

***OIE South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) meeting
provides strategic direction for the next Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Roadmap,
2021–2025***

22nd meeting of the OIE SEACFMD National Coordinators
25–27 June 2019, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

One of the key suggestions arising from this meeting was that the countries of the region and the SEACFMD Campaign should identify and develop synergies between FMD control and the other priority transboundary animal diseases (TADs) in the region. Two key technical issues were also discussed: FMD emergency vaccination for infected countries, and alternative surveillance to improve confidence in the disease freedom of FMD-free countries.



Group discussion on synergising FMD control with other activities in the region. ©OIE/P. Srithep

Approximately 50 participants attended the meeting, including SEACFMD National Coordinators from Members (Association of South-East Asian Nations [ASEAN] countries, People's Republic of China and Mongolia), representatives of neighbouring countries/territories, scientists from OIE FMD Reference Laboratories and research institutes, as well as representatives of international organisations and the private sector. Interactive sessions and targeted training workshops were also organised. While this summary aims to present an overview of the meeting, the detailed meeting report is available online [[link](#)].

A detailed review of the global and regional FMD situation highlighted the maintenance in the sub-region of O/ME-SA/Ind2001 strain, which now has similar detection frequencies as historically endemic strains, such as O/SEA/Mya-98 and O/ME-SA/PanAsia. Evidence, via enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and virus neutralisation test (VNT), of the circulation of Serotype Asia1 in Myanmar was also discussed and should be further explored with the support of the OIE Reference Laboratories.

In the meantime, an assessment of the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD (PCP-FMD) was organised to



Interview of Myanmar Delegates for the PCP-FMD evaluation. ©OIE/P. Srithep

evaluate progress since its first assessment, which was organised during the OIE SEACFMD Sub-Commission meeting in March 2017. Countries in PCP Stages 1 and 3 were interviewed by two teams composed of representatives of the OIE, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and an FMD expert.

For the first time, an interactive tool (Mentimeter) was used to collect the inputs of the participants who were sharing their perception of the progress/impact of the SEACFMD Campaign, and their views on the next SEACFMD Roadmap. The results will be shared with those OIE Delegates among the SEACFMD Members at the next SEACFMD Sub-Commission Meeting, which will be held at the 31st OIE Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania in Japan in September 2019.

Acknowledging that the African swine fever (ASF) crisis is likely to reduce the already scarce resources dedicated to animal disease control, a workshop was organised in which participants were encouraged to brainstorm ways of achieving synergies between FMD control and other activities related to livestock health and production. This resulted in country representatives proposing practical ways of synergising efforts in their country's context.

Lastly, participants drafted and prioritised the meeting's recommendations, identifying the following three recommendations as most relevant:

1. improve the FMD diagnosis at national and regional levels, and support the recommendations of the Regional Expert Group on enhancing molecular diagnosis and FMD sampling;
2. identify and develop synergies between FMD control and other TADs;
3. strengthen continuous surveillance, including early warning systems, and consider retrospective surveys in case of late or insufficient reporting.



Presentation by Dr Michel Lombard on how to plan and implement FMD emergency vaccination in an endemic setting. ©OIE/L. Weber-Vintzel