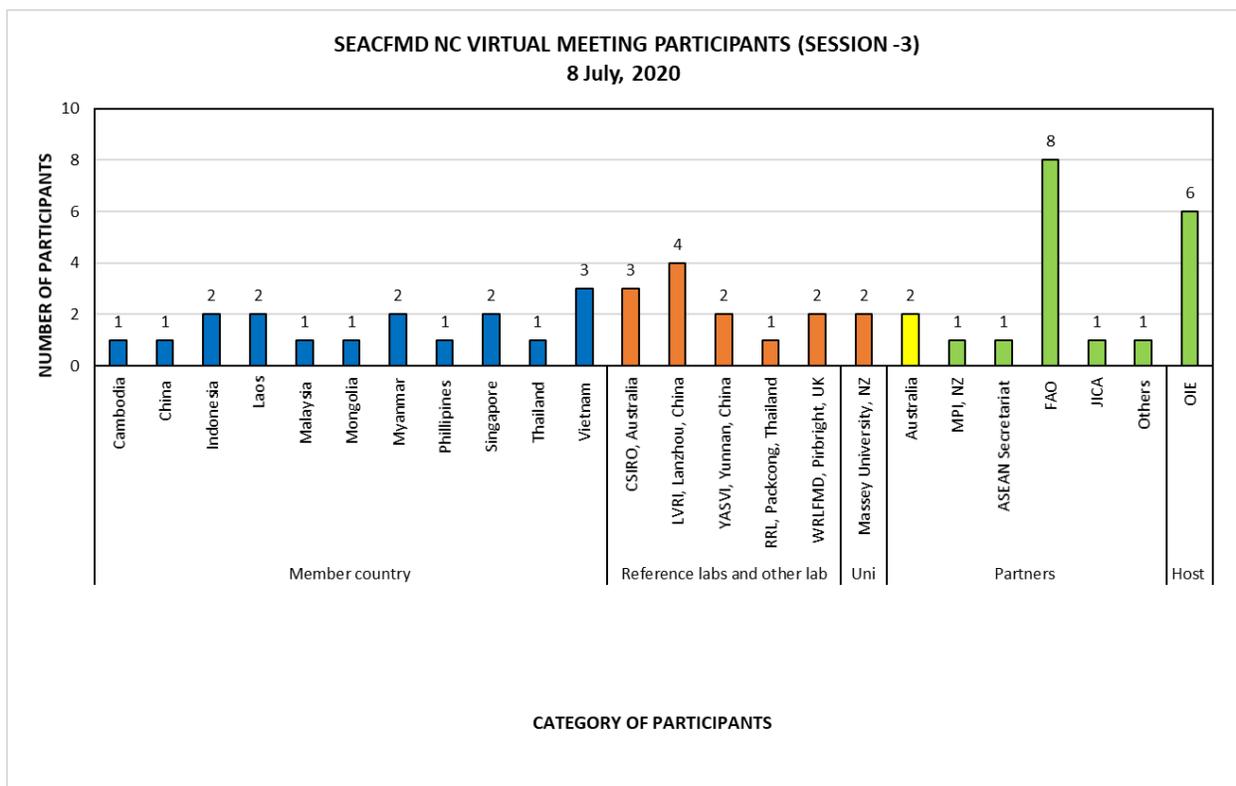


SEACFMD National Coordinators (NC) 3rd session virtual meeting

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

MEETING SUMMARY

- 1) The 3rd session of the SEACFMD NC virtual meeting conducted on 8 July 2020 was attended by 51 participants from SEACFMD member countries and the OIE regional and international partners (e.g. FMD reference laboratories, research institutions and international organizations) (cf. graph below).



- 2) Three FMD-free countries (Indonesia, Philippines, and Singapore) presented their activities related to surveillance (risk-based), monitoring, diagnostic capabilities, and government legislation, as required to maintain freedom from FMD. All the three countries reported that their 2020 scheduled serosurveillance was being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with government-imposed movement restrictions to both human and animal populations.

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- 3) The Philippines developed a mobile App for quick reporting of suspected FMD cases (negative monitoring), link to its Animal Health Information System (PhilAHIS). Due to COVID-19 pandemic there was a decline in the submission of reports to PhilAHIS, however the situation also led to limited illegal movement of meat and meat products due to closures of international borders.
- 4) Indonesia instituted risk mitigation strategy to manage risks in the importation of large quantity of beef through the implementation of strict import policies. Clinical and serological surveillance are also instituted to substantiate maintenance of freedom from FMD.
- 5) Singapore reported that they have been conducting FMD surveillance in wildlife. The samples were collected opportunistically from wild boars during their wildlife management operations.
- 6) Dr Phil Widders presented a Traders' incentives study which was conducted in Laos, Thailand and PR China to identify ways to promote formal, safe, and sanitary cross border trade. The study showed that concerns about border controls and costs of check points are widespread, and consultation and informal sharing with traders in the Upper Mekong Region zone should continue as part of the development and adoption of the formal cross-border movement requirements. Following a specific request, it was clarified that the two Myanmar traders who were interviewed in China were involved in cattle trade between Muse (Myanmar). Myanmar was encouraged to join the participating countries and to conduct this study on their traders' incentives.
- 7) FAO presented their study on Livestock value chain analysis in animal risk management in China, Myanmar, and Lao PDR for pigs and poultry. Three different types of animal movements were identified: 1) official, 2) unofficial, and the 3) combination of official and unofficial. Initial works and findings of the on-going South-South Cooperation project, and, the initial trade protocols between China and Myanmar and between China and Lao PDR, were analysed. The two protocols are comparable, except for the required age of the traded animals: Myanmar required that animals for trade should be at least 5 years old while Lao PDR trade animal that are younger than 4 years old.
- 8) The OIE presented upcoming activities on cross-border value chain analysis in targeted countries (Malaysia/Brunei/Indonesia, Indonesia/Papua New Guinea & Indonesia/Timor-Leste). Along these activities, cross-border value chain would be analysed and capacity building of national and local veterinary services would be conducted.
- 9) Massey University presented the results of a study on animal movement in Myanmar and Lao PDR. The study focused on the local movements of animals in both countries, their distance and direction, the main source of the animals and the FMD awareness of livestock owners. The study demonstrated that frequent and long-distance movements play an important role in FMD circulation and identified high risk location for efficient FMD

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control. It also showed that FMD awareness and training of villagers and traders improve disease recognition and control and limit its economic importance. Villagers and trader's involvement also contributed to an improved collection of animal movement data for development of FMD spread model.

- 10) Lao PDR Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF) presented their on-going Quarantine/Control Zone project, aiming mainly to facilitate trade, strengthen animal disease surveillance and control, legalize animal trade in Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). The quarantine facility has the capacity for about 600 animals, accommodation, and office for quarantine staff. The project is in partnership with DLF and three private companies (1 Lao PDR and 2 Chinese). Trade activities have not started yet.
- 11) China presented updates on cattle trade with SEA countries, highlighting the main movement pathways for cattle and buffalo trade from Thailand to Lao PDR and from Mandalay, Myanmar to the border of Yunnan province, China. From 400,000-500,000 cattle and buffalo moving annually from SEA to Yunnan Province in 2010 – 2011, the number reached more than one million per year from 2013 to 2019. As China strengthened the border control, that number was slightly reduced in 2019.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and closure of international borders, livestock trading activities have almost completely stopped. The number of animals moved to China dropped of 80% compared with the previous year.

In response to a specific question, it was mentioned that during a study collecting oropharyngeal fluid from cattle from SEA, none of the cattle presented FMD clinical signs. That is likely due the fact that traders normally do not buy sick animals.

Quarantine and inspection agreements for export and import of cattle/buffalo have been signed between China and Lao PDR on 30th April 2019, and China and Myanmar on 18th January 2020. The facilities of quarantine farms for export of cattle/buffalo to China has been constructed at Muang Sing, Luong Nam Tha Province of Lao PDR. FMD free zone at Muang Sing for export of cattle/buffalo is going to be jointly reviewed by China and Laos before starting the official trade. Pilot zones including quarantine inspection facilities, slaughterhouses, and quarantine farms have been established at Ruili, and Mengla (Chinese side of the borders).

- 12) Following recommendations from previous SEACFMD meetings, the OIE presented a possible tool for price monitoring in the region, aiming to build a regional platform under SEACFMD to monitor the price of live livestock (selected species) and their meat. It would also enable sharing of price information amongst member countries and analyze their evolution. It may also help exploring linkages between prices and animal movement to anticipate new trade patterns and promote safe trade, among others. Time constraints did not allow discussion and the OIE may organise a dedicated technical meeting to further explore how to build this platform.

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- 13) Dr Ronel Abila closed the 3rd session and extended his thanks to all meeting participants. The next session (4th) of the SEACFMD virtual meeting, scheduled on 31 July 2020, would be dedicated to the development of next SEACFMD roadmap (2021-2025).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Considering the initial findings of the traders' incentives studies, and the role of Myanmar in the regional trade of ruminants, Myanmar is encouraged to participate/conduct in such a study. The OIE SRR will follow-up with Myanmar authorities.
- 2) National Coordinators are encouraged to consider the tool proposed by the OIE for price monitoring and provide their feedback on the feasibility of this project. The OIE to consider organizing a dedicated meeting to further explore needs, interest, and commitment for the development of a regional platform on price monitoring.
- 3) National Coordinators are invited to attentively read the draft SEACFMD Roadmap (2021-2025), to provide written comments and contribute to the dedicated discussions on the 4th session of the virtual NC meeting on 31 July 2020.