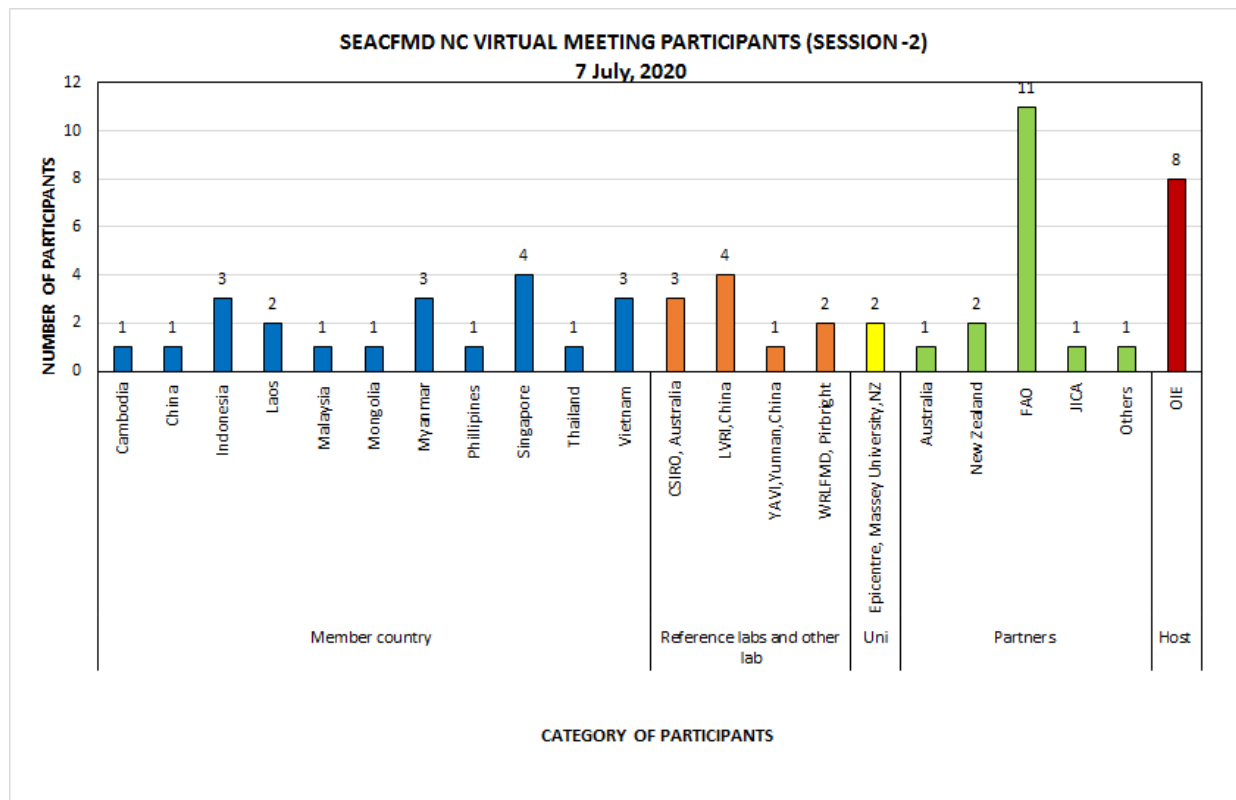


SEACFMD National Coordinators (NC) 2nd session virtual meeting

7 July 2020, 14.00-15.45 Bangkok time (GMT+7)

MEETING SUMMARY

- 1) The 2nd session of the SEACFMD NC virtual meeting conducted on 7 July 2020 was attended by 57 participants from:
- 8 member countries in SEA (see graph below), China and Mongolia.
 - 3 OIE Reference Laboratories:
 - i. Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute (LVRI), China,
 - ii. RRL for FMD, Pakchong, Thailand,
 - iii. the Pirbright Institute, United Kingdom,
 - as well as the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) Laboratory,
 - CSIRO,
 - FAO,
 - Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA),
 - Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australia,
 - Ministry of Primary Industries, New Zealand,
 - Massey University, New Zealand,
 - and OIE staff.



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- 2) Dr Ronel Abila, the OIE Sub-Regional Representative gave the opening remarks, welcomed, and thanked all the participants for the attending and participating in the 2nd session of the SEACFMD NC virtual meeting.
- 3) Updates from the Pirbright Institute on FMD status in the region indicated that FMD viral sequences results confirmed that the spread of FMD has mostly been through trade and animal movements and that four FMD virus lineages present in South East Asia have spread to East Asia: O/ME-SA/PanAsia, O/SEA/Mya-98, O/CATHAY and A/ASIA/Sea-97.
FMD serotype Asia 1 was last detected in 2017 in Myanmar, near the border with Bangladesh, and a possible 10-year cycle was pointed out. For serotype A, the cycle would be of 5 years.

For 2020 (up to July 2020), only O/SEA/Mya-98 from China has been officially reported.

- 4) The two OIE Reference Laboratories for FMD (the Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute (LVRI), China and RRL for FMD, Pakchong, Thailand) presented their activities. FMD serotype O was still the dominant FMD serotype reported by both laboratories, followed by serotype A which both serotypes detected in 2019. Starting January up to June 2020, only serotype O had been reported. LVRI reported that serotype A reported cases have been decreasing and that no new strains have been reported but considered that the risk of new strain introduction remains high due animal movements.
- 5) The activities of the Regional Expert Group (REG) supported by the FAO and OIE were presented, in particular the establishment of standard protocol and laboratory algorithm for molecular diagnosis on FMD. Arrangements for the pilot testing of molecular diagnosis for FMD using protocols and primer and probes from LVRI, China and APAQ, South Korea were being finalized and shipment of these laboratory materials would be organised once international flights resume.
- 6) Researchers from the Ministry of Primary Industries of New Zealand (MPI) presented an alternative sampling strategy conducted in slaughterhouse s in collaboration with Lao PDR Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Myanmar Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and the OIE. This approach allows less invasive FMD surveillance and diagnosis. The main objective of the study was to explore the benefit of slaughterhouse sampling for disease epidemiology without conducting field sampling and surveillance. It was highlighted that there were limited literatures on the epidemiological role of carrier animals (cattle and buffalo).
- 7) Massey University (MU) presented results of their study on the Modelling spread and control of FMD in Lao PDR and Myanmar as part of their sub-grant under the OIE New Zealand funded FMD control Project. The study aims to establish the current disease situation of the target animal population, the vaccination coverage and its sustainability, the impact of short and long distance animal movements and where additional measures required/needed. The study expected Outputs are risk assessment in target areas, control strategies developed, training, resource materials provided, and the monitoring, evaluation and modelling tools established. The model established will be a decision support tools and know if the current FMD control strategy is effective and sustainable,

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and the impact of short and long-distance animal movement practice in the area. Initial achievements of the modeling study are; capacity to generate information, data gathered were key to inform model development and at the end of the project, it is expected that basic disease modelling will have been demonstrated and can be used as reference and information by both country's animal health policy makers (see MU presentation for details).

- 8) FAO presented. 1) FMD laboratory related activities. The REG on FMD is a group of FMD experts in the sub-region organized by FAO and OIE with invited experts on FMD from outside the sub-region as observers. Two REG on FMD meetings have already been organised, in May 2019 and in October 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. Recommended in the two meetings are, a standard molecular diagnostic protocol for participating national FMD laboratories and the use of VNT as it is more specific than SP ELISA methods. 2) Value chain and socio-economic related activities. FAO- China South-South Cooperation Project on TADS control in the greater Mekong Sub-Region. The project aims to improve stakeholder coordination and foster collaborations between some ASEAN countries and China, and an animal disease risk management improved along the cross-border value chains (see FAO presentation for details).
- 9) On behalf of OIE, Dr Ronel Abila extended his appreciation to all meeting participants for their valuable time and invited them again to the 3rd session of the NC virtual meetings on the next day (9 July 2020).

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommended that the “Asian” lineage-specific primer that has been developed by the Pirbright Institute be included in the pilot testing of molecular diagnosis in SEA member countries organised by the Regional Expert Group. Correspondingly, some molecular-based (PCR) assays are burdened with false negativity, therefore participating laboratories under the REG project are recommended to include all the primer/probes sequences including the recent sequences from the OIE/National Reference Laboratories when performing *in-silico* analyses to assess/evaluate the ability to detect the correct circulating virus strains.
2. The OIE to consider the following topics in the agendas of next Regional Expert Group on FMD and FMD LabNet: the FMD diagnostic algorithm, fitness for purpose of each test both molecular and serology, the results of the REG molecular based pilot testing and the shipment concerns of panel sera for Proficiency testing (PT).