

## 12 NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

A National Strategy Framework on Aquatic Animal Health Management for the Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals or 'National Strategy' was developed by the designated National Coordinators of the 21 countries/territory participating in the regional programme. The development and contents of the National Strategy was thoroughly discussed during the 2 regional workshops held in 1998 and 1999. The National Strategy contains major headings on (a) Background, (b) National Status of Quarantine and Health Certification, (c) Health Status of Aquatic Animals and Identification of Pathogens/Diseases to be Considered for Quarantine Purposes, (d) Development of the National Strategy for Health Considerations for the Responsible Transboundary Movement of Live Aquatic Animals, and (e) Implementation Strategy. Each heading contains relevant elements pertaining to health management strategies identified in the 'Technical Guidelines' and 'Manual of Procedures'. For instance, the heading on development of national strategy contains subheadings on import risk analysis, quarantine, health certification, diagnostic requirements and capacity building, zoning, national reporting and surveillance systems, contingency planning, legislation and policy frameworks and information and databases.

The development of the National Strategy also followed national level consultation with governments and related institutions. A good example is "AQUAPLAN" which contains Australia's five-year national strategic plan for aquatic animal health and was prepared through close consultation between government and industry and describes a number of national level health management initiatives ranging from border controls and import certification to enhanced veterinary education and capacity to manage aquatic animal diseases. Other countries such as Indonesia, India, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, for example, conducted national level consultations with relevant government agencies involved in aquatic animal health management. Other countries which already have existing national strategies, e.g., Hong Kong SAR China and Singapore, were provided the opportunity to further develop their strategies according to the various regional activities undertaken under the regional program. It is expected that the National Strategies will be fully integrated in the aquaculture development programs of participating countries, be continuously revised and updated according to the existing resources and capacities of countries and in consultation with various stakeholders and information dissemination activities will be undertaken in order to increase awareness and build consensus for effective implementation.

The National Strategies which were presented during the final workshop in Beijing in 2000 will be published as a compendium<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> FAO/NACA. 2001. Compendium of National Strategies on Aquatic Animal Health Management. (In press).