



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

When partners meet again

Two days of sharing and learning — and meeting USAID's new monitoring and evaluation indicators

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This year on October 4 and 5, the 11th meeting of partners in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Avian and Pandemic Influenza Programme was held at Hotel Plaza Athenee, Bangkok, Thailand.

The meeting was attended by 52 representatives from nine agencies and organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the World Health Organization (WHO); the Department of Livestock Development and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand; Family Health International (FHI360); the Kenan Institute Asia (KIA); MEASURE Evaluation; the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); the US Embassy.

The meeting was convened to assess the disease situation and changing epidemiology of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), present the progress thus far, review accomplishments and lessons learned, and also to discuss future activities.

Three main topics

The meeting was divided into five sessions covering three main topics – Situation and changing epidemiology; Accomplishments and lessons learned; and the Transition of accomplishments and lessons learned from HPAI to other emerging infectious diseases (EIDs). Partners' updates on their progress and accomplishments were presented through posters, while transition of accomplishments and lessons learned from HPAI to other EIDs



Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh (left), Regional Project Coordinator, FAO ECTAD-RAP, with Dr Dan Schar, of the United States Agency for International Development

was discussed in breakout groups.

The current disease situation in animals was reviewed by Dr. Pawin Padungtod of FAO, with special focus on Asia, and Mr Yogesh Choudri of WHO

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A dog's best friends: ECTAD-RAP marks World Rabies Day

With its vigorous engagement in preventing rabies all over the world, FAO's people must surely be a dog's best friends. In Bangkok, ECTAD-RAP staff marked World Rabies Day on September 28 this year by wearing specially designed tee shirts in black and white, and posing for a photograph outside the FAO RAP main building block.





Participants at the USAID Regional Avian and Pandemic Influenza Programme held from 4-5 October 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand

Southeast Asia Regional Office (SEARO) presented the situation on the human health side. Dr. Santanu Bandyopadhyay gave an account of how the results of the recently concluded GETS project as well as the current epidemiology of the disease are influencing the transition of the Viet Nam government's HPAI surveillance and control strategies. This was followed by a presentation on China's vaccination policy by Dr. Vincent Martin of FAO-China.

New indicators

The representative from MEASURE Evaluation presented the new monitoring and evaluation system as well as the new set of indicators to be used by USAID RDMA and its partners for measuring project progress starting October 2011.

The scene for the advocacy and multidisciplinary and multisectoral coordination was set by FHI360's presentation on their experiences and lessons from their risk communication and advocacy project, followed by Mr. C. Y. Gopinath's presentation on *Advocacy around Communication* which addressed some advocacy and communication issues of One Health.

Dr Jan Hinrichs of FAO presented the progress of the initiative on *Price Monitoring on Livestock Products at Cross-border Level*

which concluded that price information alone is not sufficient to reliably detect high mortality caused by the disease, and that an SMS price monitoring system is an efficient tool to detect price fluctuations that signal possible disease problems.

Transitioning to EIDs

Four breakout groups made recommendations on how to address key issues and challenges regarding capacity building, networking, advocacy, and multidisciplinary and multisectoral coordination when transitioning from HPAI to other EIDs.

In his wrap-up, Dr. Subhash Morzaria noted that everyone was convinced that the transition from HPAI to other EIDs, though difficult, was the way forward. FAO has been deeply engaged in mapping a route forward from AI into the bigger world of other EIDs and conducted many consultations towards making One Health a reality. FAO has also developed an action plan which introduced a One Health vision as the way forward in dealing with public health threats.

Ms Aye Aye Thwin of USAID said she was pleased that this year's partners' meeting had served as a venue for exchanging ideas and brainstorming on a wide range of subjects.

Bringing the

Animal health, human health and wildlife take steps towards working more closely together

Meeting on Laboratory Strengthening for Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Asia Pacific Region

19–21 October 2011, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A meeting on laboratory strengthening for EIDs diagnosis in the Asia-Pacific region was held at the Park Royal Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 19–21 October 2011. During this period, FAO, OIE and WHO held parallel meetings of representatives of leading laboratories from animal health and public health to foster closer working relationships between both sectors.

On the last day, participants from the public health sector joined the meeting to expand discussions and create collaborative links under the One Health approach. Participants included animal health and public health laboratory staff from countries in South East Asia, in addition to China, Japan, Korea and Australia.

The animal health laboratory network meeting recommended that the regional proficiency testing programme should continue to be supported for avian influenza, foot and mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF), porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) and rabies. It also recommended that the network continue to support the development of laboratory diagnostic capacity, quality assurance and proficiency testing for priority diseases in the region including rabies, African swine fever, Nipah virus infection, brucellosis, Newcastle disease and bluetongue.

Both animal health and public health laboratories agreed to establish and operationalize a formal mechanism for collaboration between their sectors, including wildlife; to advocate for national policies to support the One Health approach; jointly build capacity in risk assessment, biosafety, quality management; and create opportunities to sustain linkages across public health, animal health and wildlife stakeholders.

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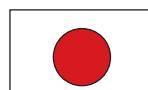
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sectors closer together

REGIONAL UPDATE



LEFT: Paul Selleck (front right, in green), AAHL expert, with trainees; **RIGHT:** Mia Kim, FAO HQ scientist, led the discussion during the joint meeting of animal health and public health laboratories at the meeting on Laboratory Strengthening for EIDs in the Asia Pacific

Quality Assurance and Standardization of Diagnostic Reagents Training

5–16 September 2011, Geelong, Australia

Training was organized in collaboration with the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) in Geelong, Australia from 5–16 September 2011, to build capacity of national laboratories to produce proficiency testing panels and quality assurance reagents and to analyze proficiency testing results. It is expected that the capacity to provide proficiency testing will allow national animal health laboratories to develop their own external quality assurance programme for their national laboratory network.

The training program meets the requirements under ISO17025 for quality assurance of laboratory tests and training in providing proficiency testing to ensure

laboratories are producing accurate, results for tests carried out in the laboratory. Fifteen laboratory staff from nine ASEAN countries and China attended this training. The post-training evaluation showed that the participants' knowledge and skill in producing reagents and analyzing proficiency testing results have been improved.

The Third Laboratory Directors Forum

18 October 2011, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Third Laboratory Directors Forum meeting was hosted by the Malaysia Department of Veterinary Services in collaboration with FAO and OIE at the Park Royal Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 18 October 2011. The main objective of this meeting was to keep the directors of key national laboratories updated about ongoing activities related to laboratory capacity

building and laboratory networking in Southeast Asia. Directors or representatives from 16 laboratories participated, including national animal health and leading laboratories from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, in addition to AAHL, Japan's National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), and USAID.

The meeting ended with agreement to coordinate laboratory capacity building activities under the revised Regional Framework for Animal Health Laboratory Capacity Building and Networking in Asia, which Thailand will present to the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) during its next meeting. The meeting also reviewed and agreed upon the roles of leading regional laboratories as well as the guiding principles for the diagnosis of regional priority diseases including CSF, HPAI and FMD.



Participants at the Third Laboratory Directors Forum meeting



World Bank



The Netherlands



China



European Commission



New Zealand



Ireland



France

Taking science to the farm

Working with lay communities, ECTAD-RAP develops a dialogue-based approach to engaging farmers in better biosecurity

How well do lay persons at risk, such as backyard farmers and other community members, really understand the science and logic of biosecurity? Insights into community knowledge indicate that for many, even understanding invisible microorganisms is a challenge. Recently, under the aegis of an advocacy and advocacy-related communication project funded by USAID, the ECTAD-RAP communication team developed and field tested the first module of a curriculum aimed at taking science and technical



understanding of biosecurity to lay community members of the poultry farming sector. The module, field tested in Bangladesh and Viet Nam, was guided by the recommendations in *Seeing around corners*, the regional communication strategy framework introduced in the region by ECTAD-RAP in August 2011. Following principles of learning through dialogue, role play and immersion, the curriculum used local idiom and analogies to create a deep understanding of invisible organisms, beneficial and harmful, and modes of transmission, and basic concepts in measurement and quantification. Technical language was completely avoided, including the word 'biosecurity'.

On the last day, following group visits to study real poultry farms nearby, participants drew detailed and surprisingly professional biosecurity maps of the farms they had visited, and identified hot spots where disease-causing organisms could proliferate, and marked their potential transmission pathways, as well as ways to prevent their transmission.



1. Participants interview a backyard farmer at her farm.
2. Working in groups, participants draw risk maps, showing disease hot spots in the farms they visited.
3. A detailed map of a farm, showing its environment and opportunities for disease transmission.
4. Two participants measure a farm by pacing its perimeter.
5. One group visited a wet market and interviewed vendors during the field visit.

