

  
**RAWS-News**  
**Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter**  
June 2014

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## Note from the Chair

The Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania discussed RAWS developments at its Meeting in Paris on the 26th May 2014. Matters considered included progress with recommendations made at two RAWS CG Meetings held in August 2013 (Seoul) and March 2014 (Bangkok), as well as the Regional Commission Meeting in Cebu in October, 2013. There have been a number of key developments including the construction of a RAWS website, the publication of an agreed RAWS Edition 2 with translations in Thai, Bahasa, Tagalog, Malay and Chinese and so on. Evidence indicates, at least in advice provided by some countries in the Region, that welfare improvements are being made in areas such as legislation, strategic planning and training.



The RAWS is now a 'mature' activity and as the first such OIE Regional Strategy is being used as a model by other Regions to develop similar approaches. After a number of years, funding from the Australian Department of Agriculture to support the RAWS will cease as of the 30th June, 2015. Secretarial support will no longer be provided by Australia. In considering these matters, the Regional Commission agreed that the OIE Regional Representation in Tokyo provide the Secretariat, and that future management arrangements for the RAWS be considered at the RAWS CG Meeting in Canberra, November 2014 with recommendations be put to it for decision. I would like to express my appreciation to the Department of Agriculture for its strong funding support over many years which allowed the innovative RAWS initiative to proceed and support animal welfare both regionally and globally. Those who have worked in the Australian Secretariat have done a great job and approached their work with commendable enthusiasm. Normally I wouldn't mention names when thanking a group of people, but I think it would be remiss of me not to mention and thank Jim Paradise who has been with us since the start and who has been critical to the success of the RAWS.

### Gardner Murray

Chairman  
RAWS Coordination Group

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## Introduction

The RAWS-News June 2014 edition focuses on updating members about country animal welfare activities and initiatives as well as progress of the RAWS. The Secretariat encourages RAWS participants to contribute to future editions of RAWS newsletter.

As mentioned in the Chair's opening remarks the Australian Government has handed over the Secretariat role to the OIE Regional Representation in Tokyo. Contact details for the new secretariat can be found at the end of this newsletter.

For your contribution to future editions of RAWS newsletter, please provide your input to Dr Tomoko Ishibashi via email at [rr.asiapacific@oie.int](mailto:rr.asiapacific@oie.int).

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## Outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> RAWS Coordination Group meeting in Bangkok, Thailand

The seventh meeting of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy – Asia, the Far East and Oceania Coordination Group (RAWS CG) was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 24 March 2014. At the meeting, RAWS CG members discussed and made recommendations relating to country/organisation progress and regulatory developments, the publication of RAWS (edition 2), revisions to the RAWS Action Plan, the outcomes from the Regional Commission meeting in November 2013, the status of existing projects and scope for new projects, and the interaction between the RAWS CG and national focal points for animal welfare.

Photo: Participants at the 7<sup>th</sup> RAWS CG meeting



  
**RAWS-News**  
**Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter**  
June 2014

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### Update on the RAWS Action Plan

The RAWS Action Plan continues to be a useful tool, bringing together the activities and outcomes from meetings with the previous RAWS Implementation Plan. The activities are linked to the four RAWS goals and objectives to ensure that the strategy is progressing in line with the regional vision. Regional member countries are encouraged to download a copy of the RAWS Action Plan from the RAWS website at <http://www.rr-asia.oie.int/activities/regional-programme/regional-animal-welfare-strategy/>.

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### Highlights from the Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis

#### ‘Animal Welfare: Focusing on the Future’ SATRS Special Issue

The OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis suggested and led the review and editing for this follow up to the earlier animal welfare special issue of the OIE’s Scientific and Technical Review Series. The special issue has 34 articles in several sections:

- Drivers for global animal welfare policies
- Scientific understanding of animal welfare and support for minimum standards
- Attitudes and skills of stockpersons as key determinants of welfare and productivity
- Intensification of livestock production
- Environmental ‘fit’, selection and animal welfare
- Technological management of animal welfare
- The welfare of working animals, companion animals, farmed fish and laboratory animals
- The disposal and management of pest and diseased animals
- Summing up and looking to the future.

See [http://web.oie.int/boutique/index.php?page=ficprod&id\\_produit=1307&fichrech=1&lang=en](http://web.oie.int/boutique/index.php?page=ficprod&id_produit=1307&fichrech=1&lang=en) to order copies.

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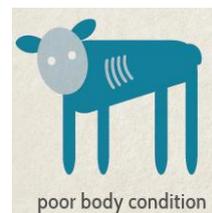
### Country Highlights

#### Improving animal welfare during transport in New Zealand

The Ministry for Primary Industries, with support Beef+Lamb NZ, the Meat Industry Association, Federated Farmers, DairyNZ, the Road Transport Forum, NZPork, the NZ Veterinary Association, and Deer Industry NZ, has developed simple-to-understand Fitness for Transport [posters](#) and [brochures](#) to support the code of welfare for transport. Simple pictures are used to highlight conditions that will make an animal unfit to be transported, and are designed to help discussion between members of the supply chain about the suitability of an animal for transport:

- Truck drivers can use this information to speak with farmers when an unfit animal is presented for transport.
- Transport companies can use these as a training tool for their drivers.
- Farmers and stock agents can use these as a guide when assessing whether animals are fit for transport.

We are holding meetings around the country to tell people about the posters and remind them about their legal responsibilities for transporting animals.



#### New rules for live cattle export from New Zealand

The Ministry for Primary Industries has issued new *Guidance Material for the Transport of Cattle by Sea*, which replaces the *MAF Standard for the Transport of Cattle by Sea from New Zealand*. It was jointly developed between the Ministry for Primary Industries and representatives from the cattle export industry.

The Guidance Material has several key enhancements to the previous MAF Standard, which include:

  
**RAWS-News**  
**Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter**  
J u n e 2 0 1 4

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- A complete description of the export process, with a clear explanation of the roles of all parties involved including the exporter, Ministry for Primary Industry, verifiers and the Maritime New Zealand,
- Improved requirements for shipboard nutrition, and
- A clearer explanation of verification/audit requirements during pre-export preparation.

See <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/exports/animals> for information.

### Update on animal welfare initiatives in Thailand

The EU has provided the technical assistance on animal welfare research development in order that Thailand can establish the poultry welfare standards that are appropriate to the environment and climate of Thailand and can also be applied for practice in other ASEAN countries. The first sustained training mission was conducted by *Prof. Mohan Raj*, International Farm Animal Welfare Expert, in Thailand during 31 March to 4 April 2014 to guide the research development addressing two main welfare concerns: (1) The effect of spraying water on the birds before transport on animal welfare (thermal stress) and meat quality; (2) The electrical stunning – how to improve the poultry welfare and the meat quality. Meanwhile, the research is in progress.

The OIE Improved Animal Welfare Programme (IAWP) Training funded by the Australian Department of Agriculture was successfully organised in Thailand for 9 Thai participants and one Bangladeshi participant. The programme focused on the training of trainers on cattle welfare during transport and slaughter. The OIE trainer was *Dr. Ma. Elaine Joy Villareal*. The training was conducted into 3 sessions. The 1<sup>st</sup> session on the theoretical and practical training on cattle welfare during transport and slaughter was carried out from 29 April to 2 May 2014, the 2<sup>nd</sup> session on how to develop the training modules was carried out from 12 to 16 June 2014 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> session was the stakeholders workshop on cattle welfare during transport and slaughter delivered by the new in-country trainers carried out from 19-20 June 2014.



### World Animal Protection (formerly WSPA)

On June 10th WSPA changed its name to 'World Animal Protection' to more thoroughly reflect the nature of the organisation and our work. World Animal Protection is continuing to work with governments in the region to promote humane rabies control through mass vaccination as an alternative to mass culling of dogs. New dog vaccination projects have been launched on the Indonesian islands of Flores/Lembata and Nias, with the support of World Animal Protection, the United Nations FAO and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC). In the Philippines, a second round of dog vaccinations and a workshop on responsible pet ownership have been carried out in Cainta municipality, Metro-Manila, under our project with GARC.

At a regional level, we participated in the recent workshop on Relevant International Standards for Dog Rabies hosted by the OIE in Vietnam, and are providing input and financial support to the development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Rabies Elimination Strategy. Vietnam is the nominated lead country for ASEAN's rabies elimination efforts and we are co-funding a pilot dog vaccination project at two sites to assist Vietnam in carrying out that role.

World Animal Protection has also been asking veterinary schools to complete a short survey on their current approach to teaching their students animal welfare. It includes recognizing schools where all members of staff – including lecturers, animal handlers, postgraduate students and administrative staff – demonstrate competency in animal welfare, as identified in the OIE Day 1 Competencies; having an effective animal ethics committee; recognizing schools where all animals used for training and research are treated humanely; recognizing schools where the principles of animal welfare are taught to all

  
**RAWS-News**  
**Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter**  
June 2014

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students as evident throughout the curriculum, and several other areas where animal welfare is recognized. The survey may be completed at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QCMN7RX>

At the OIE General Session in Paris in May World Animal Protection hosted a reception where CEO Mike Baker outlined the concepts and methodology of a new initiative soon to be launched. The 'Animal Protection Index' (API) is an innovative tool that assesses policy and legislation on animal welfare in 50 countries from six continents – 13 of which are in the AFEO Region. We see the API as an important instrument to improve the welfare of animals globally through policy and attitudinal change. At a country level, it will provide the foundation for future initiatives to help develop and actively enforce animal welfare legislation and drive awareness to protect animals. API reports shall soon be sent to OIE Country Delegates for a consultative period. For further information please contact Dr Ian Dacre ([iandacre@worldanimalprotection.org](mailto:iandacre@worldanimalprotection.org)).

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### Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Location
RAWS CG meeting	11 November 2014	Canberra (Australia)
An enriched National Animal Welfare Focal Point and RAWS CG meeting	12-14 November 2014	Canberra (Australia)

### Newsletter Contacts

RAWS Secretariat

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