

**Second OIE Regional Meeting on  
Strengthening Animal Health Information Networking in Asia  
under the OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) Project for Strengthening HPAI Control in Asia  
(Tokyo, Japan, 7-8 September 2009)**

**Final Conclusions and Recommendations**

**Considering that**

1. Outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) caused by the sub-type H5N1 virus are still being reported in some countries of Asia, since the onset of the disease in 2003 in the Region, posing serious threats to animal and human health,
2. Veterinary Services in the Region have played important roles to reduce the impact of the disease; however, additional efforts by Veterinary Services are still needed and these services are strengthened to control and eradicate the disease at source,
3. The Second Regional Meeting recognised the achievements made by National Veterinary Services after the First Meeting held in Tokyo last year and gives the increasing importance to activities carried out by National Veterinary Services including disease reporting at field, provincial and central government levels,
4. The importance of essential components of improved legislation and its enforcement for effective disease control at source was also highlighted,
5. In many cases, there are still lack of awareness on HPAI and reluctance in reporting by concerned stakeholders including producers and insufficient infrastructure or mechanisms for reporting from the field to provincial and/or central government authorities,
6. Lack of compensation or inadequate compensation for culling susceptible animals is an impediment to achieving complete disease control. This is further aggravated by inadequate legislation and unavailability of resources, posing unsustainable conditions for livestock production and disease control,
7. OIE has recently published guidelines on the quality of veterinary legislation, taking into consideration that veterinary legislation in many countries may no longer be adequate to address the challenges posed by emerging disease threats,
8. Inadequate animal movement management including border control is one of the main causes of the disease spread,
9. There are still some limitations in certain Veterinary Services in the Region in terms of laboratory diagnosis, active surveillance for both domestic and wild animals, culling practices, biosecurity and legislative frame work,
10. The new type of influenza, Pandemic H1N1 2009 recognized as a human disease, has spread to all the continents. Some concern in the Region is on possible reassortment of H5N1 and H1N1, which may create more pathogenic strain(s), because the virus has

been isolated from some domestic animals (pigs and poultry). These infections seem to be connected with human infectious cases.

### **The Meeting recommends that**

1. Appropriate legislation (laws, regulations, guidelines, etc.) for HPAI control should be developed by prioritizing the disease through convincing governments and policy makers, by allocating sufficient resources including for human and infrastructure development and by regulating compensation for disease control and eradication in addition to effective surveillance and monitoring of the disease,
2. Roles of all regulatory bodies should be redefined on securing appropriate implementation of animal movement management including application of a zoning approach, border quarantine and better coordination with relevant authorities. This should be supported by national and regional meetings/workshops,
3. Effective enforcement of legislation should be secured for appropriate culling and disposal of contaminated materials by convincing policy makers to provide legal and financial commitments and by applying strict regulations which will be supported by collaboration of government agencies involved and by formulating Standards of Operating Procedures (SOP),
4. Veterinary Services should continue to pay more attention to public awareness of HPAI, through effective means of communication to the stakeholders. This will be carried out through Training of Trainers (TOT) programmes, educating producers and others, mass media campaign, provision of communication tool kits and setting up appropriate legislation, at national and regional levels.
5. Clear mechanisms on mandatory disease reporting to government authorities should be developed, including the involvement of network partners and farm registration,
6. Closer collaboration between Veterinary Services and Public Health Sector as well as other relevant agencies within the country should be secured for information exchange on zoonotic diseases such as HPAI and also their control at the national level, taking into account the concept of One World One Health,
7. Members of the Region should be encouraged and advised to use the OIE guidelines on the quality of veterinary legislation for improvement and enforcement of their legislations,
8. Emphasis should be put on surveillance of the new type of virus, Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2009, at the national level to identify the situation of the disease in animals,
9. The OIE Regional Meeting on Strengthening Animal Health Information Networking should continuously be organized to review the progress made by Members in line with the Meeting Recommendations, continuing inter-sub-regional animal health networking and experience sharing, in the form of workshop. Whenever possible, joint meetings on legislation (Component II under the OIE/JTF Project) should be considered.