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SITUATION UPDATE ON AVIAN INFLUENZA AND PREVENTION ACTIVITIES DIRECTED BY MARD AND MOH

The situation of avian influenza has become complex over the past few months around the world in general and in Asia in particular. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of October 2015, there have been a number of influenza outbreaks in Asian countries such as China, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, South Korea, etc. In China, several influenza cases in humans of influenza A/H5N6, H5N1 and H7N9 have been detected during the previous months. This has led to increased concern about the potential spread of disease to Viet Nam, especially given the favourable weather conditions for the development of the virus, and the increased demand for meat for the upcoming lunar new year period.

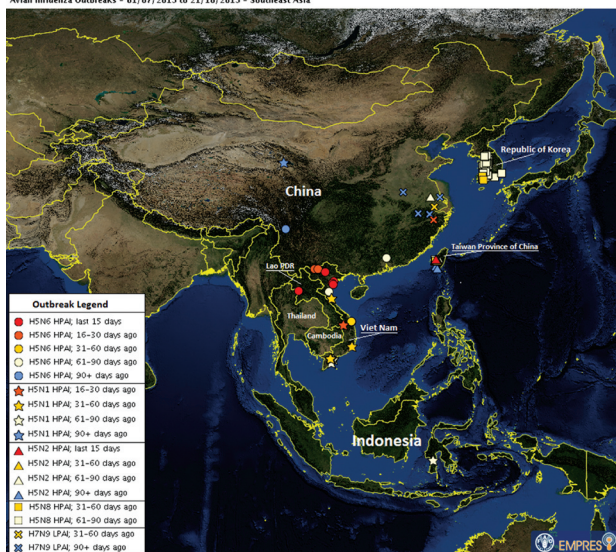
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STRENGTHENING THE MANAGEMENT OF ANTIBIOTIC USE IN THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR IN VIET NAM

One of the most concerning issues in livestock sector currently is the misuse of antibiotics, which results in threats to public health as well as the socio-economic development of the country. Antibiotics are typically used in animal food and medicine for growth stimulation as well as disease prevention and cure. According to animal health and human health experts, the unregulated use of antibiotics may cause dangerous effects, contributing to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the appearance of diseases in humans that are difficult to treat.

(see next page)

Avian Influenza Outbreaks - 01/07/2015 to 21/10/2015 - Southeast Asia



Map of situation update on avian influenza in Southeast Asia from July – October 2015 (Source: FAO)

Despite the fact that there have been no cases of human influenza attributed to these novel strains recorded in Viet Nam in 2015, numerous avian

influenza (A/H5N1 and H5N6) outbreaks have been reported in poultry farms over the country. In order to cope with the new situation, Viet Nam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and Ministry of Health (MOH) have provided timely guidance for disease prevention and response. Official Telegraph No. 8385/ CĐ-BNN-TY dated 12/10/2015 issued by MARD to Provincial People's Committees on strengthening prevention and response of animal diseases stressed the importance of collaboration between the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and other agencies in each province/city. Accordingly, enhanced supervision and surveillance of outbreaks, strict control of poultry trade across the border and active communication on the disease situation in the community are fundamental to prevent avian influenza outbreaks and transmission to humans. ■

With an effort towards better management of banned substances and antibiotics in livestock sector, in October 2015 Viet Nam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has issued Official Letters (i) No.8365/BNN-TY on strengthening the management of

One noteworthy activity is the workshop on "Management and usage of antibiotics in livestock production", which was held in Danang on 30 October 2015. Organized by the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Viet Nam together with the Department of Animal Health (DAH) and the Department of Livestock Production (DLP) of MARD, this workshop has contributed greatly to information sharing and policy advocacy in the country.



Workshop on "Management of Antibiotics in Livestock Sector" in Danang dated 30/10/2015 (Source: FAO)

veterinary medicine, livestock and aquaculture feed and bio-products, and (ii) No. 2139/TY-TYCD on enhancing the management of banned substances in livestock production. International organizations, such as FAO and WHO, have also actively supported Viet Nam in drawing up action plans for safer and more effective usage of antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance substances in the livestock sector.

Together with the key roles of MARD and MOH, relevant agencies are required to take their parts in solving problems related to misuse of antibiotics in livestock production in Viet Nam. In addition to the development of a roadmap on strengthened management and regulations in trading and usage of specific substances in key production facilities, attention needs to be given to research on risk assessment for human health, along with enhanced communications about the effects and threats of antimicrobial resistance on public health.

In the upcoming period, this subject is predicted to be a matter of interest for scientists, policy makers and the community, since it is directly related to the health of the entire society. ■

ONE STEP CLOSER TO ENDING RABIES IN VIET NAM

In response to World Rabies Day, Viet Nam's Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Animals Protection (WAP) have joined hands to stop rabies in Viet Nam and to promote the message "Let's end rabies together by vaccinating dogs" to policy makers, animal and public health professionals, dog owners and the general public.

At an event in Quang Nam province, Viet Nam marked World Rabies Day with a large scale dog vaccination campaign, in order to highlight that the single best evidence-based strategy to eliminate rabies is vaccination of dogs. Eliminating the disease by vaccination protects dogs and stops transmission to people.

It is estimated that Viet Nam has approximately 10 million dogs, and further efforts are needed to reach a vaccination coverage that is sufficient to eliminate rabies. Effective rabies vaccination campaigns for dogs require not only a strong veterinary network but also sustained political support from local authorities and dog owners as well as assistance from technical agencies and mass organizations.

Viet Nam is one step closer to eliminating rabies by 2020 as a result of ever increasing and combined efforts from the animal and human health sectors as well as the local authorities. Although the country has documented a decrease to 46 human death cases due to Rabies

in 2015, compared to 53 at this point one year ago, it still has to deal with many challenges to eradicate rabies nationwide.

The target for rabies elimination by 2020, set together with other ASEAN countries, strongly demands consistent and sustained political commitment, sufficient resource allocation as well as effective and focused health care and veterinary services at all levels. "Rabies elimination is within reach providing that at least 70% of the actual dog population is vaccinated. Detection and prevention can only be done by collaborating closely and by sharing intelligence and resources across sectors. World Rabies Day is an opportunity to establish or strengthen these links and reaffirm the stakeholders' commitment" stated WHO Representative to Viet Nam, Dr Lokky Wai, and FAO Representative to Viet Nam, Mr Jong-Ha Bae, jointly.

The General Department of Preventive Medicine (GDPM) of MOH, and the Department of Animal Health (DAH) of MARD are working together with WHO and FAO to promote vaccination of local dog populations, to increase awareness of preventative actions, and to increase the availability of post-exposure prophylaxis treatment to bite victims. These agencies are also strengthening surveillance and reporting of animal and human rabies cases and facilitating greater collaborative efforts among the human and animal health sectors at all levels ■

(FAO Vietnam)



Campaign in response to World Rabies Day in Hanoi on 28/9/2015 (Source: FAO)

A GLOBAL EFFORT TO ADOPT A ONE HEALTH APPROACH

The 3rd Global Risk Forum One Health Summit 2015 was held in Davos, Switzerland from 4 – 6 October 2015 with the main theme of “Fostering interdisciplinary collaboration for global public and animal health”. This is an annual conference which focuses on promoting

integrated approach in health risks management at the interface of human-animal-environment. With the participation of more than 250 researchers, policy makers and practitioners whose work closely relate to health, agriculture, ecosystem services, sustainable development, etc from 60 countries around the world, significant conclusions have been drawn after focused multistakeholders discussions. The key messages could be summarized as:



*Announcement of 3rd GRF One Health Summit in Davos, Switzerland
(Source: <http://grforum.org>)*

- Emphasis on One Health approach importance to attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set by the United Nations General Assembly
- More researches need to be carried out for a comprehensive understanding about all related aspects of One Health approach including cultural, social and political ones, based on which better decision-making and policy advocacy are expected to be achieved
- Training, Communication and Information sharing are still the three crucial pillars of One Health implementation in all countries. What is more, training curriculum also requires the involvement of wider public to get better results
- In the context where the world has to face major challenges (such as rising population and urbanization, climate change, etc), ensuring human-animal and environment health in a harmonized relation is considered to be extremely crucial. To obtain that purpose, collaboration across sectors and financing mobilization mechanism are vital to efficient One Health implementation at a global scale

The outcomes of the 3rd GRF One Health Summit 2015 are considered to contribute a great deal to later events, such as World Health Assembly, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 and most lately the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP 21) on Climate Change to be taken place in Paris, France in December 2015 ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

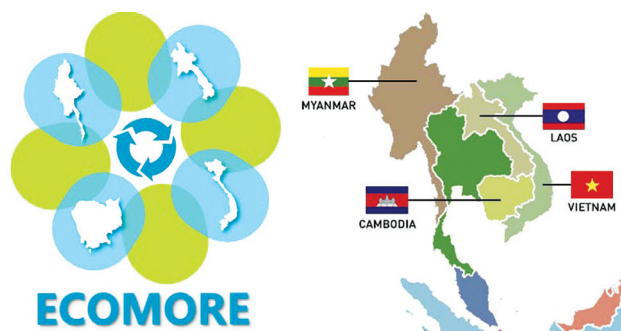
In October 2015, a series of workshops were held in some cities and provinces by Viet Nam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) on popularization and enforcement of the Veterinary Law. On this occasion, recommendations for the draft of Government Decree on the implementation of several articles in the Law were also given. MARD Vice Minister Vu Van Tam has requested DAH to: continuously work towards establishing detailed guidance for the full implementation and enforcement of the Law; to conduct a literature review on available related legal regulations for further amendment or supplementation if needed; and to develop an outline for dissemination of the Veterinary Law and to collect participants' opinions for the completion of the draft implementation Decree ■

On 29 October 2015, within the framework of the project Greater Mekong Subregion - Responses to Infectious Diseases phase 2, the workshop on information and experience sharing about International Health Regulations (IHR 2005)/Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED) between Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam was organized in Da Nang city with the participation of more than 100 representatives coming from Ministries of Health in the three component countries, as well as international organizations. Beside project implementation updates, prioritized cooperation activities and communication mechanism for strengthening transboundary infectious diseases prevention were also discussed for the period of 2015–2017 ■

OHCEA (One Health Central and Eastern Africa) is a network of 15 universities whose majors are public health and veterinary medicine. The theme of the 2nd OHCEA International One Health Conference in Kampala, Uganda, held from 16–18/11/2015, was "A Strategic Approach to Global Health Security through One Health Innovations: Vision 2035". Topics of interest at the workshop included: (i) Emerging Diseases: Pathogens and their Interface; (ii) Innovative Multidisciplinary Intervention Strategies; and (iii) Emerging Pandemic Threats Preparedness and Response. Participating in the workshop, a representative of the Viet Nam One Health University Network (VOHUN) research group shared information about One Health Workforce Development in the Viet Nam context, which was much in line with the workshop's main theme ■

PROJECT "ASSESSING THE IMPACTS OF LIVESTOCK INTENSIFICATION TO COMMUNITY HEALTH (ECOMORE)" IN VIET NAM

ECOMORE (standing for Economic development, ECOSystem Modifications and emerging infectious diseases Risk Evaluation) is a project that has been funded by Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Institut Pasteur International and Institut Pasteur with total amount of 2.7 million euros for a duration of three years in four Southeast Asia countries consisting of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Viet Nam. One of the most important targets of this project is to better understand infectious diseases emergence that originates from anthropogenic ecological changes and the risks to human health nowadays, through surveillance system enhancement and regional as well as national collaboration improvement. In Viet Nam, The National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) is the focal agency who implements the project, which has the main theme of "Assessing the impacts of livestock intensification to community health" in a situation where there is a lack of data and analysis of risk assessment to human health and surrounding environment while Viet Nam has experienced a shift from traditional household farming system to more intensive techniques.



One of the plus points of the project component conducted in Viet Nam has been the involvement of stakeholders, local authorities and community from the very beginning, which fits well with the One Health concept. Within the ECOMORE project framework, a workshop is to be organized in Hanoi on 22nd December 2015 for information sharing with the contribution of related agencies working in the One Health and Eco-Health fields in Viet Nam ■

INTER-MINISTERIAL CIRCULAR OF COORDINATED PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ZONOTICS DISEASES – INITIAL RESULTS AND IMPLEMENTING EXPERIENCE

Being considered as a “hot spot” of emerging infectious diseases, Viet Nam has paid significant attention to preventing and responding to zoonotic diseases in recent years. Experience has proved that the effective cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) plays a crucial part in the success of disease control. The inter-ministerial Circular No. 16/2013/TTLT-

BYT-BNNPTNT “Guidelines for coordinated prevention and control of zoonotic diseases” dated 15 July 2013 issued by MARD and MOH provides specific guidance on enhancing coordination between the two ministries on periodical reporting, outbreaks surveillance, monitoring and investigation, training, and conducting research on zoonotic diseases prevention.



Sharing workshop on Inter-ministerial Circular on coordinated prevention and control of zoonotics diseases, organized on 18 November 2015 in Hanoi (Source: NIHE)

From June to October 2015, studies have been conducted in Binh Dinh and Thanh Hoa provinces - as two case-studies of following the Circular guidance over the previous time - with support from the Department of Animal Health (DAH), MARD, and the General Department of Preventive Medicine (GDPM), MOH, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). During the implementation of the Circular in these two provinces, several actions have been undertaken, such as developing the monitoring and surveillance plan, conducting coordinated activities during communication campaigns, and prevention training to cope with outbreaks.

Results in the two provinces have shown that Circular 16 has reached out to local human and animal health officers at all levels and it has also been considered as effective in case of sudden outbreaks. Nonetheless, the implementation in a regular basis has faced difficulties, mainly come from weak cooperation between related parties in the area. Therefore, more efficient mechanism requires development of a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), establishment of an inter-sectoral risk communication plan, an improved reporting system on outbreak status, and training and information sharing among relevant sectors so that more sound management of zoonotic diseases could be obtained ■

RELEVANT LEGAL DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICE

Official Letter No. 9515/VPCP-KGVX dated 17/11/2015 by the Government Office issuing the prevention and response to dengue

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MARD

Official Letter No.1914/TY-TYCD dated 01/10/2015 by Department of Animal Health giving guidance on recognition and implementation of watering activities before and after slaughtering

Official Telegraph No. 8385/CD-BNN-TY dated 12/10/2015 by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on strengthening the prevention and response to animal diseases

Official Letter No. 8365/BNN-TY dated 12/10/2015 by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on enhancing the management of veterinary medicine, livestock and aquaculture feed and bio-products

Official Letter No. 2139/TY-TYCD dated 29/10/2015 by Department of Animal Health on enhancing the management of banned products in livestock

Official Letter No. 9205/BNN-TY dated 09/11/2015 by Department of Animal Health on the implementation of Veterinary Law in 2015

Circular No. 42/2015/TT-BNNPTNT dated 16/11/2015 by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the additional list of antibiotics and substances banned from import, production, trade and use in livestock sector in Vietnam

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MOH

Official Letter No. 7178/2015/BYT-DP dated 28/09/2015 by Ministry of Health to the Heads of People's Committees in provinces/cities on improving the prevention and response to dengue

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2015

OH Risk communication training workshop for public and animal health professionals
FAOVN

December 29 and 30

January, 2016

Ceremony for Launching the OH Partnership and Signing the Partnership Agreement
Vietnam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses

February 2016

In country stakeholder meeting on duck movement cross-border,
FAO, NAEC and provincial representatives

March 2016

Poultry value chain workshop

FAO, DAH and DLP and provincial representatives

One Health for the Real World: zoonoses, ecosystems and wellbeing

London, England, 17 – 18/3/2015

17th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID)

International society for Infectious Diseases

Hyderabad, India, 2-5/3/2016

December 2016

One Health – EcoHealth 2016

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Australia, 4-7/12/2016

RECENT ONE HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

How can health systems be strengthened to control and prevent an Ebola outbreak? A narrative review

Krishna Regmi, MPH, PhD, Ruth Gilbert, BSc(Hons), PhD and Colin Thunhurst, MSc, PhD. November 2015. *Infection Ecology and Epidemiology* 2015, 5: 28877
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/iee.v5.28877>

How Vietnam Mastered Infectious Disease Control

Joanne Silberner. NOVA Next. November 05, 2015.
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/next/body/one-health-vietnam/>

From “One Health” to “One Communication”: The Contribution of Communication in Veterinary Medicine to Public Health

Micaela Cipolla, DVM, PhD, Luigi Bonizzi, PhD, and Alfonso Zeconi, DVM. *Vet. Sci.* 2015, 2(3), 135-149; doi:10.3390/vetsci2030135
<http://www.mdpi.com/2306-7381/2/3/135/htm>

The network for evaluation of One Health: evidence-based added value of One Health.

E. Haxton, Š. Šinigoj, A. Rivière-Cinnamond. *Infection Ecology & Epidemiology*. September 2015. 5:28164.
<http://www.infectionecologyandepidemiology.net/index.php/iee/article/view/28164>

One Health, one literature: weaving together veterinary and medical research.

M.M. Christopher. *Science Translational Medicine*. September 2015. (303):303fs36.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26333932>

Human brucellosis trends: re-emergence and prospects for control using a One Health approach in Azerbaijan (1983-2009).

I.T. Kracalik, R. Abdullayev, K. Asadov, R. Ismayilova, M. Baghirova, N. Ustun, M. Shikhiyev, A. Talibzade, J.K. Blackburn. *Zoonoses and Public Health*. September 2015.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26403990>

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