

**Working Group on Strategies and tools to strengthen good veterinary governance,
including the role of OIE animal welfare focal points**

Chair: Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Reporter: Dr Morosi Molomo, OIE Delegate for Lesotho

In this session, the fundamental theme is “how to promote implementation of OIE standards”. Apparently, implementation of OIE animal welfare standards involves *many parties* at *various stages* of animal production and various arenas of human-animal interaction.

The discussion topic of Group 3, titled “Strategies and tools to strengthen good veterinary governance, including the role of OIE animal welfare focal points,” is created to focus on *veterinary governance*, i.e., involvement, initiative and commitment of, and control by, the *veterinary services as a whole*, covering *all stages of animal production and arenas of human-animal interaction as far as relevant to OIE standards*: we are talking about neither individual veterinarians nor any specific sector/group/stakeholders.

Noting that the field of animal welfare is not necessarily always within the reach (under the control?) of the veterinary services, for better implementation of OIE standards special efforts may be required to strengthen veterinary governance. The system of OIE National Focal Points on Animal Welfare may contribute to address such concern.

With the clear understanding that standards are to improve the quality and safety of products, it is important to have common understanding of these standards so that we all have to comply for the benefit of us all. For that, clear role of all stakeholders is also very important.

The group was well represented with participants from all the regions including the private sector. To this effect almost half of the participants have Animal Welfare in their legislation while other do not have it at all and other indicated that they were in progress of inclusion of AW legislation in their Veterinary Legislation

Challenges

- Education -Not enough information even at veterinary training, as AW is rather new compared to AH
- Knowledge sharing among stakeholder not enough
- Veterinary legislation
- Regional strategies implementation
- In-country structure (different departments, different languages and cultures)

Strategies and tools

- Capacity building of Focal Point and Member delegates for better communication with stakeholders,
 - Capability to contribute efficiently on OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes comments.
 - There is need to know specific chapters (OIE Focal Point Seminar can help their understanding)
 - Activate network among Focal Points so that they share knowledge and experiences
 - Communicate efficiently and timely among stakeholders to improve in country consultation to overcome the challenges derived from in country structures.
 - Delegate should be well aware of the importance of the Focal Points
- **Activation of Veterinary Statutory Body in Animal Welfare issues**
 - Make sure that private vets also involved in implementation
- **Education**
 - Animal Welfare need to be well included in vet curriculum
 - Use twinning mechanism
- **Veterinary legislation**
 - During the development stage, involve all relevant people to make sure the ownership and improve awareness
 - Penalty to noncompliance be well stipulated
- **Access to appropriate funding for the implementation of animal welfare standards**
 - PVS Gap analysis for the assessment of required fund
- **National Animal Welfare Strategy/plans**
 - Use Regional animal welfare strategy for development and implementation of national plan
- **Animal Welfare information distribution mechanism**
 - E.g. Animal welfare portal where all relevant information is accessible, including standards and guidelines how to implement the standards, operated by the OIE or its Regional Offices.