



**24th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

Seoul (Republic of Korea), 15-18 November 2005

Recommendation No. 1: Avian influenza and emerging animal diseases of relevance in Asia

Recommendation No. 2: Prevention and control of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Asia and the Pacific

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Recommendation No. 1

Avian influenza and emerging animal diseases of relevance in Asia

CONSIDERING THAT

Highly pathogenic avian influenza in Asia has caused far more damage in smaller farms or holdings with poor biosecurity conditions than in well managed industrial poultry establishments,

The increasing load of HPAI virus being excreted into the environment by poultry kept in the backyard and small holdings, which in consequence leads to close human contact, may increase the possibility of mutation of the virus and hence the threat of a human pandemic,

Although AI prevention and control measures exist in Member Countries of the Region, these vary considerably from country to country,

Networking with the private sector, including private veterinarians, farmers and other professionals, is an essential mechanism for early disease detection, surveillance, prevention and control in assisting the veterinary authority to tackle animal diseases at grass root levels,

Most of the emerging animal diseases included in the new OIE list of reportable diseases have zoonotic potential, but diagnostic techniques and notifications with respect to those diseases are currently not available in many countries of the Region,

Potential roles of wildlife including wild birds in the transmission of important emerging infectious diseases raise public health concerns,

The joint WHO/OIE/FAO/World Bank Conference on Avian Influenza and Human Pandemic, held in Geneva, Switzerland from 7 to 9 November 2005, has recommended that the international community support the good governance and the improvement of the quality of Veterinary Services in accordance with OIE standards,

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

1. Biosecurity in native and backyard poultry and small farm production sectors be improved. This may require financial assistance from governments as well as donors if necessary, for the rehabilitation of poultry farms and education of all stakeholders including farmers and the general public.
2. Requests for technical assistance by Member Countries on the improvement of the quality of Veterinary Services and the proper management of HPAI outbreaks based on specific country needs be considered by the OIE. This form of assistance should be provided in consultation with the OIE Representation for Asia and the Pacific and whenever relevant, developed in close collaboration with other international organisations, such as the FAO and WHO through the joint OIE/FAO network of expertise on avian influenza (OFFLU) and or the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) Secretariat in Tokyo, taking into account the SEAFMD Programme.
3. Non-infected countries of the Region be on a high level of alert in their preparedness plans including the availability of appropriate human and financial resources, such as compensation funds.
4. If vaccination of poultry is considered in infected countries, it should be used as an adjunct to other control measures, such as stamping out, movement control, disinfection and biosecurity.
5. Vaccination could be considered in zoo and other rare birds as a preventative measure depending on the risk.
6. National mechanisms for adequate compensation to farmers be considered a priority by all Member Countries for the control of AI. External/international assistance may be explored by developing countries, if necessary, in this regard.

7. Programmes and projects be developed to promote public awareness to ensure that all stakeholders and civil society at large know how to prevent the disease in animals and humans.
8. Technical advice/assistance be provided to OIE national Focal Points responsible for reporting and managing disease information, to effectively diagnose and report diseases, which have been included in the new OIE list of reportable diseases.
9. In order to minimise the possible impact of AI and other zoonotic diseases, significant resources and investments be allocated to national Veterinary Services in Asian countries using as a basis, OIE international standards on quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services.
10. Member Countries appoint a Focal Point for wildlife diseases and be provided with technical assistance in this regard in order to be able to report those diseases.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 18 November 2005)

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Recommendation No. 2

Prevention and control of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Asia and the Pacific

CONSIDERING THAT

Although bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) had been initially confined to Europe, cases have recently been confirmed in other regions making the disease a world-wide concern,

BSE diagnosis based only on clinical signs is insufficient and surveillance using laboratory tests in compliance with the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*, is required to detect or confirm the infection in cattle, in which clinical signs were not apparent,

Countries not having reported BSE cases are not necessarily free from the disease, and risk assessment and surveillance as well as appropriate laboratory tests are necessary to confirm the country status,

Further research is needed to fully understand the pathogenesis of BSE,

The OIE BSE *Terrestrial Code* Chapter contains recommendations on how countries can trade safely without the risk of transmitting BSE,

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

1. Member Countries should complete a risk assessment for BSE in accordance with the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, even if no case has been confirmed in the country.
2. Member Countries be encouraged to involve international experts and peer review in the development of the risk assessments.
3. The OIE assist in training Member Country officials on risk assessment and surveillance requirements in accordance with the *Terrestrial Code* and diagnostics in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual*, and promote global and regional technical cooperation in order to assist countries with limited resources.
4. The OIE facilitate the development of affordable BSE diagnostics for use by Member Countries.
5. The OIE review over time the surveillance requirements of the BSE *Terrestrial Code* Chapter with the objective of simplifying the requirements and taking into account the latest scientific/epidemiological information.
6. The OIE facilitate the networking of scientists working on BSE in the region in order to share experiences and information on BSE-related matters.
7. With regard to trade in deboned skeletal muscle meat, Member Countries with non-negligible BSE-risk should certify removal of SRMs and avoidance of contamination during processing.

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