

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

Bangkok, Thailand, 18-19 July 2007

Recommendation

Support to Regional Animal Health Activities under the GF-TADs Mechanism

CONSIDERING THAT

Some recommendations were adopted during the first Regional Steering Committee Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan in March 2005,

In the meantime, the importance of the GF-TADS mechanism has been recognised in both sub-regions namely; South East Asia represented by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Asia represented by the Secretariat for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) herein referred to as Regional Specialised Organisations (RSOs) ,

This second meeting was also attended by the Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC) providing a unique opportunity for the three organisations to discuss matters relating to harmonisation of animal health policies and GF-TADs activities in the region,

The three organisations agree that prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) including zoonoses need to be further strengthened,

The RSU should bring together a critical mass of multidisciplinary teams of experts who can serve the needs of member countries,

There is a need to identify leading laboratories with relevant expertise in specific TADs which could subsequently become OIE Reference Laboratories and/or FAO Reference Centres if needed,

It is important to guarantee the coordinated action and sustainability of regional and international mechanisms ,

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The SPC be recognised as an RSO within the framework of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific.
2. Only one Regional Support Unit (RSU) and one Epidemiological Network/Centre dealing with all priority diseases be established for each sub-region.

3. Each Epidemiological Network/Regional Leading Centre may, as far as possible, be attached to the RSU which will be responsible for the coordination of its activities.
4. RSUs organise their meetings in close collaboration with OIE, FAO, Regional organisations and neighbouring countries.
5. RSUs develop their short, medium and long term strategies for the prevention and control of TADs in accordance with OIE and FAO guidelines and with their support as required.
6. RSOs are encouraged to consider the possibility of involving the participation of neighbouring countries in their activities. In this respect, ASEAN shall enlist the participation of at least Japan, Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China and thus be known for the purpose of TAD prevention and control, as ASEAN+3. Similarly, SPC shall enlist the participation of Australia and New Zealand and be known as SPC+2.
7. RSUs identify and update their own list of priority TADs. With respect to SPC, the following are currently considered priority diseases: highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) , classical swine fever (CSF) and foot and mouth disease (FMD).
8. The RSU for the SPC region be hosted in the SPC's animal health and production office located in Suva, Fiji.
9. SPC animal health policies in animal and veterinary public health reflect OIE standards.
10. As noted in the recommendation by ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock on the interim location of the RSU in the ASEAN Secretariat, and as considerable experience in regional cooperation and technical expertise in animal health activities have been acquired by Thailand, which has also invested significantly in these fields, the RSU for ASEAN be located in Bangkok, Thailand.
11. The leading laboratories for the ASEAN region for FMD, CSF and HPAI be located respectively in Pak Chong, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia. All efforts will be made to provide support to these laboratories in order to allow them to meet high international technical standards if needed.
12. The leading laboratories for the SAARC region for FMD, HPAI and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) be located respectively in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh while it is confirmed that the RSU will be located in Kathmandu, Nepal.
13. The SPC+2 prepare proposals for leading laboratories within the sub-region for consideration by the third Steering Committee meeting.
14. Donors be requested to provide resources to assist in the sustainable implementation of the Steering Committee mechanisms.
15. The support to the regional and international GF-TADs mechanisms be made sustainable through financial support coming partly from the resources provided under national programmes.
16. More potential donors be invited to Regional Steering Committee Meetings and certain donors (World Bank, European Commission...) be represented by officials from their headquarters.
17. RSUs be encouraged to work in conjunction with OIE and FAO to present their TAD related short and medium term work priorities to relevant international meetings of donors.