



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

5th Annual Regional ECTAD Meeting for Asia and the Pacific

Teams with their themes

The ECTAD-RAP team has its annual meeting, this time with a more technical focus

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They've been getting together once a year every year for five years now. It's a time for the country teams of the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases Regional office for Asia and the Pacific (ECTAD-RAP) to share experiences, compare notes, make plans and present new insights in their work against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases, notably highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI H5N1).

The 5th Annual Regional ECTAD Meeting for Asia and the Pacific was held at the Millennium Hilton Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand from 22 to 24 February 2011. It was attended by 51 participants, of whom 37 were from the South and Southeast Asian region, three were from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters in Rome, and 11 from ECTAD-RAP Bangkok. Unlike earlier annual meetings, this one had a strong technical focus, and the objective of generating four well-articulated position papers on identified themes

It took five shots before the ECTAD-RAP team decided to have some fun. Suddenly, they let their guard down and the photographer got a glimpse of the high spirits within.

of regional significance. These themes were —

1. Surveillance for HPAI and emerging infectious diseases (EIDs).
2. Vaccination against HPAI in endemic and non-endemic countries and decision tree for determining vaccination choice.
3. Managing HPAI under duck and mixed chicken-duck farming systems.
4. One Health agenda: National and regional implementation.

A Theme Team (TT) was formed for these four areas, each one led by a nominated team leader from Bangkok. Based on their group's discussions, the TT leaders developed a working paper on the assigned topic through email consultations with team members on the current status and key issues around the theme, and did a contextual mini-SWOT analysis.

Each team prioritized the issues to be discussed and set clear expected outputs, framed the questions to be discussed, and prepared the working documents required for the discussion.

During the annual meeting, this data and

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IDENTIFY-ing the road ahead

Stakeholders of USAID's IDENTIFY project meet to share their work and plan forward

A total of 61 participants attended the IDENTIFY Animal Health Stakeholder Awareness Meeting for Southeast Asia in Bangkok, Thailand from 20-21 January 2011. The meeting goals were to share project objectives and strategies with key stakeholders in animal health, to review current status and expectations of the national animal health laboratories, to obtain the list of priority animal diseases to be addressed under this project and to discuss networking strategies, activities and challenges for collaboration among laboratories.

Participants included Chief Veterinary Officers (CVO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) delegates and

directors of national animal health laboratories from nine countries in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and the Philippines), and two countries in South Asia (Bangladesh and Nepal), representatives from four international reference laboratories, Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT) partner project representatives, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) regional and global representatives, and regional partners in disease surveillance and diagnosis.

Tripartite presentations

Presentations were made by representatives from the tripartite agencies FAO, OIE and WHO, and international reference laboratories on the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) highlighting the complementarities and synergies between FAO and OIE, approaches to controlling pandemics, Asia-Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED), human-animal collaboration and tripartite approaches to enhancing diagnostic capacity to diagnose normative diseases.

To address the issue of



Dr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General of Regional Representative of FAO Region of Asia and the Pacific, delivered the opening speech.

scarce resources and multiple competing priorities, a tool to aid in disease prioritization was piloted during the meeting which aimed to define the most relevant risks amongst non-zoonotic (livelihood and food security impact) and zoonotic (public health impact) [keeping in mind that a severe animal disease might also be a severe threat to human health. This exercise resulted in a ranking of 17 diseases with avian influenza listed highest followed by Nipah, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), classical swine fever (CSF), Newcastle disease (ND), foot and mouth disease (FMD) and rabies.

Draft strategy

Participants reviewed the draft Regional Laboratory Networking Strategy for SE Asia and discussed the roles of regional laboratory networks and specific activities including mapping of existing laboratories capacity and networks, expanding functional and sustainable regional laboratory networking, strengthening regional capacities to diagnose significant pathogens and emerging and unknown pathogens, and expanding platforms for information sharing and mechanisms for sharing biological materials.

Above left: Dr Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager, ECTAD-RAP, facilitated the prioritization workshop. Left: Dr Morzaria (centre) in groupwork with Dr Martin Gilbert, Wildlife Conservation Society (on his right) and Dr James McGrane, ECTAD Indonesia Country Team Leader



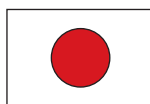
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An eye to safety

Two follow-up inspection missions visit laboratories in the region

Following the Biosafety Management Training organized in Singapore in October 2010, two biosafety missions were carried out in the participating laboratories, with support from the IDENTIFY project.

The first mission to eight laboratories by biosafety experts Dr Teck Mean Chua and Dr Robert Heckert, of the Asia-Pacific Biosafety Association (A-PBA) started in November 2010 and continue till March 2011. They will provide recommendations to improve biosafety infrastructure, equipment and practices of the laboratories including the pathology (necropsy) section, and demonstrate the correct use of biosafety equipment and supplies.

The laboratories visited include the National Veterinary Research Institute (Cambodia), the National Animal Health Center (LaoPDR), the Veterinary Research Institute (Malaysia), the Philippines Animal Health Center (Philippines), the National Institute of Animal Health (Thailand), the

Central Veterinary Laboratory (Nepal), the Central Disease Investigation Laboratory and the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (Bangladesh).

The second missions, in January and February this year, were carried out by two



Above: A biosafety cabinet being examined. Left: Laboratory staff from Bacteriology section, National Institute of Animal Health, Thailand led by Dr Patcharee Tongkamkoon (front left) at the biosafety assessment of their laboratory.

teams of Accredited Field Certifiers to test biosafety cabinets performance according to international standard (NSF49). One team was led by Mr Wee Zong Ren and Mr Lee Wei Liang, and the other by Mr Chan Chun Kwong and Mr Lee Kah Heng. The laboratories visited were similar to the first mission except the Philippines Animal Health

Center, which was undergoing renovation. In general, the percentage from the number of biosafety cabinets tested that failed is 30.8 percent for 39 units tested. However, if the more established facilities in Malaysia and Thailand are excluded, then the failure rate was 47.3 percent for the 19 units tested in the other countries. The failure rate observed was extremely high and alarming as biosafety cabinets are primary containment equipment that provides the first line of defence in the handling of infectious materials. The acceptable result for passing the certification test is 100 percent.

After the training in Singapore, several laboratories set up their biosafety committee with assigned biosafety manager. The two missions helped strengthen laboratory capacity to manage biological risk through preliminary risk assessment and cabinet testing. FAORAP is in the process of procuring replacement cabinets and HEPA filters for the failed units.



Left: Dr Robert Heckert demonstrates the correct way to put on and take off personal protective equipment while Dr Sohayati Abdul Rahman, Biosafety Manager of the Veterinary Research Institute, Malaysia, translates to Veterinary Research Institute staff



World Bank



The Netherlands



China



European Commission



New Zealand



Ireland



France

Showcasing FETPV

The 16th Congress of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA) in Cebu City, the Philippines, was organized by the FAVA Committee and the Philippines Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA), in collaboration with FAO and OIE. Dr Carolyn Benigno, Animal Health Economist, ECTAD-RAP, presented the One Health approach to controlling TADs and EIDs, and Dr Kachen Wongsathapornchai, Regional Veterinary Epidemiology Coordinator, ECTAD-RAP, gave a presentation during the Scientific Plenary Session elucidating FAO's program related to epidemiology capacity building in Asia.

The collaboration between FAO and Thailand's Department of Livestock Development for developing the regional Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians was presented as a model for a sustainable capacity building program for field veterinarians under the One Health concept. During the joint



FAO-OIE session on One Health, Dr Carolyn Benigno presented activities planned under Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases programme and Dr Pawin Padungtod presented the contribution of the Regional

Dr Carolyn Benigno, Animal Health Officer, ECTAD-RAP, speaks at the meeting

Laboratory network towards the implementation of the One Health concept.



South Asia looks at its EIDs

Participants at the High Level Regional Consultation of Priority Transboundary and Other Emerging Infectious Diseases in Asia, co-organised by FAO and the secretariat of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation on 13-14 January in Bangkok, Thailand. At the meeting, participants discussed the use of Progressive Control Pathways for the control of FMD. Brucellosis was discussed as a re-emerging zoonosis, in addition to Pestes des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and HPAI.

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analysis was presented in a theme-setting presentation, which laid the foundation for in-depth group discussions around the series of identified questions. The output of these discussions, combined with the context presented in the working paper, will be written up and considered for publication as a technical position paper.

Satellite presentations

There were also satellite presentations, including *ECTAD-Asia: Outcomes and impacts* by Jan Hinrichs and BryceTyler Fieldhouse; *Risk-based surveillance for avian influenza control along poultry*

market chain in South China: the value of social network analysis by Vincent Martin; *An integrated risk management approach to HPAI control: experience from Viet Nam* by Andrew Bisson; *Communication and ECTAD-RAP — Looking into the future* by C Y Gopinath; *Report on result of the launching workshop for public-private partnership* by Yoni Segal.

In addition to these, there was a fifth theme on resource mobilization and other operation issues, moderated by Rosanne Marchesich and Elizabeth Beer.