



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



**8th FAO/OIE Regional Steering Committee Meeting
of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific**

Summary Report

Bangkok, Thailand, 16-17 July 2014

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8th FAO/OIE Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific

1. Introduction

As indicated in the programme attached, the two day meeting was organized with an opening session, 5 technical sessions and the closing session.

There were 60 participants in total, including representatives from OIE, FAO, WHO, Regional Organisations, namely ASEAN, SAARC, SPC, SEACFMD and APHCA, Donors (Australia, EU, NIAH, USDA-APHIS, USAID, IFAH, JICA), as well as some countries in the Region as observers (list of participants attached). Invited speakers included Dr Joseph Domenech, Advisor of OIE HQ, for PPR and Dr Daniel Beltran-Alcrudo, Animal Health Officer of OIE HQ, for ASF.

2. Opening Session

The opening session started with an introduction by Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific and Permanent Secretariat of RSC, followed by welcoming remarks by Dr Wimolporn Thitasak, Deputy Director General of Department of Livestock Development, Thailand, as host country, then remarks by Dr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Dr Brian Evans, Deputy Director General of OIE and Dr Gyanendra Gongal, Scientist of WHO SEARO. The opening address was delivered by Dr Zhongqiu Zhang, CVO of China, President of OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Chair of the RSC. Dr Kugita proposed Dr Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager of FAO-RAP and Dr Gardner Murray, OIE SRR-SEA, as co-chairpersons.

3. Session 1: Progress of GF-TADs at Global, Regional and Sub-regional Levels

In session 1, progress of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) at global, and regional and sub-regional levels were reported and discussed. The Global Steering Committee (GSC) Secretariat reported on GF-TADS global activities and outcomes of the Regional Steering Committee Meeting during the last year, July 2013-June 2014. Three events were labelled as GF-TADs activities. Key recommendations from the GSC, the Management Committee (MC) and RSCs (Europe, Middle East and Africa) on each priority disease were presented, as well as some cross-cutting issues.

The Permanent Secretariat of the RSC for Asia and the Pacific went over some of the key recommendations to come out of the 7th RSC meeting of GF-TADs which were to:

- Employ GF-TADs as a coordination mechanism
- Ensure the synergy of coordinated efforts
- Engage ASEAN, SAARC and SPC to implement activities under the GF-TADs umbrella, as well as strengthen the partnership with WHO as an important collaborating member of GF-TADs

- Strengthen the coordination and contributions towards the implementation of FMD control and eradication.

He then reported on the progress of GF-TADs at the regional level since the last RSC meeting of GF-TADs, including GF-TADs structure and governance, animal disease situation particularly concerning the priority diseases of the region which are Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Rabies, PPR, Avian Influenza and Classical Swine Fever (CSF). He also discussed horizontal issues of veterinary services and advocacy, follow-up of recommendations, and future process.

Achievement and key issues at the sub-regional level were presented and discussed by representatives from ASEAN, SAARC and SPC.

Dr Him Hoo Yap spoke on behalf of ASEAN. He stated key initiatives and on-going developments in ASEAN are the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ), ASEAN Good Animal Husbandry Practices (ASEAN GAHP), ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (FAF) towards 2020. ASEAN has been actively collaborating with EU-HPED and STANDZ programme as well as with international organisations such as OIE and FAO. There is ongoing work on priority diseases of FMD, Avian Influenza and Rabies. There has also been preliminary work on control and eradication of CSF.

Dr Vijay Kant Jha spoke for SAARC and reported on activities to control priority TADS. FMD is present in all countries in the region with Nepal and India having launched control programs and Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka having vaccination programs. PPR is endemic in much of the region and work is being done on vaccination production in the region. FAO estimates show there is significant impact from PPR in the region. HPAI outbreaks have been recorded in many countries in the region. Disease control by stamping out of the affected population is practiced in most countries with vaccination being practiced in some countries. Other diseases and activities to address horizontal issues were discussed briefly as well as other relevant activities and collaboration with other organisations.

Dr Ken Cokanasiga spoke on SPC activities. SPC activities are mainly focused on the prevention of TADs and Emerging Infectious Diseases. Horizontal issues such as Biosecurity training and building and training veterinary services to recognise exotic diseases and prevent entry of diseases are a major focus. There is a lack of qualified veterinarians in the sub-region, which is a concern. SPC has also been working with US military on response plans for natural disasters. SPC has developed protocols for response to disease outbreaks such as HPAI. SPC is also aware of emerging trends due to threats from climate change, increasing demands for livestock, and visiting vessels. SEACFMD sub-commission gave a brief report on their activities and growth. Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) gave a progress report on their activities and coordination with other organisations within the region.

4. Session 2: Perspective/On-going and New Activities on TADs Control by other partners

Session 2, Perspectives of the on-going and new activities for TADs Control by other partners, began with a summary report of GF-TADs activities in each sub-region during 2013-2014. Activities were classified by region/sub-region and as vertical or horizontal.

Issues particularly relevant to the Asia Pacific region were:

Horizontal Issues

Veterinary services

- Information management
- Emergency Preparedness
- Epidemiology capacity / networking
- Laboratory capacity / networking

Advocacy

- Disease Control
- Socio-economic issues

Vertical Issues

- FMD
- HPAI – H7N9
- CSF (plus ASF and other swine diseases)
- PPR
- Rabies

Following the summary report there was a discussion in small groups to identify 3 important implementation issues. Common key issues identified by the groups were resource limitations, particularly at the field level and coordination.

5. Session 3: The 5-year Action Plan of Regional GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific

Session 3 discussed the 5-year Action Plan of Regional GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific. Recommendations from relevant meetings were reviewed and issues arising from the last GF-TADs were discussed. The Meeting recommended that the issues of labelling and disease prioritisation should be further discussed and clarified between the Regional Secretariat and the Global Secretariat.

6. Session 4: Emerging Animal Disease Trends

Session 4 was dedicated to emerging animal disease trends in the Region. PPR, ASF and Avian Influenza H7N9 were selected topics, where invited speakers presented updated information. Dr Joseph Domenech spoke about the current situation with PPR and planned control activities. There is a draft for a global control strategy under way which will be similar to the global FMD strategy. There will be a workshop in Rome in October 2014. Outbreaks of PPR have been occurring in Africa and much of the work is focused in Africa currently from both FAO and OIE. However there have also been outbreaks in China and PPR is endemic in several SAARC

countries so workshops are planned for Asia. There is a need for work on vaccine quality as well as vaccination programs.

Dr Daniel Beltran-Alcrudo then spoke on ASF. He said African Swine Fever has been spreading across the globe and is spreading through Eastern Europe, with wild pigs a natural reservoir and swill feeding and backyard pig population major risk factors for spread. There is no vaccine so prevention and biosecurity are vital.

Dr Subhash Morzaria then gave an update on the current situation with Avian Influenza H7N9 since the major outbreak began in Asia in March 2013. He spoke of the risk factors with live bird markets and then discussed the importance of collaboration between human and poultry surveillance as well as between at risk countries and across borders.

FAO advised their strategic direction has been restructured and PPR is now a focus and activities targeting PPR will be a major component for FAO in the region.

Donors (Australian DFAT and AAHL, USDA-APHIS, IFAH and JICA) had the opportunity to state their perspectives concerning on-going and new activities.

7. Session 5: Wrap up and Conclusions

Session 5 was for presentation of the draft recommendations from the 5th meeting of the HPED Steering Committee held just prior to this meeting and also the wrap up and conclusions from RSC meeting of GF-TADS.

The final recommendations from the 5th HPED meeting were presented for endorsement by Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh, Regional Project Coordinator of FAO-RAP as Appendix I.

The draft recommendations of the 8th GF-TADs Meeting were presented for comments and consensus amendments. After incorporation of the proposed revisions, the final recommendations are as Appendix II.

8. Closing Session

The closing remarks were delivered by Dr Morzaria on behalf of FAO, Dr Evans on behalf of OIE, Dr Gongal on behalf of WHO, and then delivered by Dr Zhang.

The 8th FAO/OIE Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific completed successfully and achieved its objectives. The conclusion and recommendations of this meeting provide a reference and guidance for GF-TADs activities in the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting participants endorsed the recommendation of the Regional Steering Committee to organise the Regional GF-TADs meeting for Asia-Pacific every two years from now on.