

Report of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA)

Phuket, Thailand, 25 – 27 October 2010



THE EIGHTEEN APHCA MEMBER COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

BANGLADESH

BHUTAN

INDIA

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DPR KOREA

LAO PDR

MALAYSIA

MONGOLIA

MYANMAR

NEPAL

PAKISTAN

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PHILIPPINES

SAMOA

SRI LANKA

THAILAND



REPORT OF THE
**THIRTY-FORTH SESSION OF THE
ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND HEALTH
COMMISSION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
(APHCA)**

Phuket, 25 - 27 October 2010

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Bangkok, 2010**

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Minutes of the 71st Executive Committee Meeting and of the 34th Session of APHCA

The 71st Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, 24 October 2010, 17.30-18.45 hours

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Preecha Somboonprasert, Director-General of Thai Department of Livestock Development/Delegate from Thailand.

Present were:

- Dr. Mike Nunn, Delegate from Australia
- Mr. Shyam Prasad Poudyal, representing Delegate from Nepal
- Dr. Akma Ngah Hamid, representing Delegate from Malaysia
- Delegates from Iran and Papua New Guinea (last minute cancellation because of urgent assignment by their Governments) were absent.

The Chairperson welcomed the members of the APHCA Executive Committee and assigned the Secretary to conduct the meeting. He informed that 13 APHCA member countries will attend the Session. The Secretary also recorded his appreciation for the support of Director- General, Department of Livestock Development, Royal Thai Government for their kind support and generosity in supporting the organization of the APHCA Ex-Com Meeting/Session and the International Meeting on Pro-poor HPAI Risk Reduction.

The Agenda for the Ex-Com was adopted.

The Minutes of the 33rd APHCA Session (including the 70th Excom) were circulated to all Delegates. As no comments were made, the Excom suggested to the Session to adopt the Minutes.

The Secretary gave a brief report on the staffing of the APHCA Secretariat.

The Secretary gave a brief presentation on the activities undertaken by the RAP Livestock Group in 2009-10 by the identified five priority areas of APHCA. More details on activities by the APHCA Secretariat were briefed by Carolyn Benigno and Vishnu Songkitti. APHCA priority activities are given below:

- Control of transboundary animal diseases
- Small-scale dairy, meat production and processing
- Food and feed safety

- Joint activities on technical capacity building in APHCA countries through workshops, trainings and meetings (BSE/Prion Diseases, WTO's SPS Agreement, Bluetongue, Brucellosis and VPH programme)

The Secretary presented the financial statement and noted that the APHCA had a cash balance of US\$305,108 on 1 January 2010. The expenditure between 1 January and 30 September 2010 amounted to US\$163,212 and APHCA received US\$120,667.17 as country contributions this year – resulting in a cash balance of US\$262,563. He also pointed out that the contributions received included an advance payment of US\$39,179.17. The Secretary informed that Bangladesh continues to default on the payment and now has an accumulated five-year arrear of US\$35,792. He expressed concerns on: (i) Bangladesh continuing to default on payments and (ii) rising costs of activities and declining APHCA cash balances, and sought the Excom's guidance on suitable measures to address these concerns.

Regarding Bangladesh's arrears, the Ex-Com advised that the Secretariat should initiate a focused but phased dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh through the FAO Representation in Dhaka, to request them to clear the dues and report back to the 35th APHCA Session on the outcome of this dialogue.

On the declining cash balances and rising costs, the Excom shared the concerns and supported the idea put forth by the Secretariat that APHCA contributions should be indexed to compensate for the rising costs. It was proposed that APHCA contributions should be raised at the rate of 5 percent per year although the rise may be affected every five years. This would imply that APHCA contributions should be raised 27 percent every five years.

The Secretary informed the Ex-Com that the FAO Director-General issued a memorandum to all FAO members endorsing the signed instrument of acceptance submitted by Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and its APHCA membership is effective from the date of submission of the instrument of acceptance by the DPRK Government.

The Secretary informed that this year APHCA has partnered with FAO HQ and DFID in organizing the high level meeting on Pro-Poor HPAI risk reduction with participation from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the US. The travel costs of all APHCA delegates (except three participants from APHCA Secretariat) were covered by the meeting. He briefed the members on the structure of this meeting.

The Secretary sought guidance from the Ex-Com on the proposal to review APHCA activities during the next year. The Ex-Com supported the proposal and recommended to take this proposal to the business session.

The Ex-Com meeting closed at 18.45 hours.

The 34th APHCA Session

Monday, 25 October 2010

The business session was convened at 09:00 hours. The session was attended by delegates and representatives from 13 countries (namely: Australia, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Thailand) and one observer from OIE Asia-Pacific Office.

The Secretary welcomed the delegates and expressed his appreciation for their presence. He also recorded his appreciation for the support of Director-General, Department of Livestock Development, Royal Thai Government for their kind support in the organization of the APHCA Excom Meeting/Session and the International Meeting on Pro-poor HPAI Risk Reduction.

The Minutes of the 33rd APHCA Session (including the 70th Ex-Com Meeting) were circulated to all delegates. As no comments were made, the Session adopted the Minutes.

The Agenda of the 33rd APHCA Session was adopted (Appendix 1).

1. Election of the Chairperson and the members of the Executive Committee:

The new Executive Committee comprises:

Chairperson:	Thailand
Vice-chairperson:	Philippines
Members:	Australia, Samoa and Sri Lanka
Ex-officio member:	Nepal

2. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) signed and submitted the Instrument of Acceptance to become the 18th member of APHCA in mid-2009. The FAO Director-General circulated a memo stating the official membership of the DPRK, dated 25 July 2010, to all FAO member states.

3. The Secretary informed the Session that there was a PRRS outbreak in Lao PDR during 2010 and upon request from the Lao PDR Government, APHCA provided emergency support of US\$5,000. The representative from Lao PDR conveyed thanks to APHCA and member countries for the support.

4. APHCA website (www.aphca.org) has been redesigned to give it a more contemporary look and to make it more relevant to the current environment. The delegates were given a live preview of this website. The Secretary informed the Session that the website will be populated with relevant publications and proceedings of the meetings/workshops organized under APHCA banner. The

member area, when operational, will provide the member countries access to proprietary materials such as training manuals, databases, etc.

5. The Secretary's presentation

Report of Activities: The Secretary and his colleagues in the APHCA Secretariat presented the activities performed/achieved by the Secretariat and the RAP Livestock Group solely or in support of OIE Asia-Pacific Office, the World Association for Animal Production (WAAP), the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Chiang Mai University (FVM-CMU) and the member governments and authorities which include the Department of Livestock Development of Thailand, the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service (NVRQS) of the Republic of Korea (non-APHCA member) and the BALIVET of Indonesia. Details are given below:

Control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs)

The report on control of TADs focused on the following activities conducted in 2009-2010. Support to the Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPV); conduct of Animal Human Environment Interface Workshop; the conduct of the Bat Surveillance Workshop in the Philippines; the holding of the First Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases (HPED) Steering Committee Meeting held back-to-back with the Fourth GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee Meeting for Asia; the commencement of activities under the Regional TCP on PRRS diagnosis and other swine diseases, the TCP on FMD risk-based strategies in Bhutan and the ongoing activities under the Environmental Animal Health Management Initiative Project.

APHCA supported countries with no direct HPAI project funding to the short course of the FETPV. The FETPV is a training course developed by FAO in collaboration with the Department of Livestock Development of Thailand. The course aims to develop professionals to be problem solvers using science-based decisions.

The Animal Human Environment Interface Workshop brought representatives from the three sectors to discuss multi-disciplinary approaches to disease control.

The above workshop was followed by the Bat Surveillance Workshop in the Philippines where representatives from the three sectors: animal health, human health and environment sector came together to work on bat captures to determine whether bats have a role in the detection of Ebola Reston Virus in pigs. Expected output would be a bat surveillance manual that can be a reference material for countries in the region.

The EU-funded project on Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases convened its first HPED Steering Committee Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. It brought together OIE, FAO and the participating sub-regions: SAARC and ASEAN to discuss the work plan for the four-year project.

The above meeting was immediately followed by the conduct of the Fourth GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee Meeting bringing together representatives from ASEAN, SAARC, SPC, APHCA, the OIE Regional Representation and the private sector. The meeting emphasized the importance of continuing to strengthen capacities on surveillance and application of other disease control tools to effectively control TADs and other emerging diseases.

The TCP/RAS/3215 – Assistance on diagnosis and management of PRRS and other swine diseases commenced this year with six participating countries, namely: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Expected outputs from this project are strengthened capacity on field and laboratory surveillance, a swine industry profile describing the production system of each country and operation of good bio-security practices in the pig sector.

Another project, the TCP/BHU/3301 – Risk-based strategies for the control of emerging FMD virus strains in Bhutan was launched this year. Expected outputs of this project are a clear understanding of the epidemiology of FMD in Bhutan, enhanced capacities on surveillance and laboratory diagnosis, and a revised national plan on FMD control.

The GCP/RAS/244/ITA – Sub-regional Environmental Animal Health Management Initiative for enhanced smallholder production in Southeast Asia is on its second year of implementation. Participating countries are Cambodia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines. The project promotes an interdisciplinary, holistic approach to animal health management for enhanced environmentally sound and responsible forms of animal production, including integrated animal disease management, improved animal husbandry and farm management practices and balanced use of natural resources aimed at reducing disease transmission risks from animal to animal and animal to human.

Small-scale meat, dairy production and processing

The preparation for small-scale slaughterhouses publication has faced some delays. The final draft is expected in early 2011.

Small-scale dairy – Vinod Ahuja reported on the progress of activities on the ongoing and completed TCPs and other training programs. It was noted that the TCPs on cattle and buffalo improvement in Myanmar, Nepal and Mongolia have been successfully completed and the Governments have appreciated the work done under these projects. Implementation of activities under the Sri Lanka TCP on genetic improvement of cattle and buffaloes is proceeding on schedule. In addition, APHCA has engaged in the 2nd training on animal breeding and genetics and the training on lactoscan use.

The proposal on Smallholder Dairy Development in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand to be supported by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) has been approved and the project agreement is in the process of being signed. The regional TCP on “Enhancing nutrition and livelihoods through school milk programmes linked to this project is in the final stages of clearance. It is hoped that both projects will be operational early next year. The combined funding for these two projects is expected to be nearly US\$2.5 million. The Royal Thai Government’s in-kind contribution to the CFC project is valued at US\$4.0 million for a period of four years.

Dairy Asia network – APHCA has invested heavily in developing a smallholder dairy development strategy for Asia region. In addition, APHCA has committed to provide annual support of US\$25,000 for the next four years to the development of a platform for sharing lessons and experiences from Asian region.

A brainstorm workshop on Dairy Asia Network was organized in Chiang Mai in March 2010. The workshop recommended the vision, mission, and the core values the network should pursue and the activities it should undertake. Details are given in Appendix 2. Work on development of web platform called ‘Dairy Asia’ has already begun. Delegates were given a live preview of the website and the same was appreciated.

Food and feed safety

A Regional Feed Safety Workshop: Feed Borne Disease Prevention was held in Tokyo, Japan, during 12-14 July 2010. The workshop, which was jointly conducted by OIE, Asia-Pacific Office and the OIE Collaborating Centers on Food and Feed Safety was attended by 25 participants from 19 countries.

The objectives of the workshop were to identify feed safety issues in the Region; reinforce an understanding/appreciation that feed safety is an essential prerequisite for both animal health and food safety; raise awareness of the relevant international standards and standard-setting procedures; inform participants about the role and function of the relevant OIE Collaborating Centres in the Region discuss and document the key issues that may impede the introduction of feed safety measures.

In order to improve animal health, and, in turn, contribute to food safety for products of animal origin, the workshop identified following food safety issues:

- Establishing a functional regulatory framework on feed safety with a view to improve animal health as well as food safety; improving the type and standard of analytical methods to include accurate inexpensive screening methods for contaminants.
- Improving access to hazard information through information-sharing mechanisms.

- Implementing a risk-based preventative approach to mitigating risks associated with feed safety, including promoting the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54 – 2004) and relevant chapters of the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes.
- Raising awareness amongst farmers, feed producers, food processors and government authorities on feed and food safety and their linkages.

APHCA's joint activities on technical capacity building in member countries (between November 2009 and December 2010 and proposal for 2011)

BSE and other prion diseases: The 4th OIE/FAO-APHCA Regional Workshop and Working Group Meeting on BSE and Other Prion Diseases (in collaboration with the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service – NVRQS) was organized in Seoul, Republic of Korea, between 24 and 26 February 2010. This Workshop was attended by 7 participants from seven member countries, namely, India, RO Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Japan (the latter also in the capacity of the OIE Reference Laboratory for BSE) including 100 local observers; as well as representatives from OIE Reference Laboratories in Canada and the United Kingdom (UK), and OIE HQ in Paris.

WTO-SPS agreement: FAO-APHCA/OIE Regional Workshop on BSE Risk Status Recognition (under the context of WTO-SPS Agreement) and Interim BSE Working Group Meeting (in collaboration with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University), was organized in Chiang Mai, Thailand, during 31 August – 3 September 2010.

This workshop was organized upon an official request to FAO-APHCA and OIE Asia-Pacific Office by ASEAN – through the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASEAN-ASWGL) – for support in relation to the OIE BSE risk status recognition in the ASEAN member states.

Thirteen participants and 13 observers from 13 countries (namely: Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, RO Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) participated in the workshop. The workshop recommended strengthened networking of BSE and other prion diseases in the working group and facilitation of technical support and services of experts (from OIE Reference Laboratory for BSE in Japan for BSE and other prion diseases; and from NVRQS, RO Korea for Cattle Wasting Disease (CWD)) as well as provisions of certain diagnostic materials and reagents from China, Japan and RO Korea upon official requests through FAO-APHCA or OIE Asia-Pacific by the other member countries.

Bluetongue diagnosis and control: The OIE/FAO-APHCA Regional Workshop on Bluetongue Diagnosis and Control (for selected member countries), in collaboration

with the BALIVET/Government of Indonesia. This activity will be postponed from the first week of November 2010 to February – March 2011.

Brucellosis Diagnosis and Control: The 3rd FAO-APHCA/OIE Regional Workshop on Brucellosis Diagnosis and Control (with an emphasis on *Brucella melitensis*), in collaboration with the Thai Department of Livestock Development will be organized in Sukhothai and Phitsanulok Provinces, Thailand, between 21 and 25 November 2010.

The Brucellosis Laboratory of the National Institute of Animal Health, Department of Livestock Development (NIAH-DLD), Thailand is in the twinning programme with the OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis in France. FAO-APHCA and OIE will support this programme and strengthen the twinning activities of the Thai and the French labs.

Support will be given to the ring trial tests within the region using the NIAH-DLD *Brucella* antigen for Rose Bengal Test as well as QA and QC of the NIAH-DLD lab. towards the upgrading of this lab. as a reference laboratory for Brucellosis (in collaboration with RAP- ECTAD).

Veterinary public health: APHCA continues to provide technical support and contribute to the Master of Veterinary Public Health (MVPH) Programme of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University. Twelve scholarships (covering 2 years' tuition fees, international travel costs and monthly allowances) for students from Asia-Pacific Region – with priorities given to the APHCA countries – will be granted for a new course in 2011. Six scholarships each will be provided from the Government of Germany (DAAD) and the Royal Thai Government. The application forms for these scholarships were distributed during the Session.

Animal breeding and genetics: The 2nd APHCA Training on Animal Breeding and Genetics (in collaboration with the World Association for Animal Production (WAAP)) was organized at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, between 4 and 15 October 2010. This training course was built on the first course, which was held in early 2009, and concentrated on requirements of running genetic improvement programme of dairy cattle. Eleven selected participants plus 2 observers from 9 APHCA countries participated in this training.

Dr. Kenji Sakurai, Deputy Regional Representative, OIE Asia-Pacific Office, briefly informed the session that OIE Asia-Pacific Office has cooperated with APHCA in co-organizing several workshops and training in the past decades. OIE Asia-Pacific Office will co-operate with APHCA in organizing the Bluetongue diagnosis and control workshop in Indonesia in March 2011 and would co-operate in the Brucellosis-related activities in 2011 with a financial support (a maximum co-fund up to US\$20,000). This co-funding would cover travel costs and honoraria of experts and resource persons (including expenditures for consumable materials and reagents to be needed for the technical assistance) from France and Thailand to

assist OIE and APHCA member countries in the Region. OIE Asia-Pacific Office will be happy to organize a workshop back-to-back with the forthcoming APHCA Session in 2011. The possible main themes of this workshop are: emerging animal diseases or animal welfare.

The Secretary thanks Dr. Sakurai and OIE Asia-Pacific Office for the continued co-operations.

Statement of Accounts:

The Secretary briefed the Session on APHCA's financial situation and presented the financial statement and noted that the Commission had a cash balance of US\$305,108 on 1 January 2010. The expenditure between 1 January and 30 September 2010 amounted to US\$163,212 and APHCA received US\$120,667.17 as country contributions this year resulting in a cash balance of US\$262,563. He also pointed out that the contributions received included an advance payment of US\$39,179.17. Detailed statement of accounts is presented in Appendix 3.

The Secretary informed the Session that Bangladesh continues to default on the payment and now has an accumulated five-year arrear of US\$35,792. He expressed concerns on: (i) Bangladesh continuing to default on payments and (ii) rising costs of carrying out activities and declining APHCA cash balances, and sought the members' guidance on suitable measures to address these concerns.

Regarding Bangladesh's arrears to APHCA, the Delegates advised that the APHCA Secretariat should initiate a focused but phased dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh through the FAO Representative Office in Dhaka, to request them to clear the dues and report back to the 35th APHCA Session on the outcome of this dialogue.

On the declining cash balances and rising costs, the Delegates shared the concerns and supported the idea put forth by the Secretariat that APHCA contributions should be indexed to compensate for the rising costs. It was proposed that APHCA contributions should be raised at the rate of 5 percent per year although the rise may be affected every five years. This would imply that APHCA contributions should be raised 27 percent every five years. Given that the previous revision of contribution scales was in 2003, the first revision should be 55 percent increase and effective in 2012 (compounded at the rate of 5 percent per year from 2003 to 2012). The proposal was supported and endorsed by all APHCA Delegates and it was proposed that the Secretariat should initiate this proposal through respective APHCA Delegates.

Future workplan/activities

Dairy Asia Network: Vinod Ahuja briefed the Session on the brainstorm workshop on Dairy Asia Network and noted that APHCA has committed to contribute US\$25,000 per year towards the development of this network for the next four years. The brainstorm meeting held in Chiang Mai in March 2010 recommended the vision, mission, core values the network should pursue and the activities it should undertake. The presentation is reproduced in Appendix 2.

Strategic Visioning of APHCA: Carolyn Benigno presented a review of activities under each priority area summarizing the activities in terms of workshops/trainings and projects undertaken. Some key observations and points for members to ponder on were relayed to the Session as follows:

- The GF-TADs framework is made operational through the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific. The priority diseases for the three sub-regions (ASEAN, SAARC and SPC) have been identified. Emerging diseases or emerging infectious diseases will be covered under the EU HPED project. What role should APHCA assume under GF-TADs, HPED?
- Food and feed safety is a priority APHCA activity. However, only three workshops have been conducted as compared to other activities. The feed safety workshop has already defined its program for the next year. Food safety has focused on slaughterhouse design and operations. Should there be more?
- Considering the number of dairy initiatives in the region, how do we sustain such initiatives?
- What activities should APHCA focus on under the priority area: Industrialization, Poverty Reduction and Environment?
- How do we ensure that the regional capacity building activities are applied at the country level? How do we monitor impact of training in the countries? How do we determine which training courses to conduct? Do we have a criterion for this? Have we conducted a needs assessment?
- Should we re-define the five priority areas?

These observations suggest that there is a need to do a needs assessment and develop a strategy for APHCA. This is all the more important since the last assessment was conducted in 2003 and the finite and rather limited resources APHCA has its disposal. Accordingly, a proposal was made to conduct an independent study focused on assessing the impact of APHCA activities and determining the niche of APHCA. The proposed study would entail the drafting of TORs, selection of the consultant and implementation of the actual work. All

documents (TORs) and the output will be circulated to the members for comments, preferably before the next APHCA Session.

APHCA's joint activities on technical capacity building in member countries in 2011: Two activities namely: (i) the Brucellosis ring trials and regional collaboration on Brucellosis diagnosis (*Brucella melitensis*) with the proposed funding of US\$5,000 (and expected co-funding of US\$20,000 each from the RAP-ECTAD and the OIE Asia-Pacific Office) for these activities and (ii) organization of the Bluetongue diagnosis, which will be postponed from 1-6 November 2010 to 7-10 March 2011, using US\$20,000 from the APHCA Trust Fund.

In addition, it was proposed to limit the expenditures to US\$75,000 from the APHCA trust fund during the 2010-11 fiscal year with following broad disaggregation:

Dairy Asia Network	US\$25,000
Technical Capacity Building	US\$25,000
Strategic visioning of APHCA	US\$25,000

10. Venue of the next APHCA Session:

The Delegate from the Philippines confirmed to host the 35th APHCA Session in Cebu, the Philippines, in October 2011. Tentative dates of this forthcoming Session are 24-26 October 2011. The dates will be reconfirmed in mutual consultation with the Government of the Philippines.

The Session was adjourned at 12:00 hours and APHCA Delegates attended Pro-poor HPAI Risk Reduction Meeting from the afternoon of 25 October until the lunch time on 27 October 2010. The proceedings of the Meeting will be made available to APHCA Delegates and will be uploaded on APHCA website.

The Session was reconvened on Wednesday, 27 October 2010 at 13:30 hours. The Session was chaired by Mr. Preecha Somboonprasert, Director-General of Thai Department of Livestock Development.

The Delegates shared their impressions on the Pro-Poor HPAI Risk Reduction Meeting as the follows:

1. *Delegate from Australia:* This was a very rewarding meeting. It was most interesting to consider the lessons from AI experience in widening our horizon about disease control in general and moving beyond AI. The focus on communication was most useful.
2. *Delegate from India:* The discussions in the meeting helped broaden the thinking by shift impression from disease control to livelihood perspective. Although we have taken measures to protect livelihoods but not at the intensity it was pointed out in the meeting. Based on the work presented in the meeting, we will

give more emphasis to livelihoods in our working with AI, other diseases and animal health in general. Involvement of school children, education ministry, etc. in affecting changes is something new — an idea we had not heard before and it is definitely worth exploring.

3. *Delegate from Lao PDR:* Information from countries was most useful. Focus on communication was very timely and this will help in strengthening our ongoing efforts.
4. *Delegate from Malaysia:* Malaysia has grappled with HPAI very successfully but listening to the experiences from other countries was useful, especially in thinking about other emerging diseases. Focus on communication was most interesting and useful. We need to improve our communication.
5. *Delegate from Indonesia:* We need to learn from successful countries and unlearn from our past mistakes. Indonesia and Vietnam are still infected with HPAI, so perhaps there is a need for change in approach and strategy. Two-way communication and transparency is still a problem, particularly with in many countries and that biases communication. In that context, it was useful to learn from communication experience from other countries.
6. *Delegate from Myanmar:* This meeting was very rewarding since it gave us an opportunity to learn from international experience and provided an opportunity to share our own experiences. It is suggested that APHCA should monitor cross-border movement of animals and provide support for animal identification to monitor animal movement. This is very important for Myanmar given that the country shares borders with quite a number of countries. In this context, APHCA can play an important facilitation role.
7. *Delegate from Nepal:* The meeting was very useful in terms of getting info about other regions of the world. Many of these regions are similar to Nepal in the context of production system (especially smallholder mixed production systems) and hence the experiences shared are relevant. In our own efforts to control HPAI, we realized that careful planning of communication strategies such as media, messages and socio-cultural background including language of the community is vitally important for effective communication and thus this was a good opportunity to learn from communication experiences of other countries.

Although messages were useful, private sector and other stakeholders were missing from the meeting. Their presence would have added more value. Also, some of the issues still did not get answered — for example, how to manage regional efforts for managing transboundary trade and making it safer. Mostly in different countries; live birds, a source of disease, spread but managing and making them secure remains a challenge. Also, the messages were a little generalized and it was not always possible to relate to them. If there were country specific findings, it would have helped.

8. *Delegate from Pakistan:* Livelihoods, communication, importance of veterinary public health, and operation of one health concept were most noteworthy aspects of the meeting. There is a need for an integrated approach in our fight against HPAI and other disease and APHCA should urge their member countries in sharing experiences and resources in this context. No single country can deal with the problems of livestock on its own.
9. *Delegate from the Philippines:* The subject discussed was very timely and it is proposed that in the next Session we also consider other emerging diseases namely Ebola and other viruses. Balanced communication is very important to remove the fears and to institute more sensible control measures both with commercial industry and backyard producers. This will help in ensuring overall wellbeing.
10. *Delegate from Sri Lanka:* The meeting was arranged very timely. Communication and livelihood parts were very interesting. The messages and their presentations were very useful. Sri Lanka has not experienced HPAI but potential remains even though it is an island. It would have been good to also discuss measures to prevent entry of the disease. Overall, it was very useful learning. Useful digi-voting technology.
11. *Delegate from Samoa:* The meeting was very well organized. Samoa reaffirmed its support to APHCA in partnering in activities. Although Samoa is free from AI, it relies on neighbours, especially New Zealand and Australia but learnt a lot from this meeting.

On a related note, Samoa Delegate pointed out that small nations face shortage of qualified veterinary professionals. Qualified professionals usually migrate to other countries in search of better opportunities. APHCA should consider assisting small countries.

12. *Representative from OIE Asia-Pacific Office:* Very informative and interesting meeting. Great opportunity to know the activities of other international organization. Communication very important. We can utilize what we have learnt not only for HPAI but also other emerging diseases.

He reaffirmed that OIE Asia-Pacific Office will be more than happy to provide financial assistance to co-organize a workshop/meeting back to back with the 35th APHCA Session in the Philippines.

13. *Delegate from Thailand:* The meeting presented plenty of very thought provoking information on disease risk, livelihood impact and a more participatory approach of communication. But there was very little (almost none) discussion on bio-security. Delegates would have benefitted it if there was also some discussion on bio-security.

14. *Delegate from Bhutan:* Since the early outbreaks of AI in other countries, Bhutan took a series of measures towards strengthening prevention and response. Despite relatively comprehensive coordination and contingency plans, however, Bhutan was not spared from the outbreak although fortunately it was an isolated outbreak. But the contingency plans and rapid coordination with other agencies helped contain the outbreak quickly. We now have a draft proposal on 'one world one health' submitted to the Government and in that context the meeting was very timely. This will help us in moving forward in a more systematic manner.

Proposed venues for the 36th and the 37th APHCA Sessions

1. Delegate from Bhutan conveyed the message from Director-General, Department of Livestock that the Royal Bhutan Government will be pleased to host the 36th APHCA Session in 2012.
2. Delegate from Sri Lanka proposed to host the 37th APHCA Session in Sri Lanka.

The Secretary briefed the Session on the outcome of his dialogue with the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of Bangladesh. The Joint Secretary informed that the Government of Bangladesh has issued instructions to release APHCA contributions until 2009. He informed the Session that he will look into why contributions have not been received in the APHCA accounts.

It was proposed to consider 'Emerging Infectious Diseases – A One World, One Health Approach' as the possible theme for the workshop to be organized back-to-back with the 35th APHCA Session. The Secretary thanked OIE Asia-Pacific Office for coming forward and making the offer of providing financial assistance on co-financing basis for the organization of a workshop with the next APHCA Session. Delegate from Australia also offered to explore the availability of resources for the workshop in the form co-financing and/or identifying/ sponsoring appropriate resource persons.

Delegate from Pakistan complimented the APHCA Secretariat for drafting the Minutes in a short time and sharing the same with APHCA Delegates.

Delegate from Pakistan suggested that one member from the APHCA Secretariat should participate in the upcoming OIE workshop on veterinary legislation in Tunisia with invitation and support from OIE. Representative from OIE Asia-Pacific Office indicated that the suggestion will be conveyed to OIE Headquarters.

The work plan for 2010-11 was unanimously endorsed by the Session.

The Director-General of DLD, Royal Thai Government and Chairperson APHCA thanked all members for attending the Session and all partners in organization of the meeting.

The Session was adjourned at 15:30 hours on 27 October 2010.

Timetable and Agenda

34th BUSINESS SESSION

VENUE: The Tamarind Conference Hall, Hotel Cape Panwa, Phuket, Thailand

October 25, 2010 (9.00AM-12.00AM)

- Election of new Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Committee Members
- New Chairperson takes charge – Adoption of agenda
- Minutes of the 33rd APHCA Session and 70th Executive Committee Meeting (Secretary)
- Financial Statement and Progress Report 2009-2010 (Secretary)
- Reports on completed and proposed activities (Secretariat)
- Confirmation of the venue and tentative dates of the next session
- Any other matter

October 27, 2010 (2.00PM—5.00PM)

- Presentation of the HPAI workshop recommendations and lessons/action points for APHCA
- Quick recap of proposed activities for 2010-2011
- Finalization of the program of work and budget
- Any other matter

Minutes of the 70th Executive Committee Meeting and of the 33rd Session of APHCA

The 70th Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, 25 October 2009, 17.00-18.00 hours

- The meeting was chaired by Dr. Mike Nunn, Delegate from Australia. Present were:

Dr. Prabhakar Pathak, Delegate from Nepal

Mr. Damdindorj Puntsagdorj, Delegate from Mongolia

Delegates from Lao PDR (last minute cancellation because of natural disaster in Lao), India (late nomination), and Bhutan (flight cancelled enroute) were absent.

- The Chairperson welcomed the members of the APHCA Executive Committee and thanked the Government of Nepal for hosting this meeting.
- The Secretary also welcomed the delegates and expressed his appreciation for their presence. He informed that 14 APHCA member countries will attend the Session
- The Agenda for the Ex-Com was adopted.
- The final Minutes of the 32nd APHCA Session (which includes the 69th Ex-Com) were circulated to all Delegates. As no comments have been received, the Ex-Com suggests to the Session to adopt the Minutes.
- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has signed the Instrument of Acceptance to become the 18th member of APHCA. However, there will be no delegate attending the Session as the DPRK was not able to finance the second official to accompany its Delegate. The Ex-Com welcomes the application of DPRK and suggests to the Session to endorse it.
- The Secretary gave a brief report on the staffing of the Secretariat and introduced Dr. Vinod Ahuja, the new Livestock Policy Officer. Dr. Vinod Ahuja gave his brief resume.
- The Secretary gave a brief résumé of the activities undertaken by the RAP Livestock Group in 2008-09 by the identified five priority areas of APHCA. More details were given in the Session Report.
 - Control of transboundary animal diseases
 - Small-scale dairy, meat production and processing
 - Food and feed safety
 - Industrialization, poverty reduction and environment

- Joint activities on technical capacity building in APHCA countries through workshops, trainings, meetings (BSE, bluetongue, WTO's SPS Agreement, brucellosis and VPH programme)
- The Ex-Com endorsed for submission to the Session the ten Activity Proposals for 2010 – three of which are carried over from 2009.
- The Secretary presented the financial statement
 - Contributions received in 2008 : US\$ 98 569
 - Accumulated interests earned up to 31 December 2008 : US\$ 87 980
 - Cash balance as per 01 January 2009 : US\$ 309 618
 - Expenditures in 2008 amount to US\$ 136 558. The Ex-Com suggests to the Session to approve the Expenditures.
 - Expenditures up to 30 September 2009 amount to US\$ 63 949 against the approved budget of US\$ 223 000. The under expenditure is explained: the costs of this APHCA Session are not included and three joint activities with OIE Asia-Pacific Office have been deferred to 2010.
 - Expected contributions for 2009 are US\$ 90 488
 - Subject to the approval of the Activities for 2010, the proposed budget is US\$ 247 750

The Ex-Com discussed the issues of arrears and suggests to the Session that countries with three and more years of arrears (who have lost their voting rights according to the Statutes) will be invited to all APHCA activities but will receive no financial support.

The Ex-Com discussed the travel standards for delegates to official APHCA functions (Session, workshops trainings). The Secretariat informed that within FAO travel standards, the most economic solution is sought in order the stretch funds as far as possible. This often requires major additional work for the Secretariat. The Ex-Com fully endorsed this approach by the Secretariat and suggests endorsement by the Session.

- The Secretariat reported on the request by the FAO Headquarters to change Paragraph X of the Statutes and to delete the last sentence stating that “the Secretary of APHCA shall be a veterinarian”. This would allow for a broader choice amongst the candidates for the new Senior Animal Production and Health Officer. The Ex-Com endorses this request and it will be presented to the Session. After endorsement by the Session, the change will be presented to the Council of FAO.
- Details for the 33rd Session were discussed. All Ex-Com members have served for two years and a change is recommended.
- The Delegate from Nepal reported on organizational details for the Session and the Workshop which will proceed as per the agenda. The Opening Session will be

presided over by Dr. Braja Kishor Prasad Shaha, Secretary of MoAC of Nepal and Mr. Arjun Bahadur Bhandari, Regional Administrator, Western Development Region, Nepal.

- The Ex-Com meeting closed at 18.00 hours.

The 33rd APHCA Session

Monday, 26 October 2009

Inaugural Session

The Inaugural Session was presided over by Dr. Braja Kishor Prasad Shaha, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, with the following personalities at the High Table: Mr. Arjun Bahadur Bhandari, Regional Administrator Western Development Region, Dr. Mike Nunn Chairperson of APHCA, Dr. Prabhakar Pathak Director-General, Department of Livestock Services, and Dr. Hans-Gerhard Wagner (representing the FAOR in Nepal).

The Chief Guest lit, according to Nepali tradition, the oil lamp for peace and successful outcomes of the Session and the Workshop. Badges were distributed to the Delegates and Observers.

Dr. Hans-Gerhard Wagner (representing the FAOR in Nepal and the Director-General of FAO) welcomed the participants and guests to the Session and the Workshop. He expressed the deepest sympathies to those populations in the Asia-Pacific Region which were hit by natural disasters such as tsunami, typhoons, flooding, earthquakes and landslides claiming thousands of lives. He stressed that environmental policies are urgently required to increase natural resource use efficiency and to reduce environmental pollution and resource degradation. He informed the Session on the forthcoming FAO World Food Summit, which was triggered by a further increase in the number of hungry people in the world passing 1 billion. APHCA's achievements were briefly highlighted and it was reconfirmed that FAO stands ready to assist countries in the Region

Mr. Arjun Bahadur Bhandari, Regional Administrator, welcomed the delegates and participants to the beautiful city of Pokhara on the foot of the Himalayan mountains. He noted that development in Nepal is now progressing, with a strong focus on livestock. He wished the participants an informative and productive meeting as well as an enjoyable stay in the Pokhara.

Dr. Prabhakar Pathak, Director-General of DLS expressed his appreciation to the delegates and observers for coming to Nepal. He stressed that Nepal - as one of the founding members of APHCA - is proud to host the Session and the Workshop. He

gave a short brief on livestock production issues and expressed the hopes that an interesting and informative programme has been developed.

Dr. Braja Kishor Prasad Shaha, Secretary of MoAC welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Nepal. For Nepal, agriculture and livestock are key activities from which major parts of the population derive their livelihoods. The threat of devastating transboundary animal diseases is always looming, with the recent example of HPAI in border provinces that was quickly controlled. Dairy production improvement is an important part of his Ministry's activities. He particularly stressed the rich biodiversity of Nepal, which due to the environmental changes, is under threat. Serious temperature increases have been registered and will lead to melting of glaciers with potentially disastrous effects. He appreciated FAO's assistance and reminded that Nepal is among the six founding members of APHCA. He wished the Session and the workshop fruitful deliberations.

Dr. Nar Bahadur Rajwar, Deputy Director-General, DLS, presented a vote of thanks. The APHCA Chairperson, Dr. Mike Nunn, in his closing remarks, reminded the auditorium of the diversity of APHCA countries ranging from Iran in the West to Samoa in the East and from Australia in the South to Mongolia in the North. He thanked the Government of Nepal for hosting the Session and the Workshop, and for the excellent arrangements. He stressed that APHCA has been a partner to the countries, providing assistance and training to livestock development and animal health issues. He also stressed the importance to pay more attention to environmental aspects in our developmental work. In closing the Inaugural Session, he wished the Session and the Workshop fruitful deliberations.

Business Session

The Business Session was convened at 11:00 hours by the Chairperson Dr. Mike Nunn. The Session was attended by delegates from 13 countries.

1. The Agenda of the 33rd APHCA Session was adopted.
2. Election of the Chairperson and the members of the Executive Committee: Iran (proposed by the Philippines), PNG (proposed by Samoa) and Malaysia (proposed by PNG) were elected members of the Executive Committee. Thailand (proposed by Australia) was elected Vice-chair. Nepal was elected Chair and Australia - the immediate past Chairperson - turned to be Ex-officio member.

The new Executive Committee comprises:

Chairperson:	Nepal
Vice-chairperson:	Thailand
Members:	Iran, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea
Ex-officio member:	Australia

3. The Minutes of the 69th Executive Committee Meeting and the 32nd APHCA Session, which were sent to all delegates and with no further comments received, were adopted.
4. a.) The People's Democratic Republic of Korea signed and submitted the Instrument of Acceptance to become the 18th member of APHCA in mid-2009. The Session followed the recommendation of the Ex-Com endorsed DPRK's membership.

b.) The Chairperson introduced the request by FAO to change the Paragraph X of the APHCA statutes in cancelling the last sentence stating that the Secretary of APHCA shall be a Veterinarian. The Secretary explained that this will allow a broader choice for the new Senior Officer in RAP who will assume the role as APHCA Secretary. He stressed that once this is endorsed by the Session it will have to be approved by the FAO Council. The Delegates, after a short discussion, agreed to this change in the APHCA Statutes.

Before handing to the newly elected Chair – Dr. Prabhakar Pathak from Nepal – the outgoing Chairperson thanked all Delegates for their support over the past two years. He considered that quite important working programmes were delivered to the member countries. He also thanked the Secretariat, who made his tasks rather easy. He wished APHCA every success in the future, under the capable chairmanship of Dr. Pathak.

5. Report of Activities: The Secretary and his colleagues in the APHCA Secretariat presented the activities performed/achieved by the Secretariat and the RAP Livestock Group solely or in support of HQs divisions: AGAP, AGAL, AGAH and projects during 2008-09, irrespective of sources of funding, according to the following APHCA identified priorities:
 - **Control of transboundary diseases** (Carolyn Benigno): The activities in 2009 focused on studies on FMD vaccine and vaccination, possible FMD carrier role of the Asian swamp buffaloes and FMD assistance to countries like Bhutan, Bangladesh and DPRK. A TCP on FMD Laboratory Networking for South Asia was also presented for endorsement of the member countries belonging to the SAARC Grouping. The list of new and ongoing projects was presented, notably assistance following the detection of Ebola Reston virus in pigs in the Philippines since June 2009, and the FAO-ADB Phase- 2 Project on TADs control in the Greater Mekong Sub-region which commenced last January 2009.

The FAO/OIE GF-TADs framework for Asia has now started its groundwork by conducting the sub-regional meetings for SAARC, SPC and soon for ASEAN. The Third GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee Meeting for Asia convened last July in Tokyo, Japan, and considered

among other matters, coordination better mechanisms to address the sub-regional issues.

- **Small-scale meat, dairy production and processing** (Hans Wagner): Three TCPs on genetic improvement of dairy cattle in Myanmar, Mongolia and Nepal are under implementation and will end in December 2009. For all three countries a short Phase II up to June 2010 to complete some of the work has been approved in principle. A further project for genetic improvement for Sri Lanka has been approved and will be signed within this year. A six weeks training for experts from APHCA countries was conducted successfully in Chiang Mai, Thailand. A refresher course is suggested for the workplan for 2010.

Further TCPs under implementation are TCP/MON/3105 Improved meat hygiene and commercial meat processing TCP/PHI/3102 Philippines Installing milk payment system, TCP/NEP/3001 Training for the small-scale dairy sector in support of the community livestock development project here in Nepal which will end in December 2009.

The preparation of plans for small-scale slaughterhouses has faced some delays. The Session was presented with some of the outlines, workflow charts and drawings. The final draft is expected in early 2010.

The Secretariat has provided substantial technical assistance on livestock matters to countries which were hit by disasters in the areas of rehabilitation of veterinary services, provision of feed, and livestock re-stocking.

Small-scale dairy – Vinod Ahuja reported on the progress on general activities in livestock policy and the follow-up work on smallholder dairying which has been identified as a priority area in previous APHCA sessions.

He informed the session that a recent independent evaluation of FAO had recommended increased resource allocation to livestock sector work in view of its strategic importance in poverty alleviation. In view of this recommendation, the corporate strategy of FAO has recognized livestock as an important strategic sub-sector and the organization is working towards bringing out a publication “Feeding the World in 2050: What can livestock contribute?”

He then proceeded on to brief the Session on the three proposals on smallholder dairying:

1. A proposal on Smallholder Dairy Development in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand to be supported by CFC – the Common Fund for Commodities.
2. A regional TCP on “Enhancing nutrition and livelihoods through school milk programmes linked to smallholder dairy operations in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand” to be funded by FAO.

3. Dairy Asia network – A proposal to initiate an experience sharing network related to smallholder dairying to be funded by APHCA.

The CFC proposal has three components – (i) Milk production and productivity enhancement, (ii) Milk marketing enhancement, and (iii) Capacity-building and information sharing. The proposal has already been endorsed by the Inter-governmental group on meat and dairying and has been appraised by the project appraisal committee of the CFC. The regional TCP on school milk aims at establishing pilot school milk programmes in rural areas and to link them to smallholder dairy operations so as to meet the twin objectives of enhancing child nutrition and providing livelihood support.

The Dairy Asia network aims to provide a platform for sharing the lessons and experiences on dairying in Asia and to promote shared interests of dairy producers from the region.

He further informed the session that the proposals are in final stages of preparation and submission and it is expected that both CFC and TCP proposals will be submitted for approval and funding by the end of November 2009.

- **Food and feed safety** (Carolyn Benigno): As possible collaboration with OIE is being explored, the planned feed safety workshop in 2009 will be moved to 2010.
- **Industrialization, poverty reduction and environment** (Hans Wagner/Carolyn Benigno): A GEF/WB supported project on animal waste management is being implemented. An international workshop is planned for 2010 to which countries from South Asia will be invited. In the future workplans, more attention should be paid to environmental and climate change aspects.

A new project, Sub-regional Environmental Animal Health Management Initiative (EAHMI), which is funded through the Italian Trust Fund, was launched in June 2009. EAHMI seeks to assess and understand animal diseases within the context of their environmental setting and production/farming system. As a support to this project and since GIS will be an important tool to analyze EAHM strategies, a QGIS training was conducted in July 2009 with 32 participants from 18 countries attending the course.

- **Joint activities on technical capacity building in APHCA countries** (Vishnu Songkitti): Over the past 10 years, these activities of APHCA have been co-organized with the supports mainly from OIE Asia-Pacific Office and – from time to time – from the Japan Livestock Technology Association (JLTA) and other organizations as well as collaborations from the various host governmental agencies of the APHCA member countries.

The proposed joint activities to be organized in 2010 are as the follows:

1) BSE/Prion diseases – The 4th OIE/FAO-APHCA Regional Workshop and Working Group Meeting on BSE and Other Prion Diseases [in collaboration with National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service of the Republic of Korea] will be organized in Seoul, between 24 and 26 February 2010. Representative from the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock, who expressed the group's interest on the issue, will be invited to participate.

2) Bluetongue – OIE/FAO-APHCA Regional Workshop on Bluetongue diagnostic and control. This activity was approved by the 32nd Session in 2008 for organization in 2009. Due to time constraints and pre-occupied duties of both FAO-APHCA and OIE staff, the workshop has been adjourned and tentatively planned to be organized at the National Institute for Veterinary Science, Bogor, Indonesia, in April – May 2010.

3) WTO's SPS – A series of 6 workshops on WTO's SPS were organized between 2001 and 2007. Out of these six, three workshops were organized to support the MPVH programme of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University (FVM-CMU), Thailand. The approved 7th Workshop to be held in 2009 has been adjourned to be organized, tentatively in August – September 2010. The proposed workshop themes were: 1) emerging animal diseases, 2) feed/food safety, and 3) animal products traceability.

To accommodate a recent request from the ASEAN, OIE may consider “dossier for BSE-free status” or the related issue as the theme of this workshop.

4) Brucellosis – The 1st (demo) and the 2nd (hands-on) workshops on Brucellosis diagnosis and control (with an emphasis on *B. melitensis*) were organized [in collaboration with Thai DLD in October 2008 and in June 2009.

RBT antigens were provided to the 15 participating countries (APHCA covered the costs of the antigens/recipient countries covered shipment costs). In addition, upon emergency request from Fiji (non-APHCA), 12,000 doses of RBT antigens were provided in August-September 2009.

DLD will host the 3rd (advanced) Brucellosis Workshop in Sukhothai and Phitsanuloke Provinces, in the first week of November 2010. This workshop shall be a platform for regional collaboration with the focus on:

- a) quality assurance including standardization of testing procedures and diagnostic reagents (for the future ring test activities); and
- b) strengthening of regional collaboration on diagnosis and control of Brucellosis.

Provisions of RBT antigens produced by the Thai DLD, standard diagnostic manuals and promotion of ring test trials will continue.

5) Veterinary Public Health – The Secretariat collaborates and supports various activities related to Veterinary Public Health of the FVM-CMU, Thailand, over the past decade. These included the Master of Veterinary of Public Health Programme. Three WTO’s SPS Workshops (zoonoses, food/feed safety, GIS) and other VPH-related training/workshops were organized to accommodate the Faculty staff members and the MVPH students.

The Faculty together with the Free University of Berlin offer scholarships to students from Asia and the Pacific Region and priority has been given to APHCA member countries.

- **TCDC** – The Secretary informed that the instrument of TCDC is used only to a very limited extent by the member countries. It is still considered an important tool that member countries are encouraged to use.

6. Statement of Accounts:

The Secretary presented the status of APHCA accounts for 2008 and the status of expenditures for 2009 (Appendix -).

- Contributions received in 2008 : US\$ 98 569
- Accumulated interest earned up to 31 December 2008 : US\$ 87 980
- Cash balance as per 01 January 2009 is US\$ 309 618
- Expenditures in 2008 amount to US\$ 136 558. The Ex-Com suggests to the Session to approve the Expenditures
- Expenditures up to 30 September 2009 amount to US\$ 63 949 against an approved budget of US\$ 223 000. The under expenditure is explained: the costs of this APHCA Session are not included and four joint activities with OIE have been deferred to 2010.
- Expected contributions for 2009 are US\$ 90 488
- Subject to the approval of the proposed Activities for 2010, the proposed budget is US\$ 247 750
- Outstanding including arrears amount US\$ 79 901

The Secretary reported that the Ex-Com has discussed the issues of arrears (two countries have major arrears). For this reason, the Ex-Com suggests to the Session that countries with three and more years of arrears (who have lost their voting rights according to the statutes) will be invited to all APHCA activities but will receive no financial support.

The Ex-Chairperson/Ex-officio member reported on the Ex-Com’s discussion regarding the travel standards for delegates to official APHCA functions (Session, workshops, trainings, meetings). The Secretariat informed that within FAO Travel standards the most economic solution is sought in order the stretch the APHCA trust funds as far as possible. This often requires

major additional work for the Secretariat. The Ex-Com fully endorsed this approach by the Secretariat and suggests endorsement by the Session.

7. Future workplan/activities

The Secretary summarized the proposed Activities for 2010 to be approved by the Session in the final Session on Wednesday. All these proposals have been presented during the presentation of the Activities. Activities 3, 4 and 6 are carried over from last year and are re-submitted. Detailed write-ups for each proposals can be found in the Session documentation:

- a. Dairy Asia Network
- b. BSE/Prion Diseases Workshop/Meeting
- c. Bluetongue Workshop
- d. WTO's SPS Workshop
- e. Brucellosis Workshop
- f. Feed Safety Workshop
- g. Bat Disease Surveillance Workshop
- h. FEPTV Programme
- i. GIS Workshop
- j. Animal Breeding and Genetics Training

The Session was adjourned at 16:00 hours.

(The Workshop on Animal Productivity Enhancement in APHCA Countries was organized full day on Tuesday, 27 and in the morning on 28 October 2009.)

The 33rd APHCA Session (continued):

Wednesday, 28 October 2009

The Session was reconvened on Wednesday, 28 October 2009 at 14:00 hours as the follows:

8. Approval of the budget and the proposed activities for 2010:
The Session approved the budget for 2010 as well as the above 10 proposed activities.
9. Other businesses:
 - o The Delegate from Bhutan explored possibility to include HPAI and H1N1 Influenza in the APHCA activity. The Secretary responded that these

diseases will be responded by the RAP-ECTAD group. Besides, there is a Sub-regional ECTAD Office, based in the FAO Representative Office in Kathmandu to deal with these issues.

- The Delegate from Sri Lanka proposed “ Animals and Animal Products Traceability” for consideration by APHCA and OIE Asia-Pacific Office as the theme for the 4th WTO's SPS Workshop.
- The Chairperson seek for endorsement on the conditioned invitation to members countries, who are in arrears for over three years, where APHCA will not cover their travel costs until such arrears are paid. The Session endorsed on this.

10. Venues of the next APHCA Sessions:

- Venue of the next APHCA Session: The Delegate from Malaysia conveyed a message from the Director-General, Department of Veterinary Services of Malaysia, accepting to host the 34th APHCA Session in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia during the last week of October 2010. The proposed Session/workshop theme by the Delegate from Australia is: "Emerging Wildlife Diseases/ Zoonoses", which is supported by Delegate from Papua New Guinea.
- The Delegate from the Philippines offered to host the 35th APHCA Session in Cebu, the Philippines in 2011.

11. Adoption of the Minutes:

The Minutes of the 70th Executive Committee and the 33rd Session were adopted.

12. Closing of the Session:

The Delegate from Pakistan delivered his vote of thanks on behalf of all Delegates and guests for all hospitality provided by the host country and especially the Chairperson and the DLS. He expressed his deep impression on every arrangement and efforts made by the APHCA Secretariat and the DLS team in smoothly organizing this Session and the workshop. He also thanked all the other Delegates and colleagues who participated in the meetings.

At the closing of the Session, the Chairperson thanked all Delegates and guests for their contribution to the meetings. He emphasized that the friendship gained during these few days in Pokhara will be useful for our future collaborations and tasks. He thanked the APHCA Secretariat and the FAO Representative Office in Kathmandu for all the assistance provided towards the successful organization of these events. He wished all overseas guests a safe journey back home.

Summary of APHCA Accounts

Cash Balance as of 1 January 2010

Funds received	Amount in US dollars
3051 Prior years Contribution Received (up to 31/12/08)	2,134,099
3052 Prior years Interests earned ***	87,980
Total	2,222,079

Sums received from member countries during January 2009 – December 2009

3051 Contributions received in 2009	84,605
3052 Interests earned in 2009***	1,470
Total	86,075

Accumulated interest received since APHCA started till 31 Dec. 2009:	87,980	<i>plus</i>
	1,470	
Total	89,450	

***N.B. Interest, although received into account, CANNOT be spent without approval of members. Therefore, the project's effective CASH BALANCE is calculated on the contributions received (WITHOUT INTEREST) minus Expenditures.

Expenditures (January - December 2009)

5011 – Salaries professionals	-
5012 – Salaries GS	8,391
5013 – Consultants	(2,261)
5014 – Contracts	-
5020 – Locally contracted labour	598
5021 - Travel	52,073
5023 – Training	19,738
5024 – Expendable procurement	(1,760)
5025 – Non-expendable procurement	3,383
5026 – Hospitality (at the workshop/training)	-
5028 – General operating expenses	8,941
5040 – General overhead expenses	11
Total	89,114

Status of Contributions

(as at 30 September 2010)

(Expressed in US\$)

Member Governments	Outstanding at 31/12/2009	Contribution due for 2010*	Received up to 30/09/2010	Outstanding at 30/09/2010
Australia	0.00	10,724.00	10,724.00	0.00
Bangladesh	35,792.00	6,502.00	6,502.00	35,792.00
Bhutan	(182.35)	2,128.00	4,073.65	(2,128.00)
India	0.00	10,724.00	10,714.67	9.33
Indonesia	0.00	6,502.00	6,502.00	0.00
Iran	6,502.00	6,502.00	13,004.00	0.00
Korea DPR a/	0.00	2,128.00		2,128.00
Laos	0.00	2,128.00	2,128.00	0.00
Malaysia	0.00	6,502.00	6,502.00	0.00
Mongolia	0.00	2,128.00	2,128.00	0.00
Myanmar	0.00	2,128.00	2,128.00	0.00
Nepal	(1,940.00)	2,128.00	2,316.00	(2,128.00)
Pakistan	6,502.00	6,502.00	12,912.85	91.15
Papua New Guinea	19.00	2,128.00	6,394.00	(4,247.00)
Philippines	0.00	6,502.00	6,502.00	0.00
Samoa b/	25.00	2,128.00	2,153.00	0.00
Sri Lanka	6,502.00	6,502.00	12,979.00	25.00
Thailand	6,502.00	6,502.00	13,004.00	0.00
Totals	59,721.65	90,488.00	120,667.17	29,542.48

* NOTE: Scale of Contributions for 2010 was approved at the 33rd APHCA Session Meeting, held in Nepal, from 26-28 October 2009

a/ Korea DPR became a member of APHCA effective 2010

b/ Samoa became a member of APHCA effective 2008

Approved APHCA Trust fund Budget & Expenditures for 2010

(as at 30 September 2010)

(Expressed in US\$)

Type	Account	Due in 2010	Received (as at 30 September 2010)	
Contributions	3051 TF contribution *	90,488	120,667.17	
	3052 TF interest	-	-	
TF AA 97 AA89142 916700 MTE/INT/005/MUL	Account	APHCA Approved Budget	<u>Expenditures</u> ⁽²⁾	Balance
Expenditure	5011 Salaries Professional ⁽³⁾	-	-	-
	5012 Salaries GS	20,000	23,549	(3,549)
	5013 Consultants	38,750	26,268	12,482
	5014 Contracts	30,000	-	30,000
	5020 Locally Contracted Labour	2,000	(133)	2,133
	5021 Travel [includes CP's travel (5,000) and Fellowships (10,000)]	98,000	61,165	36,835
	5023 Training	44,000	(570)	44,570
	5024 Expendable Procurement	5,000	12,103	(7,103)
	5025 Non-Expendable Procurement	5,000	-	5,000
	5026 Hospitality	1,000	-	1,000
	5028 GOE	4,000	40,830	(36,830)
Total		247,750	163,212	84,538

(1) Budget approved by APHCA at its 33rd Session Meeting held in Nepal, from 26-28 October 2009

(2) The figures included in this column include also commitments

(3) No professional post for APHCA is filled using APHCA funds.

* 2010 TF Contribution includes Korea DPR, which joined in Year 2010

APHCA's Joint Activities on Technical Capacity Building in Member Countries Between November 2009 – December 2010 and Proposal for 2011

BSE and other prion diseases

- The 4th OIE/FAO-APHCA Regional Workshop and Working Group Meeting (in collaboration with the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service – NVRQS) was organized in Seoul, RO Korea, between 24 and 26 February 2010.

This Workshop was attended by 7 participants from seven member countries, namely, India, RO Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Japan (the latter also in the capacity of the OIE Reference Laboratory for BSE) including almost 100 local observers; as well as representatives from OIE Reference Laboratories in Canada and the United Kingdom (UK), OIE HQ in Paris.

WTO-SPS agreement

- FAO-APHCA/OIE Regional Workshop on BSE Risk Status Recognition (under the context of WTO-SPS Agreement) and Interim BSE Working Group Meeting (in collaboration with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University), Chiang Mai, Thailand, 31 August – 3 September 2010.

This workshop was organized upon an official request to FAO-APHCA and OIE Asia-Pacific Office by ASEAN - through the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASEAN-ASWGL) - for support in relation to the OIE BSE risk status recognition in the ASEAN Member States.

Thirteen participants and 13 observers from 13 countries participated in the workshop.

This activity:

- Strengthened networking of BSE and other prion diseases in the working group (13 countries namely: Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, RO Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam).
- Facilitated technical support and services of experts (from OIE Reference Laboratory for BSE in Japan for BSE and other prion diseases; and from NVRQS, RO Korea for CWD) as well as provisions of certain diagnostic materials and reagents from PR China, Japan and RO Korea shall be made upon official requests

through FAO-APHCA or OIE Asia-Pacific by the other member countries.

Animal genetics and breeding

- The 2nd APHCA Training on Animal Genetics and Breeding (in collaboration with the World Association for Animal Production - WAAP), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, 4-15 October 2010.

This course was built on the first course, which was held in early 2009, and concentrated on requirements of running genetic improvement programme of dairy cattle.

Eleven selected participants plus 2 observers from 9 APHCA countries participated in this training.

Bluetongue diagnosis and control

- The OIE/FAO-APHCA Regional Workshop on Bluetongue Diagnosis and Control (for selected member countries), in collaboration with the BALIVET/Government of Indonesia.

This activity will be postponed from the first week of November 2010 to February – March 2011.

Brucellosis diagnosis and control

- The 3rd FAO-APHCA/OIE Regional Workshop on Brucellosis Diagnosis and Control (with an emphasis on *Brucella melitensis*), in collaboration with the Thai Department of Livestock Development.

This workshop will be organized in Sukhothai and Phitsanulok Provinces, Thailand, between 21 and 26 November 2010.

- Regional Collaboration on Brucellosis Diagnosis and Control.

The Brucellosis Laboratory of the National Institute of Animal Health, Department of Livestock Development (NIAH-DLD), Thailand is in the twinning programme with the World Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis in France.

FAO-APHCA and OIE will support this programme and strengthen:

- The twinning activities of the Thai and the French labs.
- The ring trial tests within the region using the NIAH-DLD Brucella antigen for Rose Bengal Test.
- QA and QC of the NIAH-DLD lab toward the upgrading of this lab. as a reference laboratory of Brucellosis (in collaboration with RAP-ECTAD).

Veterinary public health

- Support the MVPH Programme of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University.

Scholarships* for students from Asia-Pacific Region with priorities given to the APHCA countries.

(* Application forms for the 5th course's scholarships will be distributed to all APHCA Delegates during the Session.)

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Opening Address

Hiroyuki Konuma
Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative

Dr Sabirovic,

Distinguished guests from the government, delegates from APHCA, colleagues from headquarters, and representatives and guests from partner agencies

It is my great honor and pleasure to welcome you to this high level meeting on Pro-poor HPAI Risk Reduction: Lessons from Southeast Asia and Africa. As you know, this meeting is being held in partnership with the Animal Health and Production Commission for Asia and the Pacific—a statutory body of FAO. I have learnt from the APHCA team that the Department of Livestock Development, Royal Thai Government has provided substantial support to the organization of this meeting and the APHCA business sessions. I gratefully take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to Royal Thai Government for their continuing support and their gesture of generosity.

In recent years, FAO has been engaged in responding to an increasing number of emergencies worldwide. Among these, those related to diseases of animal origin and trans-boundary plant pests have been most challenging and critical in view of their potential and real impact on food security, livelihoods, human health, as well as on national economies and their exposure to global market forces. Following the emergence and spread of HPAI strain H5N1, FAO, in close collaboration with OIE, WHO and regional and national agencies, has played a leading role in the coordination of a global approach to the control of this disease with considerable zoonotic potential. These coordinated efforts have resulted in reduced pandemic threat from Avian Influenza, although the potential still remains.

The increasing number of emergencies and emerging infectious diseases pose new challenges and call for more effective systems and capacities for crises prevention, risk analysis and communication and rapid medium and long term response. This requires a deeper understanding of the drivers of disease emergence and ecological vulnerabilities as well as the commitment of all parties to enhance the resilience of agricultural systems and societies.

FAO remains committed to partnering with all national and international agencies in responding to existing and new threats. Building on FAO's experience and existing structures, FAO senior management has recently established a Food Chain Crisis Management Framework that aims to address in an integrated and interdisciplinary manner, the risks to the human food chain. I am confident that the deliberations in

this meeting will be very useful in informing the work within this framework and in partnering with member governments as well as with other partner organization, both regional as well as global.

This however must not deviate us from our long term aspirations of eradicating poverty and hunger. FAO is committed to ensuring food security and protecting livelihoods of poor across the world. It is imperative that we join forces and coordinate efforts in addressing threats that pose risks to poor peoples' livelihoods and future global prosperity. Livestock are an important, often under-appreciated asset of the poor, and diseases can quickly wipe out this important pillar of rural livelihoods. In recognition of the importance of livestock and the potentially disastrous consequences of high impact diseases, more than a decade ago, FAO launched the Global Rinderpest Eradication program with the aim of consolidating gains in Rinderpest control and to move towards the eradication of this disease. This was expected to lead to a declaration of global freedom from Rinderpest by 2011. I am pleased to inform the meeting that just a few days ago, October 15 to be precise, FAO Director General, in a global meeting at FAO Headquarters in Rome, has declared that this goal will be achieved. This success provides strong impetus towards enhancing poor people's livestock dependent livelihoods and a moment of pride for all those associated with the program.

While we celebrate this achievement, we must build on these successes in strengthening our efforts to address new challenges. Never before has there been such broad international consensus and support for agriculture and for the improvement of food security in poor countries. Members of the G8 countries issued a statement on food security at L'Aquila in July 2009 and backed it up with financial pledges. Public interest in food security is at an all time high and we must seize the moment to advance our efforts towards building a food secure world. In that context, this meeting on Pro-poor HPAI risk reduction is very timely and I am confident that the deliberations in the meeting will facilitate moving from emergency response to more fundamental ways of addressing food security through poverty focussed livestock sector development. I thank all the partners and participants in contributing to these deliberations and particularly thank DFID in investing in research to underpin this long term development process.

Finally, I would like to extend my personal thanks to **[Name of the Chief Guest]** for his kind presence and the Royal Thai Government for their generous support.

I wish the meeting fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.