

OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES EPIZOOTIES



1st Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

FINAL REPORT



Pendik (Turkey), 2 - 5 July 1991

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List of abbreviations used in this Report

FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	:	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GTZ	:	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit German Agency for Technical Cooperation
MINEADEP	:	Near and Middle East Regional Animal Production and Health Project (FAO)
MZCC	:	Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Centre (WHO)
PARC	:	Pan African Rinderpest Campaign (OAU)
SAREC	:	South Asia Rinderpest Eradication Campaign
SECNA	:	Screwworm Emergency Centre for North Africa (FAO)
WAREC	:	West Asia Rinderpest Eradication Campaign (FAO)
WHO	:	World Health Organization

Introduction

1. On the invitation of the Government of Turkey, the 1st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East was held in Pendik from 2 to 5 July 1991.
2. Fourteen Delegates and Observers attended the Conference from eight OIE Member Countries and two International Organisations. The Rapporteurs for Items I, II, IV, V and VI also participated in the proceedings of the Conference. These were Dr P. McCosker, Officer in Charge of the Animal Health Division at the FAO, Dr G. Papadopoulos, Director of the WHO Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Centre, Dr T. Chillaud, Head of the Information and International Trade Department of the OIE, Dr L. Tyler, Consultant on animal disease reporting systems and Dr S.C. Mathur, Animal Health Specialist at the FAO.

Tuesday, 2 July 1991

Official Opening Ceremony

3. In his opening address, Dr E. Istanbuluoglu, Director General of the Protection and Control Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture in Ankara, greeted Participants and in particular welcomed the State Under Secretary, Dr Ismail Bilir.
4. Dr M.H. Roustai, Vice-Chairman of the Regional Commission for the Middle East, expressed his appreciation to the Government of Turkey and underlined the importance of the Meeting for the control of infectious diseases in the Region.
6. Dr J. Blancou, Director General of the OIE, thanked the Turkish Government for its invitation to hold the Conference in Pendik and expressed his gratitude to Dr Istanbuluoglu and the Institute staff for the warm welcome they had given Participants. He briefly reviewed the subjects to be discussed during the Conference, emphasising the necessity and value of the Meeting, particularly after the events that have taken place in the Region over the past few months.
7. Dr Bilir, on behalf of His Excellency Ilker Tuncay, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Affairs, welcomed all Participants to Turkey. He stressed the need for efficient livestock production in the Region and the economic importance of disease control and prevention both to individual nation states and their trading partners.

8. Dr Bilir underlined the role of the OIE in providing the link in an international network of disease control systems. He concluded by wishing the Conference every success in its deliberations and declared officially open the 1st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East.
9. The text of Dr Bilir's speech was distributed to the Delegates.

Election of the Conference Committee

10. Participants elected the following Conference Committee:

Chairman	:	Prof. Dr E. Istanbuluoglu
Vice-Chairman	:	Dr M.H. Roustai
Rapporteur General	:	Prof. M.S.M.A. Harbi

Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable

11. The Provisional Agenda and Timetable were adopted.

ITEM I

Interventions of International Organisations

12. Dr P. McCosker was invited by Dr Istanbuluoglu to present his report on the activities of the FAO.
13. Dr McCosker gave a brief review of the structure and functions of the Animal Health Service of the Agricultural Department of the FAO and described the main features of the national and regional projects in operation in the Near East. He summarised the different activities undertaken by the Animal Health Service (publications, meetings, designation of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres etc.). He informed Participants of the situation regarding the Screwworm Emergency Centre for North Africa (SECNA) and the Near and Middle East Regional Animal Production and Health Project (MINEADEP), briefly mentioning the West Asia Rinderpest Eradication Campaign (WAREC), to be discussed at length by Dr Mathur.
14. Dr Istanbuluoglu briefly introduced Dr G. Papadopoulos who gave a short history of the WHO Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Centre (MZCC) and a description of the activities and objectives of the

Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme (MZCP). He pointed out that the sphere of activity of the MZCC was increasing and welcomed the possibility of further cooperation with other countries, organisations or research centres interested in zoonoses and foodborne disease surveillance and control, independent of their geographic location.

Discussion

15. The Conference congratulated Drs McCosker and Papadopoulos on their interesting presentations.
16. The Delegate of the Sudan questioned Dr McCosker on the future of MINEADEP and the criteria for choosing Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. He also enquired into the possibility of strengthening intersectorial cooperation.
17. Dr McCosker explained that the two officials in charge of MINEADEP were now back in Rome and were awaiting an improvement in the political situation before continuing their work in the Region. He added that Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories were chosen according to the needs of the Region and their level of expertise.
18. The Delegate of Jordan expressed his concern over the problem of brucellosis in his country and made a request for the interventions of international organisations to be harmonised with regard to disease control strategies and the choice of vaccine.
19. The FAO, the OIE and the MZCC acknowledged this request adding that, with a view to harmonising policies on brucellosis, all information on the disease would be made available to the countries of the Region.
20. The Chairman pointed out that, due to the current lack of inter-state cooperation on the control of major animal diseases such as brucellosis and foot and mouth disease (FMD), a permanent planning body, similar to the European Foot and Mouth Disease Commission, should be created in order that assistance be given to the Region as a whole and not just to individual countries.
21. The Delegate of Oman supported the Chairman's point, emphasising the need to plan such programmes on a regional basis for reasons of cost effectiveness and efficiency.

ITEM II

Assessment of Veterinary Services

22. Dr Chillaud of the OIE introduced this item by explaining the use of the working document "Assessment of Veterinary Services" in terms of the general activities of the OIE, the harmonisation of international trade agreements and notably the OIE's relations with GATT.
23. He explained how the document should be used for the purposes of self-assessment and bilateral trade.

Discussion and presentation of Country Statements

24. The Chairman thanked Dr Chillaud for his presentation. He underlined the significance of this subject to the countries in the Region. He suggested that Dr K. Dunn, observer, might like to add a few words as he was the Rapporteur for this item at the 59th General Session of the International Committee of the OIE.
25. Dr Dunn thanked the Regional Commission for inviting him to attend the Conference. He explained that it gave him great pleasure to see the document prepared for the OIE being discussed at this Meeting.
26. The Chairman then asked the Delegates of OIE Member Countries to comment on the report and to point out the difficulties they would be likely to encounter when putting theory into practice in their individual countries.
27. The Delegate of Jordan then took the floor and described the situation regarding animal health and production in his country. He gave an account of the national programme of disease control and surveillance which, he stressed, was hampered by Jordan's geographic location (problems of frontier control).
28. The Delegate of Oman described the programme of control and surveillance for the most important diseases in his country: FMD, rinderpest, peste des petits ruminants, rabies (in wildlife), enterotoxaemia etc.
29. The Delegate of Sudan gave a review of the animal health situation in his country and mentioned a recent outbreak of rinderpest in the southern part of the Kordofan region. He thanked the international organisations for the assistance they had given Sudan in improving the animal health situation.

30. Dr M. Alkan, described the organisation of the Turkish Veterinary Services, the animal disease surveillance network and the national animal health programmes.
31. The Delegate of Iran requested further information on the type of FMD vaccine used in Turkey (bivalent O₁-A₂₂) and on the possibility of the occurrence of the "Asia 1" type virus. Dr Istanbuluoglu explained that under the present surveillance system, established in accordance with the recommendations of the tripartite FAO/EEC/OIE Foot and Mouth Disease Group, this virus had not been detected. The national eradication campaign involved the vaccination of cattle twice a year and sheep once a year in the buffer zone provinces of the country. Checkpoints have been established on the principal east-west highways to control animal movement.
32. The Delegate of the Sudan requested further details on the methods of rabies control in Turkey. Dr Istanbuluoglu explained that strategies included controlling the dog population by sterilisation or poisoning and by encouraging vaccination. He added that 45 dogs were involved in an oral vaccination experiment being undertaken in collaboration with Germany.
33. The Delegate of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) gave a review of the organisation of Veterinary Services in his country and an account of the animal health situation, noting particularly, the problem of brucellosis. He pointed out that all the vaccines used in the UAE were imported.
34. The Delegate of Iran explained that the Iranian Veterinary Service had recently been transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Jihad-e-Sazandegi or Reconstruction Crusade. He described the organisation of the Service, the Laboratory, the systems of control and surveillance employed in Iran and listed the principal diseases affecting livestock at this time, notably FMD and Newcastle disease. In Iran, brucellosis is controlled by animal testing and slaughter and/or vaccination, tuberculosis by animal testing and slaughter. Other infectious diseases are controlled by countrywide vaccination. Mass treatment of animals against parasitic diseases has been adopted in addition to routine veterinary activities.
35. The Delegate of Afghanistan described the state of animal production in his country in the context of the physical and human geography. He explained how the Veterinary Services in Afghanistan were organised. He expressed his regret at the suspension of bilateral and multilateral

aid following the war and his fear that, due to the consequent lack of veterinary drugs, there would be a deterioration in the animal health situation in his country.

36. The Delegate of Syria described the structure and functions of the Veterinary Services in his country both at a regional and national level and also the organisation of the diagnostic and vaccine producing laboratories. He gave a review of the veterinary legislation in force, disease control programmes, the monthly reporting system for animal health and production and frontier surveillance.
37. The Director General asked Delegates if they had any comments to make on the presentation and report on the assessment of Veterinary Services.
38. Dr Istanbuluoglu suggested that the OIE should prepare a more elaborate document on the assessment of Veterinary Services including information on quantitative evaluation which could be applied to the different countries, together with specific case studies (practical exercise to be pursued). He added that the OIE document on risk assessment could also be made more detailed to assist Veterinary Services in the application of the theory. Dr Chillaud took note of these remarks and assured Dr Istanbuluoglu that they would be passed on to the relevant people.
39. The Delegate of Oman asked if another document describing the role and importance of Veterinary Services could be prepared as this would assist in strengthening Veterinary Services in developing countries.
40. Dr Dunn pointed out that the document on the assessment of Veterinary Services was the result of a request by GATT to prepare a paper, based on the problem of FMD, that could be used for international trade. It was not a guide for the development of Veterinary Services as two documents on this subject already existed (one by the FAO, the other by the OIE).

Wednesday, 3 July 1991

Professional Visit

41. A visit to the Pendik Institute was considered most interesting. The principal activities of this Institute concern the diagnosis of animal diseases and the production of vaccines, notably for mycoplasmosis of small ruminants, brucellosis, diseases caused by anaerobic bacteria and theileriosis.

ITEM III

Objectives and components of a national animal disease reporting system

42. The Vice-Chairman, Dr Roustai, briefly introduced the Rapporteur for this item, Dr L. Tyler.
43. Dr Tyler reminded Participants of the importance of epidemiological disease surveillance for animal production, regardless of whether or not the diseases involved were epizootic. However, he made it clear that reports on the presence or absence of a disease were of little use if they were not scientifically accurate.
44. The Rapporteur listed the human and material resources necessary for data collection and the overall running of an efficient national disease reporting system. He differentiated between the basic material input (the data) and the system's output (conclusive information) stressing that the ideal was to collect the minimum data, to generate the minimum information, for the maximum impact.
45. First of all, it is essential to have the ultimate objective of an animal disease reporting system clearly defined. Systems must be management orientated and specific, and therefore the data used must be carefully selected.
46. Dr Tyler noted that an increasingly important application of an animal disease reporting system was the identification of a disease-free zone (for example, the results of the OIE Working Group on rinderpest).
47. The value of the basic data input used in disease reporting systems is often extremely variable. However, there is now proof that the data tends to be of a higher quality if a disease control programme is already in existence. In routine reporting it must be recognised that there is a tendency to repeatedly report the same number of outbreaks affecting the same number of animals. Attempts should be made to ensure that there is no loss of information at the different levels (for example, at the production stage, at a veterinary level or at the laboratory).
48. The economic consequences of a disease are difficult to evaluate. There are two possible methods: the empirical method where the production performance of naturally sick animals is compared with that of a control, and the experimental method where animals are

deliberately infected with a disease and then compared with a control. In both cases, care should be taken to prevent any bias. Unfortunately, the data collected is often based on parameters that are in themselves biased, for example, levels of fecundity, mortality, milk production etc.

49. The emergence of new biotechnological methods of diagnosis is most encouraging as this should raise the standard of data collection in the field.
50. Dr Tyler listed the main problems encountered with national or international (OIE) disease reporting systems; notably, late notification, lack of detail, omissions, etc.
51. He concluded his presentation by pointing out that the objectives of a disease reporting system (prevention and control) warranted the creation of specialised animal health and production information units, although the position of these units within Veterinary Services must first be clarified.

Discussion

52. Dr Roustai congratulated the Speaker on his clear and comprehensive report and asked if there were any questions.
53. Dr Chillaud requested further information on the position of an animal health and production unit within national Veterinary Services. Dr Tyler went through the different possibilities concluding that the unit would be most effective if it was attached directly to the Chief Veterinary Officer's (CVO) department. This would ensure that information was received from all sub-sections without discrimination. However, a unit should be installed with precaution to avoid offense as its apparent pre-eminence could be misinterpreted.
54. The Delegate of Jordan questioned the OIE on how it intended to improve the accuracy of the animal health reports sent in by Member Countries.
55. The Director General replied reminding Participants that the Office was only able to disseminate information received from CVOs. However, he pointed out that over the last few years great efforts had been made to improve these reports through the organisation of regional workshops (for example, Pendik), the distribution of the *OIE Manual of Recommended Diagnostic Techniques and Requirements for Biological Products*, the establishment of Reference Laboratories and by requesting confirmation of non-official information from Member Countries.

56. The Delegate of the Sudan asked if it would be possible to increase the speed with which diagnostic kits for the pen-side diagnosis of rinderpest, based on the new technology, could be made available. Dr Tyler pointed out that kits for rinderpest had not yet been developed, but he acknowledged the importance of these kits to veterinarians working in the field.
57. Dr Dunn requested to know the standards required by staff in animal health and production units, how long the training would take and the location of the best places to study. Dr Tyler explained that this training was aimed at middle level personnel and that there were already several universities specialising in this field, particularly in Europe and the USA. He maintained that it was better to train several people (as not all of them would finish by working in animal health and production units) and that the training should be divided into several stages rather than one long course. Long term project support was an effective way of fostering the development of such units.
58. Dr Tyler pointed out that the head of an animal health and production information unit should preferably be a trained veterinarian with a knowledge of economics, and within his team there should be a qualified economist and a computer specialist.
59. The Delegate of Iran expressed his concern over the cost of establishing such units but concluded that they were undoubtedly cost effective. He noted that they could facilitate international trade as the *OIE International Animal Health Code* was not able to detail everything; for example, the significance of the presence or absence of antibodies.
60. Dr F. Schenkel of the GTZ Project in Jordan, after a brief introduction by the Vice-Chairman, took advantage of the occasion to present a report on the Jordanian Information System on the Health and Production of Small Ruminants made operational in 1987.
61. The main objective of the project is to measure health and production parameters throughout the nation. A central unit coordinates information received on a questionnaire from veterinarians working in the field. In addition, a surveillance network makes random studies on flocks of sheep and goats. Fifteen blood samples are taken and are tested for the presence of Q fever, chlamydiosis, brucellosis and bluetongue antibodies. Tests for leptospirosis, caprine arthritis/encephalitis, mycoplasmosis F38 were abandoned as the results were always negative. Peste des petits ruminants will be studied intensively after seropositive cases were found for the first time.

Regarding the flock monitoring, in each flock studied, 20 females are identified and their production and offspring are measured and recorded over a certain period of time.

62. Dr Schenkel explained that, in 1991, this system had been replaced by a simpler method of recording disease incidence. A veterinarian from each clinic visits a randomly selected flock each month. He completes a form, noting any particular observations, and sends it to the Project Headquarters on a monthly basis. If required for disease confirmation, at least 15 blood samples are sent to the laboratory for analysis. Each month, summary reports including graphical presentation of the data are produced. The results of the synthesis of information received in this way gives a clear view of the state of health and productivity of the goat and sheep population in Jordan.
63. The Rapporteur stressed that this system would be improved and expanded in the future and pointed out that one of its most interesting features was that it could be used to trace the origin of an epidemic.
64. The Delegate of Oman asked how the project was financed. Dr Schenkel replied that the Government of Jordan had requested foreign assistance and that the project was principally funded by Germany.
65. The Delegate of Sudan wished to know the real impact of the disease surveillance project on the productivity of a herd, what serological techniques were used for diagnosis and if nutritional diseases were included in the study. Dr Schenkel explained that a disease may not necessarily have an impact on the herd, for example, Q fever has little impact but is studied because it is a zoonosis. Due to the obvious difficulties, nutritional diseases were only studied periodically. The Rapporteur gave a list of the serological techniques used by the project workers.

Thursday, 4 July 1991

ITEM IV

Control measures needed to restrict the animal health risks resulting from the Gulf crisis

66. The Chairman reminded Participants of the concern of the OIE Regional Commissions for the Middle East and Europe over the possible effects of the Gulf war on the health of the human and animal populations in the Middle East region.

67. He described the immediate results of the crisis, notably, the displacement of nearly a million people towards Iranian and Turkish territories and the obvious problems related to the discontinuation of vaccine production in Iraq.
68. The Delegate of Iran gave further details of the situation. He stressed that without information from the Iraqi Delegate it was difficult to know the health and vaccinal status of the animals that had accompanied the refugees across the border. He questioned the approach to be used regarding these animals and called on regional solidarity to avoid the spread of diseases.
69. The Delegate of Oman supported Iran on this matter and emphasised the importance of intervention by the international organisations.
70. The Director General of the OIE stressed that each country in the Region should reinforce its frontier surveillance system.
71. The Delegate of the Sudan suggested that an international commission of enquiry should be set up to assess the situation and that the OIE should try to ascertain from the Iraqi Delegate the animal health status in his country.
72. The Chairman reminded Participants that Iraq no longer had control over the region north of the 37th parallel.
73. Dr McCosker of the FAO suggested it would be a good idea to wait for Dr Mathur's report before continuing the discussion on this subject. The Chairman adjourned the session on Item IV.
74. Dr M. Amarin, Director of the Jordanian Veterinary Vaccine Centre, gave a presentation of the activities of his laboratory which was created in 1987. He listed the products used for diagnosis and the vaccines prepared at this Centre and underlined the laboratory's interest in improving animal health in the Region. In response to a question from the Chairman, the Delegate of Jordan explained that he had no information on the animal health situation in Iraq.
75. The Chairman reiterated the need to establish a regional disease control programme. The Delegate of the Sudan supported this idea and expressed a wish for it to be extended to include laboratories.
76. Dr Istanbuluoglu suggested that countries of the Middle East should work together to develop an animal health information system based on the model that was recommended by the OIE at the Manilla workshop, funded by the Asian Development Bank. The ideal would be if a similar workshop could be organised for the region of the

Middle East and financed by either the Islamic Development Bank or the World Bank.

77. The Delegate of Oman expressed his regret regarding the collapse of the FAO MINEADEP Project and made it clear that he wished a return to normality as soon as possible.
78. The FAO Representative took note of this remark and suggested that other forms of intervention might be feasible.
79. The Chairman encouraged the FAO to relaunch the programme which was interrupted by the war. The Delegate of Syria supported this.
80. The Director General of the OIE reminded Participants that the Office was not able to finance field projects but that it could stimulate other agencies into action by holding workshops (for example, Manila), scientific and regional meetings (for example, Pendik, Malta).
81. The Chairman stressed that the authority of international organisations such as the OIE and the FAO was necessary to obtain financing for regional projects even if, as pointed out by the FAO, the funds needed for a regional programme were negotiated on a country by country basis.
82. The Chairman made a brief summary of the conclusions to be drawn from the morning's discussion:
 - each country should make a concerted effort to improve animal health in the Region and the FAO and OIE should be instrumental in finding the appropriate sources of finance for regional projects,
 - the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank should be approached and invited to play an active role in assisting animal health projects in the Region.

ITEM V

The OIE International Animal Disease Reporting System

83. The Chairman called on Dr T. Chillaud, Rapporteur for this item, to present his report. Dr Chillaud reminded Delegates of their obligations with regard to the OIE Animal Disease Reporting System and distributed a copy of the "Guidelines" together with the different forms that have to be completed. He explained how the SR-1, SR-2 and SR-3 forms and the FAO/WHO/OIE annual questionnaire should

be used. He informed Delegates of how the information received by the OIE was processed at Headquarters and sent out to Member Countries.

Discussion

84. In response to a question, Dr Chillaud gave further technical information on the objectives of the OIE Animal Disease Reporting System. He explained how the information given on the reporting forms could be made more valuable.
85. Dr Tyler and the Chairman requested to know how they could be sure that the information the OIE received from Member Countries was accurate and complete. The Director General of the OIE replied that, normally, if the situation in a particular country was unclear or if disease incidence was suspected, the OIE would contact the country concerned to verify the facts and obtain further information. In addition, the establishment of a Panel for the Verification of the Disease Status is being discussed by the OIE with regard to rinderpest surveillance.

Presentation of proposed recommendations

86. Recommendations Nos. 1 and 2 were adopted by the Conference after amendment and are given in Appendix IV and V respectively.

Date, venue and agenda items for the 2nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

87. The Delegate of Syria announced that his country would be willing to host the next Conference of the Regional Commission in March 1993. This offer was welcomed by the other Delegates and unanimously accepted.
88. The Delegate of Sudan stated that his country would like to host the 3rd Conference of the Commission in Khartoum in 1995. This suggestion was welcomed by the Delegates.
89. The Delegates agreed that the agenda items for the Meeting in Damascus should be chosen during the Regional Commission Meeting in May 1992.

Friday, 5 July 1991

ITEM VI

Surveillance and control of rinderpest

90. Following a request by Participants, Dr S.C. Mathur began the session by giving a brief review of his recent two week visit to Iraq, recounting all that he was able to learn about the animal health situation in the country. He described the situation first before (reasonably satisfactory due to the limited movement of animals) and then after the war.
91. In the post war period, the livestock population in Iraq is marginally reduced. Regarding vaccine production laboratories, the FMD laboratory is intact, one building at the vaccine production centre at Abu Ghreib has been damaged. The country needs vaccines for brucellosis and clostridial diseases. There is also a need for antibiotics. Part of these supplies have been met through a FAO Technical Cooperation Programme.
92. According to the information received by Dr Mathur, there is no evidence of any change in the disease situation in Iraq. There are therefore no immediate problems, although Dr Mathur stressed that the frontier states should be vigilant and prepared to act in the case of an emergency.
93. Following this introduction, Dr Mathur presented a very comprehensive paper on rinderpest. He described the general properties of the disease and gave an account of the control campaigns in operation throughout the world; notably, PARC, WAREC and SAREC. He suggested that Iran and Afghanistan should also participate in regional rinderpest campaigns.
94. The Rapporteur analysed the epidemiological conditions specific to the Middle East and explained that new outbreaks of the disease were the result of infection from animals imported from Africa and Asia. He explained that this was due to quarantine problems, uncontrolled animal movement, etc.
95. Dr Mathur described the organisation of WAREC (which covers 8.5 million animals) and gave details of the general control strategies which include mass vaccination, surveillance and serological testing.
96. In conclusion, the Rapporteur described in detail the activities of WAREC at both the national and regional level: surveillance, scientific meetings, vaccine quality control, diagnostic methods, training programmes, FAO/OIE guidelines, etc.

Discussion

97. The Chairman congratulated Dr Mathur on his excellent and very thorough presentation.
98. Dr Chillaud asked if it was possible to confirm the outbreaks of rinderpest in Oman and Lebanon mentioned by Dr Mathur in his report. Dr Mathur replied his report was based on the information published in the *FAO/WHO/OIE Animal Health Yearbook*.
99. The Delegate of the Sudan questioned whether non-Member countries could be encouraged to participate in WAREC (for example, Saudi Arabia) and if the EEC could be interested in the project. Dr Mathur explained that efforts had already been made regarding both these points.
100. Dr Tyler congratulated the Rapporteur and requested further information on quarantine procedures (for example, in Yemen), diagnostic training procedures, vaccine control and the objective behind serological control. Dr Mathur replied in detail.
101. The Delegate of Iran asked how his country could participate in WAREC as it was disease free. Dr Mathur explained that it was mutually beneficial for Iran and its neighbouring countries to be informed of their respective disease situations.
102. The Delegate of Jordan wanted to know if rinderpest had been officially confirmed in certain countries such as Lebanon.
103. Dr Mathur reiterated that his observation was based on the official report of Lebanon for the *FAO/WHO/OIE Animal Health Yearbook*. He added that WAREC was planning to prepare regular reports on the disease in the Region.
104. Dr Tyler suggested that it might be better to strengthen the FAO/OIE Animal Disease Reporting System.
105. The Delegate of Iran requested further information on the techniques used in rinderpest vaccine production. Dr Mathur assured him that they were those recommended by the FAO and OIE and if necessary the FAO would be able to provide him with the reference reagents. Regarding vaccine potency testing, Dr Tyler and Dr Mathur explained that the vero cell culture system allowed the production of the high titre vaccine with less risk from contamination with bovine pathogens.
106. The Chairman asked if Dr Mathur had seen evidence of rinderpest in Iraq. The response was negative for the regions he had visited.

107. Dr Istanbuluoglu added that it would have been a good idea for Dr Mathur to take serum samples for laboratory examination in order that the results could be confirmed.
108. Dr Mathur explained that he preferred to be more realist and win the confidence of livestock breeders gradually rather than impose a control authority.
109. The Delegate of Iran questioned whether the Veterinary Services of Iraq were functioning correctly. The response was that they were very competent and in the process of being partly privatised.
110. Dr Istanbuluoglu, returning to the subject of FMD vaccine production, wanted to know if this was all in order. Dr Mathur's reply confirmed that it was.

Adoption of the Draft Final Report and recommendations for Items IV and VI

111. Recommendation Nos. 3 and 4 were distributed and discussed. Both recommendations and the Draft Final Report were adopted after amendment.

Closing Ceremony

112. Dr Istanbuluoglu commenced his closing address by reminding Participants of the historical significance of the Conference. He noted that the careful selection of the agenda items and the high standard of reports presented by the Delegates had played a decisive role in ensuring the success of the Meeting. He added that the Conference had undoubtedly strengthened the possibilities of regional cooperation and stressed the economic implications of this for the Region as a whole.
113. Dr Istanbuluoglu expressed his appreciation to the Rapporteurs for their excellent presentations, to Dr Demirozu and all the staff at the Institute for their efficient organisation of the Conference and to the Delegate of Syria for offering to host the next Commission meeting in 1993. He thanked Dr Blancou, Director General of the OIE.
114. In wishing Participants a safe journey home, Dr Istanbuluoglu confirmed his general satisfaction with the Conference proceedings and underlined the enormous potential of the Commission.

115. Dr Blancou noted the conclusions to be drawn from the Conference. He pointed out that, in terms of specific animal health problems, the Middle East was now a geographic entity. In addition, he was convinced that the exchange of information that had taken place during the Meeting and the comprehensive presentations made by the Rapporteurs would enable the Veterinary Services in the Region to better protect the health of their livestock.
116. Dr Blancou thanked the Government of Turkey for hosting the Conference and for the warm welcome accorded to all Participants. He extended his gratitude to Dr Istanbuluoglu and Dr Roustai for the competence and efficiency with which they had presided over the Meeting.
117. The Director General complimented the Rapporteurs on their papers and thanked all Participants for their commitment to the work of the Conference. He expressed his gratitude to the Delegate of Syria for offering to host the next meeting in Damascus.
118. The 1st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East was officially closed at 5.30 p.m.

.../Appendices

APPENDICES

- I. List of Participants
 - II. Agenda
 - III. Timetable
 - IV. Recommendation No. 1
Brucellosis control and
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 - V. Recommendation No. 2
Strengthening Animal Health and
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 - VI. Recommendation No. 3
Control measures needed to restrict
the animal health risks in the
Region resulting from the Gulf War
 - VII. Recommendation No. 4
Rinderpest control and
surveillance in the Middle East
 - VIII. Motion of Thanks
-

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Appendix II

**1st Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

Pendik (Turkey), 2 - 5 July 1991

AGENDA

- I. Interventions of International Organisations
 - FAO
 - Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Centre
 - II. Assessment of Veterinary Services
 - III. Objectives and components of a national animal disease reporting system
 - IV. Control measures needed to restrict the animal health risks resulting from the Gulf crisis
 - V. The OIE International Animal Disease Reporting System
 - VI. Surveillance and control of rinderpest
-

Appendix III

**1st Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

Pendik (Turkey), 2 - 5 July 1991

TIMETABLE

Tuesday, 2 July 1991

9.00 - 9.30	-	Opening Session
9.30 - 10.30	-	Election of the Conference Committee
10.30 - 11.00	-	Break
11.00 - 12.30	-	Item I: Interventions of International Organisations - FAO - MZCC
12.30 - 14.00	-	Lunch
14.00 - 15.30	-	Item II: Assessment of Veterinary Services and presentation of Country Statements
15.30 - 16.00	-	Break
16.00	-	Item II: Contd. - Discussion

Wednesday, 3 July 1991

9.00 - 12.30	-	Visit to the Pendik Institute
12.30 - 14.30	-	Lunch
14.30 - 16.00	-	Item III: Objectives and components of a national animal disease reporting system
16.00 - 16.30	-	Break
17.00	-	Item III: Contd. - Intervention by the GTZ - Discussion
20.00	-	Reception given by the Pendik Institute at the "Asroom" Restaurant, Istanbul

Appendix III (contd.)Thursday, 4 July 1991

- 9.00 - 10.30 - Presentation of Country Statements - Afghanistan and Syria
- 10.30 - 11.00 - Break
- 11.00 - 12.30 - **Item IV:** Control measures needed to restrict the animal health risks resulting from the Gulf crisis
- 12.30 - 14.00 - Lunch
- 14.00 - 15.30 - **Item V:** The OIE International Animal Disease Reporting System
- Discussion and formulation of draft recommendations
- 15.30 - 16.00 - Break
- 16.00 - Discussion of recommendations (contd.)
- Date, venue and agenda items for the 2nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East.
- 20.00 - Dinner arranged by the Turkish Veterinary Drug Production Association.

Friday, 5 July 1991

- 9.00 - 10.30 - **Item VI:** Surveillance and control of rinderpest
 - 10.30 - 11.00 - Break
 - 11.00 - 12.30 - **Item VI:** Contd. Discussion and presentation of recommendation
 - 12.30 - 14.00 - Lunch
 - 15.30 - Adoption of the Draft Final Report and recommendations
 - 20.00 - OIE Reception
-

Appendix IV

Recommendation No. 1

Brucellosis control and surveillance in the Middle East

CONSIDERING

That brucellosis continues to be prevalent in all Middle Eastern countries and that recent outbreaks have been reported in several States despite the extensive efforts made by the Veterinary Services of these countries to control the disease

The threat posed by this disease, particularly to the economy of small ruminant production and the health of the human population in the Region

The present absence of reliable data collection and a regional control strategy, especially for frontier zones

THE 1st CONFERENCE OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE Member Countries in the Region strengthen their brucellosis control and surveillance systems, and by corresponding with the Technical Department of the OIE and the Secretariat of the Regional Commission, exchange information on the disease status, methods of control and the results of the control programmes employed.
2. A comprehensive regional brucellosis control programme (including finance) should be worked out by a Technical Group formed by the OIE, FAO and MZCC (WHO) for this purpose. This should then be considered and adopted at an emergency meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East so that it can be implemented by the OIE Member Countries.
3. Priority be given to the coordination of national research programmes, particularly those concerning diagnosis and vaccine production, in order that the Veterinary Services and laboratories of the Region can work in synergy.

(Adopted by the 1st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 5 July 1991)

Appendix V

Recommendation No. 2

**Strengthening Animal Health and Production
Information Systems**

CONSIDERING THAT

Animal diseases continue to cause serious economic loss to the livestock industries of the Region and to threaten public health

Investigation and research is needed to identify and quantify the effects of disease on the productivity of livestock and to determine appropriate control strategies

The generation and management of information on the occurrence of diseases of livestock and the transmission of information at national and international levels is essential for the proper control of diseases of livestock

THE 1st CONFERENCE OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. National Veterinary Services review their information needs in relation to animal health and production with a view to developing systems which would generate the full range of information required to plan, implement and evaluate their activities.
2. National Veterinary Services create animal health and production information units to act as independent advisory units reporting directly to the Director of Veterinary Services and with the responsibility for generating and communicating information in the fields of veterinary epidemiology and economics.
3. Training programmes should be developed to ensure the availability of qualified staff for animal health and production information units in the disciplines of epidemiology, economics, information systems and applied statistics.

Appendix V (contd.)

4. In-service training of field staff should be undertaken to improve their ability to collect data and to monitor the health status of the livestock in their care and to report effectively on the occurrence of disease.
 5. Workshops should be conducted to improve the surveillance and reporting of animal diseases in the Region.
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(Adopted by the 1st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 5 July 1991)

Appendix VI

Recommendation No. 3

**Control measures needed to restrict the animal health risks
in the Region resulting from the Gulf War**

CONSIDERING THAT

There could be health risks to animals in the Region resulting from the Gulf War

THE 1st CONFERENCE OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The epidemiological condition with regard to major infectious diseases in countries directly affected by the Gulf War and also in border zones of neighbouring countries should be determined, as far as possible, as a matter of urgency.
 2. The OIE and FAO determine whether there is a further need to combat contagious diseases such as foot and mouth disease, rinderpest and others.
 3. The OIE and FAO consider the ways and means of supplying needed vaccines to the affected countries in the Region.
-

(Adopted by the 1st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 5 July 1991)

Appendix VII

Recommendation No. 4

Rinderpest control and surveillance in the Middle East

CONSIDERING THAT

There is a need for the eradication of rinderpest from the Region and for measures to prevent the re-introduction of the disease

THE 1st CONFERENCE OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. All countries in the area of operation of the on-going West Asia Rinderpest Eradication Campaign (WAREC) should participate in the Campaign.
2. WAREC countries should continue to strengthen the system of reporting the occurrence of rinderpest in accordance with the procedures of the OIE and provide WAREC with regular detailed reports on all aspects of their control programmes.
3. Quarantine facilities should be maintained at a high level of efficiency by all countries in the Region.

(Adopted by the 1st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 5 July 1991)

Appendix VIII**Motion of Thanks**

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, the Director General of the OIE, Members of Delegations, Observers and Representatives of Countries and International Organisations, wish to express their gratitude to the Right Honourable President and to the Government Authorities of Turkey, the Host Country of the 1st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, for the excellent welcome offered to them and for all the facilities made available to them during their stay in Pendik from 2 to 5 July 1991.
