

Meeting summary

The virtual meeting of the East Asia CVO forum was attended by representatives of the 6 members as well as representatives of OIE and FAO. This was the first meeting with all members in attendance since the 1st meeting and formation of the East Asia CVO forum in 2016.

The OIE Regional representation in Tokyo, who has been working as secretariat for the East Asia CVO forum gave an overview for new participants of the formation of the forum, including priority areas identified for coordination and summary of the activities carried out under the forum since 2016. A proposed modus operandi was presented for consideration of the members based on how coordination has been managed in past 4 years.

Each member then provided an update on their own priority transboundary animal disease issues and work activities in the previous 2 years, as well as identifying other issues of concern that should be considered for the sub-region or wider region for future focus.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, members also shared some of the ways this has impacted the work of the veterinary services over the past 6 months.

A summary was also given by the OIE of the recent virtual 11th Regional Steering Committee of GFTADs for Asia and the Pacific. The meeting is being held in 2 parts, with the 1st part held on 16th June to update on subregional activities and governance of GFTADs at global and regional level.

The RSC of GFTADs formally recognised East Asia as a sub-region at their 10th meeting held in 2018 and an updated Terms of Reference taking into consideration recommendations from the 3rd external evaluation of GFTADs completed in 2018, feedback from members as well as the mandates of both FAO and OIE has been drafted. The draft version has been shared with all sub-regions and partners who are working on prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases in Asia and the Pacific region to comment.

Following the presentations there was discussion amongst members and FAO and OIE staff relating to priority TADs, emerging issues in the region and future plans for coordination in East Asia. Wildlife surveillance and research and more specifically wild boar surveillance and research was identified as an area where more information and collaboration between members in East Asia would be beneficial and important for more work to be done focused on wildlife and relationship between wildlife, ecology and diseases impacting domestic animals and humans.

Mongolia updated that there is a world bank project just started in Mongolia covering several different areas including for livestock and wildlife. FAO added that there are also plans from World bank for several activities in East Asia. It was agreed that we should consider all the different potential activities in the East Asia subregion and how to harmonise and link them, including the proposal for regional wild boar related activities for ASF control utilizing JTF made by Japan.

In addition, Japan addressed importance of staying vigilant on other emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases including H1N1 swine flu and encouraging information sharing among members. FAO informed that OFFLU will soon provide update and experts view on this H1N1 swine flu issue.

The issue of wildlife trade and wildlife markets which has been highlighted globally under the current COVID-19 pandemic was also raised as an area where further discussions between governments on how such activities are regulated and what sub-regional, regional and global strategies could be developed to manage the risks.

All members agreed that a mechanism to facilitate regular communication was beneficial to share new information and discuss topical issues relating the veterinary services and animal health to improve the ability for early detection, early diagnosis and early control of TADs.

Recommendations and next steps

Modus Operandi for coordination of the activities of East Asia

- 6 agreed members of East Asia CVO forum - China, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Korea (RO), Mongolia, Chinese Taipei. Invite DPR Korea to all activities.
- CVO Forum meets at least every 2 years (face to face or virtually) to receive updates and set priorities for the next 2 years. Meetings may be held virtually or back to back with other meetings and the meeting organization will be managed by OIE Tokyo in consultation with members and FAO RAP.
- East Asia contact persons (EACP) are nominated by the CVO or equivalent and will meet at least once a year and are responsible for the ongoing coordination, technical information exchange and report to their CVO (or equivalent) between CVO forum meetings. EACP may also develop strategies or technical guidelines on selected disease control and prevention in the sub-region. EACP Meeting organization will be managed by OIE Tokyo in consultation with members and FAO RAP.
- OIE Tokyo continue as secretariat and coordinate with EACP to set activity plans each year based on available budget to support East Asia activities. EACP & OIE, with technical support from FAO RAP work together on longer term strategies for East Asia that link with existing networks and regional/global strategies and activities.
- Give GFTADs is an agreement between FAO and OIE, the representative of East Asia sub-region on the RSC of GFTADs for Asia and the Pacific should rotate every 2 years alphabetically between those who are members of both FAO & OIE.

Priorities for East Asia 2020

Priority TADS:

- FMD
- Avian Influenza
- PPR
- Rabies
- high impact swine diseases (CSF, ASF, PRRS)

Emerging diseases:

- African horse sickness
- Lumpy skin disease

Other priority topics:

- AMR/AMU
- Zoonotic diseases
- Veterinary education and statutory bodies
- laboratory and epidemiology networking
- aquatic animal diseases
- exotic & emerging disease threats – emergency preparedness, research, and surveillance for early detection
- Quarantine, border control & animal movement
- Wildlife – surveillance, research, trade, interface with domestic animals/humans.

The meeting proposed:

- All East Asia members, OIE and FAO to consider the discussions during this meeting and submit written suggestions for an activity plan for 2020-2022 to OIE RRAP Tokyo by 31st July 2020
- East Asia Contact Person's (and a secondary contact person) to be re-confirmed or updated by CVO/OIE Delegate of each member to OIE RRAP Tokyo by 31st July 2020
- A virtual East Asia Contact Person's meeting to be organised in September (final date to be confirmed) to continue technical discussions and finalise an activity plan for East Asia for 2020-2022.

- East Asia members to submit any written comments relating to Regional Steering Committee of GFTADs, including the draft Terms of Reference to OIE RRAP Tokyo by 14th July 2020.

- FAO and OIE to identify any potential future meetings or activities in the region where East Asia members may be invited to participate or observe with possibility of side events for East Asia members to meet separately to discuss issues specific to East Asia.