



Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel
Deputy Head, Scientific and Technical Department




Rights and Responsibilities of OIE Delegates and Focal Points

Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife
Arusha (Tanzania), 16 – 19 March 2010



Plan

- Introduction
- Statutory aspects
- Rights and responsibilities
- National focal points roles



Office International des Epizooties



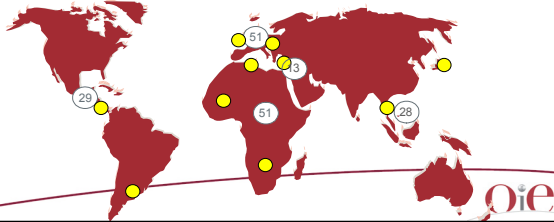
World Organisation for Animal Health

Common name adopted by the International Committee on May 2003

- An intergovernmental Organisation
- Founded in 1924 by 28 countries
- Predates the U.N.

Some key facts

- 175 Members (January 2010)
- Five Permanent Regional Representations: Bamako (Mali), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Tokyo (Japan), Sofia (Bulgaria) and Beirut (Lebanon)
- Five Sub-regional Offices: Bangkok (Thailand), Gaborone (Botswana), Panama, Brussels (Belgium), Tunis (Tunisia)
- Regional Commissions: Africa, America, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Middle East



The OIE's global objective



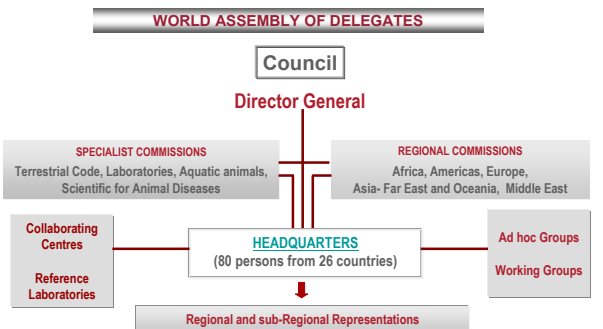
The OIE was created in 1924
**to prevent animal diseases
from spreading around the world**

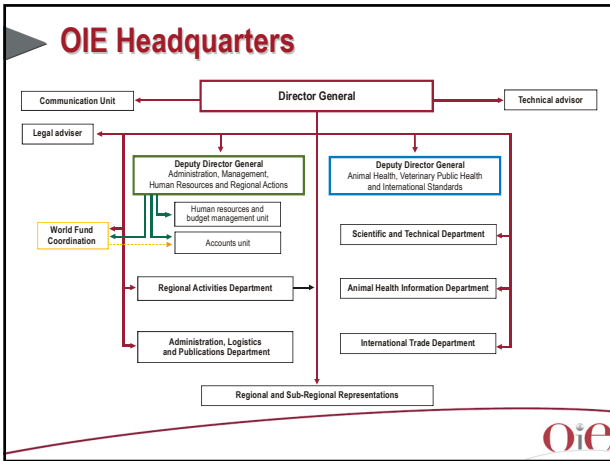
The 4th Strategic Plan 2006/2010
extends the OIE's global mandate to

"the improvement of animal health all over the world"



OIE Structure





STATUTORY ASPECTS

Organic position

- OIE is subject to the authority of the World Assembly of Delegates (International Agreement of 1924 – Article 2)
- Delegate is appointed by the Government of the Member Country or Territory and represents it to the World Assembly of Delegates (Organic Statutes – Article 6)

Organic position (2)

- The permanent Delegate is a **technical representative** chosen by the State taking into account its capabilities
- The permanent Delegate **heads the Delegation** of the Member Country or Territory to the World Assembly of Delegates (Organic Rules – Article 4)



RIGHTS AND RESPONSABILITIES

World Assembly of Delegates

- Delegates **exercise the right to vote** of the Member Country or Territory. May be accompanied by an alternate who, in the absence of the Delegate, enjoys the same prerogatives (Organic Rules – Article 5)
- The Delegate is a permanent Delegate who enjoys permanent and full rights to **represent the State** on the World Assembly of Delegates (General Session) and to maintain permanent relations along the year with the OIE.
- The Delegate is considered as empowered with national prerogatives to represent its country having permanently the corresponding national status.



Payment of contributions

- The Delegate must guarantee the **regular payment** of the Member's compulsory contributions to the OIE.
- He or she may respond the Headquarters to:
 - **Call for Contributions for the next year (May)**
- Then, if applicable:
 - **Recall for Contributions (October)**



Maintaining permanent relations with OIE

Animal Health Information

- Present at International Committee a report on **animal health situation and prophylaxis methods** applied at country (General Rules – Article 50)
- Notify to OIE **animal diseases present in Member Country or Territory**, in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and *Aquatic Animal Health Code*.



Maintaining permanent relations with OIE

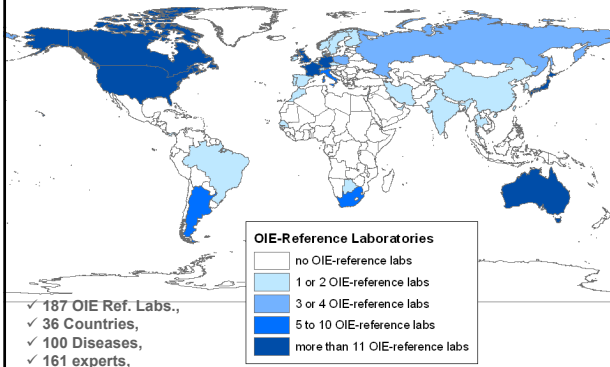
OIE standards

- Ensure that animal **health legislation** in his/her country is based on OIE reference standards or on a scientific risk analysis carried out in accordance with Section 2 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, and WTO/SPS Agreement.
- Ensures that, as far as possible, the resolutions of the World Assembly of Delegates are applied.
- Ensure that Veterinary Services are **kept updated on OIE standards**,
- Maintain informed the national animal disease diagnostic laboratories of the activities of the **OIE worldwide network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres**, in order to promote scientific and technical cooperation in this field.



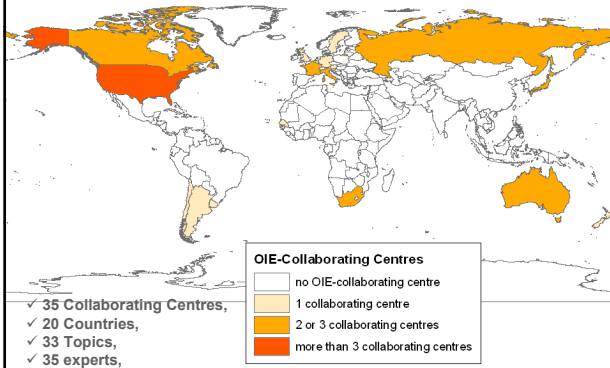
World Distribution of the OIE- Reference Laboratories

List of OIE Reference Lab. : http://www.oie.int/eng/OIE/organisation/en_listeLR.htm



World Distribution of the OIE- Collaborating Centres

List of OIE CCs: http://www.oie.int/eng/OIE/organisation/en_listeCC.htm



Critically important

- OIE Delegates should realise and accept their **responsibility to participate actively** in the debate and setting of international standards
- Once a standard is adopted the Delegate is **obligated to support** the adopted standard
- Focal points have an important role in the standard setting procedure, through the **preparation of comments for the Delegate** for new or revised OIE standards

Maintaining permanent relations with OIE

Focal points

- The Delegate is requested to **designate, if possible, national focal points** to comply with national obligations and to support him/her in the following fields:
 - animal disease notification,
 - **wildlife**,
 - aquatic animals diseases,
 - veterinary products,
 - animal production food safety,
 - animal welfare.



NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS ROLES

Terms of reference

- **Activities** of the focal points in relation with OIE rights and obligations are under the authority of the OIE Delegate.
- **Information transmitted** to the OIE from focal points must be under the designated authority of the OIE Delegate either if focal points are:
 - **under jurisdiction** of the Veterinary Authority, or
 - located in other Departments or Ministries **not under jurisdiction** of Veterinary Authority
- From a legal perspective, the OIE considers the official OIE Delegate to be the **unique representative of the country**.



Animal Disease Notification to the OIE

- Ensure the optimal **collection and submission** of information on relevant animal diseases.
- Act as a direct **contact** point with the OIE Animal Health **Information Department**.
- In charge of animal disease **notification** to the OIE.
- They should be preferably the responsible of the **National Epidemiological Unit**.
- Key players in WAHIS through optimal use of the **online notification system**



Animal Disease Notification to the OIE (2)

- **Information providers** to OIE and through the OIE to the rest of the world and they play a major role at the national level to gather good quality information needed to be processed into WAHIS.
- **OIE Delegate nominates** into WAHIS secure web application his/her focal points.
- **Kinds of online access** that can be given by the Delegate to the Focal Points:
 - to notify on **terrestrial and aquatic** animal diseases
 - to notify on **terrestrial** animal diseases only
 - to notify on **aquatic** animal diseases only.



Aquatic animals

- Establish a **network** of aquatic animal health experts within his country or to communicate with existing network;
- Establish a **dialogue, cooperation and communication** with Competent Authority for aquatic animal health and relevant authorities;
- Support **collection and submission** of aquatic animal disease information to the OIE through WAHIS in relation with the Focal Point for terrestrial animal disease notification (when relevant).



Aquatic animals (2)

- Act as a **contact point** with the OIE Animal Health Information Department in relation with terrestrial animal disease notification (when relevant)
- Receive reports of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and other relevant reports, and conduct the **in-country consultation process**
- **Prepare comments** for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to aquatic animals.



Animal welfare

- Establish a **network** of animal welfare experts within his country or communicate with existing network;
- Establish a **dialogue, cooperation and communication** with Competent Authority for animal welfare and relevant authorities;
- Receive reports of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) and of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group and other relevant reports and **conduct the in-country consultation process**
- **Prepare comments** for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to animal welfare.



Animal production food safety

- Establish a **network** of Animal Production Food Safety experts within his/her country or communicate with existing network;
- Establish a **dialogue, cooperation and communication** with Competent Authority for Animal Production Food Safety and relevant authorities;
- Receive reports of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) and of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety and other relevant reports and conduct the **in-country consultation process**
- **Prepare comments** for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to Animal Production Food Safety.



Veterinary products

- Establish a **network** of veterinary products experts within his country or communicate with existing network;
- Establish a **dialogue, cooperation and communication** with Competent Authority for veterinary products and relevant authorities;
- Monitor **legislation on and control** of veterinary products to ensure that these are in support of OIE international standards, guidelines and recommendations;



Veterinary products (2)

- Act as a **contact point** with the OIE on matters related to veterinary products;
- Receive reports of the VICH activities and copies of the reports of the Biological Standards Commission and other relevant reports and conduct the **in-country consultation process**
- Prepare **comments** for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to Veterinary Products.



Thank you for your attention



OIE HEADQUARTERS

12 rue de Prony

75017 Paris

FRANCE



<http://www.oie.int>
