

# **OIE Regional Collaboration Framework on aquatic animal diseases in Asia and the Pacific**

## **Concept Note**

### **Scope**

Following the OIE Expert Consultation Meeting on Aquatic Animal Disease Diagnosis and Control which took place in November 2018 in Bangkok (Thailand), a Regional Collaboration Framework was proposed to be established in the region by May 2020.

The proposed Regional Collaboration Framework on aquatic animal diseases in Asia and the Pacific will initially focus on building a framework of actors with the aim of strengthening laboratory capacity for aquatic animal disease activities in Asia and the Pacific such as emergency response.

Objectives will include:

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1. Strengthening collaboration among and between OIE Reference Centres (i.e Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres) and Member Countries;
2. Sharing and exchanging information on test validation, reference materials and positive samples.

The Framework will be established as a platform to stimulate, support and promote these objectives.

This document describes the proposed structure and working dynamics of the framework. More detailed and updated information will be added after each technical meeting.

### **Composition**

The framework will be a partnership consisting of the following structure and actors:

1. A Steering Committee composed of:
  - A representative of OIE Collaborating Centres: for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region; and New and Emerging Diseases
  - Three representatives of OIE Reference Laboratories in the region;
  - Four representatives of OIE National Focal Points for Aquatic Animal
  - Two representatives from the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission;
  - Regional partners:
    - FAO; NACA; SEAFDEC.
  - Secretariat:
    - OIE Regional representation of Asia and the Pacific
2. Members of the OIE Regional Collaboration Framework

#### Permanent members

- OIE Collaborating Centres:
  - For Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region;
  - For New and Emerging Diseases.
- OIE Reference Laboratories on aquatic animal disease in the region;
- The 32 national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals from the region;
- National reference laboratories (as designed by OIE Delegates).

#### Members engaged on ad hoc basis

Public and private universities, research institutions, private companies and donors that focus on aquatic animal health and have objectives aligned with those of this Framework

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Reference Centres and Member Country representatives agree to contribute or participate in the following:

1. Coordinate and provide Proficiency testing programmes across the Asia-Pacific region to assess laboratory diagnostic capacity and provide technical support on test validation and quality control, pending funding;
2. Support emergency response and provide in-country training to enhance disease surveillance as well as laboratory diagnosis capacity for OIE listed and emerging diseases;
3. Improve communication among and between Reference Centres and OIE Member Countries to enable information, resource, technology and sample sharing between parties, for example, scientific publications, positive controls, and sampling and testing protocols to assist with disease investigations;
4. Support and promote a standardisation of methods to diagnose and confirm a pathogenic agent;

Stakeholder group members would support:

1. Wider information sharing as well as research assistance and technical support especially on emerging diseases.

### **Proposed mechanisms**

The framework will be coordinated by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee will:

1. Develop a plan for the framework including achievable objectives to implement the 'Roles and Responsibilities' above;
2. Draft an annual activities plan
3. Contribute to preparations for an annual report.

The Secretariat will:

1. Strengthen multilateral relations and communication;
2. Share and disseminate relevant information with other parties;
3. Support the Steering Committee and framework.

Members will:

1. Support the Steering Committee in planning and participation in relevant activities and fulfilling their roles and responsibilities in the framework;
2. Share and disseminate relevant information with other parties;
3. Contribute to preparations for an annual report.

The stakeholder group will be invited as observers to support the framework on *ad hoc* basis.