



**16TH CONFERENCE OF
THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

3-4 NOVEMBER 2021

**G.Yehia
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**Activities of the OIE Regional Representation
for the Middle East**



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: SECURING ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE BY APPROPRIATE RISK MANAGEMENT

- Encouragement given to Members to participate in the development of international standards and guidelines as well as in the OIE's decision-making process.
- The formation after the 88th GS, of the new **Regional Core Group** and update of its ToRs.
- Translation of relevant reports, documents, and concept notes into **Arabic**
- Capacity-building programmes, developed in the main activities of the **RR and SRR** activities,
- Preparation of the workshop on official and self-declaration procedures to be held next October.



Official disease status recognition

- Promotion of Members' engagement in the Official Disease Status Recognition Procedure. Support countries for self-declaration of disease freedom, such as **Kuwait for Glanders, Bahrain for AHS, Egypt for AI and Dourine, Oman for CCBP, Syria for the EDFZ.**
- Establishing cooperation and harmonisation of strategies between the Members of the Middle East Region, especially regarding control programmes for priority diseases, such as **FMD, PPR, RVF and Rabies.**
- Identification of opportunities to support Members in the implementation of the **Regional Animal Welfare Strategy.**



One Health collaboration

- Diffusion of information on the OIE's activities related to **AMR** to raise awareness among Members in the Region, in line with **the OIE AMR global strategy**. Planification for a regional strategy. Celebration of the World AMR Awareness Week (**WAAW**).
- Follow-up of activities in the region regarding the impact of **COVID-19** and assistance in providing advice as per OIE news alert.
- Follow-up of activities in the region regarding MERS Coronavirus (**MERS-CoV**) including support to experts attending relevant meetings. Promotion with Experts from **IZSs and ADAFSA**, of research group on potential activities on MERS and other Corona Viruses.
- Participation in the Tripartite regional 1 health efforts towards fostering the Multisectoral coordination for Afghanistan
- Exploring and developing opportunities within the Region, in liaison with Regional Activities Department, for making progress on **PVS-IHR** collaboration with WHO.
- Participation in One Health issues meetings organised in Jordan and Lebanon (**EMPHNET, Zoonoses committees**).
- Participation in the **OIE/Interpol emergency management** exchanges meeting and follow up of the project on building resilience against **agro-terrorism** and agro-crime affecting animals.

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Collaboration with IO,s and RO,s

- Revision of the **FAO/OIE GF-TADs** regional steering committee ToRs, and organisation of 3rd and 4th meetings.
- Participation in the **EUFMD on FMD and FAST** Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks Meetings. EUFMD Induction course on Trade. EUFMD Assessment meeting on FMD for Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.
- Participation in the webinars on Surveillance Information Sharing Operational Tool (**SIS OT**) **organized by FAO for Jordan, and MSC for Afghanistan.**
- Support to Members on the identification of regional experts/networks for vector-borne diseases, with a special focus on **RVF, BT, BEF and LSD**, especially for an upcoming training event **AOAD/EUFMD/RR ME.**
- Under the auspices of the co-presidency of Spain and Tunisia, the Joint OIE and FAO secretariat (based in Tunis, Tunisia) organised, the 22th meeting of the REMESA Joint Permanent Committee.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: Establishing Trust Through TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION

- High level communication meetings were conducted by the RR ME, in view of their importance to manage some activities:
- Physical meetings with the **Ministers of Agriculture** in Jordan and Lebanon, and the **DG of ADAFSA** (UAE) and **PAAF** (Kuwait), as well as virtual meetings with the **UAE Minister (MCCEW)**, and the **KSA Deputy Minister of MEWA**. A special meeting has been held with Her Royal Highness **Princess Alia** of Jordan on Animal welfare issues.
- Also, contacts have been made to include potential assistance to the upcoming tripartite agreement (**Egypt, Iraq and Jordan**) on Safe trade and Food Security.
- Continuous updating, in liaison with the OIE Headquarters, in two languages (English and Arabic) of the new **regional website**, with new information thus being made available to Members through the collection, production and dissemination of communication material on both global and regional activities.
- Regular dialogue discussion with other international and regional organisation for coordination of joint activities: **OIE and FAO regional offices, EUFMD, and AOAD**, with very successful outcomes.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: Ensuring the CAPACITY and SUSTAINABILITY of VETERINARY SERVICES

- Continuously promoting, among Members, of the use and benefits of the **PVS Pathway** and its new options. Encouraging countries to publish old PVS report and to request new missions to update the progress made. The promotion of a PVS self-evaluation training.
- Support to the organisation of regional and global seminars, including workshops for **national Focal Points for Animal Welfare and for Wildlife**.
- Promotion of the **OIE Twinning Programme** among Members. 4 Twinning Programmes are in progress: Epidemiology and Risk Assessment (Saudi Arabia – Teramo, Italy), FMD (Saudi Arabia – Brescia, Italy), Camel diseases twinning (Italy-UAE ongoing), AI laboratory (Oman/Lebanon – United Kingdom) and strengthening VS (Lebanon-EU).



Cross cutting Areas

- Promoting the capacities and capabilities of **regional laboratories** and coordinating their activities.
- Supporting exchange of studies and research by regional laboratories. Promotion of the **Global laboratory leadership program (GLLP)**.
- Assistance to the accreditation of a new **OIE collaborating centre for quality management in Abu Dhabi**.
- Promotion of scientific excellence in the region through the support of initiatives such as **CAMENET** (camel diseases laboratory network) and **AQMENET** (aquatic Middle East network) and the Twinning projects.
- Encouraging regional researchers to publish studies in the **OIE bulletin**. (UAE, Lib)



Cross Cutting Area: Governance

- Close collaboration with the members of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to coordinate the organisation of the **16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission**, to be held virtually in November 2021.
- Organisation of regular meetings of the regional core group on monthly basis to discuss regional activities.
- Regular communication with the SRR Abu Dhabi to coordinate regional activities and propose concept notes.
- Inter-regional collaboration with other OIE Regional/Sub-Regional Representations mainly concerned the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, regarding animal welfare issues and REMESA, and the Sub-Regional Representations for North Africa and for Eastern Africa, to organise joint Focal Point meetings on Wildlife, WAHIS, and Animal Welfare.
- Strong collaboration with regional partner organisations, such as FAO, AOAD and EUFMD.
- Maintenance of excellent relations, including regular participation in national events, with Lebanon, the host country of the Regional Representation. Regular visits to the Minister of Agriculture and the Directorate of Animal Resources. All support for national programs were provided.
- Advocacy actions among Members as well as current and potential donors from the region, including encouragement to provide staff on secondment to support the work of the Regional Representation.

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