



**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC  
BUREAU REGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL**

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

WPR/RC58/NGO/2

**Fifty-eighth session  
Jeju, Republic of Korea  
10-14 September 2007**

10 September 2007

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY DR TERUHIDE FUJITA  
REPRESENTATIVE, WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL  
HEALTH (OIE)**

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates:

Firstly, I thank the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific for its kind invitation of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to this important meeting, being held here in Jeju, Republic of Korea.

OIE is the intergovernmental organization to improve animal health worldwide, including zoonoses which are transmissible from animals to humans.

OIE was founded with the headquarters in France in 1924, and now has 169 Member Countries.

OIE has worked to secure (1) transparency in the global animal disease situation, and (2) collection, analysis and dissemination of veterinary scientific information, (3) the strengthening of international coordination and cooperation in the control of animal diseases, (4) promotion of the safety of world trade by developing sanitary standards for international trade in animals and animal products, (5) improvement of the legal framework and resources of veterinary services, and (6) animal welfare and animal production food safety.

OIE is the International Standards Setting Organization for Animal Health. The OIE Animal Health Codes and the OIE Manuals are the most important normative work to provide the OIE Member Countries with scientific standards for establishing national animal health measures or rules applicable to international trade in animals and animal products as well as to provide guidelines for disease control, and diagnosis and surveillance.

In order to strengthen the above-mentioned various activities, OIE puts much emphasis on the strengthening of veterinary services as the public good and has extended its work to national governments on evaluation of veterinary services.

The OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific based in Tokyo, Japan has worked with Member Countries in various professional areas to improve animal health in the Region, and to strengthen capacity of veterinary services and the regional alliance for animal health, including zoonoses.

Emerging and Transboundary Animal diseases are one of the most important elements for Asia and the Pacific, since such diseases as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) caused by H5N1 was firstly reported in Asia and the disease has now been reported in various countries in the world, providing the world-wide concern.

OIE updates the disease information and the Disease Chapter in the OIE Code. At the same time, the OIE has collaborated and worked with its partners such as WHO and FAO for disease control.

Such the partnership mechanism of the OIE, includes OFFULU; namely a Joint OIE/FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of avian influenza, and GLEWS; a Joint OIE/FAO/WHO initiative that synergistically builds on combining and coordinating the alert and response mechanisms of the three organizations.

The FAO/OIE initiative for Global Framework for progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (so-called GF-TADs) is another major mechanism to combat Transboundary Animal Diseases, which emphasizes the important functions of Capacity Building and Regional Alliance for control of priority animal diseases.

The OIE regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, Tokyo, Japan has played the important role to facilitate GF-TADs Regional functions, as the Permanent Secretariat for the Region.

Last July, the 2<sup>nd</sup> GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand and the meeting identified many important elements to combat priority diseases including HPAI for the three different Sub-Regions of ASEAN, SAARC and SPC.

Under such the Regional mechanisms of GF-TADs, the OIE/Japan Special Fund Project to control HPAI in Southeast Asia is being implemented for four major components; namely (1) improvement of Regional and National HPAI control strategies, (2) HPAI information sharing to further strengthen the regional early warning systems, (3) strengthen diagnostic capacity for HPAI, including training on advanced HPAI diagnosis and installment of high-performance diagnostic equipment, and (4) training for field veterinarians and para-professionals on HPAI strategic surveillance.

Our activities of animal health including zoonoses are well-achieved in collaboration with relevant organizations such as WHO, FAO and other partners.

The OIE considers the important roles of partnerships to protect human and animal health.

I hope this meeting will prepare for the harmonized regional cooperation mechanism for promoting disease control at a regional level, for its future prospect in the Region.

Thank you for your attention.