



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

## **STRONGER TOGETHER: FAO-OIE-WHO STEP UP COORDINATION EFFORTS IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION TO MANAGE AND PREVENT HEALTH THREATS AT THE ANIMAL-HUMAN-ECOSYSTEMS INTERFACE**

*One Health approach key to saving and protecting lives  
and livelihoods today and in the future*

### **JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT TO COORDINATE**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO)<sup>1</sup>, called the Tripartite, is committed to work with Members through multi-sectoral coordination efforts across the Asia-Pacific Region.

COVID-19, MERS, zoonotic influenza and rabies are examples of diseases which cross species and also infect humans causing many infections and deaths across the globe while at the same time incurring serious socio-economic implications. Health threats such as these provide an opportunity to reassess and renew support to countries to also prevent and manage future health threats with the aim of protecting the health of animals and people, avoiding economic disruptions and saving livelihoods.

The Tripartite has also identified the importance of close coordination and communication between human, animal, plant, aquaculture, and environment sectors through a One Health approach to address rapidly increasing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and food safety threats. The regional representatives of FAO, OIE and WHO are strongly committed to partner with Members and strengthen coordinated efforts to fight all these health threats.

In line with global efforts<sup>2</sup> to strengthen the coordination between FAO, OIE and WHO, we, the regional representatives, commit to establish and support the Tripartite One Health Coordination Group for Asia and the Pacific. The Coordination Group consolidates the multi-sectoral work carried out over many years in the Asia-Pacific Region, including the eight regional workshops on multisectoral collaboration at the animal-human-ecosystems interface.

To this end, each of our organizations will in turn act as the informal secretariat for this Coordination Group. The Secretariat switched to OIE from FAO in July 2020 (in 2022 it will pass on to WHO). Practical arrangements are in place to ensure that Members in the Asia-Pacific Region can draw upon our unified support to operationalise One Health and assist Members on topics of common interest across sectors.

1 FAO has one regional office for the whole Asia Pacific Region (FAORAP) based in Bangkok, OIE has two offices in the region – Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (OIE RRAP) in Tokyo, and Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (OIE SRR-SEA) in Bangkok. WHO has two Regional Offices in the Asia Pacific – Regional Office for South-East Asia (WHO-SEARO) in New Delhi and Regional Office for Western Pacific (WHO-WPRO) in Manila.

2 In 2018, the Director Generals of FAO, OIE and WHO signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen Tripartite joint action to combat health threats at the animal-human-ecosystems interface

**SIGNED:**



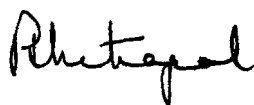
**For FAORAP:**

Mr Jong-Jin Kim  
Assistant Director-General and  
FAO Regional Representative for  
Asia and the Pacific



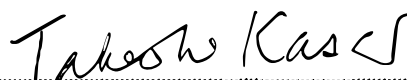
**For OIE:**

Dr Hirofumi Kugita  
OIE Regional Representative for Asia  
and the Pacific



**For WHO-SEARO:**

Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh  
Regional Director for WHO South-East  
Asia Region



**For WHO-WPRO:**

Dr Takeshi Kasai  
WHO Regional Director for the  
Western Pacific

**DATE:** 23rd October 2020