



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for Southern Africa (RAAHN-SA)

25 – 27 July 2023 Lusaka, Zambia



Asia Pacific Aquatic Animal Health Network (AP-AquaNet)

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Aquatic Animal Health Officer

WOAH Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Presentation outline

Focus of the talk

To describe the Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health for Asia and the Pacific.

[Current name: Asia Pacific Aquatic Animal Health Network (AP-AquaNet)]

Outline

- Rationale
- Establishment of the *Network*
- Terms of reference
- Roles and responsibilities
- Operational mechanisms
- Flagship activities
- Future plan

Rationale

Challenge

Increase in emerging disease occurrence but limited resource

Need for improved transparency of aquatic animal disease information

Lack of coordination mechanism among stakeholders

Regional experts agreed:

Need for proficiency testing, test validation, and emergency response

Need to draw existing activities and professional expertise of WOAHA Reference laboratories



Expert Consultation Meeting on Aquatic Animal Disease Diagnosis and Control, Bangkok, Thailand, November 2018

Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health for Asia and the Pacific

A framework of actors to strengthen laboratory capacity for aquatic animal disease activities in Asia and the Pacific

Framework objectives

- Strengthen collaboration
 - WOAH Reference Centres and Members
- Share and exchange information
 - test validation, reference materials, and positive samples

Timeline



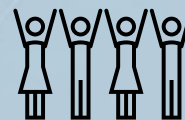
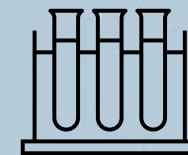
Composition of the *Framework*

- Steering Committee
- Members:
 - Permanent Members
 - Members engaged on ad hoc basis

Composition of the *Framework*

Steering Committee

- WOAHA Collaborating Centres
 - Diagnostic test validation science (1)
 - New and emerging diseases (1)
- WOAHA Reference laboratories (3)
- WOAHA FP for Aquatic Animals (4)
- WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Standard Commission (2)
- Regional partners
 - NACA, FAO, SEAFDEC
- Secretariat
 - WOAH RRAP



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Permanent members

- WOAH Collaborating Centres
 - Diagnostic test validation science
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- WOAH Reference laboratories
- 32 FP for Aquatic Animals from Asia Pacific
- National Reference laboratories (as designed by WOAH Delegates)

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Ad hoc Members

Public and private universities, research institutions, private companies and donors

Roles and responsibilities

Reference Centres and Member representatives agree to:

- **Coordinate and provide Proficiency testing programmes** across the Asia-Pacific region
- **Support emergency response and provide in-country training**
- Improve communication among and between Reference Centres and WOAHA Member Countries to **enable information, resource, technology and sample sharing** between parties
- Support and promote a **standardisation of methods to diagnose and confirm a pathogenic agent**

Stakeholder group members would support

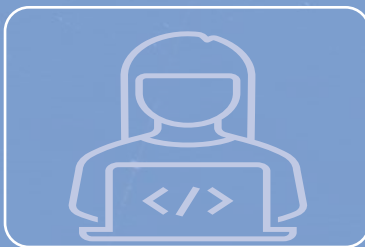
- information sharing as well as research assistance and technical support especially on emerging diseases

Operational mechanisms

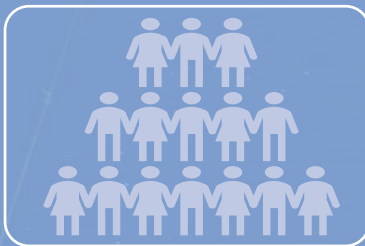


Steering Committee

- Develop a plan (objectives and implementation)
- Draft annual activities plan
- Prepare annual report for Regional Commission for Asia and Far East and Oceania



Secretariat



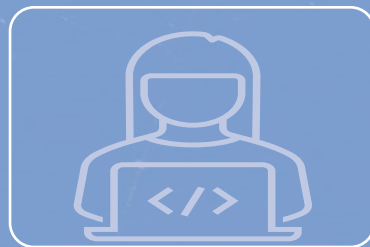
Members

Operational mechanisms



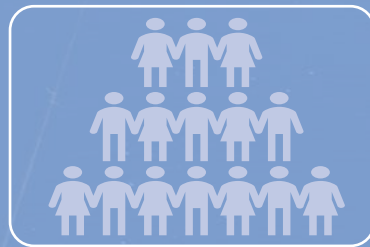
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Secretariat

- Strengthen multilateral relations and communication
- Share and disseminate relevant information with other parties
- Support the Steering Committee and framework



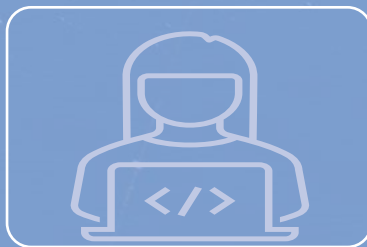
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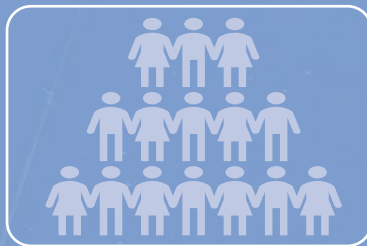
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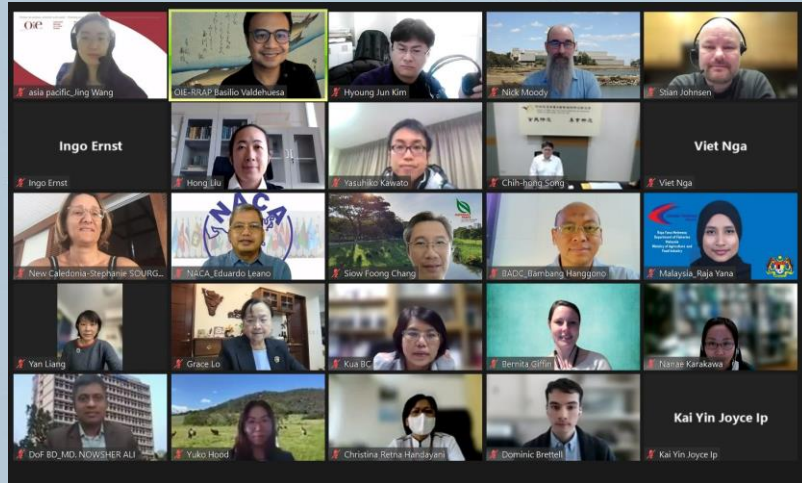
- Support Steering Committee in planning and participating in activities
- Share and disseminate relevant information with other parties
- Contribute to preparations for an annual report

Flagship activities (2020 – 2022)

Aquaculture Biosecurity in small-scale holders

Evaluation of AHPND causative agent

Emergency response and preparedness



Collection and Evaluation of Existing Guidelines and Awareness Materials on Aquaculture Biosecurity for Small-scale Farms in the Asia-Pacific Region

Final Report

Prepared by:
Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
Eduardo M. Leaña (Project Leader)
Senior Programme Officer, Aquatic Animal Health Programme

June, 2022

Other activities

Other activities

- A platform for sharing of training materials and scientific information on aquatic animal health



<https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/projects/aquatic-animal/>



WOAH Regional Webinars

- Webinar on Responsible and prudent antimicrobial use (AMU) in aquatic animals in Asia and the Pacific (November 2020)
- Virtual Consultation Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use in Aquaculture (June 2021)
- PVS Aquatic: Virtual Information Session for Asia and the Pacific

Recent activities

- Regional workshop for Focal Points for Aquatic Animals (June 2023)
- 4th meeting of *ad hoc* Steering Committee for the *Framework* (June 2023)

Priority areas for future

- Implementation of Aquatic Animal Health Strategy
- Flagship activities (2023 – 2025)

Flagship activities (2023 – 2025)

Response exercise to examine regional coordination

Assessment of on-farm biosecurity in aquaculture

Enhance reporting/ Improve regional reporting performance



Asia-Pacific Aquatic Animal Health Network (AP-AquaNet)

