

**Conclusions and Recommendations of
the OIE/NACA Regional Workshop on Aquatic Animal Health
Bangkok, Thailand, 25-28 March 2008**

1. The Workshop noted the development of regional cooperation for aquatic animal health and thus the development of aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific and also the continued collaboration by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for improvement of aquatic animal health in the Region. The activities by NACA, OIE and FAO include collection, dissemination and exchange of information and experience about the OIE listed diseases and other diseases of regional concern.
2. The Workshop noted that aquaculture is important in the Asia and Pacific Region because it provides about 90% of the world aquaculture production, and thus aquatic animal health needs to be further strengthened for the sustainable development of aquaculture to ensure the important functions to provide animal protein to humans and to provide aquatic farmers with opportunities of generating income, and so contributing to food security and poverty reduction.
3. The Workshop noted that aquaculture is facing problems including aquatic animal diseases which are impediments to the continuing development of the sector and of safe international trade in aquatic animals and their products.
4. The Workshop also recognized that the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) is an appropriate and quick tool of reporting aquatic animal health information. Members submit immediate notification and follow-ups, and regular reports such as every six months, which allows better early warning and monitoring of the aquatic animal health situation worldwide.
5. The Workshop noted that while many countries in the Region have made excellent progress in providing aquatic animal disease information through their competent authorities, constraints remain in other countries. These include insufficient diagnostic capacity and cooperation/coordination between veterinary authorities and other competent authorities such as fisheries. In some countries, this has been greatly improved through the appointment of aquatic animal health focal points by OIE Delegates.

6. The Workshop recommended that;

6-1 activities by the aquatic animal health focal points nominated by the OIE Delegates from veterinary authorities or other competent authorities such as fisheries when applicable, should be further strengthened for exchange of information and experiences at the regional level and for active participation through the OIE Delegates in the OIE international standard setting process.

6-2 the aquatic animal health focal points should send aquatic animal health information to the OIE Delegate for submission to the OIE Central Bureau in Paris in line with rules and guidelines of the OIE, according to the Chapter 1.2.1 of the Aquatic Animal Health Code.

The OIE Delegate will confirm the role of the focal point on Aquatic animal diseases by giving him/her a username and password for a direct access to WAHIS for reporting on Aquatic animal diseases.

6-3 the OIE Central Bureau should ensure that all nominated national focal points are provided with the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission reports and impress upon OIE Delegates of the importance of effectively facilitating the collation of comments on draft text from experts within their country, and to provide a consolidated national response for submission to the OIE.

6-4 the on-going aquatic animal health information system (QAAD reports) should continue to be used during the transitional period, until the on-line WAHIS/OIE-NACA Regional Core becomes functional.

6-5 a regional meeting or workshop should be organized for the National Aquatic Focal Points to provide updates on aquatic animal health, where appropriate.

6-6 the Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation between NACA and OIE should be developed as soon as possible for further strengthening cooperation between both the organizations on aquatic animal health information for the Region and to set up WAHIS/OIE-NACA Regional Core.