Brucellosis has been considered an economically important and neglected zoonotic disease in the region and therefore, a series of workshops have been organised on the disease since 2008. However, the main focus of previous workshops have been in laboratory diagnosis and laboratory capacity building. During the last FAO-OIE workshop on neglected zoonoses in 2015, development of a brucellosis control and eradication strategy to be pursued was one of the recommendations. In the same workshop tuberculosis was also identified as one of the five priority neglected zoonoses in the region for which no separate workshop was conducted earlier. Growing problem of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and in particular issues regarding multi drug resistance (MDR) of tuberculosis in humans prompted us to organise the workshop with the following objectives and expected outputs.

In total there were 45 participants including 15 country participants, three national experts, six observers from Thailand, Australia and Japan, two brucellosis experts, one tuberculosis expert, and resource persons and facilitators from FAO, OIE and WHO.

The main objectives of the meeting were to update participants on the disease situation globally and in the region, and the associated burden of animal brucellosis and tuberculosis in Asia. Discuss effective means or options for the prevention and control of the two diseases considering their socio-economic impact.

The meeting was opened by Dr Wirongrong Hoonsuwan, Officiating Director General, Department of Livestock Development, Thailand. She spoke about the growing significance of brucellosis and tuberculosis and how Thailand has giving importance to the two diseases. She appreciated OIE and FAO for organising this important workshop which will help in ensuring the recognition of the diseases apart from building the capacities of the participants/members countries. She also acknowledged the recognition of National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) Thailand as the OIE reference laboratory for brucellosis.

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