

CAPACITY-BUILDING TOOLS AND ACTIVITIES

Communication from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

The following communication, received on 19 March 2008, is being circulated at the request of the OIE.

1. The OIE is pleased to provide this update on its capacity-building tools and activities for information of WTO Members at the 41st meeting of the SPS Committee.

1. OIE objectives

2. As established in the 4th Strategic Plan (2006-2010) of the OIE, objectives are to:

- Ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation;
- collect, analyse and disseminate veterinary scientific information regarding methods of animal disease control;
- encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases;
- safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products;
- improve the legal framework and resources of national Veterinary Services; and
- to provide a better guarantee of the safety of food of animal origin at the production level and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach.

2. Capacity-building activities of the OIE

3. Recognizing that more than two thirds of the OIE's 172 Members are developing or least developed countries, the OIE places great emphasis on capacity-building to help its Members implement the standards established by the OIE. In the interest of undertaking effective capacity-building activities, the OIE collaborates closely with other international organizations and donors, including within the WTO STDF framework. Dr Bernard Vallat, Director-General of the OIE, represented by Dr Alejandro Thiermann, President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, is a permanent member of the STDF Policy Committee and Dr Sarah Kahn, Director of the OIE International Trade Department, chairs the STDF Working Group in 2008.

4. The OIE, in support of its system to officially recognize country and zone freedom from certain diseases, evaluates the application of OIE standards for surveillance and disease control to obtain and maintain disease freedom. For example, in 2006-2007 the OIE deployed two expert missions to South American countries to assess their methods for control of foot and mouth disease in accordance with OIE standards.

5. The OIE Members are grouped in five regions i.e. Africa, the Americas, Europe, Asia, Far East and Oceania, and the Middle East. The OIE maintains five permanent regional representations (located in Argentina, Bulgaria, Japan, Lebanon and Mali) and four subregional representations (located in Belgium, Botswana, Panama and Thailand). Under the 4th Strategic Plan the OIE intends to expand the number of subregional representations.

6. One of the goals of the OIE's regional and subregional representations is to provide regionally adapted services to OIE Members to help them strengthen the surveillance and control of animal diseases in the regions. Capacity-building activities are an essential priority of the OIE regional representations' work.

7. The OIE's general capacity-building activities include conferences and workshops conducted for its Members at the regional, global and sometimes at the national level. The relevant activities carried out by the OIE in 2007 are shown in Attachment 1.

3. Key elements of an effective capacity-building tool

8. Based on its considerable experience in helping its Members to improve core capacities, the OIE has identified several key features of successful capacity-building tools. These features are presented in no particular order; all are considered to be important.

- Objectives of the capacity-building activity, including definition of the desired capacities and levels of performance are clearly defined.
- There are clear and transparent linkages with relevant international standards, such as those set out in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.
- The rationale for the capacity-building activity is presented in a manner that is transparent and meaningful to donors and countries.
- A prior relationship of trust and mutual confidence is established between the country receiving and the organization providing the relevant assistance.
- There is access to appropriate internationally recognized expertise in the relevant subject material at all stages in the capacity-building process.
- Assistance is provided in a manner that will lead to sustainable improvement of capacity over time, including providing recipients with the means to continue improving capacity.
- A consistent and predictable methodology is used, so that countries receiving assistance know exactly what to expect of the process.
- The organization providing assistance makes provision to receive feedback from the country(ies) receiving assistance, supporting refinement of the capacity-building tool in the light of experience with its use.

- Organizations involved in related capacity-building activities collaborate, share experiences and learn from one another.
- Assistance is delivered by experts with sound experience in the subject(s) relevant to the capacity-building activity. These experts, to be trained in the use of the relevant tool, are formally selected. After training they are certified and their performance is monitored and additional training provided if judged necessary.
- There is ongoing collaboration between international donor organizations, providers and recipients of assistance, to ensure that objectives are shared and expectations satisfied (to the maximum extent possible).
- There is flexibility in the design and application of the capacity-building tool, so that it can be used with modifications from time to time as appropriate to the conditions and environments in countries receiving assistance.
- The capacity-building tool is periodically reviewed in the light of broad experience.
- There is professional and financial accountability in the application of capacity-building tools, to build confidence on the part of all involved in their use.
- Capacities are addressed in a holistic manner – taking account of the roles and responsibilities of the public and private sectors and stakeholders.
- There is ongoing involvement of headquarters executives in all capacity-building programmes.

9. The OIE has taken practical steps to incorporate these elements into the design and application of its capacity-building activities, as the following examples illustrate.

4. OIE PVS Tool

10. One of the OIE's most important capacity-building activities is the Program for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS) based upon the country's compliance with international standards adopted democratically by the OIE General Assembly and recognized by the WTO, and the use of the OIE *PVS Tool* according to established procedures.

11. The OIE *PVS Tool* was initially developed in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), building on these organizations' experiences in working to strengthen the capacities of OIE Members – globally, in the case of the OIE and in the Americas, in the case of IICA – thanks to an STDF project. IICA's emphasis on the partnership between government and stakeholders was refined by the OIE, which placed emphasis on the need for the Veterinary Services (comprising both government and private sector veterinarians) to meet the quality standards set out in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*.

12. The relevance of these standards for Veterinary Services in regards to improving animal health and the capacity to participate in international trade and disease control globally was well established. OIE Members had adopted the relevant texts, i.e. *Terrestrial Code* Chapters 1.3.3. and 1.3.4. in 1998 and 2002, respectively, based on the democratic and transparent standard-setting procedures of the OIE.

13. The OIE has continued to refine the *PVS Tool* with the release of a revised edition, in 2008, based on the work of an ad hoc Group on the Evaluation of Veterinary Services, which was established in 1991. The experts participating in this ad hoc Group, including an FAO expert, were selected for their sound experience in the delivery of Veterinary Services in developing countries.

14. To ensure consistency and efficiency in the approach to PVS evaluations, the OIE selects, trains, and certifies experts to carry out PVS evaluations and only those experts certified by the OIE can carry out an official OIE PVS evaluation. The OIE carried out PVS training sessions in May and July 2006, February 2007 and February 2008. The OIE periodically holds seminars of experienced PVS Assessors to share experiences and provide feedback so that the OIE can refine the PVS procedures and update the OIE *PVS Tool*. A seminar of this type took place in November 2007.

15. The OIE has collaborated with other international organizations in the training of experts. For example, 13 FAO experts have been trained in the use of the OIE *PVS Tool* and 4 FAO experts have participated in official PVS evaluations of OIE Members.

16. The OIE has developed the PVS procedures with a view to building relationships of mutual trust and confidence with OIE Members undergoing a PVS evaluation. An OIE Member considering an evaluation has several opportunities for collaboration in the process. The interaction between the Member and the OIE has to take place via the National Delegate designated by the national government. After requesting the PVS evaluation, the OIE submits to the Delegate the names of experts (normally three in number) who will undertake the procedure. The experts travel to the country and hold meetings with the National Delegate and other representatives of central government, the veterinary services and stakeholders. After an internal peer review of the draft report of the PVS evaluation, the draft report is provided to the Delegate for review before finalization. Finally, the PVS report is held in confidence between the OIE and the Member evaluated until such time as the Delegate approves its release, which may be on an unrestricted or restricted basis (e.g. to OIE partners or to donors organizations only). The OIE requires that all certified experts sign an undertaking to respect the confidentiality of all materials and information obtained in the course of a PVS evaluation.

17. Consistency in approach by experts is further strengthened by the provision of the *Manual for PVS Assessors (Manual)* as an adjunct to the OIE *PVS Tool*. The *Manual*, which is currently being updated to reflect the 2007 revision of the *PVS Tool*, is produced by the École nationale des Services vétérinaires (ENSV), which is an OIE Collaborating Centre for Training of Official Veterinarians.

18. The OIE has taken several steps to make the PVS procedures transparent and to raise awareness of its Members. The OIE *PVS Tool* (without indicators) may be downloaded, free of charge from: http://www.oie.int/eng/oie/organisation/EN_update2007_pvs_out.pdf.

19. The OIE also releases the reports of the ad hoc Group on the Evaluation of Veterinary Services, which may be found with the reports of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission at: http://www.oie.int/tahsc/eng/en_tahsc.htm.

20. The OIE is also preparing *Guidelines for Members considering or requesting a PVS evaluation*, which will be provided to National Delegates at the OIE General Session in May 2008.

21. The OIE has not, as yet, released the *PVS Tool with indicators* to the general public, as it is necessary to stabilize the (currently provisional) performance indicators before taking this step. It is hoped to place this document in the public domain early in 2009.

5. Status of OIE Global PVS Programme

22. Working in collaboration with major international donors, at OIE Members' request the OIE will undertake PVS evaluations of 105 countries in a three-year period. PVS Evaluations have been completed or are ongoing in 50 OIE Members, 15 of which have agreed to the conditional release of the relevant PVS report.

23. Information on the OIE PVS procedures and the Tool may be viewed at: http://www.oie.int/eng/oie/organisation/en_vet_evaluators.htm?e1d2.

24. Steps to be carried out as the follow up to a PVS Evaluation include:

- PVS Gap Analysis (a pilot project is under way);
- the preparation of investment programmes in close cooperation with national policy makers, donors and other partner organizations;
- PVS follow-up missions;
- national workshops involving policy makers, senior veterinary officials (central and provincial/district) and private sector (producers, veterinarians, etc.); and
- regional workshops for raising awareness and training OIE Delegates and focal points.

6. OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme

25. Laboratory twinning involves creating and supporting links that facilitate the creation of a partnership for the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge, ideas and experience. The goal is to improve laboratory capacity and expertise in developing and in-transition countries and to enlarge the network of 200 Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres currently present in 30 countries, most of which are developed countries. Each twinning project is a partnership between an OIE Reference Laboratory already approved by the OIE General Assembly (or an OIE Collaborating Centre demonstrating specific laboratory expertise to OIE standards) and a candidate laboratory. The Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre directly provides the candidate laboratory with technical support, guidance and training. (See Attachment 2.)

26. It is essential that veterinary scientific communities in developing countries are strengthened so that they can participate fully in discussing and adopting OIE standards. In this respect, the OIE twinning programme should help to create a more level playing field by improving expertise in developing countries. Twinning is also integral to the wider OIE initiative to improve the capacity of veterinary services in developing countries.

27. Although the ultimate aim is for candidate laboratories to reach OIE Reference Laboratory status, it is acknowledged that this will be beyond the scope of some projects. In such cases, twinning will bring the candidate closer to OIE Reference status by improving standards in specific selected areas.

28. The benefits from the twinning project should be sustainable and remain long after the project has closed, leading to further development of expertise in the region.

29. To date, the OIE has received 30 proposals; three projects have been approved and one initiated. For example, a twinning project is underway for avian influenza and Newcastle disease,

involving the OIE Reference Laboratory in Padova, Italy, and the national Reference Laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle disease in Vladimir, Russia. The remaining proposals have either been approved "in principle" or are in the process of being approved. Relevant information may be found in Attachment 2.

7. Other relevant OIE projects and activities

30. The OIE has launched a separate but related project to develop "Model Veterinary Legislation for Veterinary Services", for use by developing countries.

8. World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

31. The OIE's capacity-building activities are financed from the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund ("the World Fund"). The OIE created the World Fund on 28 May 2004, by Resolution No. XVII of the OIE International Committee (General Assembly of representatives of the now 172 Members). The Fund was established *"for the purpose of projects of international public utility relating to the control of animal diseases, including those affecting humans and the promotion of animal welfare and animal production food safety"*, which includes programmes for the early detection and global control of avian influenza and other highly pathogenic emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

32. The purpose of the Fund is to support: (i) implementation of action programmes; (ii) implementation of training programmes; (iii) organization of seminars, conferences and workshops; (iv) editing and distribution of scientific and technical publications; (v) production of information media; (vi) implementation of basic and applied scientific research programmes; (vi) OIE Strategic Plans approved by the Member countries; and (vii) activities of developing countries in the aforementioned fields.

ATTACHMENT 1**OIE Capacity-Building Projects 2007**

Project/Activity	Beneficiary country/countries	Date	Date start	Date end
Workshop PVS	Middle East countries	14/01/2007 - 16/01/2007	14/01/2007	16/01/2007
2nd OIE/FAO=APHCA/NIAH-Japan Regional Hands-on Training Workshop on BSE	Asian-Pacific countries	15/01/2007 - 22/01/2007	15/01/2007	22/01/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Kyrgyzstan	15/01/2007 - 30/01/2007	15/01/2007	30/01/2007
6th Workshop FMD	Eastern Asian countries	22/01/2007 - 24/01/2007	22/01/2007	24/01/2007
OIE Collaboration meeting	Asian-Pacific countries	23/01/2007 - 24/01/2007	23/01/2007	24/01/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Djibouti	12/02/2007 - 19/02/2007	12/02/2007	19/02/2007
OIE Training Workshop Epidemiology	Asian-Pacific countries	19/02/2007 - 23/02/2007	19/02/2007	23/02/2007
2nd OIE/FAO/ASEAN-ADB Regional Workshop on HPAI	Asian-Pacific countries	27/02/2007 - 02/03/2007	27/02/2007	02/03/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Costa Rica	01/03/2007 - 15/03/2007	01/03/2007	15/03/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Yemen	09/03/2007 - 24/03/2007	09/03/2007	24/03/2007
13th Meeting OIE Sub-commission FMD Control	Southeast Asian countries	12/03/2007 - 16/03/2007	12/03/2007	16/03/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Brazil	17/03/2007 - 04/04/2007	17/03/2007	04/04/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Laos	18/03/2007 - 31/03/2007	18/03/2007	31/03/2007
PVS Training Exercise	Bulgaria, FYR Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia	19/03/2007 - 21/03/2007	19/03/2007	21/03/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Mexico	19/03/2007 - 31/03/2007	19/03/2007	31/03/2007
OIE/NIAH/DLD-Thailand Regional Workshops for Laboratory Staff	Asian-Pacific countries	26/03/2007 - 30/03/2007	26/03/2007	30/03/2007
Steering Committee Transboundary Animal Diseases	African countries	27/03/2007 - 30/03/2007	27/03/2007	30/03/2007
OIE WAHIS Workshop	Middle East countries	27/03/2007 - 29/03/2007	27/03/2007	29/03/2007
OIE Training Workshop Epidemiology	Asian-Pacific countries	30/03/2007 - 04/05/2007	30/03/2007	04/05/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Ukraine	02/04/2007 - 14/04/2007	02/04/2007	14/04/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Colombia	09/04/2007 - 25/04/2007	09/04/2007	25/04/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Benin	10/04/2007 - 25/04/2007	10/04/2007	25/04/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Kenya	10/04/2007 - 27/04/2007	10/04/2007	27/04/2007

Project/Activity	Beneficiary country/countries	Date	Date start	Date end
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Panama	15/04/2007 - 30/04/2007	15/04/2007	30/04/2007
Training Session PVS	Moldova	16/04/2007 - 17/04/2007	16/04/2007	17/04/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Algeria	16/04/2007 - 28/04/2007	16/04/2007	28/04/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Mongolia	16/04/2007 - 28/04/2007	16/04/2007	28/04/2007
Compensation Mechanisms Zoonosanitary Emergencies Meeting	South-and Central American countries	24/04/2007 - 27/04/2007	24/04/2007	27/04/2007
OIE Regional Commission for Africa	African countries	25/04/2007 - 28/04/2008	25/04/2007	28/04/2008
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Indonesia	30/04/2007 - 19/05/2007	30/04/2007	19/05/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Armenia	30/04/2007 - 15/05/2007	30/04/2007	15/05/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Guinea	01/05/2007 - 15/05/2007	01/05/2007	15/05/2007
Workshop AI Emergency Control	Middle East countries	06/05/2007 - 08/05/2007	06/05/2007	08/05/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Egypt	07/05/2007 - 19/05/2007	07/05/2007	19/05/2007
Conference Elimination Rabies in Eurasia	European/Asian countries	27/05/2007 - 30/05/2007	27/05/2007	30/05/2007
2nd Meeting MTM Epidemiology Network	Asian-Pacific countries	04/06/2007 - 04/06/2007	04/06/2007	04/06/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Turkey	04/06/2007 - 22/06/2007	04/06/2007	22/06/2007
OIE/FAO/EC Mission ASF Georgia	Georgia	11/06/2007 - 14/06/2007	11/06/2007	14/06/2007
OIE Training Workshop Epidemiology	Asian-Pacific countries	11/06/2007 - 15/06/2007	11/06/2007	15/06/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Tunisia	11/06/2007 - 23/06/2007	11/06/2007	23/06/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Lesotho	11/06/2007 - 23/06/2007	11/06/2007	23/06/2007
Rift Valley Fever Workshop	Countries in the Horn of Africa and Middle East countries	13/06/2007 - 15/06/2007	13/06/2007	15/06/2007
OIE Training Workshop Epidemiology	Asian-Pacific countries	18/06/2007 - 22/06/2007	18/06/2007	22/06/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Madagascar	18/06/2007 - 02/07/2007	18/06/2007	02/07/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Malawi	18/06/2007 - 30/06/2007	18/06/2007	30/06/2007
Inter-American Committee Avian Health	South-and Central American countries	19/06/2007 - 21/06/2007	19/06/2007	21/06/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Cambodia	19/06/2007 - 03/07/2007	19/06/2007	03/07/2007
OIE/FAO/FMD Reference Laboratories Network Meeting	SADC countries	20/06/2007 - 21/06/2007	20/06/2007	21/06/2007

Project/Activity	Beneficiary country/countries	Date	Date start	Date end
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Uzbekistan	20/06/2007 - 04/07/2007	20/06/2007	04/07/2007
Training Session PVS	Ukraine	24/06/2007 - 24/06/2007	24/06/2007	24/06/2007
Training Session PVS	Russian Federation	26/06/2007 - 27/06/2007	26/06/2007	27/06/2007
Training Session PVS	Belarus	28/06/2007 - 29/06/2007	28/06/2007	29/06/2007
OIE/FAO-APHCA Workshop Animal Identification and Traceability	South- and Central American countries	02/07/2007 - 07/07/2007	02/07/2007	07/07/2007
OIE/FAO-APHCA Regional Workshop Animal Identification and Traceability	Asian-Pacific countries	02/07/2007 - 04/07/2007	02/07/2007	04/07/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Morocco	09/07/2007 - 21/07/2007	09/07/2007	21/07/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Gabon	16/07/2007 - 28/07/2007	16/07/2007	28/07/2007
2nd Meeting OIE/FAO Steering Committee GFTAD's	Asian-Pacific countries	18/07/2007 - 19/07/2007	18/07/2007	19/07/2007
OIE/FAO Regional Workshop Train the Trainers on HPAI	Asian-Pacific countries	23/07/2007 - 24/07/2007	23/07/2007	24/07/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Kazakhstan	23/07/2007 - 04/08/2007	23/07/2007	04/08/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	RD Congo	23/07/2007 - 05/08/2007	23/07/2007	05/08/2007
OIE/FAO-APHCA Regional Workshop on Surveillance	Asian-Pacific countries	25/07/2007 - 28/07/2007	25/07/2007	28/07/2007
Follow-up Meeting ASF Georgia	Georgia	26/07/2007 - 26/07/2007	26/07/2007	26/07/2007
OIE/FAO-APHCA Regional Workshop on WTO-SPS	Asian-Pacific countries	30/07/2007 - 02/08/2007	30/07/2007	02/08/2007
Seminar Control Harmonization Veterinary Drugs	South- and Central American countries	07/08/2007 - 10/08/2007	07/08/2007	10/08/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Uganda	14/08/2007 - 28/08/2007	14/08/2007	28/08/2007
HPAI Workshop	African countries	15/08/2007 - 17/08/2007	15/08/2007	17/08/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Nigeria	20/08/2007 - 05/09/2007	20/08/2007	05/09/2007
HPAI Workshop	African countries	23/08/2007 - 29/08/2007	23/08/2007	29/08/2007
First Meeting of the WAEMU Veterinary Committee	Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Senegal, Togo	27/08/2007 - 29/08/2007	27/08/2007	29/08/2007
3rd OIE/FAO/ASEAN-ADB Joint Workshop on HPAI	Asian-Pacific countries	28/08/2007 - 30/08/2007	28/08/2007	30/08/2007
Interagency Meeting Transboundary Animal Diseases	American countries	30/08/2007 - 31/08/2007	30/08/2007	31/08/2007

Project/Activity	Beneficiary country/countries	Date	Date start	Date end
WAEMU/CRSA Workshop	Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo	30/08/2007 - 30/08/2007	30/08/2007	30/08/2007
HPAI Workshop	African countries	03/09/2007 - 07/09/2007	03/09/2007	07/09/2007
Workshop on BSE Status	Middle East countries	03/09/2007 - 04/09/2007	03/09/2007	04/09/2007
Steering Ctee Transboundary Animal Diseases	Middle East countries	04/09/2007 - 04/09/2007	04/09/2007	04/09/2007
Roundtable FMD Surveillance	Middle East countries	05/09/2007 - 06/09/2007	05/09/2007	06/09/2007
OIE/FAO/EC Mission ASF Armenia	Armenia	10/09/2007 - 21/09/2007	10/09/2007	21/09/2007
OIE National Trainers' Training Course	Myanmar	11/09/2007 - 13/09/2007	11/09/2007	13/09/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Swaziland	11/09/2007 - 25/09/2007	11/09/2007	25/09/2007
ALive Technical Workshop	African countries	17/09/2007 - 18/09/2007	17/09/2007	18/09/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Burundi	17/09/2007 - 29/09/2007	17/09/2007	29/09/2007
OIE Reg. Workshop on Animal Health Information Systems	Asian-Pacific countries	18/09/2007 - 20/09/2007	18/09/2007	20/09/2007
ALive General Assembly	African countries	20/09/2007 - 20/09/2007	20/09/2007	20/09/2007
OIE National Trainers' Training Course	Cambodia	01/10/2007 - 05/10/2007	01/10/2007	05/10/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Uruguay	01/10/2007 - 12/10/2007	01/10/2007	12/10/2007
Training Session PVS	Kazakhstan	02/10/2007 - 02/10/2007	02/10/2007	02/10/2007
Advanced Workshop on OIE World Animal Health Information System & World Animal Health Information Database	South- and Central American countries	02/10/2007 - 05/10/2007	02/10/2007	05/10/2007
Training Session PVS	Kyrgyzstan	04/10/2007 - 05/10/2007	04/10/2007	05/10/2007
Reg. SEAFMD Private Sector Consultation Meeting	Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam	08/10/2007 - 08/10/2007	08/10/2007	08/10/2007
OIE National Trainers' Training Course	Laos	09/10/2007 - 11/10/2007	09/10/2007	11/10/2007
OIE National Trainers' Training Course	Vietnam	15/10/2007 - 17/10/2007	15/10/2007	17/10/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Togo	15/10/2007 - 30/10/2007	15/10/2007	30/10/2007
Conference Classical Swine Fever	Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, FYR Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia	17/10/2007 - 18/10/2007	17/10/2007	18/10/2007
OIE National Trainers' Training Course	Vietnam	22/10/2007 - 24/10/2007	22/10/2007	24/10/2007

Project/Activity	Beneficiary country/countries	Date	Date start	Date end
OIE/FAO-APHC Reg. Workshop on Food Safety	Asian-Pacific countries	22/10/2007 - 24/10/2007	22/10/2007	24/10/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Oman	22/10/2007 - 03/11/2007	22/10/2007	03/11/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Fiji	22/10/2007 - 02/11/2007	22/10/2007	02/11/2007
On-the-job Traing Diagnosis HPAI	Asian-Pacific countries	23/10/2007 - 30/10/2007	23/10/2007	30/10/2007
HPAI Workshop	African countries	24/10/2007 - 26/10/2007	24/10/2007	26/10/2007
6th Meeting Lower Mekong Working Group FMD	Eastern Asian countries	24/10/2007 - 26/10/2007	24/10/2007	26/10/2007
First HPAI Regional Coordination Meeting, Maghreb countries and Egypt	Maghreb countries and Egypt	26/10/2007 - 28/10/2007	26/10/2007	28/10/2007
OIE Regional Commission for Middle East	Middle East countries	29/10/2007 - 01/11/2007	29/10/2007	01/11/2007
OIE National Trainers' Training Course	Asian-Pacific countries	29/10/2007 - 31/10/2007	29/10/2007	31/10/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Kuwait	18/11/2007 - 28/11/2007	18/11/2007	28/11/2007
PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Mali	24/11/2007 - 07/12/2007	24/11/2007	07/12/2007
OIE Regional Workshop on HPAI	Southeast Asian countries	26/11/2007 - 26/11/2007	26/11/2007	26/11/2007
HPAI Workshop	African countries	03/12/2007 - 07/12/2007	03/12/2007	07/12/2007
FMD mission	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay	08/12/2007 - 15/12/2007	08/12/2007	15/12/2007
Reg WTO Workshop on SPS	Eastern and Southern African countries	11/12/2007 - 13/12/2007	11/12/2007	13/12/2007
Training Session Laboratory Staff	DR Congo, Angola, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia	17/12/2007 - 22/12/2007	17/12/2007	22/12/2007
Training Laboratory Staff Rift Valley Fever	African countries	17/12/2007 - 21/12/2007	17/12/2007	21/12/2007

ATTACHMENT 2



The OIE concept of twinning between laboratories

Introduction

The OIE fully realises that the most effective way of detecting, diagnosing, controlling and responding to animal disease and zoonotic incursions, is to ensure good governance in Member Countries. Integral to good governance is the ability and capacity of all Member Countries to comply with the guidelines, recommendations and international standards of the OIE that are mandated by the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The OIE has therefore embarked on a unique strategic initiative to develop an assessment and evaluation system to assist countries to identify weaknesses in their system that makes it difficult for them to comply with the minimum standards, guidelines and recommendations of the OIE. The evaluation system based on the performance, strategy and vision of a country to move towards compliance (commonly referred to as the PVS-strategy) is already in operation and applied successfully in a number of developing and in-transition countries. The assessment system considers critical aspects of veterinary service delivery such as technical capability, human and financial capital, interaction with the private sector and the needs and problems associated with access to markets. The OIE has, by linking this initiative to its overall aim to establish awareness and acceptance of the delivery of veterinary services as an international public good,

elicited major financial support for this project from the World Bank and other donors, including some of the more financial affluent Member Countries of the OIE. Integral to the assessment process is also the identification of the need to establish scientific and technological expertise within these countries to enable them to become self-sufficient to early detect and diagnose diseases and to be able to provide the scientific justification for certification of animals and animal products for trade.

Although the International Committee of the OIE has already in 2002 adopted a Resolution to identify the need for support by OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to enter into partnership as advanced research institutes with developing and in-transition countries, the OIE also realises that substance to this ideal can only be given by actively moving towards scientific capacity-building with the ideal to eventually establish focal points of expertise and more Reference Laboratories within developing countries. To enable the realisation of this ideal, the concept of twinning between laboratories was born to eventually ensure an even geographical distribution of expertise and Reference Laboratories for easier access to expertise for the rapid detection and diagnosis of disease.

The development and setting of OIE guidelines, recommendations and standards for both terrestrial and aquatic animals, are based on scientific principles and thereby also in support of the requirements of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the WTO that sanitary measures should be scientifically justifiable. The OIE standards are developed for application by all its Member Countries which makes it imperative that all Member Countries should contribute in the setting of standards and also be able to debate these standards from a scientific point of view when necessary. It is therefore important that developing and in-transition countries need a veterinary scientific community able to be associated in the preparation of standards. To this end, the twinning concept will create the much needed opportunities to enable developing and in-transition countries to become scientifically competent to debate on equal footing on the scientific justification of standards.

Twinning – an integral concept to capacity-building for the improvement of veterinary services

Out of the current 172 Member Countries of the OIE, almost 72% are from developing countries with variable scientific capacity or access to scientific expertise within their national laboratories - with the majority of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and expertise still situated in the remaining 47 Member Countries. All 172 Member Countries of the OIE are however obliged to comply or move towards compliance with the international guidelines, recommendations and standards prescribed in the OIE *Codes* and *Manuals* for both terrestrial and aquatic animals. It is therefore of critical importance to establish the necessary scientific expertise in these countries and eventually ensure an even geographical

spread of available expertise to provide the essential scientific support to the veterinary services within these countries, thereby enabling them to more readily apply the guidelines, recommendations and standards of the OIE.

The main objective of twinning is therefore to assist laboratories in developing or in-transition countries to build their capacity and scientific expertise with the eventual aim that some of them could become OIE Reference Laboratories in their own right. To practically apply this concept, a link between an existing OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre with another laboratory in a developing or in-transition country must be established for exchange of scientific expertise and capacity-building. Taking into consideration the current geographical spread and actual localities of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, the twinning concept could imply a transfer of knowledge, training and expertise from the 'North' to the 'South' or from an existing OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre of the South to another less advanced laboratory applying for such assistance.

- ***Applying the concept of twinning between laboratories***

The procedure to implement the concept should be flexible to be adaptable to different situations - from helping as a first step to publish scientific results until eventually achieving the level required to become an OIE Reference Laboratory. The guiding or parent OIE Reference Laboratory and the selected expert(s) from that laboratory will be the driving force to ensure success in any twinning agreement and will also be responsible for the implementation and the use of financial resources under the auspices and control of the OIE.

The initiation and eventual implementation of a twinning relationship between an OIE Reference Laboratory and an applicant laboratory should be done in a stepwise

approach to establish capacity and expertise and eventually move to the final phase when a participatory laboratory could become an OIE Reference Laboratory in their own right.

- ***To ensure the successful agreement on a twinning process between laboratories, it will be essential that:***

- a) The Delegates of the Member Countries of the two involved laboratories and their respective directors, should be in agreement on such a twinning arrangement.
- b) The twinning arrangement should favour a scientific need relevant to the sanitary situation of the country or region of the applicant laboratory;
- c) Communication facilities between the laboratories and experts involved must be assured;
- d) The objectives, time frames and desired outcomes must be realistic and attainable.

The requirements for compliance by the applicant laboratory to enter into such a twinning arrangement will be detailed by the Biological Standards Commission taking into consideration prevailing guidelines for applicants.

- ***The Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE Central Bureau in close cooperation with the relevant Specialist Commissions, will manage the process by:***

- a) Informing all Delegates of Member Countries under signature of the

Director General of the OIE on the concept and proposed steps for twinning between laboratories.

- b) Establishing a list of existing OIE Reference Laboratories or Collaborating Centres candidates for providing cooperation and a list of applicant laboratories interested in cooperation using the OIE twinning concept.
- c) Collating the proposed projects and applications for twinning for submission of the dossiers to the relevant Specialist Commissions.
- d) Initiate and facilitate negotiations between the OIE and potential financial donors to assist twinning projects.
- e) Selection of eligible projects for financial support on the base of the estimated budget indicated by the two collaborating partners and as accepted by the relevant OIE Commission.
- f) Ensuring that the project is implemented by the existing OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre in close cooperation with the applicant.
- g) Ensuring that technical and financial control outlined in the mutual agreement between the participating laboratories, are applied.

**Dr Bernard Vallat
Director General**