

Welcoming Address
by
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The 4th FAO-APHCA/OIE/DLD Regional Workshop
on Brucellosis Diagnosis and Control in Asia-Pacific Region
– Proficiency Test and Ways Forward –

Chiang Mai, Thailand
19-21 March 2014

Dr. Wimolporn Tithisak, Deputy Director-General, Department of Livestock Development of Thailand
Dr. Preecha Wongwijarn, Director of Thai National Institute for Animal Health
Dr. Tomoko Ishibashi, Deputy Regional Representative, OIE Asia-Pacific Office
Resource Persons from OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis
Colleague Participants and Observers
Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to you....

On behalf of Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific as well as the APHCA Secretariat, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to our "4th FAO-APHCA/OIE/DLD Regional Workshop on Brucellosis Diagnosis and Control in Asia-Pacific Region" today.

My great appreciation goes to our co-organizers – the OIE Asia-Pacific Office and the Department of Livestock Development of the Royal Thai Government – the DLD.

I am grateful to the DG of DLD – Dr. Tritsadee, Dr. Wimolporn, Dr. Preecha, Dr. Monaya as well as all DLD staff in the organizing committee for their kind supports. My thanks also go to our resource persons – Dr. Bruno Garin-Bastuji, Dr. Maryne Jay and Ms. Vecchio Gabriela for their valuable technical contributions to this Workshop.

As planned, the main objectives of our workshop are:

- To update on the Brucellosis situation, including its epidemiology, in Asia and the Pacific;
- To present and analyze the proficiency test (PT) results obtained from the participating laboratories/ countries; and
- To promote collaboration on diagnosis and control of Brucellosis in the Region.

I am sure we all agree that our ultimate goal is to control and, where possible, eradicate this disease from our countries and our Region as the whole.

We are pleased to learn that the Brucellosis Laboratory of the National Institute of Animal Health of Thailand, has completed its twinning programme with ANSES – the OIE/FAO World Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis in France, which was initiated in year 2010 – after our 3rd Regional Workshop in Phitsanulok, Thailand.

At the regional level, FAO-APHCA and OIE Asia-Pacific Office have supported the ring trial tests in Asia-Pacific Region, using the DLD's Brucella antigen for Rose Bengal Test as well as QA and QC of the Thai NIAH laboratory towards its upgrading to become a reference laboratory for Brucellosis diagnosis. This enables the Brucellosis Laboratory at the Thai NIAH – with the support from ANSES – to work more for this Region through a "Regional Brucellosis Laboratory Network", which we will discuss during the next two days.

FAO-APHCA and OIE Asia-Pacific Office will join hands to implement this latter activity in collaboration with our team – the Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases or the ECTAD within the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and other agencylike the CSIRO, which is represented by Dr. Trevor Taylor – be it under the popular "One Health Scheme" or under our existing member countries' multilateral or bilateral technical collaborations.

With our joint efforts at the national and the regional levels, our endeavor to control Brucellosis and as I said, in countries where possible --- Brucellosis eradication, will be promising. There has been a classical case of Fiji, where the country ran tests using RBT reagent from Thai DLD and applied slaughter procedure wherein all animals tested positive were slaughtered in the abattoir. After this "modified stamping out procedure", this island country is now continuously restocking their cattle population by importing clean herds.

I look forward to all success of our workshop, which will build a platform for our future work as planned. And besides technical sessions, I hope that our guests enjoyed the DLD's hospitality as well as your stay and your trip in and outside Chiang Mai during the next few days.

I thank you for your kind attention.