Overview of the OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme
Background

- Of the current 180 Members Countries of the OIE, 70% are developing or in-transition countries;
  - with variable scientific capacity and access to scientific expertise;
  - need a veterinary scientific community to partake in the preparation of OIE standards.

- Gaps in the geographical distribution of the Reference Centres (RC) and Reference Laboratories (RL):
  - Need to ensure an even geographical spread of available expertise.

- In 2002, the World Assembly of Delegates adopted a Resolution for the OIE Reference Centres to enter into partnership with laboratories of developing and in-transition countries *RESOLUTION No. XXI; 70 GS/FR — PARIS, May 2002* ;

- The concept of Twinning between laboratories and Collaborating Centres was born to address this Resolution.

- Part of the wider OIE initiative to improve the capacity of the VSs (under the PVS Pathway).
The Twinning Concept

Sustainable enhancement of capacity and expertise by supporting a link between an OIE RL or CC (parent) and a national laboratory (candidate)
The Twinning Concept

Twinning

Candidate lab: a national lab needs to be improved

technical support, guidance, training

both share ideas and experiences.

Parent lab: an existing OIE Reference Lab or Collaborating Centre
Aims and Objectives

- Extend the OIE network of expertise to provide better global geographical coverage of OIE expertise for priority diseases in priority areas;

- To form long and lasting links between the institutes;

- Strengthen global disease surveillance networks;

- Strengthen national, regional, and international scientific networks;

- Create collaborative research opportunities - improve sharing, and advance science.
Aims and Objectives

- To build scientific communities and improve compliance with OIE standards (surveillance and control);

- Improve access to high quality diagnostics and technical assistance for more OIE Members;

- For some Candidates to apply for ‘OIE reference’ status;

- Help more countries enter scientific debate on an equal footing with others.
Scope

- Project length is 1-3 years;
- For OIE listed diseases or related topics;
- Focus on expertise. All include essential generic topic (bioethics, biosafety, biocontainment, quality assurance);
- To support the link, but not to buy equipment (No funding for hardware or upgrading of facilities);
- Ultimate aim to reach OIE reference status.
Prerequisites

- Parent must be an OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre;
- Candidate must have potential to provide support;
- Project needs full support of Veterinary Services;
- OIE Delegates are directly involved in the project.
Steps after Twinning Project

- Engaging with the international scientific community;
- Joining disease networks;
- Joint research opportunities;
- Applying for OIE Reference Laboratory status.
Contribution of the Twinning Programme to the OIE Reference Centre Network

Adopted (May 2012)

- RABIES - Changchun Veterinary Research Institute, P. R. China
- AVIAN MYCOPLASMOSIS - National Centre for Animal and Plant Health, Cuba
- CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA (CBPP) - National Veterinary Laboratory, Botswana

Adopted (May 2014)

- OIE Reference Laboratory for infectious salmon anaemia - Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory, Chile
- OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health - China China Animal Health and Epidemiology Centre (CAHEC), P.R. China
Outputs from the Twinning Programme

- Stronger global disease surveillance networks;
- Improved access for the OIE Member to rapid and accurate detection and characterisation of pathogens;
- Improved biosafety, biosecurity and bioethics;
- Stronger scientific networks;
- Improved capability to prevent, detect, and to respond to disease events whatever the source.
Monitoring, Reporting & Evaluation

- Monitoring:
  - performance;
  - expenditure.

- Reporting requirements:
  - interim report;
  - annual reports;
  - final report.

- Verification of expenditure;

- Global twinning feedback workshop (March 2011);

- Twinning survey among involved laboratories;

- Laboratory twinning audit missions.
Projects

Twinning can accommodate multiple diseases or topics:

- **Specific diseases**: (AI, ND, Brucellosis, CBPP, Rabies, AHS, BT, ASF, CSF, EI, Equine piroplasmosis, FMD, Glanders, Ovine chlamydiosis, Salmonellosis, West Nile Virus, IBD, Infectious haemotopoietic necrois, Koi Herpes virus, PPR, Shrimp diseases)

- **Multiple diseases**: (CSF/rabies; AI/ND; PPR/FMD/SGP)

- **Topics**: epidemiology, veterinary medicinal products, molecular diagnostics, food safety, improved diagnostic capacity
31 projects completed
32 projects underway
10 projects approved and waiting to start (‘in the pipeline’)
Total 37 diseases or topics have been covered by these projects, and the most popular three are:
- Avian influenza and Newcastle disease (10)
- Brucellosis (9)
- Rabies (6)


As by March 2016
Situation in Asia

- Projects Completed:
  - 2 projects through Asia Lab as Parent (out of 31 projects)
  - 8 projects as Candidate
    → 2 became OIE RC, 1 applied, 1 preparing for ISO 17025 accreditation

- Projects underway:
  - Asia→Asia
    • 4 projects
9. to prepare proposals for participation of National Veterinary Laboratories in the OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme when relevant
Conclusions

- Twinning concept is functioning well
- The laboratory Twinning Programme has made important contributions to improve the global disease control capacity
- Countries in all 5 OIE regions are benefiting
- OIE twinning is addressing the current bias in the geographical distribution of OIE RL
- AI/ND, Brucellosis, Rabies are the most popular topics for OIE twinning.

Information/publications available: [http://www.oie.int/support-to-oie-members/laboratory-twinning/](http://www.oie.int/support-to-oie-members/laboratory-twinning/)
Thank you for your attention!