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# The OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme: Concept to functioning program

**Regional Seminar on the OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme:  
Concepts and Perspectives  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
October 9-10, 2012**

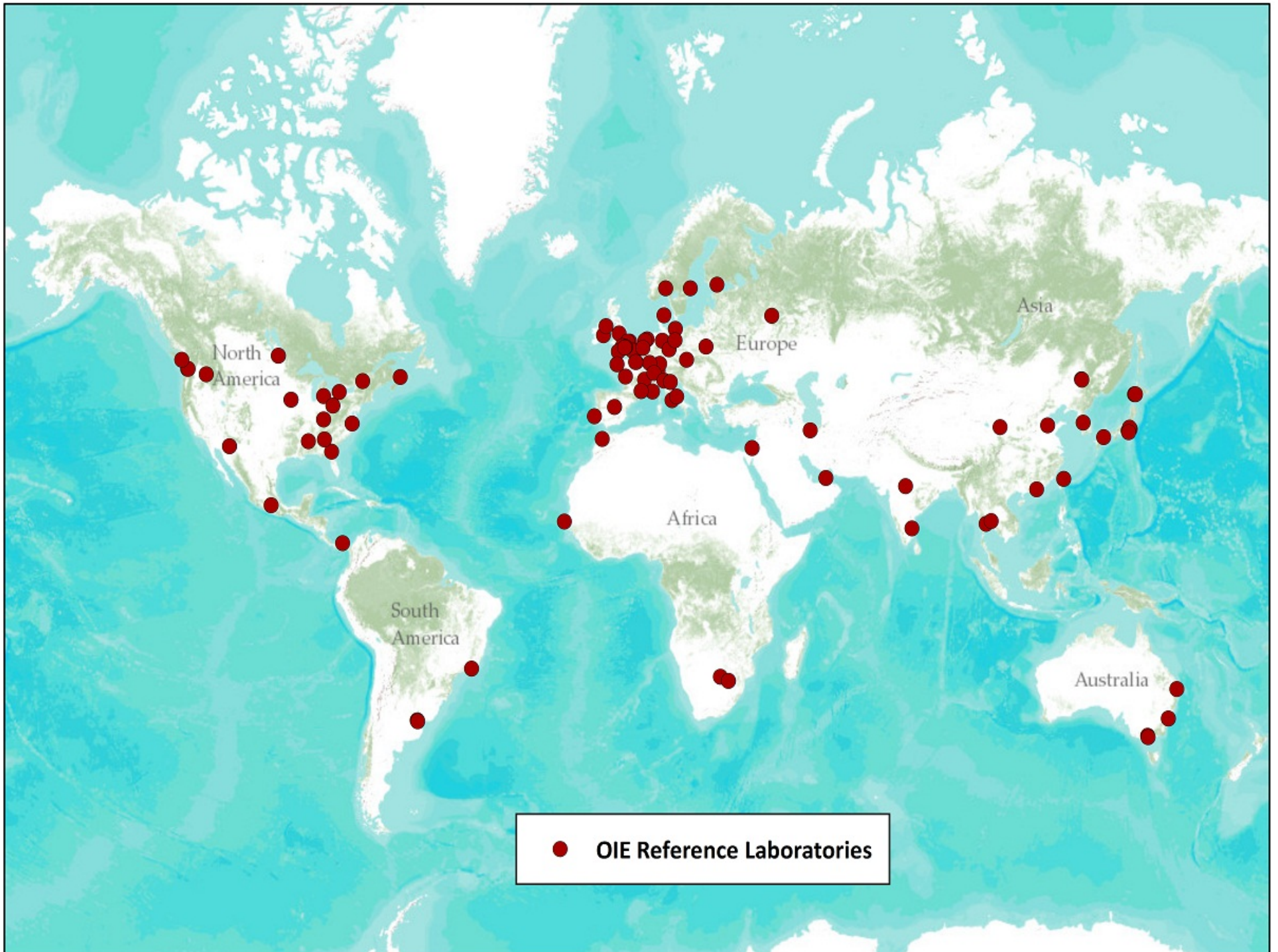
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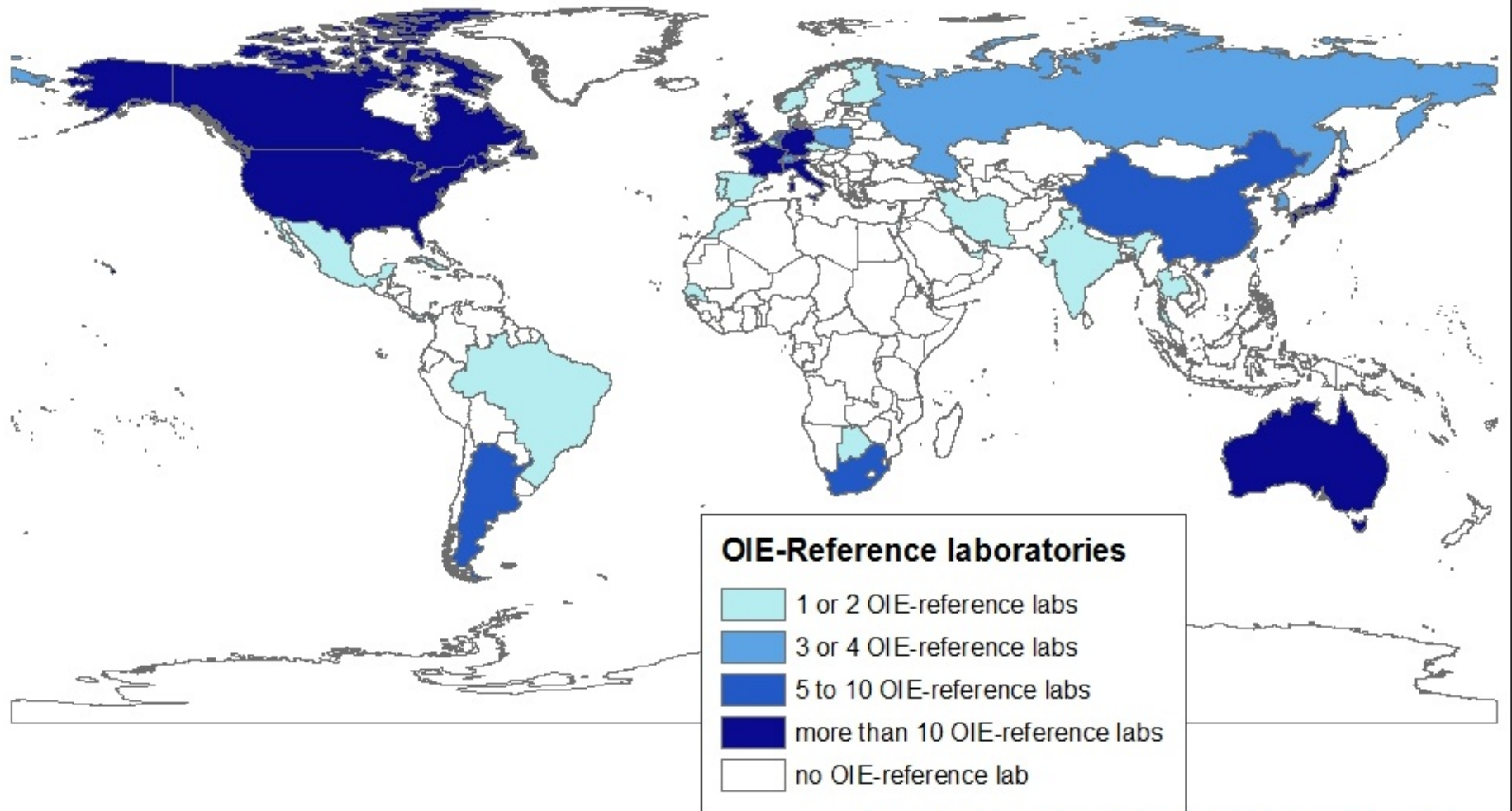
# Background

- On the current 178 Members Countries of the OIE, more or less 70% are developing or in-transition countries;
- In 2002, the World Assembly of Delegates adopted a Resolution for the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to enter into partnership with laboratories of developing and in-transition countries;
- The concept of Twinning between laboratories or Collaborating Centres was born to address this Resolution



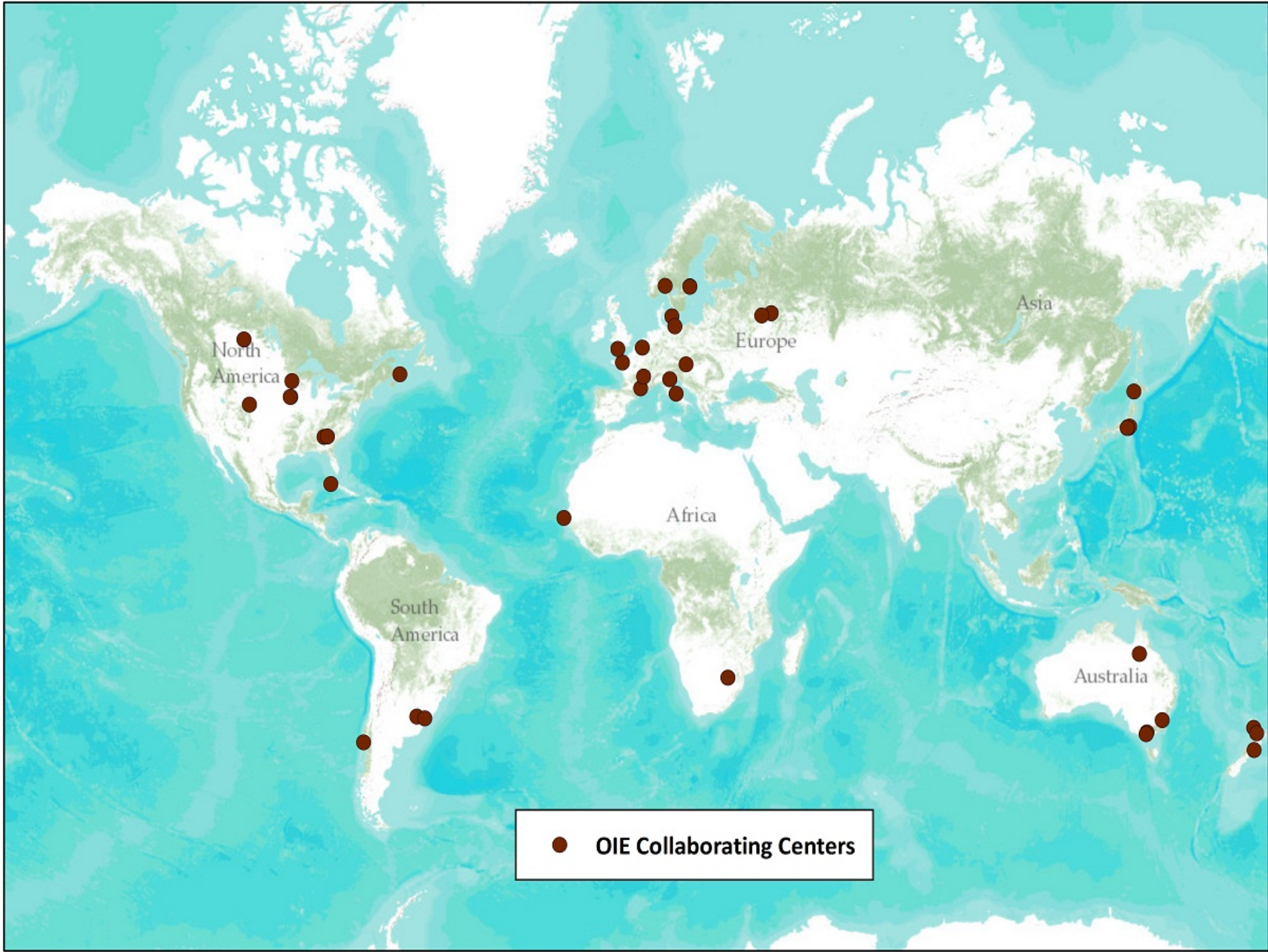
# World distribution of the OIE-Reference Laboratories

236 Reference Laboratories with 176 experts covering 112 diseases/topics in 37 countries



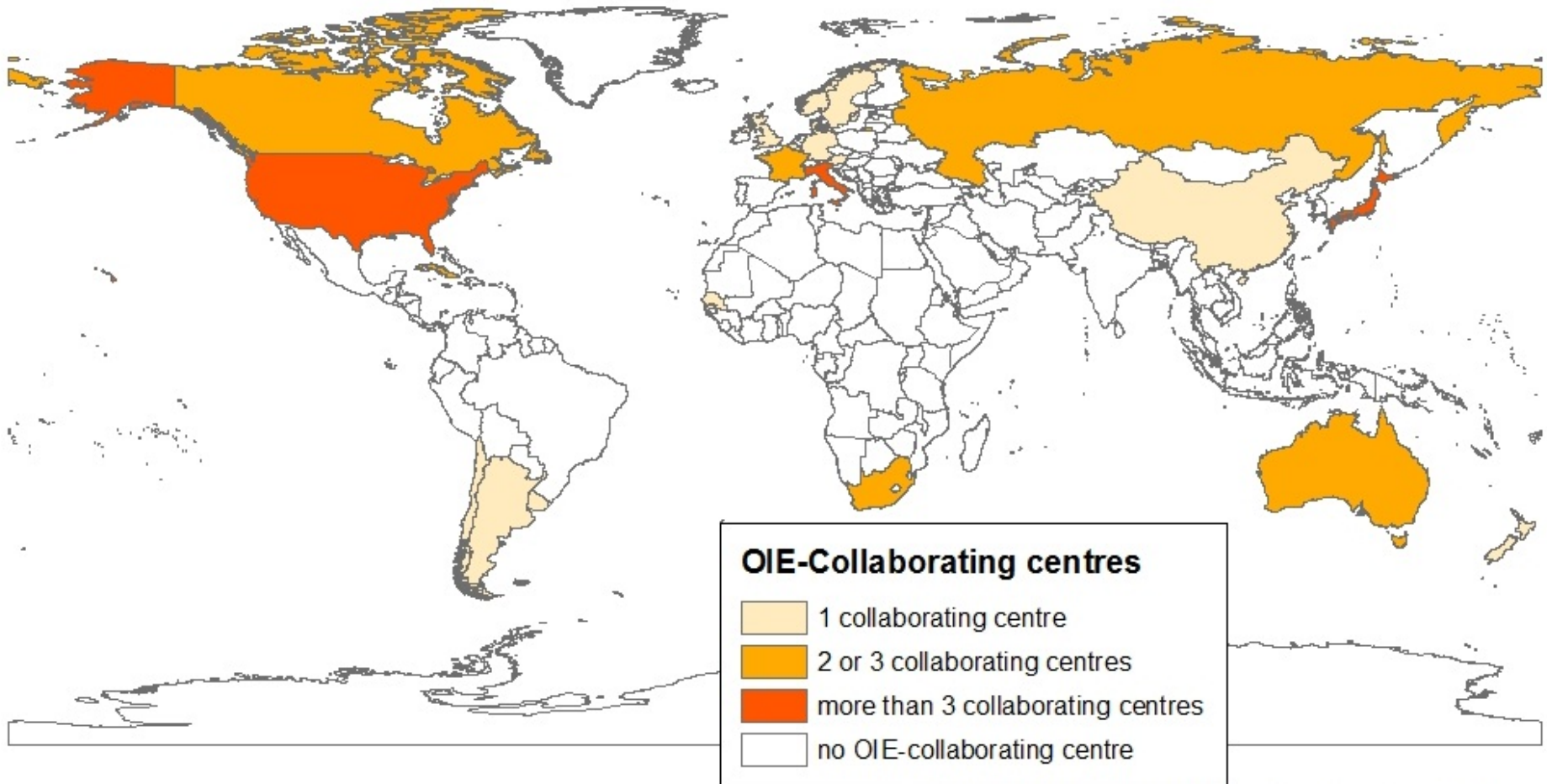
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# World distribution of the OIE-Collaborating Centres

41 Collaborating Centres covering 38 topics in 22 countries



# The Twinning Concept

Sustainable enhancement of capacity and expertise by supporting a link between an OIE RL or CC (parent) and a national laboratory (candidate)

## Aims and objectives - networking

- Provide better global geographical coverage of OIE expertise for priority diseases in priority areas
- To form long and lasting links between the institutes
- Strengthen global disease surveillance networks
- Strengthen national, regional, and international scientific networks
- Create collaborative research opportunities - improve sharing, and advance science



## Aims and objectives - expertise

- Improve compliance with OIE standards (surveillance and control)
- Improve access to high quality diagnostics and technical assistance for more OIE Members
- For some Candidates to apply for 'OIE reference' status
- Help more countries enter scientific debate on an equal footing with others

## The twinning project is just the start...

- Engaging with the international scientific community
- Engaging with regional and global networks
- Supporting neighbour countries
- Pursuing opportunities for joint research
- Applying for OIE Reference Laboratory status when ready

## Twining programme timelines

- Concept launched at 1st OIE RL/CC Conference in Florianopolis in Dec '06
- OIE Resolution adopted in May '07
- Twining manual published in Dec '07
- Inaugural project starts in Feb '08
- First project completed Sept '09

# Prerequisites

- Parent must be an OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre
- Candidate must have potential to provide support
- Project needs full support of Veterinary Services
- OIE Delegates are directly involved in the project



# Projects

Twinning can accommodate multiple diseases or topics:

- Specific diseases
- Multiple diseases  
(CSF/rabies; AI/ND; PPR/FMD/SGP)
- Topics: epidemiology, veterinary medicinal products, molecular diagnostics, food safety

# CURRENT STATUS

## 2012

- Situation in September 2012
  - 6 projects completed
  - 33 projects underway
  - 5 projects approved and waiting to start
- 42 countries involved

# OIE Laboratory Twinning

## Parent and Candidate laboratories

Parent laboratories	Candidate laboratories
Projects completed	Projects completed
Projects underway	Projects underway



## Regional status – Candidate labs

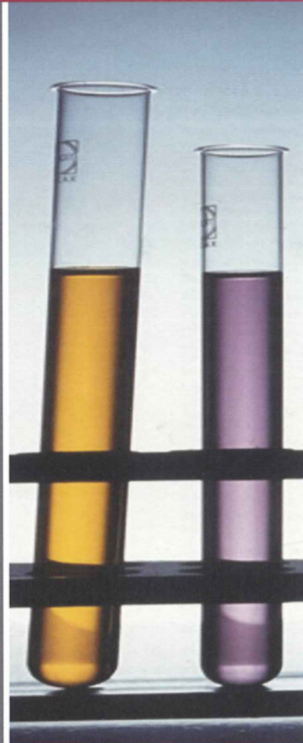
- Completed/underway/about to start projects by OIE region of candidate laboratories
  - Africa (17)
  - Americas (8)
  - Asia (11)
  - Europe (6)
  - Middle East (2)

## Disease break up

- AI/ND (10/44)
- Brucellosis (6/44)
- Rabies (3/44)
- CBPP; CSF; Food safety; EI (2/44)
- AHS, ASF, African Trypanosomiasis, BT, FMD, PPR, IBD..... (1/44)
  
- Aquatic disease: Infectious salmon anaemia (1/44)

TWINNING  
**LABORATORIES**

February 2012



A Guide  
to OIE Certified  
Reference Centre  
Twinning Projects

*Oie*

*Oie*

## Updates to Twinning guide

- Possibility of involving more than one Parent or Candidate in a twinning project
- Where possible, develop synergies between twinning and other capacity building projects
- A limit on the number of twinning projects per laboratory ( a maximum of two)
- Assistance with finding complementary funds from other donors
- Possibility of resource rich countries to fund their own OIE twinning project



## Candidate institutes join the OIE laboratory network



*Professor Changchun Tu - proud to become an OIE Expert for rabies.*

At the 80th OIE General Session (May 2012) in Paris, three Twinning Candidates were designated as OIE Reference Laboratories. The latest additions to the OIE Reference Laboratory network, Changchun Veterinary Research Institute (P. R. China), the National Centre for Animal and Plant Health (Cuba), and the National Veterinary Laboratory (Botswana) will be recognised for their expertise in rabies, avian mycoplasmosis, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) respectively. Marking a milestone in the Twinning programme, these are the first Twinning Candidates to be granted OIE Reference Laboratory status.

### Additional funds urgently needed

OIE Twinning is a popular option for institutes aspiring to provide technical support to other countries. As of today OIE Twinning projects are delivering expertise and technical capacity to more than 40 institutes across the Americas, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe. With at least as many applications in the pipeline, the popularity of OIE Laboratory Twinning is outstripping the resources available to fund new projects.

Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, said, "I am very happy with the OIE Twinning programme's achievements. That such a young programme has delivered three successful OIE Reference Laboratory designations should send a very positive message to the international community. We expect many more Twinning Candidates to become OIE Reference Centres in years to come".

The principal objective of OIE Laboratory Twinning is to establish more OIE Reference Laboratories and OIE Collaborating Centres (collectively termed OIE Reference Centres) in areas where there is a need; overall this will contribute to stronger global disease security.

In short, Twinning has become a victim of its own success and funds are urgently needed to ensure that the programme continues to deliver much-needed sustainable benefits worldwide.

One of the strengths of OIE Twinning is that no one dictates to countries or regions what their needs are. OIE listens to national Veterinary Services about their needs, providing guidance and objective assessment

OIE Laboratory Twinning is the OIE's laboratory capacity building programme. Each project links an OIE Reference Centre (Parent) with an institute (Candidate) wishing to develop its technical capacity and expertise so that one day the Candidate can provide technical assistance for disease prevention, detection and control to other countries.

### Twining website

For background and practical information please visit

<http://www.oie.int/en/support-to-oie-members/laboratory-twinning/>



*The distribution of Parent and Candidate Laboratories clearly shows that Twinning is filling geographical gaps in expertise*

# Conclusions

- Twinning concept is functioning well
- Countries in all 5 OIE regions are benefiting
- Most beneficiary CL are in regions with the lowest density of OIE RL
- OIE twinning is addressing the current bias in the geographical distribution of OIE RL
- Greatest contribution to twinning is being made by OIE RL in European region

# Conclusions

- AI/ND are the most popular topics for OIE twinning; but this trend is changing now as other priority diseases are addressed
- Countries in all 5 OIE regions are benefiting
- There are currently no OIE twinning projects underway for priority diseases such as Rift Valley fever
- Aquatic animal diseases are under represented in OIE twinning

**Thank you for your  
attention**

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