History of Focal Point Seminars and Terms of Reference for OIE Focal Points for Veterinary Products

Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products Maputo, Mozambique, 3 – 5 December 2013
First part:

History of Focal Point Seminars
Introduction

- The OIE has launched a global programme of capacity building for OIE Delegates and OIE National Focal Points.
- One of the objectives is to provide good governance concepts to the main actors of National Veterinary Services.
- Among the elements of governance, the OIE grants great importance to the good management of veterinary products, from both animal and public health points of view.
During the 76th General Session in May 2008, the World Assembly of Delegates has:

- re-iterated the importance of the Focal Point for information on animal diseases
- requested to nominate Focal Points on other subjects

The appointment of Focal Points to the OIE should be only done by the National Delegate.
History of Focal Point Seminars

- Delegates were requested to nominate focal points for:
  - Animal disease notification
  - Wildlife
  - Aquatic animal diseases
  - Animal welfare
  - Animal production food safety
  - Veterinary products

- Communication and Laboratories added later
Veterinary products

- include diagnostics, vaccines and veterinary drugs
- are key elements that enable detection, prevention and control of animal diseases
History of Focal Point Seminars

- The Resolution on Veterinary Products (No. 25) adopted by the OIE Member Countries at the 77th OIE General Session in May 2009 promotes a coherent strategy related to veterinary products and strengthens OIE involvement in this field.
Resolution No. 25
Recommendations to OIE Members

4. **Nominate a national focal point** for OIE on matters related to veterinary products according to the suggested Terms of Reference and encourage his/her participation in training sessions and appropriate international gatherings and meetings.
The OIE Fifth Strategic Plan (2011-2015) highlights the importance of Focal Points:

- The World Assembly of Delegates has established a system of national focal points in several areas of the OIE’s work. Focal points are established under the authority of the Delegate of each OIE Member. They assist the OIE Delegate and act as a direct contact point with the OIE in their respective areas.
The OIE Fifth Strategic Plan (2011-2015)

and confirms OIEs engagement to support their activities:

The OIE will continue to strengthen the network of focal points in their respective areas of competence, mainly through training courses and workshops at the Regional and Sub-Regional levels.
History of Focal Point Seminars

- OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in Africa
  Dakar (Senegal), 25–27 March 2008

- OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in the Middle East
  Damascus (Syria), 2–4 December 2009
Training workshops (first cycle) for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products have been organised:
- Europe, (Serbia), July 2010
- Americas, (Colombia), September 2010
- Africa, (South Africa), November 2010
- Asia (Cambodia), June 2011
The first cycle training provided basic knowledge

- on the mandate and activities of the OIE;
- on the rights and responsibilities of the OIE Delegates and their Focal Points;
- on the Terms of Reference of Focal Points;

and also addressed the needs and expectations of Focal Points on Veterinary Products.
History of Focal Point Seminars:

**Second cycle**

- **Second cycle** for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products
  - Africa (Senegal), Septembre 2011
  - Middle East and Africa (Morocco), Dec. 2011
  - Africa (Kenya), Mars 2012
  - Asia (Thailand), July 2012
  - Americas (Brazil), October 2012
  - Europe (Austria), November 2012
Second cycle

The second cycle focussed on

- **VICH** (International cooperation on harmonisation of technical requirements for Registration of Veterinary Products).
- The use of veterinary products and the issues of residues and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- The control of drugs and the quality of vaccines.
Second cycle

- Provided to participants the technical basis for the:
  - inspection system, monitoring plan, control of the distribution of vaccines and the tracking and identification of counterfeit products

- Strengthened awareness of Focal Points on the importance of prudent and responsible use of veterinary drugs, in particular with regard to residues and antimicrobial resistance.
History of Focal Point Seminars

Third Cycle

- Inter-Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products Algiers (Algeria) 1 – 3 October 2013

- Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products Maputo, Mozambique, 3 – 5 December 2013
Third Cycle

Will cover

- Diagnostic test validation methods and kits
- Antimicrobial use and resistance
- Anti-parasitic drugs
- Veterinary products in general and good governance
Second part:

Terms of Reference for OIE Focal Points for Veterinary Products
Termes of Reference

Terms of Reference (ToRs) for National Focal Points were:

- Established by OIE Headquarters for all Focal Points
- First sent to all OIE Delegates in March 2009
Termes of Reference: General part

The responsibilities of the focal points are under the authority of the OIE Delegate.

- Any information transmitted to the OIE from the different focal points needs to be transmitted under the designated authority of the OIE Delegate
- This practice would equally apply, if focal points are located in other Departments or Ministries
- From a legal perspective the OIE considers the official OIE Delegate to be the unique representative of the country.
Terms of Reference: Specific tasks

- Establish a network of veterinary product experts within his/her country or communicate with existing network;

- Establish and maintain a dialogue with the Competent Authority for veterinary products in his country, and to facilitate cooperation and communication among several authorities where responsibility is shared;
Terms of Reference

- Under the authority of the OIE Delegate of his/her country, **monitor legislation** on and **control** of veterinary products to ensure that these are in support of OIE international standards, guidelines and recommendations;

- **Act as a contact point with the OIE** on matters related to veterinary products;
Terms of Reference

- **Receive** from the OIE Headquarters information on VICH (1) activities and copies of the reports of the Biological Standards Commission and other relevant reports, should they address discussion points on veterinary products;

- **Conduct**, on request, the in-country consultation process with recognised veterinary product experts on draft texts of standards and/or on guidelines and recommendations proposed in those reports.

(1) VICH: International cooperation on harmonisation of technical requirements for Registration of Veterinary Products:
Terms of Reference

- Prepare comments for the Delegate on each of the relevant meeting reports reflecting the scientific view and position of the individual OIE Member Country and/or the region, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards, guidelines and recommendations related to veterinary products.
Thank you for your attention

Any questions?

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