



FAO/OIE  
**GF-TADs**

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

**4<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADs FOR THE MIDDLE EAST  
07 APRIL 2009**

**BEIRUT - LEBANON**

**Report**

The main objective of the 4th meeting of the RSC of the GF-TADs was to follow up the activities implemented under this framework and to develop consensus for future actions notably through the OIE – FAO Regional Animal Health Centre activities.

***Participating countries:***

Bahrain – Cyprus – Djibouti – Egypt – Jordan – KSA – Kuwait – Lebanon – Iran – Iraq – Oman – Qatar – Sudan – Syria – Turkey – United Arab Emirates - Yemen.

**1. Inauguration of the OIE – FAO Regional Animal Centre for the Middle East**

After the official agreement signed in Paris in May 2007, the OIE-FAO Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) for the Middle East, has been officially inaugurated during the 4<sup>th</sup> GF-TADs meeting by His Excellency, Eng. Elias Skaff, Minister of Agriculture, in a ceremony held at Hotel "Le Bristol" in Beirut and a visit to the Centre, housed in a building provided by the Ministry of Agriculture in Kfarshima where the regional office of the OIE is located.

The following well-known personalities addressed a welcoming speech (reported in Annex 1):

- Dr Ali Moumen, FAO Representative in Lebanon
- Dr Sultan Al Khalaf, Arab Veterinary Associations
- Dr Gaston Funes, Chief of OIE Regional Activities Department
- Dr Joseph Domenech, FAO Chief Veterinary Officer
- H.E. the Lebanese Minister of Agriculture Eng. Elias Skaff

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, was master of ceremony of this event.

Dr George Khoury (FAO) and Dr Ghazi Yehia (OIE) made a general presentation on the RAHC, explaining its creation, purposes, role and objectives to improve animal health in the region through a constructive collaboration with the two organisations.

## 2. GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee (RSC)

Dr Georges Khoury, Chairman of the RSC, opened the session of this fourth Regional Steering Committee. This session was for him the end of his mandate. He thanked very much the assembly for the trust that all Members have always showed to him. He wished full success to his successor.

Dr Domenech (FAO) as vice- Chairman reminded that the aim of this RSC is to adapt policies and programs to the region needs with regard to epidemiology and prevalence of priority diseases.

The assembly nominated Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani to be the new Chairman of the RSC.

After thanking the assembly, the new Chairman proposed updating the nomination of the bureau members.

The new bureau was adopted as following:

<b>President</b>	Dr Kassem Al Qahtani (QATAR)
<b>Vice President</b>	Dr Joseph Domenech (FAO)
<b>Vice President</b>	Dr Gaston Funes (OIE)
<b>Member</b>	Dr Salman Abdelnabi (BAHRAIN)
<b>Member</b>	Dr Ziad Namour (SYRIA)
<b>Member</b>	Dr Obeida Moudawar (LEBANON)
<b>Member</b>	Dr Fuat Ozyoruk (TURKEY)
<b>Member</b>	Dr Aristarhos Seimenis (WHO-MZCC)
<b>Member</b>	Dr Zuheir Hallaj (WHO-EMRO)
<b>Member</b>	Dr Saddiq Al Awni (AOAD)
<b>Member</b>	Dr George Khoury (FAO-ECTAD)
<b>Permanent Secretary</b>	Dr Ghazi Yehia (OIE – ME)

### OBSERVERS:

Representative of USDA - APHIS	Representative of Canada
Representative of AU – IBAR	Representative of European Union
Representative of Australia	Representative of World Bank
Representative of France	Representative of AGFUND
Representative of GCC	Representative of Islamic Bank of Development

The assembly proposed to organise in 2010 the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Steering Committee in Cairo, Egypt.

### **3. RAHC Action Plan 2009 - 2010**

Dr Ghazi Yehia, as Permanent Secretary of the RSC, presented the main components of the Regional Action Plan for 2009 - 2010:

- Continuing actions on Avian Influenza preparedness and control:
  - Technical assistance and expertise
  - Capacity building in different domains (contingency plans, communication, surveillance and control...)
  - Meeting in Cyprus (20 – 22 July 2009) on intersectoral collaboration
- Follow up of Rinderpest status in Middle Eastern countries (Assistance on surveillance programme and dossier constitution)
- Implementation of a regional programme to control the FMD in the Middle East
  - Round Table, Beirut 8-9 April 09 – Establishment of a regional strategy
  - Participation to the Paraguay Conference (Asuncion, 24-26 June 09) - Presentation of the Regional Project for the ME
  - Implementation of the regional project under the OIE and FAO global strategy as defined in Asuncion, Paraguay
  - Regular Round Table to follow up the project
- Develop a regional programme on RVF prevention and control
  - Technical assistance for contingency plans
  - Setting up of a predicting model to forecast virus activity (collaboration with USDA and NASA)
- Assessment of PPR impact in the Middle East - collaboration should be set up with other RAHC, notably the RAHC of North Africa - Tunis (same strains as Middle East)
- Set up fully equipped training room (computer hardware, translation, etc.) in the premises of the OIE Regional Representation to facilitate the work of the RAHC in organising technical programs suited to the specific needs of the countries in the region

The assembly adopted the proposed working program and expressed its willingness to include also specific actions on brucellosis, which remains a major zoonoses in the region.

### **4. Interventions of partner organisations**

#### **4.1. MZCC**

Dr Tabaa presented the actions conducted by MZCC on the surveillance of zoonotic diseases. He underlined the training activities of the Centre (Training on practical aspects of epidemiological surveillance and intercommunication networks establishment - Training courses on Public Health and Environmental Health - Training Courses on Preparedness and Response in Emergencies). He highlighted that interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches to disease prevention, surveillance, monitoring, control and mitigation are the main road to win the battle against these diseases. He insisted also on the "One World – One Health" concept and the necessity to continue close collaboration between MZCC and the RSC of the GF-TADs.

## **4.2. AOAD**

Prof. Elsayed Elsaddig Al Awni explained that collaboration between regional organisations is essential and wished to strengthen activities with the RSC of the GF-TADs. He mentioned that AOAD is focused on the implementation of two main projects, the first one to strengthen meat hygiene and quality control procedures to promote meat exports from Sudan and the second one on the diagnostic of brucellosis.

## **4.3. APHIS-USDA**

Dr Eloisa Jones supported activities and works of the RSC and the RAHC and mentioned that APHIS-USDA is always ready to develop regional collaboration. She pointed out to different capacity building activities that have the agency has been implementing in the region. APHIS also highlighted the importance of transparency as a main element in the control of the transboundary animal diseases.

## **5. Technical session**

### **5.1. Rinderpest (F. Njeumi – P. Primot)**

Dr Pierre Primot (OIE-ME) and Dr Felix Njeumi (FAO) made a joint presentation on the attempts of the regional countries to access OIE official freedom recognition before 2010, the global Rinderpest eradication objective. After describing the conclusions of the meeting organized in February 2007 in Amman, Jordan, by the RAHC on this subject, they exposed actions and assistance provided by OIE and FAO to countries in order to submit a relevant request to OIE for freedom recognition.

Through FAO support (ELISA kit and technical assistance); Bahrain, Oman, Iraq and Libya have submitted their dossiers and their freedom status recognition will be proposed during the next OIE General Session, May 2009 in Paris.

Kuwait has also submitted a dossier which will be evaluated by the OIE scientific commission soon. Technical and ELISA kit were provided by FAO to support the process.

Djibouti, KSA, Qatar, Somalia, Syria, Yemen and PAT are still not recognised as free from Rinderpest but are on the way to reach such status. FAO financial assistance is provided to Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen and PAT. In addition all countries requested FAO support for the provision of ELISA kits and technical assistance missions are planned for all of them.

Others activities for GREP concern are: i) the crucial issue to keep the virus and vaccine in some well identified and controlled places and the necessity to have an international agreement on such matter. ii) The historical account of the disease eradication of which agreement will be needed with partners and members countries contribution will be well come. iii) the post Rinderpest eradication strategy.

Dr Joseph Domenech (FAO) mentioned that Rinderpest will be the first time animal disease eradicated in the history. He explained also that as soon as the eradication will be reached, a joint OIE – FAO declaration will be made for such announcement. This eradication frame could also serve as an example for other animal disease and notably FMD, PPR and RVF.

Dr Gideon Bruckner (OIE) underlined the political dimension of this important issue and mentioned that OIE will propose for adoption a specific resolution on such issue in May 2009 during the next OIE General Session.

Dr Gaston Funes (OIE) explained that countries need to reconfirm annually (in November every year) their official status and the next Ad Hoc group for status recognition will be

organized next September. He explained also that a lot of efforts have been to recognize status of non OIE Members and several countries will be proposed as free during the next OIE General Session.

Dr Vahid Otarod (IVO-Iran) informed the assembly that Iran can accept samples from other countries, and notably from regional countries, and that they can also provide help and assistance to countries.

## **5.2. RVF (G. Yehia – S. De la Rocque)**

Dr Stéphane De la Rocque (FAO) detailed the present situation of RVF, explaining distribution, outbreaks and spread of the virus, and recent events in Tanzania (2007), Sudan (2008) and Madagascar (2008 – 2009). He also pointed out that RVF risk can be forecasted and that several RVF Alerts have been sent to countries and regions, specifically in 2003, 2006, 2007. However, only some countries took appropriate measures, prepared outbreak response team and vector control programmes. In such circumstances, he mentioned that there is a need for a more systematic way of sharing forecasting maps with countries and that there is a need to improve forecasting models and to set up forecasting field team, alert messages being probably not enough. More collaboration between ministries of health and agriculture with Veterinary Services and animal resources departments are essential as well as more capacities to implement mass vaccine campaigns.

Then, Dr Ghazi Yehia (OIE-ME) resumed actions and works made at regional level in order to better understand the disease and to give relevant element to regional countries to build up their own strategy. He detailed RVF meeting recommendations since the first one in Port Said, Egypt in 2003, covered the following areas: vector control, vaccination of animals, surveillance, early warning, transparency and trade implications, outbreak management and post-outbreak management. Then he explained measures to minimize the threat at national and regional level. He highlighted the need of good governance of Veterinary Services and of close collaboration between Human Health and Animal Health sides. He underlined the necessity to respect the OIE Terrestrial Code provisions for RVF in order to secure the trade within the region and to use models of regional certificates as adopted during meetings in Cairo in 2004, updated in Cairo in 2007. He highlighted the need to develop regional and international strategies for prevention and control, the need to increase the number of RVF Reference Laboratories (actually just one in South Africa, Onderstepoort) and to establish an adapted regional predicting model for the Middle East with scientific support (a possible collaboration with USDA and NASA is ongoing).

Dr Ali El Sahmi (Oman), on behalf GCC countries, mentioned that Gulf countries are mainly focused on RVF because they import large number of live animals from the Horn of Africa. He said also that there is a lack of information from countries affected by the disease; there are no well-equipped pre-export quarantine facilities and no relevant legislation in several exporting countries from the region.

Dr Yehia (OIE-ME) underlined the need of close collaboration between importing and exporting countries and the necessity to improve transparency on disease situation in the region.

Dr Tabaa (MZCC) exposed the main issue of vector diseases, especially mosquito-borne diseases worldwide not only for animal health but also for human health.

Dr De la Rocque explained that mosquitoes are competent for RVF in the Mediterranean region.

### **5.3. Small Ruminant diseases (A. El Idrissi – A.M. Hassan)**

Dr Ahmed El Idrissi (FAO) made a presentation in which he highlighted the purposes of a regional program for the Near East and North Africa entitled "Prevention and Control of transboundary diseases and zoonoses in Small Ruminants".

The objectives of such program are: 1) the development of disease control strategies through epidemiological surveillance, risk assessment and socioeconomic analysis, 2) the improvement of national capacities and capabilities for prevention and control of priority transboundary diseases and zoonoses and, 3) the establishment of regional coordination and harmonized policies for disease surveillance, disease management and safe trade in animals and animal products. The program will cover four NENA clusters (Maghreb, Arabian Peninsula, Middle East and Horn of Africa) that are geographically different but interlinked by trade. It is designed to be implemented over a period of three years (as first phase) with an overall coordination at regional level through RAHCs (Beirut, Tunis and Nairobi) and a strong link and partnership with regional economic groupings such as the UMA, the GCC and IGAD. The program adopts a holistic approach integrating animal health aspects, production systems and socioeconomics while taking into account the agro-ecological and the epidemiological features of each of the four target NENA clusters. The programme activities focus essentially on PPR, FMD, RVF, Bluetongue, Brucellosis and Sheep and goat pox. The estimated budget is about 9 million USD for three years and it will be soon submitted to donors.

Dr A. Mustafa Hassan described the situation of PPR, underlining the large increase of cases in the Middle East and North Africa region. After a summary of the disease description he explained the current OIE standard for PPR; the Chapter 14.8 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the Chapter 2.1.5 of the OIE Manual for biological tests and vaccines and proposed a regional strategy to control the disease.

## **6. Recommendation**

Cf. annex 2

## **7. Agenda**

Cf. annex 3

## **8. List of participants**

Cf. annex 4

## Ceremonial Inauguration of the Regional Animal Health Centre for the Middle East



In the picture from left to right: G.Yehia, S. Al Khalaf, G. Funes, Minister Skaff, C. Zarzour, J.Domenech, A. Momen, G.Khoury



In front of the Regional Animal Health Centre - Kfarchima

## Annex 1: Regional Animal Health Centre Inauguration – Speeches



**Speech of Dr. Ghazi Yehya  
OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East**

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***4<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADs  
5TH ROUND TABLE FOR SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL OF FMD IN THE MIDDLE  
EAST  
Le Bristol Hotel – Hamra – Beirut – Lebanon  
7-9 April 2009***

**Honorable Representative of H.E. Elias Skaff, Minister of Agriculture of the Lebanese Republic,**

**Dr. Joseph Domenech, Chief of Animal Health Service, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),**

**Dr. Gaston Funes, Head of Regional Activities Department, Representative of the Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health,**

**Distinguished guests and Representatives of the OIE members,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East extends its sincere thanks and gratitude to **His Excellency** Eng. Elias Skaff, Minister of Agriculture; for his support hosting this meeting in Beirut and for providing all necessary assistance to make it successful.

I would like to welcome you here in Lebanon, the country of history, culture, and beauty, country of freedom and democracy. I would also like to thank you for your commitment to participate in this meeting which we hope will be a turning point in the strategy of combating the transboundary animal diseases in the Middle East.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In the Middle East, we have been facing the fact of geography and history to be at the cross-roads of three continents and international traffic of passengers, goods, and to be at the heart of the environmental and ecological dynamics as well. Moreover, the particularity of this region's geopolitics and unique economic varieties give the transboundary animal diseases special pattern of spread, research and control approaches. In other words, we have our specific factors which affect the strategy of the implementation of Global Framework for the Progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases and require a very special approach.

Therefore, there is a need for developing an effective and working strategy to reflect the regional harmonized policies for the control of animal diseases and zoonoses. This strategy should focus on

capacity building of Veterinary Services and strengthening animal disease surveillance and control policies through:

- 1- Enhancing the delivery and quality of the Veterinary Services;
- 2- Implementing targeted surveillance for the main TADs in the region;
- 3- Developing / strengthening of laboratory diagnostic capabilities; and
- 4- Harmonizing regional activities and the international disease surveillance activities. This will also allow the continuation of these activities through bringing international interest in these activities and exchange of expertise.

It is an urgent need to avoid inconsistency and to enhance regional research work. We have to combine efforts to achieve a successful control of TADs by applying research and interaction with the international scientific community.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

There is no need to remind you of the current international economic crisis and its unprecedented effect on the livelihood of many producers and consumers in the world. The spread of TADs is adding to this crisis by threatening food security through serious loss of animal protein and increasing poverty levels particularly in poor communities that have a high incidence dependence on livestock farming for sustenance. The recent reported outbreaks in TADs have seriously disrupted trade in livestock and livestock products either within a country or internationally. Their occurrence has thereby caused major losses in national export income in significant livestock-producing countries.

This should encourage us to use smart tactics to tackle TADs in our region with the best cost-effective approaches and mechanisms. This is because the potential consequences of TADs may also have a significant detrimental effect on the regional national economies public health expenditures.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

So far, the control of external and internal sources of TADs is not systematically addressed in the region except for one or two diseases. At the national and regional levels, systems for early detection of the TADs or of the emergence of new strains are needed. Furthermore, implementation of adapted control strategies has to be strengthened. As we believe that GF-TADs is not a short term strategy, it is therefore advisable to discuss the basis of developing contingency plans tailored-made to the conditions prevailing in the Middle Eastern Countries.

I again wish you a wonderful stay in Lebanon and a productive meeting and outcomes.

Thank you

Allocution du Représentant de la FAO au Liban  
Dr Ali Moumen

A l'occasion de l'inauguration du Centre Régional pour la Santé  
Animale au Moyen Orient tenue lors de l'Atelier du  
« 5th FMD Round Table and 4th GF-TADs RSC »

*Beyrouth Mardi le 07 Avril 2009-04-03*

- Son Excellence Mr le Ministre de l'Agriculture (*Mr Elias SKAFF*) ;
- MM les Représentants du corps diplomatique des pays accrédités et des Organisations Internationales ;
- Dr. Gaston Funes, Chef du Département des activités régionales à l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale (*OIE*)
- Dr. Joseph Domenech, Chef du Service de santé animale et des services vétérinaires à l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation (*FAO*)
- MM les Délégués des Etats membres ;
- Mr le DG du Ministère de l'Agriculture ;
  
- Honorable assistance.
- Mesdames et Messieurs ;

Je voudrais en premier lieu exprimer le plaisir de me retrouver ici parmi vous pour la cérémonie inaugurale du Centre Régional pour la Santé Animale au Moyen Orient combinée à la tenue de 1/- l'atelier de la 5ème table ronde pour la fièvre aphteuse; 2/- la 4ème réunion pour le comité GF-TAD (*Cadre mondial pour la maîtrise progressive des maladies transfrontières*).

Je saisis cette occasion pour souhaiter la bienvenue aux Représentants des Etats membres de la Région et remercier l'ensemble des participants pour avoir répondu à l'invitation.

C'est pour moi aussi, l'occasion de remercier toutes les parties qui ont contribué à l'organisation de cette manifestation.

- Mesdames et Messieurs.

Vous conviendrez tous de l'importance de l'évènement qui nous réunit aujourd'hui dans le processus du développement sectoriel. C'est même le fondement de toute politique visant des objectifs de sécurité alimentaire durable encadrée par une stratégie préventive à même de nous permettre de faire face à une maladie pathogène reconnue pour sa virulence et le risque élevé de sa propagation qu'est la grippe aviaire.

L'ampleur de ce risque prend une toute autre dimension quand on sait que des cas humains de contamination avérée, sont relevés ici et là.

A ce titre, l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation (FAO) et l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale (OIE) ont décidé d'agir en commun dans le Cadre mondial pour la maîtrise progressive des maladies transfrontières.

Basé sur une «*approche régionalisée*» impliquant «*la responsabilité nationale*» et où chaque acte doit avoir un «*caractère citoyen*», ce cadre mondial vise avant toute chose, à prévenir le risque et par conséquent, à mieux maîtriser la maladie.

C'est bien dans ce cadre que s'inscrit le Centre Régional pour la Santé Animale au Moyen Orient, fruit d'une étroite collaboration entre l'OIE et la FAO et dont le principale objectif de sa stratégie reste le renforcement de la prévention et du contrôle des maladies transfrontières au niveau de la région.

Je voudrais à cette occasion remercier le Gouvernement Libanais pour avoir accepté d'accueillir ce Centre et réitérer toute ma reconnaissance au Ministère de l'Agriculture du Liban pour son enthousiaste coopération à ce sujet.

## - Mesdames et Messieurs.

Il reste entendu que dans ce cadre, la stratégie mondiale envisagée repose en priorité sur la formulation de recommandations en matière des politiques, mais aussi l'élaboration de programme régionaux et de projets nationaux à même de juguler le phénomène.

le Centre Régional pour la Santé Animale au Moyen Orient que nous inaugurons aujourd'hui, aura un rôle crucial dans ce contexte grâce à son apport et son assistance dans le développement :

1/- de stratégies nationales et régionales d'intervention et de contrôle à moyen et long termes ;

2/- des compétences et des infrastructures nationales nécessaires à la prévention, la surveillance, la détection et la maîtrise de la grippe aviaire et autres maladies transfrontières.

C'est d'ailleurs dans cette perspective que cet évènement combinera trois(03)actions; à savoir: 1/-l'inauguration du Centre Régional pour la Santé Animale au Moyen Orient; 2/- la 5ème table ronde pour la fièvre aphteuse pour les pays de la région; 3/- la 4ème réunion pour le comité GF-TAD.

S'agissant du Liban, il est utile de noter que plusieurs projets portant sur la prévention et le contrôle de la grippe aviaire et d'autres maladies transfrontières y ont été exécutées.

D'autres projets ayant en commun le souci de renforcer la surveillance par la mise en place de stratégies d'urgence en cas de crise, l'éducation sanitaire ainsi que la mise à niveau des capacités d'encadrement techniques et scientifiques sont en cours de mise en œuvre.

- Mesdames et Messieurs.

Cet outil stratégique qui fait partie des priorités de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation (FAO) et de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale (OIE) mais aussi des Gouvernements concernés permettrait j'en suis convaincu :

- 1/- de renforcer la cohérence régionale dans l'élaboration et la mise en oeuvre des politiques nationales en la matière;
- 2/- d'améliorer les capacités nationales d'encadrement et de mise en œuvre des programmes de surveillance et de diagnostics ;
- 3/- de consolider les espaces de concertation et d'échanges d'informations entre l'ensemble des Services spécialisés des Etats de la Région.

Une telle perspective interpelle chacun de nous à l'effet de conjuguer en commun nos efforts et permettre ainsi de répondre aux objectifs de développement du Millénaire (OMD)

C'est là une préoccupation majeure de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

A cet occasion et avant de clore cette intervention, je voudrais souhaiter le plein succès à cet importante rencontre et réitérer encore une fois à son Excellence toute la disponibilité de la FAO pour un accompagnement efficient de l'ensemble des actions touchant aux objectifs de la sécurité alimentaire durable au Liban.

Merci de votre attention.

BEYROUTH LE 07/04/2009

RAHC Inauguration Ceremony  
Dr Sultan Al Khalaf, Arab Veterinary Associations

**In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful**

Your Excellency Minister of Agriculture

Mr/ FAO Regional Representative

Mr/ Representative of the International Organization for animal health

Mr/ President of the Arab Veterinarians' Federation

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of myself and all members of the general secretariat and the permanent bureau of the General Federation of the Arab Veterinarians I have the honor to forward my thanks and gratitude to Lebanon that has always been and still the polestar of the Arab world despite all pains and injuries it suffered during the aggression of the occupying Israeli enemy. Lebanon will continue to be historically glorious and the symbol of freedom and democracy.

We are very thankful to the government and people of Lebanon that have hosted our conference we hope it will bring us together, ignore our marginal conflicts seek a better future for our profession so to be able to take our responsibility. We are honored to bare this trusty ship in behalf of our colleagues working in the veterinary profession inside our Arab World; the economy summit held recently in Kuwait witnessed reconciliation between the Arab brothers and leaders of Arab countries. Today this reconciliation is concluded in Doha and tomorrow will continue in another country, we hopefully think that it will eventually bring all Arabs together. Things will be as they were in the old times allowing these countries to face our common enemy and all the challenges the Arab nations are actually facing.

We are bricks among others in the Arab nation body; if one organ of it suffers for some reason all the other organs try to stop such a pain.

Isn't worth for us to follow their pioneer steps our nations led in order to put aside their conflicts. We ask God to unify our will and drive us to work for the benefit of our nation and its people.

The challenges our peoples face are huge under the international coalitions where every profession is important. Our responsibilities are so big and require our collaboration in order to develop our animal resources in proportion of the population growth estimated in 2005 to 317,295 people. In parallel the Arab alimentation bill till 2007 reached 90.5 billion dollars, while the food gap was estimated in 2007 to 19.7 billion dollars.

The world is actually experiencing a food crisis and a rise in international prices. It is expected that this gap will get bigger because of the world economical crisis and its impact on the reduction of the donor countries and the World Bank budgets providing assistance to the poor and developing countries in order to meet their food needs. All of those are very serious indicators for the food production future and safeguard of the food security for our peoples. We must also know that the trade balance deficit for the main commodities of animal origin, i.e. the red and white meat, was estimated to 1,52 billion dollars in 2007 versus 1.32 billion in 2006 for the red meat and 1.25 billion in 2007 versus 1.11 billion in 2006 for poultry meat.

The dairy products have also gone through a continuous increase in the trade balance deficit as follow: 3.20 – 3.01 – 2.86 billion dollars for the years 2005 – 2006 – 2007 respectively. Comparatively the bulk of imported red meat indicates an increase, i.e. 1.86 million ton in 2006 versus 1.87 million ton in 2007 with an increase of 1.5 %. These indicators force us to activate the role of our veterinarians' federation in order to come up with an ambitious futuristic plan determining the present and the future situations of the animal resources in the Arab countries, and the role of the federation in implementing the food security for all these countries. Such a plan will help face the future challenges.

The challenges Arab countries face actually are so big with the existence of many Arab countries having a part of their population under the level of poverty like Mauritania, Djibouti, Yemen, and Morocco and many other countries.

The challenges we face are so big in a world trying to use the people's such food as grains (wheat and corn) and other commodities used in animal feeding to produce biological energy (as ethanol) for oil replacement.

If we look for the rest of the world, the leaders of the world agreed in the United Nations in the beginning of the third millennium to make a pledge for exerting most efforts to decrease the levels of poverty to 50 % around 2015.

It is a big challenge under the actual international financial crisis and widespread of diseases and epidemics affecting humans and animals.

There are actually 37 countries in the world threatened by facing a food crisis according to the FAO surveys.

The number of poor people has increased and reached 1.5 billion people, whereas 800 million people are starving around the world.

The challenges the Arab veterinarians are facing actually are so big that all of us are asked to join efforts to face the successive crisis afflicting the world and specifically the Arab countries, starting by the occurrence of BSE which still affect us, and the Avian Influenza affecting not only the animal production but also human



health and safety with many cases of human deaths. We don't know what destiny is lying ahead for us in the future, but we are asked to embark upon and be well prepared to use science, knowledge and modern technologies for diagnosing and succeeding controlling diseases and facing any emergency may happen in the future.

In the end I thank again all the organizers of this conference agencies and individuals, for well preparing such a meeting. I especially thank his Excellency the Lebanese Minister of Agriculture for hosting this blessed meeting.

Sultan Ahmed EI- Khalaf  
Secretary – general assistant  
Of the Arab Veterinarians Federation  
Kuwait

**Opening speech of Dr Gastón Funes, Head of OIE Regional Activities Department  
(on behalf of OIE Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat)**

His Honorable Excellency, Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon, Mr Elias Skaff,  
Former Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon, Mr Talal Al Sahili  
Delegate of Lebanon to the OIE, Dr Nabih Ghaouch  
President of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Middle East, Dr George Khoury,  
Representative of FAO in Lebanon, Dr Ali Moumen  
Chief Veterinary Officer of FAO, Dr Joseph Domenech,  
OIE Regional Representative and Permanent Secretary of the GF TADs Regional Steering Committee for Middle East, Dr Ghazi Yehia,  
Distinguished Authorities, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor to me to be here in Beirut attending these important meetings on behalf of the OIE.

Nowadays all coordinating efforts and mechanisms are key factors when fighting animal diseases, including those affecting or threatening humans.

The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is a paradigmatic mechanism which takes strengths and capacities of main organizations, not only from the OIE and FAO as signatory agencies, but also from all other relevant international and regional organizations, including the public health sector, such WHO, and other related stakeholders both from the public and private sectors, to make more effective and efficient fighting such diseases.

Since the signature of the Gf-TADs Agreement between FAO and OIE in 2004, many things have positively evolved and progressed. The establishment of Regional Animal Health Centres, for supporting and assisting countries with a regional approach has allowed a better coordination and collaboration as well as the implementation and harmonization of strategies for preventing and controlling trans-boundary animal diseases, and this is the case of the Centre that we are inaugurating today, even when it is already fully functioning since two years ago.

Last year, after the first GF-TADs Global Steering Committee meeting, the scope of activities and responsibilities of both signatory organizations, namely the FAO and the OIE, were revised and agreed under an up-dated chart of their competencies and complementarities in the field of animal health.

This chart establishes different topics for which there are three possible interactive collaborations between the two organizations: support, complementarity and synergy. In this framework, it is clearly stated that the OIE is the leading Organisation entirely devoted to animal health issues and in charge of setting animal health and welfare standards, guidelines and recommendations with a global scope, while the FAO has the mandate to help developing countries by supporting, developing and implementing specific programmes at national level.

Many factors are favoring the occurrence and reemergence of transboundary animal diseases, such climate change, global warming and globalization of movements of commodities and services. Nevertheless, the passive attitude from some countries, specifically related to poor governance of Veterinary Services and Sanitary Systems can surely be responsible for much of the problems encountered.

Veterinarians play a frontline role in the control of major animal diseases, including zoonoses, as well as in matters related to food safety and food security. This is the

main reason why the OIE promotes Veterinary Services as a Global Public Good, which proper action, through good governance, will finally result in poverty alleviation with benefits for the entire society.

To reduce risks for public health, a proper management of the animal-human interface is a key factor. The OIE is currently working together with other relevant international organizations, such as FAO, UNICEF, UNSIC, WHO and World Bank in the “One World – One Health” concept which aims to improve the interagency collaboration and synergies for fighting zoonotic diseases, which works finally under the same collaborative approach on which the GF-TADs is based. Under this concept, it was clearly demonstrated, from the experience and lessons learnt from the Avian Influenza crisis, that the best strategy is tackling such diseases at their sources in the animal population. This would drastically reduce the risks to disease spread to humans, and this can only be achieved through Good Governance of Veterinary Services.

The OIE is carrying out a global programme of strengthening Veterinary Services which is strongly accepted and supported by several international donors. This programme includes an initial diagnostic through the evaluation of Veterinary Services using the OIE-PVS Tool for assessing compliance with the OIE international standards on quality. Based on this diagnostic the following step is a detailed Gap Analysis that implies a quantification of the needs and planning of activities that requires the involvement of OIE partners, like the FAO and donors, as well as the strong commitment and involvement of the respective countries which establish their own priorities. Other complementary activities include Twinning of Laboratories and Legislation Project.

Several diseases are affecting or threatening the Middle East Region, such as, among others Rift Valley Fever, FMD, Rabies and Avian Influenza, undermining livestock production and posing at risk the public health. The Regional Animal Health Centre is the most appropriate platform and mechanism for helping countries to implement control strategies against these diseases. The Centre has also to support countries of the region for preparing and submitting their dossiers to the OIE for recognition of Rinderpest Free status during this final fase of the GREP Programme for the Global Eradication.

Recommendations from both meetings (4<sup>th</sup> GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee and 5<sup>th</sup> FMD Round Table) during this week should imply strong commitment from all countries for improving the general animal health situation of the region. One of the most expected result is a common regional strategy for controlling and eradicating FMD from the Middle East, which will be presented during the FMD Global Conference in June in Paraguay. The tools are available.

I don't want to forget to thank all donors which support animal health programmes and projects in the Middle East and encourage them to continue in this way.

Finally I want to make a special mention and thank the Government of Lebanon and its Minister of Agriculture for hosting these meetings, as well as for hosting the OIE Regional Representation for Middle East, which is the Permanent Secretariat of the Regional GF-TADs, and for supporting the activities of the Regional Animal Health Centre in Beirut.

Thank you very much.

Discours Joseph Domenech

Beyrouth, 7-9 April 2009

Excellence, Monsieur le Ministre de l'Agriculture du Liban  
Monsieur le Directeur Général du Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Messieurs les Représentants des corps diplomatiques  
Monsieur le Représentant du Directeur Général de l'OIE  
Monsieur le Représentant Régional de l'OIE  
Monsieur le Représentant du Directeur Général de la FAO au Liban  
Monsieur le Président de l'Association Vétérinaire Arabe  
Messieurs les Représentants des Organisations internationales et régionales  
Messieurs les Représentants des pays membres de l'OIE et de la FAO  
Monsieur le Président du GF-TADs Steering Committee  
Monsieur le Représentant de l'OMS/MZCP  
Chers Collègues, Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est avec un grand plaisir que je me trouve ici avec vous pour l'inauguration du Centre Régional de Santé Animale pour le Moyen-Orient, le Comité de Pilotage du GF-TADs et la table ronde pour la Fièvre Aphteuse.

Ces événements se situent dans le cadre d'un partenariat FAO-OIE, les deux Organisations Techniques Internationales principales en santé animale. Leurs accords, vieux de plus de 50 ans, avaient été réactualisés en 2004 et une initiative commune, le GF-TADs (Global Framework for the progressive control of TADs : Cadre global pour le contrôle progressif des maladies transfrontalières) a été développé la même année. Cette initiative a jeté les bases d'une multitude d'actions communes en particulier en réponse à la crise de la grippe aviaire qui a sévi à partir de fin 2003.

Ces accords FAO-OIE se sont montrés très robustes et des Comités de Pilotage ont été mis en place dans les 5 régions du Monde : Afrique – Asie – Amériques – Europe et Moyen-Orient.

Les approches régionales sont donc privilégiées car il s'agit ici de prévenir et contrôler les maladies les plus contagieuses et qui peuvent donner naissance à des crises d'envergure régionales et internationales. Dans cette approche régionale, le regroupement de l'expertise de la FAO et de l'OIE était nécessaire et les Centres Régionaux de Santé animale sont nés dans lesquels les stratégies et les programmes sous-régionaux se préparent et se mettent en place en synergie entre les deux Organisations.

Le Centre de Santé Animale de Beyrouth est le premier à avoir vu le jour et les accords de siège ont été signés par la FAO et l'OIE et par le gouvernement du Liban en mai 2007.

D'autres ont suivi, à Bamako pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest, Gaborone pour l'Afrique australe, Tunis pour le Maghreb et Nairobi pour l'Afrique de l'Est. D'autres viendront comme à

Bangkok pour l'Asie du Sud Est. C'est une dynamique à laquelle nos partenaires croient et qu'ils appuient fortement.

La prévention et la lutte contre les maladies animales sont donc le cœur de l'activité menée en appui aux pays membres.

Dans cette région du Monde, le Moyen Orient, les problèmes de santé animale ne manquent hélas pas. La peste bovine, fléau mondial, a été éradiquée grâce à une action internationale dynamique, avec un modèle basé sur les approches régionales qui sert dorénavant d'exemple puisque il se termine par un succès : l'éradication mondiale de la peste bovine de la planète en 2010. Une présentation spécifique fera le point des actions qui restent à mener dans la région.

Mais d'autres problèmes sont également présents dans cette région du Monde, charnière entre l'Asie, le bassin Méditerranéen et l'Europe : la fièvre aphteuse fera l'objet de la Table Ronde des jours à venir, avec une discussion sur une stratégie régionale qui tient compte de l'épidémiologie de la maladie et de la distribution des types de virus dans l'ensemble Asie Centrale-Moyen Orient, la Peste des petits ruminants, dont l'extension récente en Afrique du Nord montre qu'elle doit être combattue résolument et la Fièvre de la Vallée du Rift qui elle aussi fera l'objet d'une présentation spécifique.

L'actualité récente, celle de l'irruption de la grippe aviaire dans tous les media et de la peur d'une nouvelle pandémie humaine a entraîné une sensibilisation des gouvernements et de la communauté internationale sans précédent. Les grandes agences multilatérales partenaires du développement comme la Banque Mondiale, la Commission Européenne, les Banques de Développement, les agences des pays comme la France, l'Italie, le Japon, le Royaume-Uni, les pays scandinaves ont décidé d'apporter un appui massif à la lutte contre cette maladie et 2 milliards de dollars US ont été proposés lors de la Conférence Internationale de Beijing en janvier 2006.

Ces efforts ont porté leurs fruits : la pandémie n'a pas eu lieu et la maladie est sous contrôle dans la plupart des pays. Mais le risque demeure et il faut continuer ce combat qui ne cessera probablement pas avant longtemps car nous pouvons tous constater que de nombreux agents pathogènes sont là et prennent le relais.

C'est en effet dans un monde qui évolue sous l'effet des changements globaux, que la santé animale et humaine sont à considérer. La globalisation des échanges, les changements climatiques, l'évolution des écosystèmes cultivés et naturels, tout est réuni pour que ce qu'on appelle 'l'émergence des maladies' survienne. Et de fait, c'est ce que l'on peut constater depuis 10 ans. Une crise régionale ou mondiale survient en effet presque tous les ans : fièvre aphteuse, Nipah virus, SAARS, grippe aviaire, fièvre de la vallée du Rift, West Nile (fièvre de la Vallée du Nil Occidental..)

L'analyse de cette situation a fait émerger le concept de 'One World-One Health' = 'Un Monde Une Santé' car en effet les crises sont souvent internationales et elles concernent l'homme et l'animal dans bien des cas. Ces pathologies naissent au sein des communautés animales sauvages dans la plupart des cas et c'est pourquoi le concept de OWHO s'adresse en particulier à cette interaction entre les secteurs de la santé humaine-animale domestique et sauvage et les écosystèmes agricoles et naturels.

La Conférence InterMinistérielle de New Delhi en décembre 2007 et de Sharm El Sheik en octobre 2008 ont conclu qu'il y avait lieu de bâtir à partir de l'expérience acquise des 5 années de lutte contre la grippe aviaire, de grands programmes de prévention et de lutte contre ces maladies émergentes ou ré émergentes.

Les principes qui ont fait le succès de la campagne contre la peste bovine puis contre la grippe aviaire sont l'engagement politique des gouvernements, l'investissement dans le secteur de la santé animale et humaine et la mobilisation des acteurs et populations concernées. Les approches doivent être multi et transdisciplinaires et concerner tous les

secteurs impliqués : santé publique, santé vétérinaires, faune sauvage, écologie. Le tout basé sur une approche globale dans laquelle les enjeux socio-économique priment.

Les systèmes de santé animale et humaine doivent se baser sur un partenariat public-privé beaucoup plus fort, notamment en ce qui concerne la partie publique – les services vétérinaires nationaux, capables de mettre en œuvre les principes de prévention et lutte contre les maladies : surveillance-détection-déclaration et réponse. La communication est dans ces stratégies à utiliser de façon volontariste car la sensibilisation des acteurs, producteurs, commerçants, consommateurs est indispensable.

Ce sont ces principes que la FAO et l'OIE appuient et développent aux niveaux nationaux et internationaux et, bien entendu, au niveaux sous-régionaux et régionaux.

C'est dans ce contexte que le Centre Régional de Santé animale pour le Moyen Orient, basé à Beyrouth, développe son programme d'action.

Ces trois jours de réunions seront j'en suis certain riches d'échanges et ils définiront les axes pour la mise en œuvre des stratégies de lutte contre les principales maladies.

Je souhaite donc un plein succès à ces réunions de Beyrouth et je remercie de nouveau, au nom du Directeur Général de la FAO, le gouvernement du Liban pour son appui et les participants pour s'être rendus nombreux à Beyrouth.

Merci de votre attention.

**Speech of HE Elias Skaff - April 7, 2009**  
**Inauguration of the OIE/FAO regional Animal Health Center,**  
**4<sup>th</sup> regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Round Table for the Surveillance & Control of the FMD in the Middle East**

Excellency Ambassador-----,

Mr. Moumen, FAO Representative,

Mr. Funes, OIE Representative,

Distinguished guests, participants

I wish to extend the warmest welcome to all delegates and guests participating in the Steering Committee and Round Table as well as those who came to assist in the inauguration of OIE/FAO regional Animal Health Center.

We are pleased to have you with us and are looking forward to your inputs and contributions in the three days to come.

Ladies and gentlemen

In an increasingly complex international reality of disease risk and an increasingly global marketplace, one country's problem can very quickly end up on the doorstep of not only its neighboring country but also another country half way around the world. Therefore we collectively benefit from the transparency and timeliness of disease detection and reporting.

The relation between human and animals is crucial and we need national, regional and global regulations addressing the human relation towards animals.

Notwithstanding the progress made to date, there are still many challenges to overcome. The significant advancement in the animal welfare field globally cannot be achieved by the OIE alone. Its relationship with its partners is of primary importance. The close association with the

WTO, FAO, governments and donors supporting the animal health and animal welfare through important contributions to the Animal Health and Welfare World Fund has enabled the OIE to initiate a new program of Regional meetings on animal welfare.

One significant outcome of these meetings has been the development of a OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy, which is highlighting issues and approaches that are tailored to the Region, and today inauguration of the OIE/FAO regional Animal Health Center.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Delivering animal health activities through appropriate policies and mechanisms becomes a public good because economic and social benefits from these activities contribute to poverty reduction the regional and global market access and food safety are now clearly demonstrated. This is the main job of national veterinary services of the countries in the region, through working in close cooperation with producers, industry and private veterinary practitioners.

The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is a facilitating mechanism which combines the work such as official information of animal diseases, setting up of technical standards, guidelines and mechanisms to strengthen capacity of national veterinary services with the work such as field projects for implementation of disease control measures. I hope that the 5<sup>th</sup> round table will help to set future direction of the region.

As a country that is committed to the mandate and objectives of the OIE, Lebanon feels that it is very important that delegate accept responsibility for improving the effectiveness of this organization, and for protecting national and global animal and public health. Our assignment is to motivate, facilitate, and integrate.



We must **motivate** veterinary services, domestic producers and stakeholders to support the OIE in its transparency and reporting; to contribute to standards development; and to respect and implement the standards adopted.

We must **facilitate** the open exchange of information among public agencies, private companies and animal industries and the access by the OIE to scientific capacity.

And we must **integrate** the resulting OIE standards and guidelines into the work of your countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This meeting will contemplate and discuss the issues of welfare mainly from the viewpoint of policy creation and of the corresponding legislation, enforcement of welfare in livestock production, as well as its impact on the international animal trade and animal products trade. I expect that the debates held in the focused working groups will bring new suggestions on the progress of the work in this particular field.

I am convinced that the veterinary profession and associated professions and partners have the knowledge, expertise and commitment to achieve the goals set for this conference. By working together we can raise the profile of animal welfare in Lebanon and neighboring countries and encourage OIE Members, Veterinary Services, including veterinarians in the private sector, and their partners to take greater responsibility for animal welfare.

With further increases in global trade, climate change, pathogen adaptation, and changes in human and animal population demographics, the profile and importance of the OIE will only grow.

The OIE must continue to be the world's mediator and standard-bearer in all matters related to animal health and animal welfare. The OIE outcomes of social and economic security—and member country

veterinary services—are good for all of us. This success must persist because there is much at stake.

Success requires that the OIE have access to the best science and that accurate, current information inform its standards. Success also requires that all countries participate in, and contribute to the OIE. We must work together for the benefit of all peoples and see more of the set objectives accomplished.

Thank you.

## Annex 2: Recommendations



## **4<sup>th</sup> Regional Steering Committee for the Middle-East of the GF-TADS**

**7 April 2009**

**Beirut – Lebanon**

### **Recommendations**

#### **The participants of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADS recommend:**

1. to reinforce the means and resources of the OIE – FAO Regional Animal Health Centre for the Middle East, located in Beirut, to be able to reach objectives adopted by the Regional Steering Committee, which are:
  - Continuing actions on Avian Influenza preparedness and control, providing technical assistance and expertise to Members and reinforcing capacity building in supporting matters;
  - Follow up of Rinderpest status of Middle Eastern countries, providing FAO and OIE assistance on surveillance programme and preparation of dossier for the official recognition;
  - Implementation of a regional programme to control the FMD in the Middle East in compliance with the conclusions and recommendations of the 5<sup>th</sup> FMD Round Table, Beirut, 8-9 April 2009;
  - Develop a regional programme on RVF prevention and control;
  - Assessment of PPR impact in the Middle East, developing collaboration programmes with other RAHC, notably the RAHC of North Africa – Tunis.
2. according to the endemic situation of brucellosis in the Middle East, to develop coordinated and harmonized actions on the control of this disease;
3. to continue in all countries the reinforcement of their Veterinary Services to strengthen prevention and control transboundary and zoonotic emerging diseases through OIE PVS evaluation and its complementary processes: the PVS Gap Analysis in collaboration with FAO and donors, OIE PVS Follow Up and Legislation;
4. to encourage laboratory twinning projects and other national laboratory capacity building initiatives in support of regional needs;
5. to continue close collaboration with other regional organisations, such as MZCC and AOAD, and international agencies on relevant topics;

6. to organize the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Steering Committee in Cairo, Egypt in 2010 at the FAO Regional Office.

## Annex 3: Agenda



FAO/OIE  
**GF-TADs**  
 GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
 PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
 TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



**OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE OIE-FAO REGIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH CENTRE  
 4<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS  
 5<sup>TH</sup> ROUND TABLE FOR THE SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL OF FMD IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

*Le Bristol Hotel – Hamra – Beirut - Lebanon  
 7 - 9 April 2009*

**TUESDAY 7 APRIL AM OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE REGIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH CENTRE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

09:00-9:15	Presentation on the Regional Animal Health Centre for the Middle East by Dr George Khoury (FAO) and Dr Ghazi Yehia (OIE Middle East)
9:15-10:00	Welcome address by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Ali Moumen, FAO Representative in Lebanon</li> <li>• Dr Sultan Al Khalaf, Arab Veterinary Associations</li> <li>• Dr Gaston Funes, Chief of OIE Regional Activities Department</li> <li>• Dr Joseph Domenech, FAO Chief Veterinary Officer</li> <li>• H.E. the Lebanese Minister of Agriculture Eng. Elias Skaff</li> </ul>
10:00-10:30	Cocktail

**TUESDAY 7 APRIL AM (GF-TADS REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE)**

12:00-13:00	GF-TADS 4 <sup>th</sup> Regional Steering Committee meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome address: Dr Khoury, Chairman of the RSC</li> <li>- Election of the new RSC Bureau</li> <li>- Plan of Action for 2009-2010</li> <li>- Interventions of MZCP/AOAD/USDA-APHIS/GCC</li> <li>- Adoption of the Plan of Action 2009 - 2010</li> <li>- Discussions, conclusions and proposal for dates and venue of the next meeting</li> </ul>
13:00-14:00	Lunch

**TUESDAY 7 APRIL P.M. (OIE/FAO REGIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH CENTRE ACTIVITY)**

14:00-16:00	<b>Report Session from the Secretariat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow up of Amman Conference on Rinderpest Freedom Official Recognition <b>P.Primot (OIE) and F. Njeumi (FAO)</b></li> <li>- Update on RVF <b>S. De La Rocque (FAO) and G.Yehia (OIE)</b></li> <li>- Small ruminants diseases and regional approach <b>A. Al Edrissi (FAO) and A. Hassan (OIE Regional Commission ME)</b></li> <li>- Discussions and conclusions</li> </ul>
20:00	Diner hosted by Abu Yaser International Company, Djibouti Regional Quarantine Facility - Burj el Hamam Restaurant ,Movenpick Hotel Raoucheh



FAO/OIE  
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4<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS  
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**WENESDAY 8 APRIL - 5<sup>TH</sup> FMD ROUND TABLE**

09:00-09:30	Welcome Address <b>Ministry of Agriculture</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Roundtable: aims and outcomes expected <b>G. Funes and G. Bruckner (OIE) - K. Sumption (FAO)</b> Adoption of the agenda Designation of session's chairman and reporter
09:30-10:30	<b>Session One:</b> - FMD situation in the Middle East (Summary and analysis of the questionnaires' response) <b>P. Primot (OIE)</b> - FMDV Strains and Sub-strains risk to the Middle East, recommended vaccine programs 2009 <b>A. di Nardo (OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory - IAH Pirbright)</b> - Discussions
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:00	<b>Selected country reports</b> (10 minutes, set format: Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Oman, Lebanon and Kuwait)
12:00-13:00	<b>Session Two:</b> - Concept and stages in the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD <b>K. Sumption (FAO)</b>  - Outcome of the Shiraz Workshop to develop a Regional Roadmap for FMD control in West EurAsia <b>M. Khalaj and V. Otarod (IVO Iran) / K. Sumption (FAO)</b>
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:30	<b>Session Three:</b> - Regional approach for FMD control in MERCOSUR countries <b>G. Bruckner (OIE)</b>  - Regional support needed to progress FMD control: statement and short panel discussions on: - Lab services and networking - Surveillance/Epidemiology support - Controlling informal/illegal trans-boundary animal movement <b>Facilitators: G. Bruckner and K. Sumption</b>
16:30-17:00	Coffee Break





FAO/OIE  
**GF-TADs**  
 GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
 PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
 TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



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 4<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS  
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17:00-18:00	Activity: completion of survey on country stage in progressive FMD control Pathway (40 minutes) and assembly of regional progress tables (in Plenary) <b>K. Sumption (FAO) and G. Yehia (OIE)</b>
20:00	Dinner hosted by OIE-RRME <b>Sun City Restaurant - Ajaltoun</b>

**THURSDAY 9 APRIL (5<sup>TH</sup> FMD ROUND TABLE CONT)**

09:00-10:00	<b>Session Four</b> Formulation of regional needs to the Paraguay Conference <b>G. Bruckner (OIE) and K. Sumption (FAO)</b>
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break
10:30-11:30	Conclusion and Recommendations
11:30-12:00	Closing 5 <sup>th</sup> FMD Round Table / Date and Venue of the 6 <sup>th</sup> FMD RT
12:30-14:00	Closure Lunch

**THURSDAY 9 APRIL – TOURISTIC VISIT**

14:00-17:00	Visit to Jeita Grotto, Byblos and Notre Dame du Liban (Harissa)
20:00	Dinner hosted by FAO <b>Karam Restaurant –Beirut Downtown</b>

## Annex 4: List of Participants



FAO/OIE  
**GF-TADS**  
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

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**OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE OIE-FAO REGIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH CENTRE  
4<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS  
5<sup>TH</sup> ROUND TABLE FOR THE SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL OF FMD IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

**Le Bristol Hotel – Hamra – Beirut - Lebanon  
7 - 9 April 2009**

**Provisional List of Participants**

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