

China, Mongolia and Russia Meet to Discuss Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Control in the region

As a follow-up to the First Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Workshop organized in Beijing on 3rd November 2011, a Second Workshop on FMD was held on 13th April 2012 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in collaboration with relevant veterinary departments of the governments of China, Mongolia and Russia. One of the major objectives of the meeting was to share information about the latest disease situation in the three countries and establish a working group to strengthen the cooperation and sharing of information on cross-border animal movement and Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs).



▲ Farmer Interview in Khentii Province



▲ Sheep Flock in Mongolia



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Prior to the workshop, a mission formed by an FAO international consultant, the FAO ECTAD China team and government officials visited Khentii Province, which was an area previously affected by FMD. The mission team interviewed livestock owners, farmers and district veterinary officers about the 2010 epidemic.

On the 13th of April, participants from the Veterinary Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), China, China Animal Disease Control Center (CADC), China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC), Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industries (MoFALI), Mongolia, Russian Federation, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) China attended a one-day workshop on FMD control. During the meeting, representatives from China, Mongolia and Russia gave presentations on the FMD situation and prevention and control measures in their respective countries. They also discussed future collaboration activities and information sharing mechanisms. It was agreed that the next workshop should be held in Moscow, Russia.

Departure of Dr. Vincent Martin and arrival of Prof. John Edwards



▲ Farewell Party for Mr. Martin

After five years in China, coordinating the FAO ECTAD China office activities, Dr. Vincent Martin will depart from Beijing at the end of April 2012 and will return to Rome to work in FAO Headquarters. Prof. John Edwards has arrived to take over as Senior Technical Coordinator and head of FAO ECTAD China office.

Prof. John Edwards is a former Dean of the School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences at Murdoch University in Australia. He has many years of experience in biosecurity, public health, animal health and production, education, research and the management of animal and public health programs in Australia and Asia. Prof. Edwards also worked for nine years as Chief Veterinary Officer for Western Australia, and was Regional Coordinator for the OIE South East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) Program for 3 years.

Upcoming activities:

1. Meeting of Strengthening collaboration between China and FAO on Animal Production and Health issues: Perspectives for the future will be held in Rome, Italy from 17th - 18th May 2012.
2. The Fifth Module of the China Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians (FETPV) will be held in Qingdao and Beijing from 21st May - 8th June 2012.
3. In the framework of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Project, a Vehicle Cleaning and Disinfection Station will be constructed in Guangzhou Jiangcun Poultry Wholesale market. The tendering process is expected to be completed in May, and the construction work will start in late May 2012.