

Conclusions and Recommendations of the 2nd Expert Group Meeting on HPAI

Tokyo, Japan, 13-14 May 2009

Considering that

1. The Expert Group Meeting was established, based on the recommendations of the Inception Meeting of HPAI Control in Asia under the OIE/JTF Project, and the 1st Expert Group Meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan, in October 2008, to support the OIE from a technical point of view, because surveillance of wild birds and domestic animals is important to contribute to the understanding of epidemiology of Avian Influenza and for studying on interaction between wild birds and domestic animals.
2. The 1st Expert Group Meeting suggested that surveillance be implemented in Hong Kong SAR of China PR and Vietnam as the first selected sites in 2008-2009. Missions were assigned to Hong Kong SAR of China PR and Vietnam for making surveillance strategies and for establishment of the agreement on the implementation of surveillance.
3. In addition, China PR, Laos and Mongolia were also visited by the OIE Study teams for preparation of future activities on the surveillance in accordance with the recommendations made by the 1st Expert Group Meeting.
4. Surveillance of wild birds and domestic animals was implemented in Hong Kong SAR of China PR and Vietnam by which samples have been collected.
5. The Meeting noted through their presentations the excellent achievements of surveillance of HPAI in wild birds and domestic animals carried out in RO Korea, Thailand and Pakistan.
6. The meeting was informed on a series of the OIE statements for the new type of influenza caused by the H1N1 virus which has currently been reported in humans and pigs.
7. The 2nd OIE Regional Expert Group Meeting for implementation of the Programme on surveillance of wild birds and domestic animals along migratory flyways under the OIE/JTF Project for HPAI Control in Asia, was held in Tokyo, Japan, on 13-14 May 2009.

8. The 2nd Expert Group Meeting took note of the fact that surveillance in 2008-2009 (up to March) was implemented in line with the recommendations made by the 1st Expert Group Meeting.

The Meeting recommends that

1. Surveillance of wild birds and domestic animals along migratory flyways under the said Project should be further implemented in line with the recommendations made during the 1st Expert Group Meeting, and without any re-arrangements of the said recommendations.
2. Surveillance for 2009-2010 should be continued in Hong Kong SAR of China PR and Vietnam as in 2008-2009, and in Laos and Mongolia as the additional countries for 2009-2010. China mainland should be considered as a candidate for the surveillance which will start in 2010.
3. Careful consideration should be given to determination of timing of surveillance and on high possibility of isolation of viruses from wild birds; namely in September-November (for collecting fecal samples in Vietnam) and in January-February (for collecting environmental samples, and for sampling from captured wild birds) in Vietnam and Laos. Where appropriate and practical, a technical recommendation on timing selection of March-April (for wild birds infected with the HPAI virus from domestic animals that are leaving for the north) should be taken into consideration.
Attention in the same manner should be paid for surveillance of wild birds and domestic animals in Mongolia, e.g. in Mid-July (whooper swans or bar-headed geese, during the molting season, for capturing/marketing/sampling) and/or September-October (domestic animals and/or migrating ducks, for collecting fecal samples) in Mongolia.
4. The Working Group Meeting and field visit should be organized in Laos to confirm the sites/timing/targeted species, etc., for the implementation of Surveillance in January – February 2010. In the case of Laos, further consultation should be made as soon as possible, taking into account the optimal timing of capturing wild birds and collecting samples.
In Vietnam, the two sites (Nam Dinh Province and Bac Lieu Province) should be taken into consideration in 2009-2010 for the follow-up surveillance done in 2008-2009.

5. Means of collaboration with RO Korea, Thailand and Pakistan where surveillance of HPAI in wild birds and domestic animals is being done, should be sought out to make synergy of activities each other.
6. OIE should visit some countries in South Asia and consult with them on implementation of AI surveillance of wild birds as well as domestic animals, selection of countries/sites and species as well as surveillance timing, for 2010 and beyond.
7. Continuous efforts on monitoring H5N1 should be made and strengthened, particularly taking into account the current situation of the disease caused by the H1N1 virus and also the epidemiological situation of HPAI caused by H5N1 in the Region. Surveillance of Avian Influenza viruses in pigs along the migratory flyways should be additionally considered under the OIE Project framework.
8. The 3rd OIE Regional Expert Group Meeting should be organized in Japan in April-May 2010.