



SEMINAR FOR OIE FOCAL POINTS FOR AQUATIC ANIMALS

BYBLOS, LEBANON, 12-14 AUGUST 2013

Mission Report

Objectives:

The seminar aimed at providing participants with knowledge on the rights, commitments and responsibilities of the OIE focal points on behalf of the national delegates, in the standard setting process and compliance with the OIE standards.

It provided participants with information on aquatic animals, and on the specific tasks of national focal points in the area. The seminar is also allowed experience sharing and discussion between participants especially in the working sessions.

Date and venue:

The seminar was held at the Victory Byblos hotel and Spa in Byblos (Jbeil) city – Lebanon from 12 to 15 of August 2013.

Participants:

The seminar was attended by focal points participants from member countries out of twelve and a representative from the UAE Embassy in Lebanon: (list attached)

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen.

Summary:

The welcome speeches were addressed to attendees by the Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon, Dr Hussein Hajj Hassan; the director of animal resources, Dr Nabih Ghaouche; and the OIE regional representative for the ME, Dr Ghazi Yehia. All of them welcomed participants in the famous city of Byblos and wished a successful meeting and beneficial outcomes.

The agenda of the meeting was then followed by the presentations of Dr Francois Caya and Dr Gillian Mylrea, describing the role and strategic action plan of the OIE, the mandate of the focal points, the aims of the aquatic code and manual, and the criteria for listing, disease notification and reporting obligations.

OIE experts, Larry Hammel, Edgar Brun and Ana Afonso tackled the subjects on risk analysis in aquaculture, outbreak investigation, surveillance for early detection of aquatic animal diseases.

Aquaculture challenges in Lebanon and the Mediterranean was summarized by Dr Hawi from Lebanon.

The working sessions were addressed to participants under the title of biosecurity and outbreak investigation scenarios.

Two reports have been circulated to participants as a base for discussions:

- A- Abridged version meeting report of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, March 2013.
- B - Extract from the report of the 81st OIE GS, May 2013: Activities of the AAHSC.

The third day of the seminar included a boat trip from Byblos to Batroun, and a cultural visit to the Lebanese National Centre for Aquatic Researches, where Dr N.Khalaf, director of the center, addressed participants with an impressive presentation on the research findings in the Mediterranean depths.

Conclusion:

Participants, in their brief country reports, demonstrated the involvement of their services in the different fields of aquaculture. Programs for surveillance of aquatic diseases and control measures seem to be conducted objectively but need to be reinforced. Participants show a big interest in the discussions of the seminar subjects and participated actively in its working sessions.

A motion of thanks was addressed to the ministry of Agriculture for the active collaboration in hosting the seminar, and certificates of attendance are distributed to attendees.
