



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

The Director General

Paris, Thursday, 25 March 2021

Dear OIE Delegate,

**OIE Virtual Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Veterinary Workforce and VPPs
Asia and the Pacific
June-July 2021**

The World Organisation for Animal Health (further – the OIE) recognises the importance of veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) in veterinary service delivery, and the PVS Tool includes assessments related to the staffing and competency of veterinary paraprofessionals as well as veterinarians in Veterinary Services. VPPs play an important role in providing basic veterinary service delivery in most resource-constrained or developing countries. In many cases, VPPs act as the frontline service providers in rural areas offering preventive or curative services. VPPs can also contribute to improving disease surveillance, including early detection, and disease control in remote areas.

The OIE has organised multiple events in the past five years to identify Members' needs and priorities on the topic of VPPs, including the Regional Conference on Veterinary Paraprofessionals in Asia in Bangkok, Thailand, in December 2017. Since then, the OIE has published (i) OIE Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals (2018) and (ii) OIE Curricula Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals (2019) designed to deliver the desired knowledge, skills, attitudes and aptitudes for VPPs in the three tracks above mentioned.

Through the upcoming "OIE Virtual Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Veterinary Workforce and VPPs", we would like to now disseminate these resources and familiarise Members with them, as well as support Members to assess their veterinary workforce needs and to realistically address those needs within the limits of the financial, human and educational resource constraints that they may be facing. As a result of this workshop, participants will have a roadmap with which to identify their priorities related to VPP integration in the veterinary workforce. There will also be the opportunity for Members to apply to participate in future activities to support VPP integration, such as PVS Pathway services and dedicated support for VPP curriculum development and VSB development.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are not able at this time to plan face-to-face events, although that would have been preferable so as to allow interactive discussions and learning. However, based on consultation with Members and partners, we feel that it is still beneficial to hold this event at this time to allow Members to continue benefiting from OIE support with the aim of improving the quality of veterinary services. We have therefore decided to organise this workshop in a virtual (online) format, and from recent experiences with regional events, are confident that as a community and network, we will be able to have an interesting, sometimes challenging and hopefully rewarding learning experience.

Objectives of this workshop are to:

- Raise awareness amongst participants about the PVS Pathway, approaches to workforce development, and the role of VPPs in Veterinary Services
- Inform on OIE activities in support of improving the participation and performance of VPPs
- Discuss the elements contributing to an enabling environment for effective use of VPPs and encourage Members/Observers to create a VPP enabling environment at national level with support from the OIE

- Familiarise participants with the content and use of the OIE Competency Guidelines for VPPs and the OIE Curricula Guidelines for VPPs
- Explore interest in a network of VPP champions in the South Asia and Southeast Asia sub-regions
- Discuss collaboration/coordination between vets and VPPs in VS.

The workshop will be divided into 5 sessions. The introductory and the concluding sessions will be for a general audience from Asia and the Pacific region and will provide an overview of available resources and opportunities. The three thematic sessions for South and Southeast Asia and a few additional regional Members will be more interactive, detailed and in-depth.

Based on this information let me on behalf of the OIE invite you as a participant Member to the **OIE Virtual Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Veterinary Workforce and VPPs in Asia and the Pacific**.

In order to adapt to the virtual nature of this event, and to support all participants' understanding and engagement in the topic of VPP integration to the veterinary workforce, pre-event online activities will be offered.

Importantly, so as to obtain a comprehensive picture of the current situation regarding VPPs in the wider region, we kindly ask you to complete a **pre-meeting introductory workforce survey**. This survey will provide workshop participants with a valuable picture of key issues, strengths and challenges in the region. We will send this survey to you in a separate email message.

The workshop will be held in a virtual format (Zoom conference) in multiple sessions. The dates and the maximum number of participants from your country in the sessions are as follows:

- Session 1 (General audience session): Thursday 10 June: up to 10 participants from your country
- Session 2 (Target audience session): Tuesday 15 June: up to 5 participants from your country
- Session 3 (Target audience session): Tuesday 22 June: up to 5 participants from your country
- Session 4 (Target audience session): Tuesday 29 June: up to 5 participants from your country
- Session 5 (General audience session): Tuesday 6 July: up to 10 participants from your country

On each day, the workshop is expected to start at 07H30 (CET, Paris) / 12H30 (Bangkok) / 14H30 (Tokyo) but the *exact times will be determined when the final agenda is prepared*.

I would like to ask you to nominate:

- 1) **Contact person from your country for a pre-meeting workforce survey using an online form (click [this link](#) to access) by 5 April 2021.**

The contact person should be able to communicate with the OIE by email as required in a timely manner, have internet access for completing online surveys, and be knowledgeable about general issues relating to veterinary laws and human resources (or be able to identify such information from colleagues).

- 2) **Workshop participants from your country using the attached nomination form by 10 May 2021.**

For general introductory and concluding sessions (Sessions 1 and 5), we strongly encourage your participation as Delegate, as well as the participation of the wider group of participants from your country/territory.

For the three thematic sessions (Sessions 2, 3, and 4), we encourage you to identify appropriate persons working on the relevant topics who will most benefit from the learning exchange offered by those thematic topics. Please see the [Annex](#) for recommended participant profiles

A participant may join multiple sessions and all participants of the thematic session are encouraged to join the introductory and concluding sessions as far as possible.

The workshop will be in English.

Owing to the virtual nature of the event, no costs will be covered for participation in this event.

Please be informed, that the OIE, as a data controller, will process your personal data for the purposes of organising this workshop, to share with you additional information on the workshop, to provide you with technical support during the workshop, and for establishing a list of participants. The data collected will be processed internally for the aforementioned purposes and communicated to the processors in charge of managing the relevant OIE programme. The data will be used for reporting purposes and shared with institutional partners and donors, and will be kept for a period of five years for the purposes of measuring activities and outcomes of the relevant programme. You have rights to access and rectify your personal data, as well as to request erasure and obtain data portability under certain circumstances. To exercise these rights or if you have any questions about the processing of your data, you can contact our data protection officer at dpo@oie.int. For more information check the OIE's Privacy Policy: <https://www.oie.int/en/privacy-policy/>. By attending this workshop, you also agree to its video recording by the OIE for the purposes of translation and reporting of the event. The workshop recording will then be destroyed. If you do not consent to the terms of this video recording authorisation, you may refrain from attending the meeting.

For your information and references, the provisional programme of the OIE Virtual National Awareness Raising Workshop on Veterinary Workforce and VPPs is attached.

For any query on the organisation of the workshop, please contact Dr Maho Urabe at m.urabe@oie.int and Ms Takako Hasegawa at the OIE RRAP, via e-mail: asia-pacific@oie.int, by phone: +81-3-5805-1931, or by fax: +81-3-5805-1934.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Monique Eloit

Encl.:

1. *Participant profiles requested (Annex)*
2. *Provisional agenda*
3. *Participant nomination form*

CC: Dr J-P. Dop, Dr B. Alessandrini, Dr M. Arroyo, OIE Headquarters
Dr H. Kugita, Dr R. Abila, OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representation

Annex: Participant profiles

OIE Virtual Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Veterinary Workforce and VPPs Asia and the Pacific June-July 2021

General audience (opening and closing sessions)

- The OIE Delegate and, as required, another representative from the Veterinary Authority
- A representative of the Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) or other agency regulating the professions, if existing
- A representative of an existing or potential VPP training institution
- A representative of a veterinary paraprofessional association, if existing, or other representative of the VPP workforce
- A representative of a veterinary medical association, if existing
- Representatives of private sector who use VPPs, e.g. industry representatives and farmer associations
- All participants from target sessions, as far as possible

Target groups for thematic sessions

Legislation/regulation session

- Lawyer who works with the Veterinary Authority on developing veterinary legislation (e.g. from Veterinary Authority, Ministry of Justice or Parliament)
- Veterinarian from the Veterinary Authority involved in the development of veterinary legislation
- Representative officer of Veterinary association, e.g. president or delegated officer
- Representative officer of VPP association, e.g. president or delegated officer, or other representative of the VPP workforce
- VSB Board member or representative officer, or equivalent, particularly if involved in standard setting for VPPs

Education session

- Directors of VPP training institutions or their designated representatives involved in curriculum development
- Deans of VEEs that train VPPs, if any, or their designated representatives involved in curriculum development
- Representatives of VSB or equivalent, particularly if involved in setting educational requirements for licensing of vets and VPPs or involved with continuing education
- A representative of the Authorities involved in staff training, continuing education, or regulation of training institutions for VPPs, such as Ministry of Education or Vocational Training
- Representatives from the private sector who employ VPPs
- Providers of continuing education (if different from above, e.g., veterinary associations, private training firms)
- Representatives of VPP association, if existing, or other representative of the VPP workforce involved in educational issues

Workforce and Deployment session

- Delegate/Chief Veterinary Officer or designated representative of the Veterinary Authority involved in workforce planning, management of veterinary personnel and/or human resources
- Representative of VSB or equivalent involved in standard setting for VPPs
- Directors of VPP training institutions or their representatives involved in curriculum development and/or alumni affairs
- Representative of Veterinary Associations, if existing, with a focus on employment opportunities
- Representative of VPP Associations, if existing, or other representative of the VPP workforce with a focus on employment opportunities
- Industry representatives and farmer associations that employ/use VPPs
- NGOs working in animal health and production that train, support or employ VPPs