

MISSION REPORT

Dr. Ghazi Yehia

World veterinary Day Celebration King Faisal University- El Hissa

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

28 April 2018

Purpose of the mission:

Responding to the invitation of the delegate of Saudi Arabia to participate in the seminar organized by the Saudi Veterinary Medical Society in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, and the Veterinary college at King Faisal University, celebrating the World Veterinary Day, on the 28th of April, 2018. Under the patronage of His Excellency Prince Badr Ben Mohammed Ben Galawi Al Saoud, Maire of El Hissa.

Summary of the meeting:

The meeting started by welcome speeches by the Principal of the University and the Dean of the Veterinary college, describing and evaluating the crucial role played of the veterinarians

- By preventing and controlling animal diseases, and in securing, by the control and inspection of animal products at all stages “from farm to fork” to guarantee safe food to the world population.
- By contributing to ensure the existence of sufficient resources for future generations by supporting the development of sustainable, responsible and efficient livestock production systems.

A video on the role of the veterinarian in biosafety has been

projected.

The speech of the Ministry has been pronounced by the Deputy Minister Dr Hamad Al Batshan, describing the continuous work of the veterinary services in the control of the terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases in the Kingdom, and the projects designed to improve the quality of the services, in order to reach a high level of satisfaction of the community. The deputy minister, mentioned the efforts done to collaborate very closely with the OIE, to achieve these goals.

The OIE Regional Representative was called to address a short presentation on this occasion:

After promoting the role of the veterinarian as the first battle front against animal diseases, which are considered in 70% the source of human diseases, Dr Yehia described the activities of the Veterinary Services as recognised a global public good because of their role in protecting animal health and welfare, and as key players in ensuring food security through the primary production of animals, safeguarding public health and ensuring food safety (milk, eggs, meat, etc.) and the sanitary safety of international trade.

They also contribute to reducing poverty among rural populations in developing countries by helping them to preserve their precious livestock capital, so crucial to their survival.

- In several countries, the Veterinary Services are responsible for food safety throughout the entire food chain (farm, slaughterhouse, transport, distribution retail and catering).
- The education and training of veterinarians, which includes both animal health (including zoonosis) and food hygiene components, makes them uniquely equipped to play a central role in ensuring food safety, especially the safety of foods of

animal origin.

- Dr Yehia ended by giving a short picture on the vision of the OIE and its 6th strategic plan and he called to invest in the veterinary profession.

After the opening, a working session on the role of the veterinary profession and the means for improvement, has been organized.

A special attention is given to Dre Salama Al Muhairi, the director of Abou Dhabi laboratories in United Arab Emirates, to address a short presentation on the camel diseases network (CAMENET) and its workplan. The audience appreciated the value of establishing the network and called for support.

The meeting ended with a panel discussion and presentation of rewards.

Comments: It is to appreciate the well organization of this very special day for the veterinary profession and all the efforts given by the Saudi Authorities to support and invest in the veterinary science.

