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**CMC-AH** Crisis Management Centre  
Animal Health

# Activity Summary

## Seventh Steering Committee Meeting

(October 2012 to September 2013)





## INTRODUCTION

From October 2012 to September 2013, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) continued to operate the Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health (CMC-AH) in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). From its inception in 2006, the CMC-AH assists FAO member countries in establishing effective responses to transboundary animal disease (TAD) emergencies, and emerging threats. Technical and operational assistance is offered to affected governments addressing outbreaks of animal diseases and high risk situations. The CMC-AH continues to support member countries by: deploying missions of experts to assess disease threats and outbreaks, organizing and leading Good Emergency Management Practice (GEMP) trainings, collaborating with FAO’s Emergency Prevention System for Animal Health (EMPRES-AH) in relation to the emergence of Influenza A (H7N9) and MERS-CoV and more.

## MISSIONS

To date, the CMC-AH has deployed 66 missions to over 40 countries; seven of those missions taking place from October 2012 to September 2013. The missions of this past year provided rapid assistance to countries responding to animal disease emergencies or critical epidemiologic situations involving: highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), rabies, Newcastle disease (ND), peste des petits ruminants (PPR), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Rift Valley fever (RVF) and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

CMC-AH MISSIONS (OCTOBER 2012 – SEPTEMBER 2013)		
Dates	Country / region	Disease
9-16 October 2012	The Republic of Angola	PPR
14-20 October 2012	The Republic of the Gambia	CBPP
4-9 November 2012	The Islamic Republic of Mauritania	RVF
5-16 May 2013	The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam	Rabies
13-18 May 2013	Libya	Newcastle
2-10 June 2013	The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK)	HPAI – H5N1
14-25 September 2013	The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	MERS-CoV

## The Republic of Angola

### PPR

9-16 October 2012

On 20 September 2012, a mission request was received by the FAO representative in Luanda citing positive serological results for antibodies to PPR. Subsequently, the CMC-AH deployed an emergency mission, from 9-16 October 2012, consisting of a PPR control expert, a rapid response veterinarian, and an emergency operations officer.

The CMC-AH mission team worked with the Veterinary Services of the Republic of Angola to:

- **evaluate** the epidemiological situation of PPR in the Cabinda enclave, and identify possible risk factors responsible for the dissemination and widening of the area affected by the disease;
- **evaluate** the surveillance activities implemented since the disease outbreak and when necessary, suggest improvements;
- **propose** measures to reduce the risk against further PPR outbreaks; and
- **assess** the logistical and financial capacity in meeting the needs of PPR control in the country.

According to the investigations carried out, the mission team provided short, medium and long term recommendations on: national and regional awareness campaigns, vaccines and equipment for sampling, strengthening legislation on PPR, engaging the private sector in disease management, establishment of a disease emergency fund and more.



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*A veterinarian inspects a goat for signs of PPR.*

## The Republic of the Gambia

### CBPP

14-20 October 2012

In January 2012, the Republic of the Gambia started experiencing outbreaks of CBPP. On 24 September 2012, the government requested assistance from the CMC-AH, resulting in the deployment of a rapid response mission on 14 October 2012. The mission team consisted of a CBPP disease expert, a disease control expert, and a liaison operations officer.

In close collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) team based in Dakar (the Republic of Senegal), the team:

- **assessed** the epidemiological situation and possible risk factors that may have amplified the spread of the disease;
- **reviewed** the disease control measures that had been taken up until that point, and then provided recommendations to address the risk factors in the following 6 to 12 month period; and
- **provided** guidance to further develop a vaccination program and design a public awareness campaign, including risk communication.

Considering the situation in the Gambia, the CMC-AH mission team recommended that all CBPP outbreaks should be considered a national emergency, labelling vaccination a public good to be provided at no cost to farmers. In addition, the team suggested that a communication and awareness programme should be set in place in order to sensitize the population to the disease, its clinical signs and how to control its spread.



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*Mission team hears from affected farmers at a village.*

As a result of these recommendations, the government also requested emergency assistance, in addition to the mission, through a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). This TCP aimed at supporting the efforts of the mission team and helped curb the outbreak and further spread of the disease. This project supported emergency measures in a 12 month period (from December 2012 to November 2013), with financial assistance totalling USD 469 000. The TCP funds were used to: procure 400 000 doses of the vaccine and implement the vaccination campaign, train staff on vaccination and serological techniques, train staff in diagnosing CBPP, develop tools for an awareness campaign on disease prevention and control strategies, organize a regional workshop with neighbouring countries and develop a long term strategy and action plan for CBPP control.

**The Islamic Republic of Mauritania**  
**RVF**  
**4-9 November 2012**

In late September 2012, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania reported outbreaks of RVF in humans in southern provinces of the country. On 30 September 2012, the government requested assistance from the CMC-AH resulting in the deployment of a rapid response mission on 4 November 2012. The mission team consisted of an epidemiology/risk assessment expert from FAO headquarters (HQ), supported by FAO colleagues from the Subregional Office for North Africa (SNE) in Tunis, a livestock expert and a laboratory expert.

The joint CMC-AH/FAO-SNE mission team worked with the Veterinary Services of Mauritania to:

- **assess** the epidemiological situation of RVF in the country;
- **define** a national strategy on RVF prevention and control and prioritize main actions to be undertaken; and
- **assess** short and long term needs, especially in supporting veterinary services training and capacity building with regard to the prevention and control of RVF in the country.

The country had previously experienced outbreaks of RVF in the northern desert region of Adrar in late 2010 - early 2011, with the introduction of the RVF virus in a suddenly suitable environment following particular climactic conditions. In 2012, the team decided that the new episode of the disease should not be considered epidemiologically linked to the previous one, but seen as a resurgence of the virus circulation and expression in already infected areas along the Senegal River.

As a result of the mission recommendations from 2011, the national authorities had developed a more effective communication line between the human health and the animal health ministries, allowing a faster reaction to suspected human cases of RVF and subsequently, targeted serological screenings in animal herds. As a result of the 2012 Mission, the joint CMC-AH/SNE mission team recommended the Ministry of Agriculture to further reinforce surveillance activities (using sentinel herds, surveillance at abattoirs). Furthermore, reinforcing the strategy to control the disease (through a contingency plan) and leading international coordination to better prevent and control the disease was also recommended by the team.



*Meeting of the CMC/FAO-SNE mission with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.*

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The mission team also provided technical assistance to the FAO office in Mauritania in preparing a USD 305 000 Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) proposal. This proposal was successful and increased the country's capacity in responding to the threat of RVF. The mission also provided the Ministry of Agriculture with numerous Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits.

## The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

### Rabies

5-16 May 2013

Over the last 20 years, more than 3 700 human cases of rabies have been reported in Viet Nam; an invariably fatal but preventable communicable disease in animals and humans. The increase in cases in the Northern Provinces of Viet Nam led the government to request assistance from the CMC-AH on 5 April 2013. From 5-16 May 2013 a mission team composed of a veterinary public health and disease control expert, a rabies expert, a communication specialist and a rabies laboratory specialist was deployed to Viet Nam.



*A rabies poster in Viet Nam.*

The mission team extensively discussed the rabies situation with national representatives, looking to:

- **provide** assistance and support in assessing the epidemiological situation of the on-going rabies events in Viet Nam;
- **identify** possible risk factors that may further amplify and disseminate the disease;
- **provide** advice on priority intervention approaches to decrease rabies events in the country; and
- **encourage** local government employees to engage in feral dog capture and vaccination, as well as encourage responsible pet ownership among Viet Nam's residents.

Considering the increase in human rabies cases reported in Viet Nam compared to previous years, the mission team recommended an enhanced communication and awareness campaign, targeted at specific at-risk populations. An increase in sample collection and establishing working relations with reference laboratories for rabies was also recommended. It was also agreed that coordinating rabies surveillance and investigations through linking animal and human health information systems (internet based) would be beneficial to assess information for decision-making to prevent the further spread of the disease.



**Libya**  
**Newcastle disease**  
**13-18 May 2013**

A series of Newcastle disease outbreaks that commenced in March 2013 threatened large numbers of poultry in Libya. On 17 April 2013, an official request for assistance was sent by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Animal and Marine Wealth to the Director General (DG) of FAO. As a result, on 13 May 2013, the CMC-AH deployed a rapid response mission team including a poultry expert familiar with ND, a Newcastle virologist and laboratory expert and an operations officer.

The mission team's goal was to:

- **review** the current poultry disease situation in Libya and assist the veterinary services of the country in disease diagnosis, including laboratory diagnostic procedures;
- **advise** and assist in the drafting of an action plan to guide a timely poultry disease response and future prevention measures;
- **consider** means of identifying and addressing funding needs for enhanced control programmes; and
- **suggest** ways in which future activity regarding containment and control can be integrated to further strengthen and support other initiatives related to poultry disease surveillance.

The CMC-AH mission team concluded that basic biosecurity measures should be reinforced in order to limit the spread of the disease. Furthermore, stamping out, in addition to vaccinating, ought to be carried out, and will prove successful in eliminating threats of ND. The mission team also recommended drafting a communication strategy and an operational plan targeting main stakeholders. Overall, the capacities of virology should be strengthened in laboratories, enabling the production of the appropriate reference materials.



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*Sample preparation at a laboratory in Tripoli.*



**The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)****HPAI – H5N1****2-10 June 2013**

Commencing on 19 April 2013, a state-owned duck farm located ten kilometres from Pyongyang observed symptoms that lead to a suspicion of HPAI. On 7 May 2013, the outbreak of H5N1 virus was confirmed, in country, by the Veterinary Research Institute (VRI). From 2 to 10 June 2013, a CMC-AH mission team composed of a FAO Field Programme Officer and a FAO Senior Laboratory Expert conducted a rapid assessment of the situation and considered measures to prevent and control the outbreak.

Over the course of the mission, the team:

- **assessed** the diagnostic capabilities of the country and advised officials on specific requirements for effective laboratory diagnosis and confirmation of influenza viruses;
- **assessed** the extent of the H5N1 outbreak and advised the DPRK officials in drafting an action plan;
- **assisted** DPRK officials with virus molecular characterization by facilitating sample submission to a reference laboratory; and
- **liaised** with partners and potential donors to consider funding needs for enhanced avian influenza control programs.

At the debriefing session the mission team recommended that the DPRK increase its disease surveillance capacity via technical trainings and that they also obtain necessary equipment for vaccine production and diagnostic laboratories. Joining the on-going FAO regional cooperation program on TADs (along with the People's Republic of China, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and others) was also suggested to the DPRK officials.

Subsequently, the mission team arranged for the virus type to be confirmed by an international reference laboratory.

**The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia****14-25 September****MERS-CoV**

The first known human case of MERS-CoV occurred in April 2012 in Jordan. Since then, the disease has spread to eight other countries, with 57 confirmed deaths and 124 confirmed cases<sup>1</sup>; with 100 cases and 47 deaths in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. From 14 to 25 September 2013, a mission team composed of a Coronavirus expert, a disease investigation expert, a veterinary epidemiologist, a virologist and a livestock expert were deployed to Saudi Arabia. A representative from each of the OIE and the WHO also joined the mission.

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<sup>1</sup> As of 10 September 2013.

During the course of this mission, the team’s goal was to:

- **assist** in the disease investigations of human cases of MERS-CoV by considering animal species as potential sources of human exposure, and assisting the veterinary authorities in developing a surveillance program to identify potential sources of animal origin;
- **collaborate** with experts to develop a carefully designed study into potential MERS-CoV exposures, in coordination with epidemiological studies in humans; and
- **support** the country on preparedness, contingency planning, and risk mitigation.

## PREPAREDNESS AND TRAINING: GEMP WORKSHOPS

If not dealt with swiftly and correctly, an outbreak of a TAD may have costly consequences, both socially and economically, to a nation’s livelihood. For this reason, preparedness planning and development of contingency plans for diseases will better equip a country’s animal health service in responding and coping with a disease outbreak. Consequently, FAO has published the manual “Good Emergency Management Practice (GEMP): The Essentials” in 2011, developed from an earlier FAO initiative and representing the Organization’s accumulated knowledge on the most efficient way to manage and ameliorate animal disease outbreaks in emergency situations. The CMC-AH has been able to further disseminate the principles of good emergency practice by leading sub-regional training courses in Uganda, Tunisia and Côte d’Ivoire, as well as national courses in China, Kenya and Tanzania. Over 16 countries have been exposed to this training to date.

GEMP TRAINING COURSES (OCTOBER 2012 – SEPTEMBER 2013)	
Date	Country/Region
18-24 April 2013	Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
2-4 May 2013	Morogoro, the United Republic of Tanzania
7-9 May 2013	Nakuru, the Republic of Kenya
15-18 May 2013	Beijing, the People’s Republic of China

### Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire 18-24 April 2013

Animal health officials from the Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Senegal and the Togolese Republic convened in Abidjan from 20 to 23 April 2013 for a presentation of GEMP principles. This workshop was jointly organized by the CMC-AH, the FAO Subregional Office for West Africa and FAO’s Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases Western Africa (ECTAD-Bamako), in collaboration with the FAO office in Côte d’Ivoire.

In his opening remarks, the Inspector General of the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries of Côte d’Ivoire, congratulated FAO’s assistance during outbreaks that had recently happened in the region (H5N1 in Côte d’Ivoire, Togo and Benin, ASF in Togo and CBPP in the Gambia). He finished with recommending the GEMP essentials and explaining how it is critical to enhancing countries’ preparedness in preventing and controlling TADs.

Over the course of the workshop, seven modules of the GEMP manual were presented and working group discussions took place. Participants participated in a simulation exercise where two neighbouring countries experienced a theoretical outbreak of avian influenza A (H7N9), with human deaths reported. From this exercise, it was clear that there was a need to improve disease surveillance and collaboration between the veterinary services of neighbouring countries. The value of training specialists in risk analysis and animal disease management was also highlighted.



*A participant presenting his team's work of the H7N9 simulation exercise.*

### **Morogoro, the United Republic of Tanzania 2-4 May 2013**

The GEMP workshop held in Morogoro from 2-4 May 2013 was jointly organized by the CMC-AH and FAO's ECTAD Eastern Africa office, in collaboration with the Department of Veterinary Services of Tanzania.

Over the two days, the workshop focused on a participatory forum, making use of presentations and group discussions. In order to strengthen the country's capacity in responding to animal disease emergencies, the participants agreed that appropriate national emergency contingency plans for PPR, brucellosis and ASF are needed.

### **Nakuru, the Republic of Kenya 7-9 May 2013**

The CMC-AH joined forces with FAO's ECTAD Eastern Africa office and the Department of Veterinary Services of Kenya to hold a GEMP workshop for two days in May 2013. Thirty-one senior veterinary officers from the Department of Veterinary Services headquarters in Kabete, State Veterinary Offices, District Veterinary Offices, Regional Veterinary Investigation Laboratories and the Zoonotic Disease Unit (ZDU) involved in disease control attended the workshop. In line with the principles of the GEMP manual, the workshop sessions focused around different phases of emergency disease management, key matters in preparedness planning, principles of infectious disease control, the role of veterinary services in outbreak situations and recovery and more.

The participants also discussed and agreed upon priority actions that ought to be taken in disease emergency situations, those responsible for each step and the time frame in which to act. These actions include: updating the already existing plans for rinderpest, HPAI and RVF, developing a national contingency plan for both PPR and brucellosis and developing a communication strategy.

### **Beijing, the People's Republic of China 15-18 May 2013**

After interest in holding a GEMP workshop was expressed by a delegation of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture to FAO HQ in Rome in 2012, the first in-country session was conducted in Beijing, starting on 15 May 2013. The 2012 delegation believed that a GEMP workshop would enhance provincial animal disease prevention, emergency response capacity and strengthen collaboration between FAO and China on animal health issues.

Over 40 participants attended the workshop, with staff of the Animal Disease Control Center from the Provincial, Autonomous Regions, and Municipalities-level. Dr Huang Wei-Zhong, Deputy Director General of the Veterinary Department, chaired the opening ceremony. Among the participants, four groups were arranged, based on geographic distribution in the country, and then cross-provincial border issues were discussed. They were able to share their own experiences and difficulties with disease control and prevention strategies used in each province, region and municipality.

Most importantly, it was noted that existing plans did not address many of the issues that were encountered with the country's actual H7N9 response. This led to a discussion on the need for preparedness plans targeted to specific locations, accounting for diversity of cultures, geography and industry throughout the country.



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*GEMP workshop in Beijing, China.*

## REPORTING AND, ALERT AND AWARENESS

As part of its daily activities, the CMC-AH, together with EMPRES and the FAO-OIE-WHO Global Early Warning System for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses (GLEWS) tracks critical animal disease events occurring all over the world. In the case of particularly devastating disease outbreaks, the CMC-AH assists with crafting press releases, disease updates, emergency risk assessments, talking points and any other materials to be disseminated among FAO Representatives and stakeholders. Since October 2012, the influenza A (H7N9) and the MERS-CoV outbreaks have especially involved the CMC-AH.

### H7N9 Tracking

On 1 April 2013, the WHO first reported cases of a new avian influenza A (H7N9) infecting humans in the People's Republic of China. More than 130 cases of human infections were subsequently reported. Most patients had severe respiratory illness, resulting in 45 deaths<sup>2</sup>, all cases being found in China. After April 2013, with containment efforts taken by Chinese authorities, the number of cases dropped dramatically.



Mindful that this virus could potentially change to easily spread among people and re-emerge during the seasonal influenza period causing a global outbreak, the CMC-AH has collaborated with AGAH, GLEWS and EMPRES in producing weekly updates and talking points for FAO Representatives. The CMC-AH supported the EMPRES team in drafting and finalizing the emergency risk assessment on H7N9 in the People's Republic of China and neighbouring countries.

### MERS-CoV Tracking

MERS is a viral respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus. Although the first case known to occur was found in Jordan, the virus was first reported in Saudi Arabia, causing acute respiratory illness in people infected. There have been 124 cases and 57 deaths<sup>3</sup> in the following countries: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Jordan, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Tunisia and the Republic of Italy.

Complete knowledge on MERS-CoV is currently unavailable. An animal source, if such exists, and possible routes of infection to humans are still unknown. The CMC-AH is working with GLEWS and EMPRES, as FAO collaborates with WHO, to investigate the disease source in an effort to gain more knowledge on potential animal sources and possible risks posed to humans. With this in mind, weekly updates have been produced.

**MERS-CoV situation update**  
FAO / EMPRES Animal Health  
6 September 2013; 1700 hours, Rome

**Overview**  
**Situation:** Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV): new to humans; pandemic potential  
**Countries with known human cases:** Kingdom of Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Tunisia (European cases travelled to Middle East)  
**Findings in humans:** 53 confirmed deaths; 115 confirmed cases total<sup>1</sup>  
**Findings in animals:** Limited information available, no animal source found  
**FAO approach:** Monitor situation, assist member countries, help investigate source

*Example of a MERS-CoV update.*

<sup>2</sup> As of August 23, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> As of 10 September 2013.

## VOLUNTEERING

The CMC-AH welcomed an intern from June to August 2013; a third-year French veterinary student from the Veterinary School of Nantes. She had been made aware of the CMC-AH through the presentation of Centre's activities provided by the Centre's French loaned expert in an event organized by France Vétérinaire International (FVI).

The intern was exposed to the processes in place within the CMC-AH and supported the team in multiple tasks. Most importantly, the intern developed guidelines for efficient use of the electronic records and Event Tracking Management System (ETMS). These guidelines will be fully integrated within the updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the Centre.

In addition, the intern reviewed FAO's policy on Rift Valley Fever prevention and control from 2001 onward, and provided insights on future improvements, as well as paving the way for providing a summary of FAO's position on the disease to experts sent on missions under the FAO – CMC-AH banner.

## MEETINGS

In addition to organizing missions and workshops, and partaking in the everyday activities of the CMC-AH, members of the Centre are often invited to contribute to various meetings held by many organizations, across the globe. These meetings are seen as a means for the CMC-AH to personally communicate previous and future works, and also as way to interact with counterparts in other agencies, and make long-lasting partnerships, endorsing a collaborative approach to working toward common goals.

### **23 October 2012**

#### **Parma, the Republic of Italy**

The CMC-AH was invited to participate in this technical meeting chaired by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in order to provide an expert opinion on the risk of Rift Valley Fever introduction and spread to, and within, the Middle East and North African countries. At these meetings, the CMC-AH represented FAO's position on the disease, supporting European experts with susceptible animal densities in the region of interest, and with the knowledge of animal movements and trade.

### **18 October – 1 November 2012**

#### **Washington D.C., the United States of America**

Two members of the CMC-AH travelled to the United States and met with animal health stakeholders and the USDA. Multiple meetings were held, all aimed at increasing awareness of the CMC-AH's mission work, as well as the accomplishments of the Centre, EMPRES and GLEWS. The goal of this visit was to help the USDA better understand the value and importance of having their experts work in, and for, FAO. As a result of this trip, in conjunction with the positive results of a USDA review team, a new five year USDA-FAO Program Agreement is being negotiated.



**7-9 November 2012**  
**Lyon, the French Republic**

The fourth consultation meeting was organized by the Alert and Response Operations team (ARO) of Global Capacities Alert and Response Department (GCR) of WHO. This was the first year that the CMC-AH attended. The discussions mainly focused on:

- **examining** the status of WHO's logistics capacity to prepare and respond to public health crises and to plan for further development guided by the International Health Regulations (IHR);
- **consolidating** a network of logisticians from the WHO worldwide and partner organizations involved in field operations, outbreak preparedness and response;
- **updating** the development of the Stock Inventory Management System (SIMS); and
- **the operational gap recognition of logistic function between day-to-day operations (promoting immunization and access to medicine) and health emergency crisis.**

**13-15 November 2012**  
**Mombasa, the Republic of Kenya**

The CMC-AH was invited to the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) conference to present its experience in preventing and responding to past RVF outbreaks. The "One Health" success story of the episodes of RVF in Mauritania was presented and highlighted, as well as the work done by EFSA on assessing RVF risks of introduction and spread within the Middle-East and North African countries.

**19-12 December 2012**  
**Geneva, the Swiss Confederation**

The CMC-AH was invited by WHO to participate in the launch of the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre network (EOC-NET).

In close collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders, the EOC-Net was established to ensure that States Parties have optimal information and expertise available when building and/or assessing national emergency collaboration and coordination networks for the management of IHR events and emergencies.

EOC-NET brings together States Parties, WHO Regional Offices and international response agencies to share and develop common tools, procedures and operational information. It also supports capacity building among States Parties, enabling a more efficient and effective response to events and emergencies that threaten global health security.

**6-7 December 2012**  
**Geneva, the Swiss Confederation**

The CMC-AH was invited to send an observer to the Steering Committee Meeting of the WHO Global Outbreak and Response Network (GOARN) in December 2012. This provided an excellent opportunity

to engage more closely with the CMC-AH's counterpart arm in public health, and to consider future collaborative opportunities. The Manager of the CMC-AH attended the meeting.

**14 December 2012**  
**Paris, the French Republic**

Presentation on CMC-AH activities was given to representatives of one of the French Directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture (DGPAAT). Discussions considered the output of secondment within the CMC-AH and the preparation of the meeting of managers in February 2013.

**4-5 February 2013**  
**Amsterdam, the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

This meeting was aimed at finalizing the EFSA opinion on Rift Valley Fever.

**10-13 February 2013**  
**Paris, the French Republic**

Three members of the CMC-AH visited the French Animal Health authorities regarding their support to the CMC-AH: the CMC-AH Manager, the Administration Coordinator and the loaned expert to the CMC-AH by the French Ministry of Agriculture. The representatives also met with experts of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES). Wide-ranging discussions considered the partnership with France, through the Ministry and FVI. The opportunity was also taken to visit counterparts at the OIE in order to discuss a Standard Operating Guideline (SOG). The SOG must be linked with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) articles (on 31 January 2011) and promote the most effective and collaborative arrangements possible. The SOG must be a living document, made use of in a practical way.

**27 February – 2 March 2013**  
**Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand**

The CMC-AH Manager attended the Annual ECTAD regional meeting in Bangkok. He also conducted a one-day awareness session for ECTAD personnel to provide a better understanding of the concepts of the GEMP manual for animal disease outbreak response. The process included presentations along the lines of the three-day GEMP workshop for countries, but without the exercises. It was completed with a discussion of the possible follow-up by ECTAD in the Regional office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP). The workshop was well-attended with some 45 participants.

**14 March 2013**  
**Rome, the Republic of Italy**

The United States Mission to the United Nations Agencies in Rome convened a morning session to provide information on the CMC-AH to other Permanent Representations in Rome. Several donors

including USAID, Australia, Japan, Germany, the Republic of Korea and Canada were also present. The opportunity was taken, in an informal atmosphere, to describe the way the CMC-AH functions, to outline the achievements of the Centre to date and the challenges that it faces in the future. Welcomed remarks were provided by the Ambassador of the United States regarding the perspective of the United States of America on the work of the CMC-AH.

## VISITORS

The CMC-AH is happy to welcome visitors, donors, partners and delegates from other organizations, as well as FAO Representatives from the field. This past year, the Centre has been privileged to meet with:

### **October 2012**

Paul Cox, WHO Geneva.

Delegation of US Congressional Aides.

### **February 2013**

Jean Richards, Reid Harvey, United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and David White, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

### **April 2013**

Sharon Turner, Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

### **June 2013**

John Clifford, Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), USDA.

Agriculture specialists from Europe/Africa/Middle East, USDA APHIS International Services (IS).

Darci L. Vetter, Deputy Under Secretary Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services, USDA.

The Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health (CMC-AH) is a primary facility of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for animal disease emergency response. A combined effort of FAO's Animal Health Service and FAO's Emergency and Rehabilitation Division within the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease (ECTAD), the CMC-AH unites FAO's extensive technical and operational expertise with that of OIE, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international, national and local partners.

With the support of its generous donors, the CMC-AH provides technical and operational assistance to help affected governments assess situations on the ground and develop immediate solutions to help prevent or stop disease spread. CMC-AH efforts also represent the first step toward broader assistance. Working to facilitate the transition from immediate, emergency assistance to longer-term support both in the field and at FAO headquarters, the CMC-AH initiates resource mobilization and project proposal formulation efforts for affected countries and regions.