



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

33rd Conference of the
Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific
New Delhi, India, 13 to 16 November 2023

FINAL REPORT

Introduction

1. Following the kind invitation of the Government of India, the 33rd Conference of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific was held in New Delhi (India) from 13 to 16 November 2023 under the patronage of Honorable Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Cabinet Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying..
2. A total of 81 participants, comprising WOAHA Delegates and representatives of 24 Members of the Region and senior officers from 10 national, regional and international organisations and institutions, attended the Conference. In addition, representatives of the private sector as well as private veterinary organisations from the Region and from the host country were present.

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan (virtual), Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America, and Vietnam

International/regional/organisations: ADB¹, EU², FAO³, IPC⁴, NACA⁵, UNDP⁶, UNEP⁷, the World Bank (virtually), and WHO⁸.

3. Honourable Dr Loganathan Murugan, Minister of State of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Honourable Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Minister of State of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying honoured the Conference with their presence during the official opening ceremony.
4. Ms Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and WOAHA Delegate of India, Dr Mark Schipp, Past President of WOAHA and Delegate of Australia, Dr Monique Eloit, Director General, Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Dr Ronello Abila, Subregional Representative for South East Asia, Dr Neo Mapitse, Head of the Regional Activities Department, Dr Etienne Bonbon, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, and Dr Ingo Ernst, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission also participated in the Conference. The speakers presenting the two main Technical Items, namely Prof Nitish Debnath, DAI's Country Team Lead for the Fleming Fund, Bangladesh program, for the Technical Item 1 and Dr Erik Karlsson, Deputy Head of Virology Unit, Institute Pasteur Cambodia, for the Technical Item 2, honoured the Conference with their presence.

¹ ADB: Asian Development Bank

² EU: European Union

³ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

⁴ IPC: Institut Pasteur du Cambodge

⁵ NACA: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

⁶ UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

⁷ UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

⁸ WHO: World Health Organization – Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO)

SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER 2023

Opening ceremony

5. The following authorities gave a welcome address:
- Honourable Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Minister of State of Fisheries Animal Husbandry & Dairying,
 - Honourable Dr Loganathan Murugan, Minister of State of Fisheries Animal Husbandry & Dairying,
 - Ms. Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary Animal Husbandry & Dairying and WOAHA Delegate India
 - Monique Eloit, Director General, WOAHA,
 - Dr Hugo Idoyaga, President of WOAHA World Assembly of Delegates (video message)
 - Dr Baoxu Huang, President, WOAHA Regional Commission of Asia and the Pacific
 - Dr Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner,
 - Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

Approval of the Programme

6. The Provisional Programme was adopted (available in Annex 1). The PowerPoint presentations are available on the Conference website.

Appointment of the Conference Committee

7. The Conference Committee was elected by participants as follows:

Chairperson:	Ms Alka Upadhyaya, Delegate of India
Vice-Chairperson:	Dr Paul C. Limson, Delegate of Philippines
Rapporteur General:	Dr Ye Tun Win, Delegate of Myanmar

Appointment of Session Chairpersons and Rapporteurs

8. Chairpersons and Rapporteurs were designated for the Technical Items and the Analysis of the Animal Health Situation as follows:

Technical Item I:	Dr Umesh Dahal (Nepal), (Chairperson) Dr Pebi Suseno (Indonesia), (Rapporteur)
Technical Item II:	Dr (Ms) Akma binti Ngah Hamid (Malaysia), (Chairperson) Dr Dorjee Jambay (Bhutan), (Rapporteur)
Analysis of the Animal Health Situation:	Dr (Ms) K. A. C. H. A. Kothalawala (Sri Lanka), (Chairperson) Dr Sorn San (Cambodia), (Rapporteur)

**WOAH:
Improving animal health globally to ensure a better future for all**

9. Dr Monique Eloit, WOA Director General, presented a brief overview of WOA's work in support to its Members.
10. She began her address by reminding participants of the overarching mission of the Organisation which is to ensure animal health worldwide due to its direct impact on livelihoods of millions of families, on food security and food safety, without forgetting the impact on human health when animal diseases are transmissible to humans.
11. She mentioned that, to support its Members to face obvious challenges such as TADs⁹, emerging diseases, zoonosis and food borne diseases, as well as new global challenges such as climate and socio economic changes, new consumption patterns, among other challenges that will require the Veterinary Services to adapt, the Organisation was working along several lines including its core mandate activities such as collection and dissemination of animal disease information and standards setting. She also mentioned the progress in global strategies as well as ambitious capacity building programmes some of which are implemented in close collaboration with partners. Additionally, she highlighted that WOA was ready to update its strategies as well as revise its standards, if necessary, to better support its Members to face future challenges. She also recognised the need and willingness of the Organisation to integrate other areas of expertise so that animal health is addressed in a more holistic way.
12. The main conclusions from Dr Eloit's presentation were as follows:
 - The first area of engagement of WOA is related to animal health in the strict sense through strategies and initiatives targeting diseases such as FMD¹⁰, PPR¹¹, Rabies and ASF¹², many of which are addressed under the GF-TADs¹³ umbrella.
 - Over the years the Organisation has also invested in new areas which are also important for supporting the Veterinary Services (VS) mainly to respond to new challenges such as animal welfare, AMR¹⁴, biological threat reduction, capacity building including distance learning, and also aquatic animal health and wildlife health, two domains of critical importance in Asia Pacific region.
 - Animal disease prevention is key, and including preventing spill over to humans, it is also about limiting the drivers of their emergence in the animal health sector. Thus, a good example is the selection of Avian Influenza (AI) as a key topic of discussion during the 90th General Session allowing WOA and its Members to assess the current situation and the available tools.
 - There is a clear need to improve capacities for diseases surveillance. Sharing information about disease circulation is an asset to ensure animal health globally.
 - Ensuring that VS's role and involvement in wildlife surveillance is clear for all involved parties is key to warrant the proper fulfilling of VS's role in emergency diseases prevention and control.
 - WOA is providing training to New Delegates to ensure they are well prepared to perform their duties and comply with their obligations. WOA Training Platform is one of the main training tools which provides online learning opportunities on 16 competency packages.
 - It is key for WOA and its Members to take positions regarding key contemporary global challenges in order to ensure that the Organisation has a recognised voice beyond the Veterinary Services sector and to avoid being constrained to the field of livestock and trade. The celebration of our 100th anniversary should give WOA the opportunity to raise its image globally and beyond the veterinary sector.

⁹ Transboundary animal disease(s)

¹⁰ Foot-and-mouth disease

¹¹ Peste des petits ruminants

¹² African swine fever

¹³ Global framework for the progressive control of TADs

¹⁴ Antimicrobial Resistance

- WOAHA and its Members need to be very active in any political fora to ensure that the animal health voice is heard and considered in the ongoing negotiations for future health governance of which animal health is a key element.
- It is key that WOAHA and its mission be recognised by decision makers. The submission of the draft Pandemic Treaty at the 2024 WHO Assembly will be an important step for testing the membership opinion with regards to the Quadripartite recognition.
- The recent creation in September 2022 of the Pandemic Fund hosted by the World Bank was an important additional step particularly because PVS was recognised as a criterion for the proposals. The Fund already raised U\$ 2 billion from 25 contributors, and today 19 applications have been selected for a first round of projects.
- WOAHA is doing its best to face and adapt to new challenges, to remain relevant to its Members, and to respond to their needs in the best way possible. Thus, WOAHA is engaging in a review process of its Basic Texts to analyse, evaluate, and improve WOAHA's institutional, technical, and financial governance to ensure optimal and sustainable delivery of its mandate in a legally sound manner.
- WOAHA Members need to take advantage of the basic text revision as well as of their attendance in key events such as the General Session and the Regional Conferences to clearly communicate their expectations and priorities to WOAHA so that it can properly adjust its agenda and activities to ensure responding to its Members' needs. Members already had a great opportunity to express their expectations and get involved during the development of the Sixth Strategic Plan

Implementation of Regional Work Plan Framework

13. Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, provided a brief review of the Regional Workplan Framework for the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
14. He reminded this RWPF was developed to translate the objectives of the Seventh Strategic Plan at the regional level so as to ensure identifying key activities to be implemented at regional level to better address and respond to Member's needs.
15. The following can be concluded from Dr Kugita presentation:
 - The region is very active in implementing the majority of activities identified in the workplan framework. However, several activities during 2021-2022 were affected by the COVID-19 crisis thus, some KPIs had to be adjusted. Also, data collection has been difficult;
 - Members are encouraged to ensure data sharing so that more information is available such as details on response plans;
 - Members are also encouraged to share information with WOAHA for example regarding simulation exercises;
 - Next RWPF report will be presented in 2025, thus, future activities in the region can be targeted to support the achievement of the RWPF objectives, including collaboration with WOAHA Observatory;
 - The Regional Commission noted that current KPI's in the RWPF are good and useful, thus, there is only a need to ensure information from Members is well collected. The RCG will further discuss along with the RR to find the best way to support collection of information regarding achievement of the RWPF objectives by Members.

Analysis of the Animal Health Situation in Members in the region during 2022/2023

16. Dr Jenny Hutchison, Head of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department (WAHIAD) presented an analysis of **reporting** and the animal health situation in Members of Asia and the Pacific region covering the period 2021–2023.

Situation of reporting to WAHIS in the region

17. A summary of disease reporting to WOAAH was presented followed by a discussion of the diseases considered as a priority in the region (African swine fever, high pathogenicity avian influenza, foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease, and peste des petits ruminants). These diseases contributed to 89% of immediate notifications (INs) and follow-up reports (FURs) submitted to WOAAH since 2021.
18. The median time for submission of an IN to WOAAH after confirmation was 5 days, exceeding the requirement of within 24 hours (Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*).
19. Eleven aquatic disease events have been reported by 6 Members since 2021: white spot syndrome, *Perkinsus olseni* (Inf. with), Tilapia lake virus (Inf. with), ranavirus (Inf. with), infectious haematopoietic necrosis, Koi herpesvirus (Inf. with), Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis, and *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* nodavirus (Inf. with).
20. Prior to 2019, 97 to 100% of terrestrial animal six-monthly reports (SMRs) were regularly submitted by Members in the region. However, a substantial decrease in submission of SMRs has been noticed since then. Aquatic animal SMRs were regularly submitted by 70 – 80% of Members in the region until 2019 after which a similar substantial decrease was apparent. Dr Hutchison reminded Members of their reporting obligations and encouraged Members to use the WAHIS support desk to seek any needed support regarding submission of reports. Dr Hutchison highlighted that some Members in the region have already submitted their SMR for the first semester of 2023 and she thanked those Members for their continuous support and cooperation.

Animal disease situation in the region

21. African swine fever (ASF): From the beginning of 2021, ASF has been reported as present during at least one semester in 16 countries out of 35, absent in 15 Members, and with no information in 4 Members. In the same period, the disease first occurred in Bhutan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore and Thailand and no Member was self-declared free from ASF. A total of 2196 new outbreaks were reported from the entire region resulting in 1,008,600 animal losses.
22. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI): Twelve Members of 35 in the region have reported the disease as 'absent' since 2021. In this same period, new outbreaks represented 11.2% of total outbreaks at global level with losses of more than 82,000,000 birds in the poultry industry. It was stressed that the disease remains a serious concern not only in term of economic losses, but also for public health concerns. A gap was noted between the number of Members applying surveillance measure in poultry versus wild birds. For example, on average, general surveillance and targeted surveillance in poultry was reported to be in place in 55 to 83% of Members while in wild birds this was less reported by less than 40 to 60 % of Members.
23. It was noted that the WOAAH *Terrestrial Code* recognises vaccination against avian influenza (AI) as an effective complementary control tool when a stamping-out policy alone is not sufficient. Members were also reminded that vaccination does not affect the AI status of a free country or zone if surveillance supports the absence of infection. Dr Hutchison also reminded the Members of the Resolution n°28 adopted at the 90th General Session defining the path to address HPAI control considering recent epidemiological shifts, including the use of vaccination. According to that resolution, Members are encouraged to adopt best practices in vaccination (stewardship) and reassess on an ongoing basis the use of appropriately field-matched vaccine strains and the continuing need for the update of vaccines. Vaccination also requires the adaptation of surveillance for early detection, demonstration of freedom from HPAI, and monitoring of changes in circulating viruses. Finally, the resolution emphasises the importance of transparency about disease occurrence, the use of vaccines and vaccination results.

24. Foot and mouth disease: Members were informed that since 2021 the disease has been reported as present in 18 of 35 Members in the region, and as absent in 9 Members. The serotype O was the most reported as circulating in the region, followed by serotype A, Asia, and finally SAT2. Surveillance in wild reservoirs is very limited (reported by only 4 countries). Dr Hutchison emphasised the need to increase surveillance in all susceptible populations to increase the likelihood of detection.
25. Lumpy skin disease and peste des petits ruminants: These diseases were reported as present in region since 2021 by (respectively) 21 and 11 Members, and absent by 6 and 17 Members. In that same period, the disease first occurred in 13 Members in the region: Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam; and spread to more zones in India and Russia.

WAHIS project update

26. Dr Hutchison informed Members that optimisation and development of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) continues alongside evolutive maintenance activities. The improvement of the Early Warning Module has been completed, resulting in a far more user-friendly and stable module. The current focus is the optimisation of the six-monthly Report and the development of the annual report module, both of which should be complete by the second quarter of 2024. Big efforts are ongoing for the stabilisation and performance of the dashboards, improving the analytical capabilities of WAHIS. WOAHA continues to strengthen reporting activity by engaging with the Focal points via one-to-one or group training sessions. This has already resulted in an increase of reports and better visibility of the animal health situation in the region. In parallel, online webinars and demo sessions have been organised with Members of the Middle East Region and with other organisations, demonstrating how to get the best value out of the data available.
27. Members were encouraged to share information on the TADs including on ASF and efforts within the region regarding vaccination studies against ASF. Korea (Rep. of) was commended regarding their implementation of measures against LSD outbreaks, and the region was looking forward to receiving updates in the near future.
28. Dr Hutchinson informed the Regional Commission that a scoping exercise for diseases codification project for WAHIS has been done but implementation is not foreseen until the second semester of 2024.

SIDE EVENT: Partnerships to strengthen Veterinary Services

29. This side event, chaired by Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity-Building Department at WOAHA, aimed at identifying and discussing potential areas of interest for partnerships in veterinary Services and highlighting WOAHA commitment to helping Members make informed decisions about improving access and quality of Veterinary Services, including, where appropriate, using Public-Private Partnership (PPP) as one of the delivery options.
30. Rahul Srivastava, Project Manager at Capacity Building Department, highlighted WOAHA's initiative on building partnership capacities and shared few PPP case studies from WOAHA PPP database.
31. Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, emphasised collaboration between the national VS, Veterinary education establishments (VEEs) and veterinary statutory bodies (VSBs), and highlighted WOAHA's initiatives and guidelines aimed at veterinary education and Veterinary Paraprofessionals (VPPs) education.
32. The audience, consisting of members from both the public and private sectors, responded to a survey on PPP prioritisation and expectations for promoting VEE/VSB networks. The top areas identified for PPP were transboundary animal disease prevention, control, and eradication; research and development; training and education for Veterinarians, VPPs, and Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW), and One Health. For promoting VEE/VSB networks, participants expected the most improvement in education quality, harmonisation of veterinary education curriculum, enhancement of the veterinary workforce assessment capacity, and the production of more veterinary public health experts.

33. The panellists included Ms Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in India; Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia; Dr Franck Berthe, Senior Health Specialist and One Health Lead at The Pandemic Fund, World Bank (via zoom); Dr Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner of India; Dr Wacharapon Chotiyaputta, Director of the Division of International Livestock Cooperation at the Department of Livestock Development in Thailand; and Dr Meenesh Shah, Chairman and Managing Director of the National Dairy Development Board, India.
34. Ms Alessandrini guided the discussion among the experts on various topics related to animal husbandry and dairying and Ms Alka Upadhyaya concluded the session.

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2023

Technical item I (with questionnaire): Preventing Zoonoses at Source – towards enhancing capacity for prevention, rapid detection, awareness, control, and research on zoonoses

35. Technical Item I, entitled “Preventing Zoonoses at Source – towards enhancing capacity for prevention, rapid detection, awareness, control, and research on zoonoses”, prepared by Prof. Serge Morand, Researcher of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and Prof Nitish Debnath, Country Team Lead for the Fleming Fund, Bangladesh program, and presented at the Conference by Prof Nitish Debnath, prompted discussions among participants, allowing the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific to elaborate recommendations in accordance with WOAHP General Rules. Final recommendations are available in Annex 2.

Rabies: Towards “Zero by 30”

36. Dr Rachel Tidman, Global Rabies Coordinator and Dr Monal Daptardar, Scientific Coordinator, both from WOAHP Science Department, Dr Kinzang Dukpa, WOAHP Regional Project Coordinator, and Dr Shrikrishna Isloor from Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, presented on rabies control in Asia and the Pacific, underlining that rabies is a global problem that requires intersectoral collaboration following the One Health approach. The main conclusion from the session were as follows:
 - Rabies elimination is a model for the operationalisation of the One Health concept;
 - Key development has been reported in the Region, including the revised ASEAN rabies elimination strategy and the establishment of the WHO Regional Technical Advisory Group for dog-mediated human Rabies in Southeast Asia Region. However, rabies remains a challenge in Asia Pacific Region;
 - Currently there are three WOAHP reference laboratories for rabies in India, China, and Republic of Korea. These laboratories are ready to transfer the knowledge and expertise needed to effectively implement NSP. Members should consider WOAHP Reference laboratories as key in providing ad hoc and tailored support in rabies control strategy. Members are encouraged to make clear requests to access to WOAHP Reference Laboratories expertise;
 - WOAHP encourages Members to nominate a 'National Rabies Point of Contact' with the main responsibility to advocate for a paradigm shift in rabies elimination policy, monitor the implementation of the national strategic plan for dog mediated rabies elimination, and support the regional coordination;
 - WOAHP can support Members with the development and implementation of national strategic plan for dog mediated rabies elimination in line with 'Zero by 30: the Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030';
 - Several tools and resources are available, through the United Against Rabies Forum. The UAR forum is producing and generating practical material and is ready to support Members. Delegates were encouraged to contact UAR coordinator to discuss on potential option of support from the international community as well as through the UAR tools;

- Rabies is a priority disease for WOAAH, whose mandate is to provide an enabling environment for rabies elimination through the international standards which includes notification, certification for the international movement of dogs, cats and ferrets originating from rabies free countries, dog population management and responsible dog ownership, recognition of free countries or zones, surveillance and endorsement of official control programme for dog-mediated rabies. However, for this support to be efficient, Delegates need to commit and integrate efforts to develop a One Health based National Strategic Plan in collaboration with the human health sector, and local authorities;
- Members are urged to collaborate with local governments, private sectors, civil society, and international organisation, using the One Health approach to advance toward the "Zero by 30" goal including reaching and sensitising policy makers to ensure rabies is included among the national priorities and financial resources for the veterinary sector are secured;
- WOAAH can also support Members in building capacity through Performance of Veterinary Services Pathway programme with rabies specific content and the National Bridging Workshop on Rabies organised in collaboration with WHO. These tools will empower the Veterinary Services via a systems approach in building capacity in the One Health space;
- Members are encouraged to access high-quality, low-cost dog vaccines through the WOAAH rabies vaccine bank. This can be a catalyst to start and scale up dog vaccination campaigns and improve dog vaccination.

News from the Pandemic Fund and the World Bank on financing pandemic prevention and preparedness

37. Dr Franck Berthe, Senior Health Specialist and One Health Lead from the World Bank, briefly explained to Delegates, the financing opportunities through the Pandemic and One Health Funds as well as World Bank support in general.
38. The following key points can be noted from his presentation:
 - The impact of health emergencies can be reduced if Members are able to detect outbreaks early and quickly mount an effective response. This requires a robust and resilient health system. A broader preparedness is also key, including effective surveillance and early warning systems, laboratory capacity, skilled workforce capable of detecting and managing health threats, scalable emergency care, access to medical countermeasures, and ready access to surge financing to support a response. In mounting a response, Members may also need support from regional and global institutions and partners;
 - There is underinvestment in preparedness and the financing gap at global level is big. The World Bank is committed to support investments in animal health and welfare, and strengthening Veterinary Services, as part of human and sustainable development;
 - Existing financing mechanisms can foster such investments (e.g., IDA policy commitment), while new mechanisms (e.g., the Pandemic Fund) have been established providing additional funding;
 - Members play a critical role, in a demand driven model of finance, to increase domestic resource mobilisation efforts and catalyse financing from multiple sources at the national and regional levels;
 - Strategic partnerships are key for Members to ensure working through existing institutions (MDBs, QPT), building on respective strengths and comparative advantages to fill financing gaps and expand capacity building.

Country Reports

39. Both India and Nepal presented reports highlighting their livestock scenario, challenges and global targets in disease control, the national initiatives on OH, and activities related to the pandemic fund initiative.
40. 350 Expressions of Interest and 180 full proposals were submitted by the Region for the 1st call). The Pandemic Fund's Governing Board approved 19 grants in 37 countries across 6 regions.

Revision of the Terrestrial Code: Process, September report highlights and key topics for Asia and the Pacific

41. Dr Kiyokazu Murai, Member of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and Deputy Director for Multilateral Affairs from the International Animal Health Affairs Office, Animal Health Division, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, presented in detail the ongoing work on the revision of standards and WOAHS standards setting process regarding terrestrial animals.
42. He provided details regarding the report of the September 2023 Code Commission meeting, including the texts proposed for comments and adoption, and highlighting those of particular interest for the Region. He emphasised the importance of receiving Members comments to this report by December 2023.
43. He concluded by stressing the need for more engagement and contributions from Members of Asia and the Pacific region in WOAHS standards setting process, through commenting on the proposed new or revised texts. Dr Murai briefly described the ongoing project “WOAHS Standards Online Navigation Tool” to be delivered in delivered by July 2024 aiming to improve transparency and understanding of the WOAHS process, the range of options leading to the Commission decisions.
44. The Delegates were encouraged to propose experts from the region for the various Ad hoc Groups and was informed that the mandate of the current members of the Specialists Commissions will end in May 2024 after the election of new members. Specialists Commissions members do not represent the region and their technical and scientific expertise and competencies are key, including geographical representation.

Livestock traceability in India

45. Ms. Varsha Joshi, Additional Secretary from the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying from the MoFAHD, Government of India presented on traceability in India.
46. She explained the main challenges faced by India such as the dispersed ownership with average holding of 2-3 bovines, limited access to widespread information and means for farmers to request for services etc. There is a huge need to strengthen disease reporting, among others. All these challenges lead to low livestock productivity.
47. She provided details regarding a national initiative on a digital livestock system and highlighted that it is one of the largest initiatives for tagging livestock animals spread over a wide geographical area.
48. The overall objectives of the National Digital Livestock Mission include, among others:
 - To empower farmers by providing them with technological tools allowing full use of Government facilities and schemes required for the relevant activities in the livestock sector;
 - Data integration to help create a breeding program for achieving the best quality germplasm that is appropriate for the various agroclimatic conditions in India;
 - Proposing a full traceability system for livestock products providing opportunities to label products and therefore increasing trade thereby, resulting in an increased income for the livestock farmers, and
 - Provide an integrated disease monitoring and control system that can prevent, predict, respond and treat major diseases that affect animals and therefore humans.

Updates of RAWS

49. Dr Kate Littin, Chair of Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Advisory Group, gave a brief history of the RAWS. She also highlighted the achievements and gave details on RAWS Membership and Action Plan for 2023-2026 as well as on the coming events.
50. The main points of conclusion from her presentation:
- It is key to ensure RAWS financial sustainability, and so far, Australia has been the major donor for all related activities.
 - Three initiatives are currently being prepared by WOAAH that should provide interesting inputs to, among others, help attract resource partners or donors support to Animal Welfare related activities:
 - An observatory survey to assess the constraints for implementing WOAAH standards in regard to Animal Welfare (AW).
 - An advocacy paper on Animal Welfare (AW) is being drafted and intends to address current global discussions concerning the transformation of livestock into a more sustainable practice, including a component on Animal Welfare (AW).
 - Work on long distance transport of animals which aims at addressing the main concerns expressed by Members on this aspect.

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2023

Technical Item II:

One Health approaches to addressing risk: Case studies and discussions focussed on AI with the objective of implementing effective/efficient surveillance and data sharing across sectors including wildlife and the environment

51. Technical Item II, entitled “One Health approaches to addressing risk: Case studies and discussions focussed on AI with the objective of implementing effective/efficient surveillance and data sharing across sectors including wildlife and the environment”, presented by Dr Erik Karlsson, Deputy Head of Virology Unit of the Institute Pasteur in Cambodia, prompted interesting discussions allowing the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific to elaborate recommendations in accordance with WOAAH General Rules. Areas of discussion included the use of environmental sampling to complement current surveillance activities for poultry and wild birds; HPAI vaccination in poultry; and the need for a coordinated wild and migratory bird surveillance in the region. Final recommendations are available in Annex 3.

Revision of the Aquatic Animal Health Code: Process, September report highlights and key topics for Asia and the Pacific

52. Dr Ingo Ernst, President of the Aquatic Code Commission, presented in detail the work of the Aquatic Commission and the development and revision of standards.
53. He underlined that WOAAH aquatic standards represent an agreed approach to improve aquatic animal health globally and provide a harmonised approach to manage the risks of disease spread associated with trade. He mentioned the contribution of activities of WOAAH Aquatic Animal Health Strategy to the Commission`s work plan.
54. Dr Ernst concluded by mentioning that standards must continue to evolve as the aquaculture industry evolves and new scientific information becomes available. Development of those standards takes time and, Members were encouraged to actively participate in the standard setting process and to also comment on the work of the Aquatic Commission and anticipate future needs.

Updates on Asia-Pacific Network on Aquatic Animal Health (AP AquaNet)

55. Dr Eduardo Leaño, Senior Programme Officer of NACA, provided details regarding Aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific highlighting its important contribution to the food production sector and the livelihood opportunities it provides in the Region ensuring food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation.
56. He then provided some updates regarding aquatic animal health activities under the AP AquaNet, a framework of actors responsible to strengthen laboratory capacity for aquatic animal disease activities in Asia and the Pacific.
57. Among the priority areas and on the future activities of the network, there are the implementation of the WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Strategy as well as working on AMU/AMR in Aquaculture.
58. The interregional collaboration and knowledge sharing with other regions was also highlighted as a priority of the network.

Assessing and improving the quality of disease notification to WOAHA: Asia-Pacific experience in supporting early threat warning

59. Dr Jacqueline Lusat, WOAHA Animal Health Information Officer and Dr Paolo Tizzani, WOAHA Data Integration Department and presented the talk on 'Assessing and improving quality of disease notifications to WOAHA from Asia-Pacific experience in supporting early threat warning', an early threat warning project under WOAHA 7th Strategic Plan, funded by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). The aim of the project is to promote transparency in disease reporting and sharing. The objective is to strengthen WOAHA's early warning systems in Asia and the Pacific through intelligence gathering, active search activity (rumour tracking), and information sharing.
60. To gather intelligence information, a gap analysis using data from WAHIS and Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) collected from 2005 to 2022 was conducted to provide a summary of gaps in the WOAHA epidemic intelligence activity in the region. In the gap analysis, three key issues identified – (1) Members reporting performance, (2) detection capacity of the EIOS system, and (3) transparency in Members toward the obligation for disease reporting in WAHIS. The gap analysis also highlighted the need for prompt actions for identified priority WOAHA Members and non-members in the region.
61. The presentation was concluded with recommended actions for WOAHA, Member countries/territories and the EIOS system. Expanding WOAHA rumour tracking activity from the headquarters to the region is one of the critical plans under the project. Rumour tracking conducted and managed by the regional team could be seen as a way to improve detection capacity of the EIOS system both for sensitivity and specificity, with the accessibility to local knowledge of the situation in the region covering local contacts, sources and languages. Rumour tracking activity in Asia and the Pacific region will soon be started. This is an ongoing project, hence further activities and outcomes will be shared when these become available.

Updates of Regional GF-TADs

62. Dr Baoxu Huang, President of Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs reminded the participants that the Regional GF-TADs Strategy for Asia and the Pacific was launched in 2023 and is in line with the current Global GF-TADs Strategy for 2021-2025 that was launched in 2021. This Regional Strategy is a guiding document for regional and sub-regional activities. Three Objectives, 11 expected Outputs, and 37 Actions were identified: to establish strategies for priority TADs, and coordination mechanisms, develop and strengthen capacities to prevent and control TADs, and improve the sustainability of priority TADs strategies. The Regional Strategy lists FMD, PPR, ASF and other swine diseases, AI, and LSD on the priority TADs.
63. The 12th Meeting of Regional GF-TADs Steering Committee was held in February 2023 in Tokyo, Japan.

64. Several activities were implemented under the GF-TADs umbrella, including three regional meetings/workshops, two meetings in South Asia, one meeting in the Pacific, one meeting in East Asia, and 9 meetings in Southeast Asia, with three sub-regional Strategies for ASF, FMD, and FMD developed for Southeast Asia. In 2023, the Regional GF-TADs meeting was organised, and all four sub-regions included a session to discuss GF-TADs-related activities at their sub-regional meetings. The meetings developed an operational two-year work plan for the Asia and the Pacific region and its sub-regions.
65. The current WOAHA-recognised official disease status in the Asia and the Pacific was summarised. No LSD-free status was self-declared globally and regionally. While 12% of the Members self-declared ASF free, none of them were from Asia and the Pacific region. The disease status declaration is encouraged to enhance transparency and prevention and control of TADs.
66. Challenges and opportunities for the implementation of GF-TADs in Asia and the Pacific were presented. The region needs to strengthen coordination and advance planning, secure resources to support related activities in need, and ensure flexibility to accommodate local-specific needs.

PVS Targeted Support: synergies for strengthening national Veterinary Services

67. This session, managed by Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity-Building Department at WOAHA, and Rahul Srivastava, Project manager at Capacity Building Department, aimed at engaging WOAHA Members with PVS Pathway Targeted Support Programmes. It allowed sharing successful experiences of Targeted Support carried at country level and focusing on strengths and opportunities offered by the five PVS Targeted Support Programmes.
68. Participants envisioned possible future developments, discussed sustainable approaches to better exploit the recommendations and outcomes of such programmes, and the ways to support future implementation. Participants envisioned possible future developments, discussed sustainable approaches to better exploit the recommendations and outcomes of such programmes, and the ways to support implementation.
69. Country experiences on One Health Integration, Veterinary Legislation, Sustainable Laboratories, Workforce Development, and PPP programmes were presented by the Delegates and representatives of Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka. WOAHA efforts to respond to Members' needs in building their capacities for efficient implementation of international standards were also highlighted.

Discussion of recommendations

70. Draft Recommendations 1 and 2 on the two Technical Items of the Conference were presented to participants and put forward for discussion. Both draft Recommendations were submitted for adoption at Thursday session with amendments as per participants' suggestions and discussions.
71. Following adoption by the Regional Commission, the Recommendations will be submitted for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates in May 2024. Once endorsed by the Assembly, they will serve as an important guideline for Members of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as for the Organisation as a whole.

THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2023

Special session on the new PVS Information System

72. The Performance of Veterinary Services Information System (PVSIS) was recently developed by the Capacity Building Department and was presented for the first time to the Delegates of the Region. The Delegates benefitted from a training on the PVSIS during this session, provided by Barbara Alessandrini, Head, WOAHA Capacity Building Department, accompanied by Oshin Dhand, external business analyst.

73. The PVSIS cultivates existing and future recommendations made in PVS Reports, to monitor progress and prioritise actions. The insights highlight where experienced and independent experts recommended investment can improve the performance of Veterinary Services. A further benefit is increased compliance with WOAHA international standards and improved animal health and welfare worldwide.
74. The central focus was learning how to retrieve information and develop analytical capabilities. Participants learned how to interpret and use meaningful insights from the hundreds of PVS Evaluation reports produced by the PVS Pathway and how to use them in different contexts and for different purposes. Through hands-on exercises, they gained proficiency in using the portal and understanding of the key features and functionalities. The training emphasised collaborative data sharing and communication, as well as opportunities for exploitation in the future. By encouraging knowledge exchange, the workshop fostered a culture of collective learning and data sharing across all stakeholders, from WOAHA Members to Partners.

Proposal of date and venue of the 34th Conference of the WOAHA Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific

75. The Chair of the Conference asked Delegates present if any of them wished to host the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 2025.
76. Indonesia expressed its wish to host the Conference.
77. Internal discussions will take place in the country to confirm this proposal which will be confirmed during the meeting of the Regional Commission in May 2024 and submitted for the formal endorsement of the World Assembly of Delegates.
78. Precise dates will then be decided in coordination with WOAHA Director General.

Conference conclusions and Adoption of Recommendations

79. Dr Monique Eloit explained the procedures for adopting the report and the recommendations of the Conference. The draft final report will be published on the Conference website (Recommendations and Final Report) and participants will have the opportunity to provide comments until a certain deadline, those comments will be then taken into account before closing the report. However, the recommendations had to be adopted during the current session and cannot be changed subsequently, only editing being accepted.
80. The two draft recommendations were unanimously adopted and will be published along with the final report.

Closing ceremony

81. Dr Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, welcomed all authorities to the closing ceremony and made a brief summary of the key outcomes and activities of the Conference.
82. The following authorities addressed the Conference during the closing ceremony:
 - Dr Monique Eloit, Director General, WOAHA,
 - Ms. Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary Animal Husbandry & Dairying and WOAHA Delegate India
 - Honourable Shri Parshottam Rupala, Cabinet Minister, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India,
83. Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Delegate of China pronounced a vote of thanks and declared the Conference officially closed at 1:30 p.m.



33rd Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific
New Delhi, India, 13 - 16 November 2023

FINAL PROGRAMME

MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2023

- 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Arrival of participants and distribution of material
- 11:00 a.m. Opening ceremony
- 12:00 p.m. Group Photo / Break
- 12:30 p.m. Approval of the Programme
Appointment of the Conference Committee
(Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and General Rapporteur)
Appointment of session chairpersons and rapporteurs
(Technical items and Animal Health Situation)
- 12:45 p.m. Posters Session opening
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Keynote: Improving animal health globally to ensure a better future for all
(Dr Monique Eloit, WOAHD Director General)
- 2:30 p.m. Discussion
- 3:00 p.m. Implementation of Regional Work Plan Framework
(Dr Hirofumi Kugita, WOAHD Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)
- 3:30 p.m. Discussion
- 4:00 p.m. Coffee break
- 4:30 p.m. Analysis of the Animal Health Situation in Members in the region during 2022/2023
(Dr Jenny Hutchison, Head of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis
Department, WOAHD) (virtual presentation)
- 5:30 p.m. **SIDE EVENT** (open to those interested participants): Partnerships to Strengthen
National Veterinary Services
- 6:30 p.m. Announcements / End of the session
- 7:30 p.m. Reception hosted by WOAHD

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2023

- 9:00 a.m. Technical item I (with questionnaire): Preventing Zoonoses at Source – towards enhancing capacity for prevention, rapid detection, awareness, control, and research on zoonoses (Prepared by Prof. Serge Morand, Researcher of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and Prof Nitish Debnath, DAI's Country Team Lead for the Fleming Fund, Bangladesh program. Presented by: Prof Nitish Debnath)
- 9:45 a.m. Discussion
- 10:15 a.m. Coffee break
Preparation of Recommendation No. 1 by designated small group
- 10:45 a.m. Rabies: Towards “Zero by 30” (Dr Shrikrishna Isloor, Associate Professor at Veterinary college, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Dr Kinzang Dukpa, Regional Project Coordinator, WOAHA Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (virtual presentation), WOAHA Science Department team (virtual presentation))
- 11:15 a.m. Discussion
- 11:45 a.m. News from the Pandemic Fund and the World Bank on financing pandemic prevention and preparedness (Dr Franck Berthe, Senior Health Specialist, One Health Lead, The Pandemic Fund, World Bank)
- 12:10 p.m. Country Reports
- India (Dr Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, MoFAHD, Government of India)
 - Nepal (Dr Umesh Dahal, Director General, Department of Livestock Services, Government of Nepal)
- 12:30 p.m. Discussion
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Revision of the Terrestrial Code: Process, September report highlights and key topics for Asia and the Pacific (Dr Kiyokazu Murai, Member of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and Deputy Director for Multilateral Affairs from the International Animal Health Affairs Office, Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan)
- 2:30 p.m. Discussion
- 3:00 p.m. Livestock traceability in India (Ms. Varsha Joshi, Additional Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, MoFAHD, Government of India)
- 3:25 p.m. Discussion
- 3:45 p.m. Coffee break
- 4:15 p.m. Updates of RAWs (Dr Kate Littin, Chair of RAWs Advisory Group) (virtual presentation)
- 4:40 p.m. Discussion
- 5:00 p.m. Announcements / End of the session

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2023

- 9:00 a.m. Technical Item II: One Health approaches to addressing risk: Case studies and discussions focussed on AI with the objective of implementing effective/efficient surveillance and data sharing across sectors including wildlife and the environment” (Dr Erik Karlsson, Deputy Head of Virology Unit, Institute Pasteur Cambodia)
- 9:45 a.m. Discussion
- 10:15 p.m. Coffee break
Preparation of Recommendation No. 2 by designated small group
- 10:45 a.m. Revision of the Aquatic Code: Process, September report highlights and key topics for Asia and the Pacific (Dr Ingo Ernst, President of the Aquatic Code Commission) (virtual presentation)
- 11:15 a.m. Discussion
- 11:45 a.m. Updates on Asia-Pacific Network on Aquatic Animal Health (AP AquaNet) (Dr Eduardo Leaña, Senior Programme Officer, NACA)
- 12:15 p.m. Discussion
- 12:45 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Assessing and improving the quality of disease notification to WOA: Asia-Pacific experience in supporting early threat warning (Dr Paolo Tizzani, Veterinary epidemiologist, WOA: Data Integration Department (virtual presentation), and Dr Jacqueline Lusat, Animal Health Information Officer, WOA: Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific)
- 2:30 p.m. Discussion
- 3:00 p.m. Updates on the Regional GF-TADs (Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee and Delegate of China)
- 3:25 p.m. Discussion
- 3:45 p.m. Coffee break
- 4:15 p.m. PVS Targeted Support: synergies for strengthening national Veterinary Services (Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of WOA: Capacity Building Department)
- 4:30 p.m. Panel Discussion
- 5:15 p.m. Discussion of recommendations
- 6:15 p.m. Announcements / End of the session
- 7:30 p.m. Reception hosted by India

THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2023

- 8:30 a.m. The PVS Information System: Objectives, access to, and use of PVS data
(Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of WOAHA Capacity Building Department)
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. The PVS Information System: Objectives, access to, and use of PVS data (cont.)
(Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of WOAHA Capacity Building Department)
- 12:00 p.m. Proposal of date and venue of the 34th Conference of the WOAHA Regional Commission
for Asia and the Pacific
- 12:10 p.m. Conference conclusions and Adoption of Recommendations
- 12:40 p.m. Closing Ceremony
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 2 :00 p.m. OPTIONAL : Cultural and/or technical visit (to be identified with the host country)

33rd Conference of WOA Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific

(New Delhi, India, 13-16 November 2023)

Recommendation No 1

Preventing Zoonoses at Source – towards enhancing capacity for prevention, rapid detection, awareness, control, and research on zoonoses

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. About 72% of the emerging infectious diseases that have an animal origin or reservoir have a wildlife origin and the Asia and the Pacific Region has witnessed emergence of several important zoonoses including SARS, high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses, Nipah virus, and incursion of rabies in previously free areas/islands, and that zoonoses continue to pose significant threats to humans and animals, including due to climate and habitat change;
2. Veterinary Services are a critical partner in ensuring global health, and WOA has developed international standards and guidelines as well as initiatives, strategies and tools, in collaboration with partners, to support Members in ensuring global animal health and the operationalisation of the One Health approach;
3. The 31st Conference of the Regional Commission for the Asia and the Pacific recommended Members to establish or sustain Multisectoral Coordination Mechanisms (MCMs), for zoonotic diseases issues, in consultation and agreement with relevant partners and stakeholders, and with identification of reliable functions, mechanisms, infrastructure and resources, under a clear governance;
4. The importance of reviewing the progress and challenges faced by Members' Veterinary Services in the Region on zoonotic diseases, the state-of-play for MCMs, research on vector-borne zoonoses, information sharing, and risk assessments since the two questionnaire surveys in 2019 that identified difficulties in terms of government support, availability of resources and technical capacity, hampering the creation of new MCMs in some Members;
5. The One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA), which was launched in October 2022, is a collaborative, participatory effort among FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA and supported by scientific advice from the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) to strengthen country-level collaboration, communication, capacity building, and coordination equally across all sectors responsible for addressing health concerns at the human-animal-environment interface;
6. The 2023 survey questionnaire identified that Members' MCM capacities appeared to be low regarding either the coordination mechanisms, response coordination to zoonotic diseases events or the engagement of the environment and wildlife sectors, and that solid MCMs and collaboration frameworks among the wildlife, environmental and veterinary sectors are key;
7. The epidemiological capacity, surveillance and laboratory systems are critical for early warning, event confirmation and rapid response, whereas effective biosecurity systems and an effective multisectoral workforce strategy and workforce training are essential for prevention and research on zoonoses; and
8. Various initiatives on OH at global and regional levels for long-term financing to strengthen critical pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response capabilities in low- and middle-income countries, including contributing to the reduction of pandemic risk by strengthening environmental aspects of OH.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Members recognise the importance of an One Health risk based approach in the prevention of zoonoses, future pandemics and other health threats at the animal-human-environment interface;
2. Members develop policy frameworks and strategies to support research, surveillance, laboratory capacities as well as to improve multisectoral coordination of the response to zoonoses;
3. Members equitably allocate sufficient and sustainable funding of the Veterinary Services as well as provide domestic and international resources across health sectors to support multisectoral One Health coordination activities;
4. Members strengthen multisectoral coordination and collaboration mechanisms in surveillance and laboratory diagnostic capacities by creating effective national monitoring networks under the OH approach, including with the environmental and wildlife sectors;
5. Members strengthen the leadership and high-level advocacy capacities of Veterinary Authorities on policy development towards policy and decision makers, key partners and stakeholders, to clearly define the role and impact of the animal health sector in OH systems, and share responsibilities to improve national multi-sectoral collaboration;
6. Members give strategic importance to capacity building to develop and maintain a competent and appropriately resourced Veterinary Services workforce in order to prevent zoonoses at source including by partnering with the Veterinary Education Establishments;
7. Members take advantage of several important global initiatives such as the Pandemic Fund, PREZODE, ZODIAC, among others to implement the OH Joint Plan of Action and to focus on prevention including biosecurity and biosafety measures;
8. Members implement WOAHA standards and recommendations regarding laboratory diagnostic specimen referral and transport to strengthen surveillance, disease intelligence and information sharing among Members for collective and coordinated preparedness and response at national, regional and global levels;
9. Members maintain transparency through timely and comprehensive reporting of animal health and zoonotic events to WOAHA as described in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*;
10. WOAHA continues to support Members through the PVS pathway and associated capacity building programmes to improve the performance of their VS and the workforce, in compliance with WOAHA standards, particularly in management and regulatory aspects as well as in terms of animal health surveillance systems, laboratory capacities, biosecurity, research and awareness regarding prevention of zoonoses; and
11. WOAHA works closely with its Quadripartite partners, as well as with resource partners to support Members in building the capacity of their Veterinary Services to effectively manage the risk of zoonoses and continue to advocate at the highest-level for a strong collaboration between Veterinary, Public Health, Environmental Health Services and biodiversity as well as, other relevant authorities.

33rd Conference of WOA Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific

(New Delhi, India, 13-16 November 2023)

Recommendation No 2

One Health Approaches to Addressing Risk: Optimising Avian Influenza Preparedness and Response Through Enhanced Multi-Sector Collaboration in Asia and the Pacific

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Avian influenza viruses pose ongoing threats to animal health, public health, wildlife populations, and regional economies and livelihoods in Asia and the Pacific due to their ability to persist, evolve, reassort and transmit between diverse hosts;
2. Current unprecedented spread of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) H5Nx clades in wild birds, poultry, and mammals across the globe, including the Asia and the Pacific, heightens concerns over the mounting impact and pandemic risk of avian influenza viruses;
3. Gaps in biosafety and biosecurity in poultry farming and sales practices along value chains have enabled amplification and spread of avian influenza viruses, causing recurring large-scale outbreaks and heavy losses in poultry production;
4. Optimising mitigation measures requires breaking down sectoral barriers for surveillance, data sharing, risk analysis, messaging and outbreak response through expanded One Health (OH) collaboration as well as the timely notification of disease events;
5. While OH initiatives exist at regional and sub-regional levels in Asia and the Pacific, gaps remain in systematic data integration, coordinated risk assessment, joint outbreak investigation and harmonization of disease control strategies among animal health, human health, and environmental sectors;
6. Comprehensive OH collaboration promises to strengthen regional preparedness, curb unprecedented threats, and mitigate the mounting impact of avian influenza on public health, trade and livelihoods; and
7. Mainstreaming OH requires high-level commitment, adequate resourcing, coordination mechanisms, technical capacity building and monitoring frameworks for multisectoral initiatives.

THE WOAHP REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Members urgently establish or strengthen OH collaboration frameworks, including under the GF-TADs umbrella, policies, coordination mechanisms and resourcing to optimise avian influenza prevention, preparedness and response;
2. Members conduct regular joint risk analysis, simulations, outbreak investigations, monitoring and assessments, involving public and private sector representatives from animal health, human health and environment sectors;
3. Members maintain transparency through timely and comprehensive reporting of animal health events to WOAHP as described in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*;
4. Members build timely genetic sequencing capacity and foster systematic and timely sharing of data from existing data sources among sectors and with the global community for integrated surveillance, , including the sharing of field epidemiology data, genetic sequences and isolates;
5. Members strengthen surveillance by integrating novel and innovative surveillance tools such as environmental sampling at the human-animal-environmental interface coupled with rapid action and response strategies that increase speed and comprehensiveness of detection and prevention while reducing costs and maintaining sustainability;
6. WOAHP considers developing standards or guidelines on the use of novel and innovative surveillance tools such as environmental sampling to complement existing surveillance approaches, notably in a One Health approach;
7. Members coordinate public awareness and risk communication messaging in collaboration with other relevant sectors for behaviour change and biosafety/biosecurity compliance;
8. Members establish or strengthen collaboration mechanisms with human health and environment sectors, both nationally and regionally, to harmonise avian influenza prevention, detection, control and recovery strategies, including through public private partnerships;
9. WOAHP supports Members in leveraging the PVS Pathway as well as other tools and expertise to enhance OH policy, coordination, technical capacity and resource mobilisation;
10. WOAHP fosters high-level advocacy for political commitment, equitable resourcing of the animal health sector, and accountability towards OH collaboration goals in Asia and the Pacific;
11. WOAHP works closely with its partners, continue to promote OH initiatives and resource networks to empower optimised sharing of experiences and best practices, and strengthen regional prevention, preparedness, and response; and
12. WOAHP actively engages partners, regional organisations and Members in support of coordinated regional approaches and the implementation of Resolution no. 28 on the “Strategic challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza” adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates during its 90th General Session.