



22nd Conference  
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OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

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Recommendation No. 1

**Arboviruses of veterinary significance**

CONSIDERING THAT

Arboviruses are prominent among the emerging infectious disease agents globally,

There is an increasing threat of arboviral diseases to human and animal health in the region,

Arboviruses have a significant impact on trade,

Arboviral diseases are under reported in most of the Member Countries,

Collaboration for the development of common approaches for arboviral disease surveillance and laboratory diagnosis is needed for the Member Countries of the region,

THE OIE COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA  
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries note the pattern of world-wide expansion in the distribution of significant arboviral diseases, such as bluetongue, Rift Valley fever, West Nile and Japanese encephalitis.
2. Member Countries adopt the principle that preparedness for emerging arboviral disease threats includes:
  - a surveillance capability and a strategy to apply that capability. Surveillance may include one or more of: monitoring for changing disease patterns, monitoring vector populations or sampling of animals for laboratory tests,
  - a capability for laboratory diagnosis of arboviruses for surveillance activities and diagnosis,
  - a plan and a corresponding capability for an appropriate method and level of response. In the case of zoonotic diseases, this should involve close consultation with public health authorities.
3. Where laboratories in Member Countries support a laboratory test, they maintain it under a quality assurance programme and identify other laboratories with a similar capability to investigate the possibility of sharing of samples as a means of external proficiency testing.
4. Member Countries collaborate to develop regionally co-ordinated networks to monitor trends in the spatial and temporal occurrence of arboviruses and their vectors using GIS technology. In doing this, the OIE should provide leadership and seek the support of other international agencies and donors.
5. Member Countries note that the OIE *International Animal Health Code* chapter on zoning/regionalisation has been recently revised and would be relevant to arboviral diseases, and support the need for further work to complement the work being carried out on compartmentalisation.
6. The OIE consider including West Nile disease in the list of notifiable diseases.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 30 November 2001)

## Recommendation No. 2

### **New strains of FMD in the region: surveillance, control, eradication and prevention**

#### CONSIDERING THAT

Trade in animals and products of animal origin is important to stimulate economic growth and human well-being in the region,

Formal and informal trade in agricultural products, and in particular animals and products of animal origin, is increasing due to greater economic interdependence,

FMD is disseminated in the region mostly by informal trade in animals and products of animal origin,

A number of new strains of FMD have emerged in the Asian region in recent years, and have spread widely both within and beyond the region,

The OIE SEAFMD programme has been established to promote the progressive control and elimination of FMD in South-East Asia,

Serotype C virus has not been detected recently in the region,

New ELISA tests based on non structural proteins of FMD virus shows potential for use in FMD surveillance programmes,

#### THE OIE COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continues to promote standards and harmonised guidelines for FMD surveillance and epidemiological investigations in the region.
2. The OIE Member Countries increase efforts to conduct FMD surveillance and timely epidemiological investigations of FMD outbreaks using the harmonised guidelines promoted by the OIE.
3. Member Countries submit regularly to the OIE/Regional Reference Laboratories sufficient FMD samples to effectively monitor circulating virus strains. Reference Laboratories should communicate their findings to the World Reference Laboratories for FMD in particular at Pirbright, United Kingdom.
4. Member Countries develop bilateral and/or multi-lateral agreements and procedures as appropriate to reduce the risk of dissemination of FMD by the movement of animals and products of animal origin across international borders.
5. The use of modified live virus and formalin inactivated vaccines against FMD be discontinued.
6. The OIE and the FAO collaborate, in particular within the next International Meeting with donors in 2002, to establish programmes that:
  - ensure control of FMD in at least all the infected countries of the whole region, including countries that are members of SAARC;
  - ensure full sustainability of SEAFMD current programme;

- support a risk assessment concerning the relevance of including serotype C in FMD vaccines for routine use.
7. The OIE gives, as quickly as possible, an opinion to Member Countries concerning the new ELISA tests based on non structural proteins of FMD virus.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 30 November 2001)

Recommendation No. 3

**OIE categorisation of animal diseases**

CONSIDERING

That one of the main objectives of the OIE is 'to inform Governments of the occurrence of animal diseases, changes in their distribution world-wide and means of controlling them',

That the current OIE categorisation of animal diseases into Lists A and B has not been reviewed recently and therefore shows certain inconsistencies,

That the current OIE categorisation of animal diseases should be more flexible and facilitate the inclusion of new emerging animal diseases of significant epidemiological importance,

The need to take into account the growing importance of the potential zoonotic consequences of many animal diseases and the need for consistency of approach in the long term with the *International Aquatic Animal Health Code* and the interface with wildlife diseases,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA  
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE change the current categorisation of animal diseases from Lists A and B to a classification of significant animal diseases with two new categories based on the epidemiological characteristics of a particular animal disease as follows:
  - a) animal diseases of immediate notification (within 24 hours) due to their rapid spread (high epidemiological significance);
  - b) animal diseases of periodic notification (on a monthly basis and, where appropriate, at least annually), based on lesser epidemiological significance.
2. The inclusion of any animal disease in a particular category shall be based on the aetiological and epidemiological characteristics of the disease and its potential for dangerous, rapid and widespread dissemination (directly or through vectors). The zoonotic potential of the disease should also be taken into account.
3. The OIE, as a scientific reference body, categorise significant animal diseases using the criteria detailed in point 1 above and promote awareness among OIE Member Countries of this approach and its principal purpose, which is to promote the dissemination of timely and quality information for the purposes of safe trade between countries and disease control strategies within countries.
4. This recommendation be examined by the Administrative Commission of the OIE in order to determine the most appropriate manner to effect the necessary change.
5. The OIE continue to develop and strengthen its disease databases and provide Member Countries with access to these to enable them to obtain up-to-date and quality information on animal health status world-wide.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 30 November 2001)

Recommendation No. 4

**Sustainability of the SEAFMD programme**

CONSIDERING

The recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia (Yangon, Myanmar, 26 February - 3 March 2001) that :

- There have been significant achievements in the SEAFMD programme,
- The SEAFMD programme will provide a model for other regional disease control programmes,
- The SEAFMD programme needs additional resources to develop these activities,
- The ASEAN countries will assume full responsibility for SEAFMD in 2004,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA  
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Each Member Country of the SEAFMD Sub-Commission be encouraged to contribute to the sustainability of the SEAFMD programme by taking an official decision for a national financial contribution to the programme.
2. At a first stage, the OIE establish a mechanism whereby SEAFMD Member Countries be requested to provide additional financial support to the SEAFMD programme, equivalent to 10 per cent of their respective OIE annual contributions.
3. The Director General be responsible for the execution of the present recommendation, including its presentation to relevant Member Countries.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 30 November 2001)