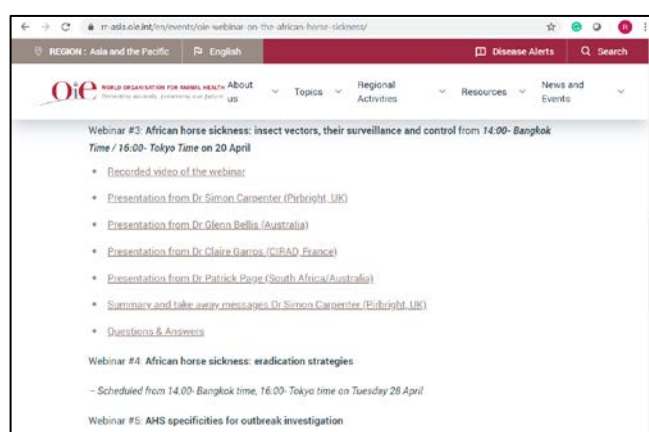
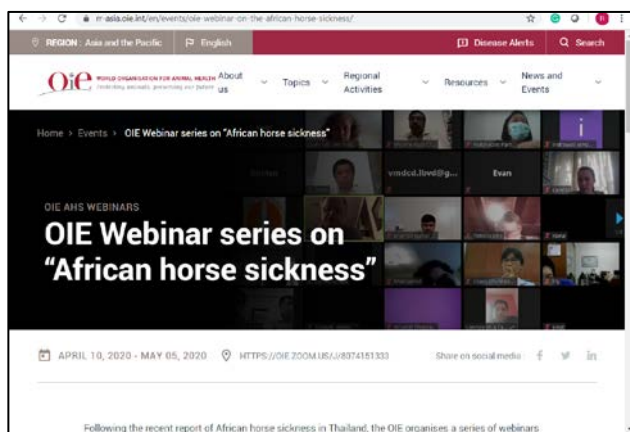


## ***A word from the Sub-regional Representation for South-East Asia (SRR SEA), Bangkok***

To keep each other up-to-date, the SRR SEA conducts a weekly consultation meeting to discuss ongoing work and the COVID-19 pandemic.



In spite of the COVID-19 situation, the SRR SEA, jointly with Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP), was able to provide emergency assistance to its Members during the outbreak of African horse sickness (AHS) in Thailand, the first outbreak of this exotic disease in the region. Thailand sent an immediate notification of AHS to the OIE on 27 March, and the SRR SEA and RRAP organised the first webinar on the subject on 10 April, attended by 240 participants from Asia and other parts of the world.

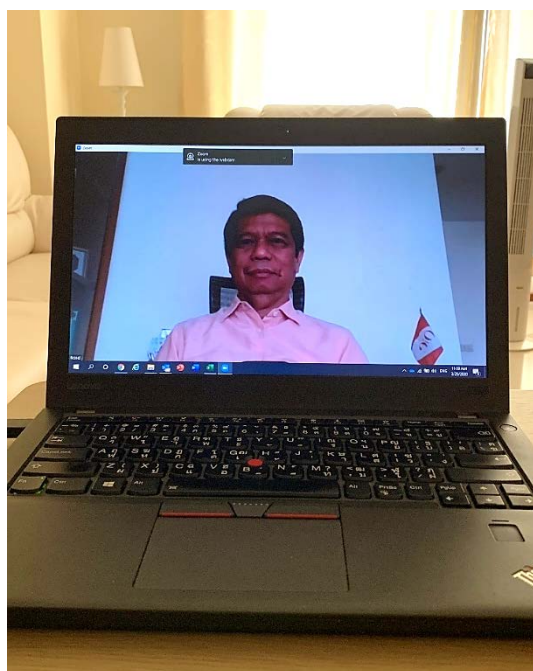




Apart from official meetings, the SRR SEA team also organises after-work virtual drinks together on Friday nights.

### A word from Ronel Abila

Working from home is a big challenge, especially trying to recreate a semblance of an office while conducting virtual meetings. A trick I use is to put an OIE flag in my background to make it look official, which is, in fact, totally different from the reality of the working environment in my condominium



### A word from Laure Weber-Vindel

A lot of procedures, checklists, tips are circulating on how to use Zoom, how to organise teleconferences... At the OIE SRR Bangkok, we have our own [checklist](#) for organising webinars, developed in 2018 and progressively improved.

There is very little to add to the previous musings of my colleagues... maybe I could share with you the challenges faced by parents confined with children when attending/organising video conferences and webinars.

To begin with, having six people at home means competition over the Wi-Fi.

- During school 'holidays', it means banning your children's chat with their friends, their video games, and their online chess games with their grandfather during Mum's meetings. I will let you imagine the dynamic discussions we have had. Surely, I will be able to add negotiation skills to my CV after the confinement.
- But during the 'classes at home', up to five of us have been connected to Zoom at the same time; all of us terribly lagging. I am now the one adjusting to my kids' agenda when trying to organise my professional meetings.



Then, there is of course the risk of intrusion during the videoconference as mentioned by Sophie and Karen in their article published in a previous issue of *In-House Times*. My sons are unlikely to ask about the size of a black hole but will rather wonder when they can have lunch. These intrusions are of course embarrassing for parents but judging from the videos that have become viral on the web, it seems funny rather than annoying for their colleagues. I personally don't mind meeting my colleagues' kids, as most of the time they will quickly go back to their drawings or Lego without really disturbing the meeting. Most of parents will have already put in place some rules to manage the situation. At home, we also had to set one particular rule: when my meeting is informal, they can come in and raise their burning question (after I have turned the video and mic off). When my meeting is important, I only accept questions of life and death and make that very clear on my door.



#### A word from Preechaya (Mim) Srithep

I take a break from working by doing weight-training workouts. It is essential to take care of yourself during the COVID-19 pandemic, to keep physically and mentally healthy and increase your ability to cope with life's ongoing challenges.



#### A word from Blesilda Verin

A lesson from the coronavirus-19 pandemic: I have the flexibility to work anytime and in almost every corner of my place with short exercises in between to lessen the anxiety of isolation.

(photo: a view of the concrete jungle).

We wish to thank our colleagues from the SRR SEA for submitting this article to the OIE News Team.