DESIGNATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OIE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

Regional Information Seminar for Recently Appointed OIE Delegates

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WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future

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2. Actions currently carried out by the OIE

3. Recommendations for future initiatives of the OIE

4. Recommendations for future initiatives of OIE Member countries

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Background

• Initial role of **Focal Point**:
  • **To assist OIE Delegates** in their obligation of **collecting and submitting to the OIE information on animal diseases**; and
  • To provide a **contact point** for the OIE Animal Health Information Department.

• The successful experience and the ever-growing Delegates’ obligations led to:
  • Creation of **five additional Focal Point categories**; and
  • Proposal to Delegates to appoint individuals for each Focal Point category.

• In 2010 and 2012 two more categories were created, for a current total number of **8 Focal Points**.

• All Focal Points are **under the authority of the Delegate**.
Background

➢ Until 2007:
  ✓ Focal Point for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE (WAHIS)

➢ Since 2008:
  ✓ Focal Point for Wildlife
  ✓ Focal Point for Veterinary Products
  ✓ Focal Point for Animal Production Food Safety
  ✓ Focal Point for Animal Welfare
  ✓ Focal Point for Aquatic Animals

➢ Since 2010:
  ✓ Focal Point on Communication

➢ Since 2012:
  ✓ Focal Point for Veterinary Laboratories*

*Ongoing
Background
Designation of OIE National Focal Points

The nomination and responsibilities of the Focal Points are under the authority of the OIE Delegate:

- The Focal Point shall assist the OIE Delegate and act as a contact point with the OIE in each of the designated areas.

- Any information transmitted to the OIE from the different Focal Points must be transmitted under the authority of the OIE Delegate.

- Applicable even when Focal Points are belonging to other Departments or Ministries not under jurisdiction of the Veterinary Authority.
The specific tasks of each Focal Point topic are listed in their respective Terms of Reference.

The purpose of the Terms of Reference:

- To facilitate consistency and harmonisation amongst OIE Member countries in assigning responsibilities to the various Focal Points.
- To better use their expertise to enable Delegates to comply with their rights, commitments and responsibilities towards the OIE.
All Focal Points

- Act as the contact point with the OIE relevant Departments (STD, ITD, AHID).
✓ All Focal Points (with exception of Animal Disease Notification)

- Establish / communicate with a network of experts;
- Establish dialogue with the Competent Authority and facilitate cooperation where responsibility is shared;
- Receive information from OIE HQ and disseminate it;
- Receive documents and reports of OIE relevant scientific bodies and conduct in-country consultations;
- Prepare science-based comments for the Delegate on OIE draft standards;
- Monitor national legislation to ensure its alignment with OIE standards, recommendations and guidelines.
Animal Disease Notification

- VS officers, preferable in charge of National Epidemiological Unit with experience in epidemiology, computers software use;
- Ensure optimal collection and submission to OIE of animal diseases situation through WAHIS.
Background - ToR

✓ Aquatic Animals

✓ Wildlife

• Support the optimal collection and submission of aquatic or wildlife diseases information to the OIE through WAHIS.
✓ Veterinary Laboratories

- Prepare applications for National Veterinary Laboratories wishing to participate in the OIE Laboratory Twinning Project.
Communication

- Facilitate communication with relevant stakeholders, targeted audiences and the media.
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Actions currently carried out by the OIE

Capacity Building Programme for OIE Focal Points and new Delegates

Objectives:

• Facilitate **consistency and harmonisation** among OIE Members in the assignment of Focal Points **responsibilities**;

• Make better use of the **specialist knowledge** of Focal Points **to support OIE Delegates**; and

• Improve **participation in the OIE standard-setting process**.
Actions currently carried out by the OIE

Capacity Building Programme for OIE Focal Points and new Delegates

Implementation:

• Two-year cycle;

• Regional seminars and workshops for each categories of the Focal Point;

• Parallel programme for newly appointed OIE Delegates.
Actions currently carried out by the
## Actions currently carried out by the OIE

**Capacity Building Programme for OIE Focal Points and New Delegates**

105 seminars/workshops organised up to 2013

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<th>Africa</th>
<th>Americas</th>
<th>Asia &amp; Pacific</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>Middle East</th>
<th>Global WAHIS</th>
<th>Joint Africa-Middle East</th>
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21 seminars/workshops to be realised in 2014

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OIE sends invitations to the Delegate asking to authorize the relevant National Focal Point to participate in the capacity building seminars.

The OIE maintains an internal database;

The OIE sends to Delegates a letter listing the National Focal Points recorded in the OIE database so to update it;

Country missions as opportunities to meet with the Delegate and his/her National Focal Points.
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Recommendations for future initiatives of the OIE

- In the framework of the **Capacity Building Programme for OIE Focal Points and new Delegates**:
  - **strategic evolution and improvement** of the Programme;
  - **seminars mingling different Focal Point categories** to foster their synergies and encourage their networking;
  - Improvement of the **system for evaluating the impact** of the Programme on Member Countries;
  - **Questionnaires** at national level asking Delegates to provide a feedback to the OIE on the training received by the Focal Points;
Recommendations for future initiatives of the OIE

• Wave Focal Points’ registration fees to encourage their participation in the OIE General Session;

• Extend to Focal Points the invitation to attend the New Delegates Seminars in margin of the OIE General Session;

• To be more proactive in sharing with Focal Points the reports of the OIE Specialist Commissions and ad hoc groups; and

• To sensitize New Delegates on the importance of the support that National Focal Points could provide them.
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Recommendations for future initiatives of OIE Member countries

• Whenever appointing a **Focal Point**, ensure his/her **expertise** comply with the relevant **Terms of Reference**;

• Whenever appointing a **Focal Point**, ensure the stability of his/her position and dedicated time to OIE activities;

• Ensure the **appropriate transition of his/her knowledge and responsibilities** when a new Focal Point is appointed; and

• Regularly notify to the OIE any new appointment/change of contact details of **National Focal Points** in order to allow the successful transmission of all information.
Recommendations for future initiatives of OIE Member countries

- Ensure that Focal Points receive reports by OIE specialist commissions and ad hoc groups;

- To organize regular meetings between Delegates and the different categories of Focal Points;

- Ensure the Focal Points provide a feedback after each training received;

- Give to the Focal Points the credentials to access the Delegates website for both acceding to reports and monitor any activity relevant to the respective domain;
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• The OIE strongly believes in the concept of National Focal Points.

• The OIE is constantly working on providing support to Member Countries to ensure an optimal relationship between the Delegates and their Focal Points.

• The OIE do hope Delegates take advantage of using their National Focal Points in supporting their relation with the OIE.
Thank you for your attention!