France



The Project Director and staff of the Animal Disease Monitoring and Surveillance system (ADMAS) in Bangalore are already conducting training using data analysis and GIS software to support mapping and disease forecasting using data collected through the National Animal Disease Referral Expert System. ADMAS is not fully optimized, and FETPV and ancillary epidemiology training will greatly enhance this system. Staff indicated that a joint FETPV certificate-MSc program would be the most appropriate method to provide adequate incentives for trainees.

The Secretary of the Veterinary Council of India (VCI), India's main statutory veterinary body affiliated with the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) voiced his strong support and offered to cooperate with FAO to develop a relevant epidemiology training curriculum for undergraduate and

post-graduate training programs based on FETPV curriculum.

Review of Activities on Swine Disease Surveillance and Swine Health Management

Bangkok, Thailand; 8-10 November 2010

Workshop on Review of Activities on Swine Disease surveillance and Swine Health Management was conducted from 8 to 10 November 2010 in Bangkok. The objectives of the workshop were to share information on and learn from countries' activities pertaining to surveillance of influenza, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), and other important diseases in pig populations, to obtain information on the swine production systems of the countries, and to review options for risk reduction strategies.

(Above left) Wantanee Kalpravidh, regional Project Coordinator, makes a presentation at the FAO seminar Moving Towards One Health Using a Multidisciplinary Approach. (Above) Participants at the review of activities on swine disease management and swine health management

FAO seminar: Moving Towards One Health Using A Multidisciplinary Approach

Bangkok, Thailand • 4 November 2010

FAO organized a seminar titled *Moving Towards One Health: using multidisciplinary approach* under the main conference of the 36th International Conference for Veterinary Services: ASEAN+3 and ASEAN+6 — Impact on Veterinary Roles. The concept for this seminar was to get representatives from several sectors including animal health, human health, wildlife health and eco-health to contribute their experience in working with multidisciplinary approach.

Saying it with gifts



At the annual ECTAD-RAP lunch 2010 to ring in the new year, held in the last week of December at Bangkok's Royal Princess Larn Luang Hotel, it was all about secret gifts. Each person bought a special gift, sweetly gift-wrapped, and then numbered and kept aside. After lunch, everyone drew lots — and collected their surprise gifts.