



CAMENET special meeting

Monday 22/ 5 /2017

Maison de la Chimie, Paris

After the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East meeting on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, a special meeting on CAMENET was held to discuss and agree on the proposed workplan of the network already prepared by the secretariat, Dr. Salama Al Muhairi with the support of the OIE regional representation for the ME. The meeting was attended by 22 participants, including Delegates and observers from 7 Members of the CAMENET. (Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates).

The meeting was chaired by Dr Matthew Stone, OIE deputy director General, Dr Majid Al-Qassimi, Delegate of United Arab Emirates and the assistance of Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East.

Dr Stone opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and describing the CAMENET network as a very important initiative contributing to the work of the OIE in supporting Members to develop targeted programmes for dromedary camels in the Middle East

Dr Stone noted the importance of the CAMENET network to the OIE Middle East Region and the project activity that has been outlined in the proposed work plan. He noted the special place the dromedary camel holds in the Middle East, and that the project has both specific technical objectives that would hopefully benefit animal health as well as public health in the region, The network has specific strategic benefits of demonstrating that countries in the region can identify priorities and engage their networks of experts towards common goals, thus promoting ownership and demonstrating leadership.

Noting that the Regional Commission had already received a presentation on the project work plan, he opened the floor for discussion and comments.

Dr Majed Al Qassimi, delegate of United Arab Emirates, and elected president of the OIE regional commission for the Middle East, recalled the speech of H.E Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi Minister of Climate Change and Environment of UAE on behalf of H.H. Shaikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in the opening ceremony of the OIE 85th General Session, Sunday 21 of May 2017, supporting the establishment of the CAMENET network with neighbouring countries, and the hosting of its activities by the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA) in UAE.

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, briefed the participants with a summary on the work done until to date to establish the governance and the steering committee of the CAMENET. Dr Yehia recalled the meeting held in Dubai on the 16th of March 2017, where the governance of the network has been agreed on.

Dr Yehia, presented then the workplan roadmap and timetable for activities, prepared by the secretariat.

For the establishment and proper functioning of CAMENET, member countries are requested to:

- Designate 3 Contact Persons (CP) operating in the field of camel husbandry, epidemiological surveillance and laboratory diagnosis of camel diseases;
- Designate one or more national laboratories to participate in the network activities.

Also, member countries are requested to:

- Participate in various meetings of the SC and network conferences and inform on the ongoing work in the country and the obtained results, within a timetable designated by the steering committee,
- Information sharing on endemic or sporadic diseases in the countries as well as any health event and emerging diseases;
- Collect samples from clinical cases or in slaughterhouses, markets and sensitive points, to be sent to the relevant laboratories/centres within the network activities;

- Establish a protocol to conduct regular serological surveys on the population of camels in the country.
- Participate in laboratory analysis and interpretation;
- Participation in training in monitoring and diagnosis of camel diseases;
- Participate in inter-laboratory testing (Proficiency) for validation and harmonization of diagnostic methods, communicate results and analyse areas for improvement;

Participants discussed the proposal and agreed on the principle. Participants agreed that the chair of the steering committee will be held by Executive Director of ADFCA/his representative, and asked the secretariat to send the draft workplan to member countries and to receive answers before the end of June 2017 with the names of the 4 persons participating in the network, and the designated laboratory from each country,

The meeting end at: 6:15 pm.