

Beirut, Lebanon,
25 – 27 January 2011

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Diseases Notification

Report



**Regional Representation
For the Middle East**

Proceedings of the Workshop

During the 76th OIE General Session in May 2008, the International Committee of the OIE reiterated the importance of the Focal Points for animal diseases notification and requested

Delegates to nominate additional Focal Points for: wildlife, veterinary products, animal production food safety, animal welfare and aquatic animals.

OIE Focal Points, nominated by OIE Delegates and acting under their supervision, are an important mechanism for countries to satisfy to their OIE obligations and to strengthen communication and collaboration with the OIE.

In the global programme of OIE Focal Points' training, the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East (RR-ME) organized a specific training for OIE Focal Points on Animal Disease Notification in Beirut, Lebanon, from 25 to 27 January 2011.

The main purpose of this workshop was to increase the understanding of the OIE's roles and mandates. This training workshop aimed also to support the activities of the OIE Animal Information System Focal Points by giving them guidance to follow and implement their Terms of References.

This training was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of Lebanon.

OIE Focal Points on Animal Information System from the following 10 countries attended this workshop: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, KSA, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Syria, Turkey and Yemen.

Two other delegates from UAE have cancelled their attendance at the last moment retained by the rumours on the political situation in Lebanon.

Observers from the Lebanese MoA were also present during the workshop.



Group photo of attendees

All the "Power Point" presentations made during this workshop will be available at the Regional Representation web address in the meeting menu.

Introduction

Training course for focal points on Animal Disease Notification was held in Coral Suites hotel in Hamra, Beirut, Lebanon, from 25 to 27 January 2011.

Dr. Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East and Dr. Karim Ben Jebara, Head of Animal Health Information Department, welcomed the participants and explained briefly the aim of the training course mainly to train focal points on animal disease notification for a better use and implementation of WAHIS and WAHID in the region.

The majority of focal points have been nominated recently and very few had already used WAHIS.

Only two participants had already followed to the basic training course on WAHIS/WAHID held in Beirut March 2007.

The training started by a presentation of Dr. Yehia; After providing general information on the OIE (role, objectives, mandates, structure (at global and regional levels) and management), they described and explained the work of each of the OIE Focal Points, assisting the Delegate in their relevant domain of competencies. A specific focus was made on the Terms of Reference of the OIE Focal Point on Animal Diseases Notification, underlining the needs of national networking and discussion with relevant stakeholders on the structure, objectives and strategic plan of the OIE.

An interesting exchange on the consequences of transparency took place, particularly on bans applied by some neighbouring countries after the publication of an immediate notification by the OIE reporting an exceptional event in a country from the region despite the fact that they were previously aware about the disease situation in that country.

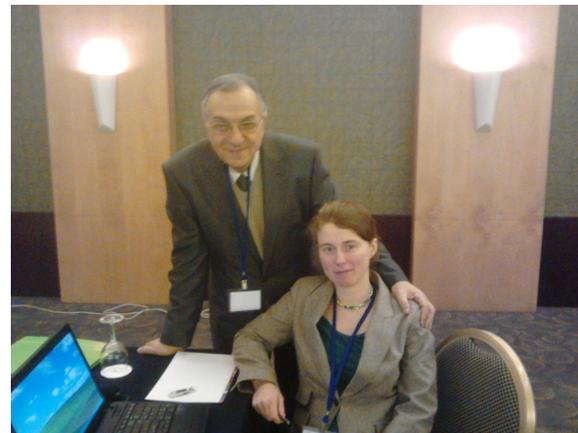
The presentations made during this workshop focused on the improvement of data quality processing into WAHIS for all types of reports for both terrestrial and aquatic animals diseases (immediate notifications and follow-up reports, six-monthly and annual reports), and how they are displayed in WAHID interface. After each presentation, the participants practiced on WAHIS using several exercises. Specific items were developed in connection with the improvements implemented in 2009 with the differentiation of diseases occurrences, when relevant, between domestic and wild species.

An update was made on the situation of diseases reporting of countries of the region, underlining the fact that little information is provided for aquatic animal diseases and for disease situation in wildlife. Participants were reminded on the deadlines that should be respected to send the six-monthly reports (1 month after the end of the semester) and the annual reports (45 days after the end of the year). The participants were also requested to sensitise Delegates to register them as nominated focal points in WAHIS so as to have them stored in the database.

A very good exchange was developed between the participants and the OIE lecturers. Most of them showed a big motivation and a real interest towards WAHIS and were very active during the presentations and practice sessions on WAHIS using exercises.

The OIE lecturers have indicated to the participants that they can use the '*wahis-devt.oie.int*' site and reminded them that this application is not the official one so they can use it for training while no data will be kept or taken into account from this application. They stressed that the '*wahis-devt.oie.int*' site is totally disconnected from the official site: *www.oie.int/vetserv*.

All the participants have received a CD-ROM containing all the presentations and practical exercises used during the workshop, as well as the guidelines and forms to help them to collect the data and prepare it before processing in WAHIS.



Conclusions

This workshop for OIE Focal Points on Animal Disease Notification is part of the OIE global programme, providing information and training to each nominated Focal Point in order to improve collaboration and communication of each country with the OIE.

The main purpose of this workshop was to increase the understanding of the OIE's roles and mandates and to support the activities of the OIE Focal Points on Animal Disease Notification by giving them guidance to follow and implement their Terms of References.

The proposal to build a network of regional OIE Focal Points on Animal Disease Notification would provide a good start in improving collaboration and exchange of information between all regional countries, playing a large part in improving knowledge with respect to standards. Participants supported the idea to build such a network at the regional level in order to discuss particular issues they are facing.

Participants expressed also their wishes to benefit from regular follow-up workshops on this topic.

Concerning their expectations from the training, they all mentioned their will to better understand the OIE notification system and WAHIS and to gain additional competences on processing quality data in WAHIS. Most of the participants wished to have explanations on the notification of diseases in domestic and wild species as well as the link between WAHIS and WAHID

Annexes

1. Agenda
2. Results of the questionnaire on the implementation of animal welfare standards
3. List of participants
4. Dr. Karim Ben Jebara/Dr. Laure Weber Vintzel Report