



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Rabies Day

Webinar on “End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate in the Asia Pacific Region”
11:30 AM – 2:30 PM New Delhi; 1 PM – 4 PM Bangkok; 2 – 5 PM Manila; 3 – 6 PM Tokyo
Monday, 28 September 2020, Zoom meeting

Speakers at the webinar

Dr Rachel Tidman, Global Rabies Coordinator, OIE Science Department, Email: r.tidman@oie.int



Rachel has worked in range of different settings including clinical veterinary medicine, global health policy and disaster response and holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery from Murdoch University (Australia) and a Master in One Health from the University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom). Before joining the OIE, Rachel was a consultant in the Neglected Zoonotic Diseases Department of the World Health Organization. Rachel’s current role as Global Rabies Coordinator contributes to the development and maintenance of strong synergies between the Tripartite (OIE, WHO, FAO) and partner organisations and she coordinates the United Against Rabies activities to support the implementation of the Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030 (GSP).

Dr Umme Ruman Siddiqi, CDC Bangladesh



Dr Umme Ruman Siddiqi works in the Communicable Disease Control Program (CDC) of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in Bangladesh as the Deputy Program Manager of Zoonotic Disease Control Program. She is leading the National Rabies Elimination program country under the guidance of Director, CDC, DGHS.

Dr. Siddiqi has been instrumental in implementing the national program through effective planning, strong inter-sectoral collaboration and better coordination involving all the stakeholders. Under her leadership, rabies elimination program is becoming a successful one despite various challenges in Bangladesh. The incidence of human rabies cases has declined ten times over last ten years. She works closely with the Department of Livestock Services, Local government, NGO’s, development partners including WHO, FAO, US-CDC and other stakeholders for effective implementation of the program. She also conducted various operational research including evaluation of mass dog vaccination (MDV) campaign in collaboration with US-CDC. Dr. Siddiqi is a medical graduate and Public Health specialist by profession. She completed post-graduation (PhD) in the field of public health with major in infectious disease from Tohoku University School of Medicine, Japan. She has published various articles on PEP, MDV, rabies elimination and other infectious diseases in peer reviewed journals.

Dr Murugan Appupillai, Director of Education (India), Mission Rabies



Dr. Murugan is Veterinarian by profession. His past experience in state level control of FMD viral disease with FMDCP project of National Dairy Development Board of India, and as an Indian Expert in educating farmers, promoting milk production overseas, with ITEC program of High Commission of India and his experience working with governments in India and overseas, were the foundation for his present career with Mission Rabies since 2013. Out of his passion for education, he experimented teaching Rabies and Murugan got the credit of being the founder of education for Mission Rabies project and enjoyed working for this project in Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Goa in India and Malawi in Africa. In addition to creating awareness to understand dogs, prevent and manage dog



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



bites, his primary focus was to establish that education and awareness could be able to make a great support for the mass dog vaccination which is the key component of Rabies control. State governments, local bodies, NGOs and Elected leaders play a key role in the success of any project. So Murugan used his experience working with various governments in the past, to successfully collaborate Mission Rabies project with these groups and generated their greatest support towards making Goa Rabies free. Worked hard to convince the government to include Rabies lesson in the school curriculum and Mission Rabies education is now a lesson in the school text books.

Mr. Vathsana Khamvongsa, Chief of lower secondary education of Ministry of Education and Sport, Lao PDR



Mr. Vathsana Khamvongsa, is the chief of lower secondary education of Ministry of Education and Sport, Lao PDR. He has a master of science in Physics. For working experience, he was a teacher on Physics at Vientiane Secondary School for 16 years, worked as a lecturer and was deputy chief of Physics Department, Lao PDR National University for 15 years. In 2020, he was appointed as the chief of Lower Secondary Education Division, Ministry of Education and Sport. Currently, he works with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Forest to implement school deworming programme as well as integrating Rabies into teaching curriculum of primary and lower secondary schools in selected area.

Dr Shrikrishna Isloor, Associate Professor and Laboratory Director, Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory, KVAFSU, Hebbal, Bengaluru



Dr. Isloor has been working in the field of Veterinary Microbiology and biotechnology for the past 29 years. He worked for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the Government of Karnataka and now works at the Veterinary college, Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fishery Sciences University (KVAFSU), Bengaluru. He was been closely involved in establishment of KVAFSU-CVA-Crucell Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory at KVAFSU that recently completed the OIE twinning program with CDC, Atlanta, USA and the APHA, UK. He has organized national level training on rabies diagnosis in animals for several other States in India. He made significant contributions in the development of diagnostic kits for bovine brucellosis and mastitis and introduction of Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test for rabies antibody test in India. He has guided five doctoral and seven masters' students on rabies. He is a recipient of the national level 'Visionary Award for his outstanding achievements on rabies research by the Indian Veterinary Association in

2019. Dr Isloor is the Vice President of Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India (APCRI).



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Dr Karma Wangdi, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer at Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Thimphu, Bhutan.



Dr Karma Wangdi started his carrier as a young veterinarian in 2010 and since then has a good working experience as field veterinarian, organization management and poultry expertise. He has conducted number of rabies outbreak investigation and control program in the field and was actively involved in containment of HPAI outbreak. After spending almost about eight years in the field, he was transferred to the Department of Livestock, Head Quarter as Dy. Chief Veterinary Officer in animal health Division. During which he has contributed in developing number of strategies to prevent and control animal diseases (like Rabies elimination by 2030, Prevention and Control of FMD, Elimination of PPR and National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan). He is currently the National Project Coordinator of Bhutan Rabies TCP funded by

FAO for capacity and response plan to eliminate rabies by 2030 in Bhutan. He is also actively involved in the implementation of Dog Population Management Program as Technical Working Committee.

Dr Banshi Sharma, Director General of the Department of Livestock Services (OIE Delegate of Nepal)



Dr Banshi Sharma is currently working as the Director General in the Department of Livestock Services in Nepal. He obtained his Bachelor in Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry from Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, India in 1988 and further went on to do his Masters in Molecular Biology from Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium in 1999. He has a Master Degree in Public Administration from Tribhuvan University in Nepal. Dr Sharma has worked in various capacities in the livestock services

of Nepal at various locations and was also the Secretary at the Ministry of Land Agriculture and Coopératives from 2017 to 2019. Dr Banshi took up the position of Director General of DLS Nepal since 2019 and since then has been the OIE Delegate of Nepal.

Dr Min Thein Maw, Director, Veterinary Medicine and Disease Control Division, Livestock Breeding and veterinary Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar



Dr Min has been working for 25 years in his department. He completed a PhD in 2009 from Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Faculty of Applied Veterinary Sciences, United Graduate School of veterinary Science, Gifu University, Japan. He is responsible for Veterinary Medicine and Controlling Animals Diseases including Zoonotic Avian Influenza, AMR and Rabies. He is an OIE focal point for WAHIS and rabies representing livestock breeding and veterinary department. His particular interest is reducing dog mediated rabies by Mass Dog Vaccination approach achieving vision of “Zero Rabies: 2030 in Myanmar” under “One Health” collaboration. Since 2013, he has been actively engaged rabies activities of particular areas in Mass Dog Vaccination, Education, laboratory capacity



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



building and participated in developing a National Plan for rabies elimination in Dog (2018-2030) in Myanmar in collaboration with OIE and other international partners.

Dr Marina Ivanova, Senior Project Manager, Four Paws/ VIER PFOTEN International



Marina Ivanova graduated at the Veterinary Faculty of the Thracian University of Stara Zagora, Bulgaria. Since 2004 she works for FOUR PAWS as a veterinarian. In May 2005 she was appointed team leader for the international Stray Animal Care projects and since 2007 she is project manager. Since the adoption of the Bulgarian Animal Protection Law in 2008 Dr. Ivanova has been working predominantly in Bulgaria. She is one of the leading and most experienced specialists in the field of animal protection and health and works closely with the experts of the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture and Foods, Bulgarian Food Safety Agency and Sofia City Hall. She is an expert in animal welfare of the European Commission for Bulgaria. Dr. Ivanova has taken part in many International missions. In 2005 she was part of the Disaster Relief Unit of FOUR PAWS operating in Sri Lanka after the tsunami floods. She was deputy leader of FOUR PAWS missions in the Philippines after the Typhoon Haiyan in

2013 and the missions in Serbia and Bosnia after the deadly floods in 2014. The same year a FOUR PAWS team, led by Dr. Ivanova, worked on the territories of two of the most seriously affected by the floods locations in Bulgaria. In September 2015 Dr. Ivanova was appointed Country Director of FOUR PAWS Bulgaria and since August 2016 she is also leading the Anti-rabies Program of the organisation in Myanmar. In September 2020 Dr. Ivanova moved to work at FOUR PAWS / VIER FPOTEN International Headquarters in Vienna as a Senior Project Manager of the Project Development Department and will be responsible for different rescue missions and projects worldwide.

Dr Gyanendra Gongal, Regional Advisor, World Health Organization, Regional Office for South East Asia,
Email: gongalg@who.int



Presently Dr Gyanendra Gongal is working as a Regional Advisor at the World Health Organization Regional Office for South East Asia. Rabies has been subject of policy advocacy, continuous medical education, public awareness campaign in his professional life. He is an honorary member of the Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India (APCRI) and he served as a member of the OIE Adhoc Expert Group on Rabies in 2010. He has contributed in developing national guidelines and protocols for human rabies prophylaxis in a number of Asian countries. He has been collaborating with various international organizations and networks to move towards achieving global target of zero human death by 2030 using 'One Health' approach.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Dr Naseem Salahuddin, Head of the Department of Infectious Disease, The Indus Hospital (TIH) Karachi, Pakistan



Prof. Naseem Salahuddin is a Member of the WHO Advisory Panel for Rabies, and other Neglected Tropical Diseases. Besides rabies, her other areas of interest are MDR TB, HIV and Anti Microbial Resistance. TIH is a private tertiary care health facility providing free-of-cost quality care. Karachi is a vast metropolitan city with a human population of over 20 million, and a large population of stray dogs. She established the Rabies Prevention Center at TIH where thousands of dog bites are managed each year, and health care workers from other institutions are trained in correct PEP. Observing the steadily growing number of bite victims from all over the city and the province, she founded “Rabies Free Pakistan” starting from Karachi, where field teams inject strays with anti rabies vaccine and surgically neuter or spay them. Collaboration with Veterinary Universities, animal welfare organizations, city governments, industry and civil society has added impetus to RFP.

Dr. Salahuddin is the author of many ID related publications in peer reviewed journals, as well as co-author of a travel-cum-history book called “If Stones could Speak”.

Dr Marie Jocelyn Jardeleza Te, Medical Officer VI, Department of Health Western Visayas Center for Health Development, Philippines



Dr. Marie Jocelyn J. Te of the Department of Health Regional Office VI has been in government service for 25 years and employed in Department of Health for 17 years. Since 2003, she is assigned in the Infectious Diseases and Environmental & Occupational Health Cluster as Medical Officer and Regional Program Manager and handles six(6) Neglected Tropical Diseases Program namely: Rabies; Leprosy; Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis; Schistosomiasis; Filariasis; Food and Waterborne Diseases. Her work as Regional Program Manager is based on the promotion of excellence in the implementation of public health programs by local government units through governance, service delivery, financing, regulation, information and

human resource deployment in the whole Western Visayas Region. As Program Manager of the Regional Rabies Prevention & Control Program of the Department of Health WV CHD her roles and functions are the following : formulates work and financial plan/operational plan ; formulates guidelines policies, advisories in support of effective program implementation ; provide technical assistance to local government units and other stakeholders on matters pertaining to health program management ; coordinates with GOs and partners for effective and integrated health program implementation. She now works to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2027 and enhance rabies program activities.