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The 8th Asia-Pacific Workshop

on Multi-sectoral Collaboration at the Animal-Human-Ecosystems Interface

9-11 April 2019

Bangkok, Thailand

Conclusions and Recommendations

The 8th Asia Pacific workshop on multi-sectoral collaboration at the animal-human-ecosystems interface was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 9 to 11 April 2019 and was co-organized by the FAO-OIE-WHO Regional Tripartite, and hosted by FAO. A total of 142 participants attended this workshop including representatives from national governments of 28 countries in the Asia Pacific region, regional organizations, academic institutions, experts and development partners working on human health, animal health and wildlife issues.

Participants shared their experiences with the implementation of multi-sectoral collaboration taking a One Health approach in managing infectious diseases and other threats such as AMR at the country and regional levels. It was observed that much progress has been made by countries in establishing and operationalizing multi-sectoral collaboration for One Health since the first meeting held in 2010.

Various tools and frameworks were presented that aim at enhancing multi-sectoral collaboration, and countries shared their experiences with the application of these tools as well as identified their interest and needs for future application of these tools.

Nevertheless, a number of constraints for multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration still prevail in countries and generally relate to lack of high-level commitment, human and financial resources and absence of a (legal) framework, structure or collaboration mechanism with clear roles and responsibilities.

Competing priorities and the lack of awareness hamper the operationalization of One Health leading to poor information sharing especially related to epidemiological data and joint risk assessment or coordinated disease prevention and control activities.

Communication of risks needs to be transparent and reliable. Language and format of communication needs to be adapted to suit the requirements of specific target groups. The use of new media such as web-based information systems and social media, as well as establishing linkages with the press need to be further explored for the timely and accurate delivery of health-related messages.

As most zoonotic diseases are of transboundary nature due to the movement of humans, animals (including wildlife) and animal products across regions, the need for cross-border collaboration for One Health was recognized.

The proportion of female participants at this workshop was 48% which was higher than in the previous workshops. There was a good balance of human and animal health sectors represented. Participants greatly appreciated this workshop as a multi-sectoral platform to review and update on progress made in operationalization of One Health. The majority of participants expressed their satisfaction with the organizational and technical contents of this workshop.

Member countries are encouraged to.....

1. continue to seek **high level political commitment** for One Health.
2. assess, improve, and further **institutionalize** national and sub-national mechanisms for multi-sectoral coordination of One Health Initiatives.
3. **identify and prioritize** One Health needs, to use as the basis for developing, maintaining, synergizing and advancing multi-sectoral collaboration.
4. develop **road maps with resourced workplans** for prioritized issues, containing clear roles and responsibilities.
5. adapt and apply relevant **tools and frameworks**, such as APSED III, IHR/PVS National Bridging Workshop, JEE, TZG, JRA, SARE, OH-SMART, OH-APP, OHZDP, etc., based on national One Health priority needs.
6. following the principles of **good emergency practices**, prepare during “peace time” coordination mechanisms for emergencies and ensure sustainability of multi-sectoral collaboration beyond emergencies and/or availability of external funding sources.
7. strengthen **collaboration with wildlife and environment sectors**, and raise One Health awareness and enhance understanding/engagement of other stakeholders (including social sciences and sectors such as disasters management, customs and border security, education, food regulatory, academia, etc.).
8. continue to **document and share experiences** on best practices, lessons learnt, successes and failures of multisectoral collaboration mechanisms.
9. develop **clear communication strategies** for better community engagement (especially school children, women and migrant populations and internally displaced people) and tailor messages and channels accordingly (such as web-based information systems and social media as well as establish linkage with the press).
10. engage Ministries of Finance and Planning agencies **to allocate sufficient national budgets** for One Health coordination and activities.
11. leverage **regional platforms** such as ASEAN, SAARC and SPC to develop regional approaches for prevention, control and elimination of prioritized zoonoses and other issues such as AMR including **cross-border collaboration** and information exchange.
12. **consider evolving issues** such as urbanization, encroachment into forest areas in view of increasing wildlife-human conflict and emerging disease risks by involving relevant sectors.

The Tripartite shall.....

1. **support Member Countries** in the implementation of above recommendations
2. continue to **advocate for high level commitment** for One Health within their organizations and with Member Countries.
3. develop **advocacy** materials/policy briefs that Member Countries can adapt to their country needs to engage policy makers.
4. especially consider **Pacific countries** and territories for implementation of One Health and tools.



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5. strengthen **engagement with wildlife and the environment** sectors, and explore collaboration with organizations such as UNEP, International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, UNDP, UNOPS.
6. organise a **Tripartite Award** for “**One Health Champion**” countries (mechanisms and criteria to be developed and disseminated).
7. organize the 9th Asia Pacific workshop on multi-sectoral collaboration at the animal-human-ecosystems interface in 2021, to be hosted by OIE SRR SEA.