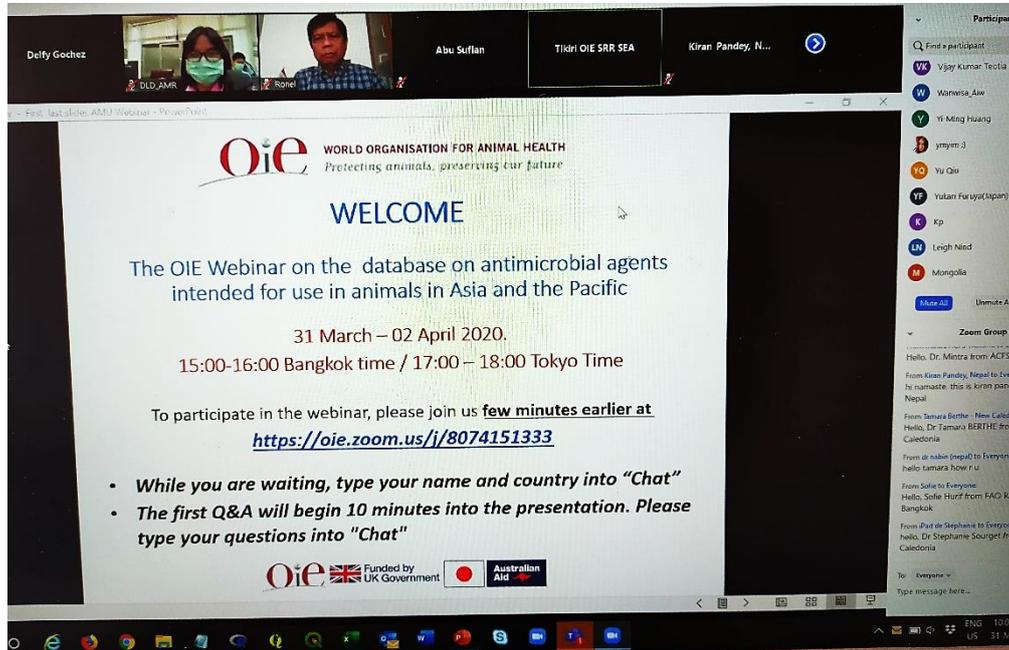


OIE webinar on the database on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals

31 March – 2 April 2020



The development of a robust global database built to increase understanding on the use of antimicrobials in animals worldwide is an ongoing objective of the OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials. The OIE antimicrobial use (AMU) data collection process has seen a continuous increase in engagement from countries through the provision of data, and an increase in their ability to provide more detailed data through OIE AMU reporting options 2 and 3. However, OIE Members still face challenges such as a lack of: a regulatory framework, IT tools, funds and human resources, and coordination/cooperation between national authorities and the private sector, which hinders the reporting of antimicrobial quantities. The OIE is continuously engaged in the process of capacity building to support the implementation of national monitoring systems and harmonised data collection on antimicrobial use in animals. In that context, OIE Headquarters (i.e. Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products Department, AMR&VP), the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP) and Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (SRR-SEA) jointly organised a webinar for OIE Members in Asia and the Pacific Region on the ‘Database on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals’. It was conducted between 31 March and 2 April 2020 for one hour daily. It was the first time that the OIE conducted a webinar on the AMU database.

The webinar was organised with the objective of presenting critical knowledge which is required to improve AMU data quality and the reporting capacity of OIE Members.



The webinar was held as an interim measure as the OIE Regional Workshop on the Database on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals in Asia and the Pacific was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OIE Delegates and the OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products as well as representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization were invited to attend the webinar, the technical materials of which were distributed in advance.

During the webinar series, three important topics were discussed:

- the OIE AMU questionnaire and calculation of kilograms of active ingredients (presented by Dr Delfy Góchez)
- the OIE animal biomass denominator (presented by Dr Morgan Jeannin)
- the future software of the OIE AMU Database (presented by Mr Mduduzi Welcome Magongo).

In addition, Dr Hirofumi Kugita (RR-AP), Dr Ronello C Abila (SRR-SEA), Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel (Head of AMR&VP) and Dr Mark Schipp (President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates) also delivered remarks during the webinar.

On the first day, the discussion detailed the OIE AMU template (the baseline information and the reporting options for the antimicrobial quantities). Three sections of the baseline information template were discussed in detail, and illustrated with some examples. The discussion also highlighted mandatory product information as well as desired product information that could be used to calculate the antimicrobial quantities in question. The newly developed Microsoft-Excel-based active ingredient calculation tool that is still under trial, was also introduced.

Day two of the webinar focused on the AMU denominator used in the OIE annual report for the analysis of the reported antimicrobial quantities: the OIE animal biomass. The participants were guided through the methodology developed to calculate the OIE animal biomass as well as being actively engaged in verifying and reporting accurate animal population numbers in the OIE World Animal Health Information System (OIE-WAHIS) database in order to refine this denominator.

On the third and final day of the webinar, the future of the OIE data collection was discussed. Specifically, following the recommendation made at the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents: Putting Standards Into Practice (Marrakesh, Morocco, 29-31 October 2018) to convert the current spreadsheet format to a database system. The project framework, including developing a tool to collect data and involving OIE Members in the system development process, was explained. In addition, participants were informed that OIE Members have complete control over their data and that data protection is ensured. The new database would be Cloud based and accessible from anywhere through any device. Some of the key benefits of the future system were explained, such as helping with AMU calculations, error detection, alleviation of a time-consuming workload, better analytical and reporting capacity and improved connection with the OIE-WAHIS database. In order to take Members' needs into consideration in the development of the system, an online questionnaire was circulated to the participants during the webinar, which received a total of 23 responses.

Despite the current lockdown and working-from-home situation in place for most OIE Members, participation at the webinar was encouraging. Over the three days of the seminar, participant numbers were 71, 74 and 64, respectively. In addition to the Focal Points, a number of representatives of the Veterinary Services, academic institutions and FAO joined the webinar. Participants were actively engaged in submitting questions verbally and in written format using the chat function. They appreciated the development by the OIE of an Excel tool to assist with the calculations of quantities of active ingredients, indicating its user-friendliness and expressed the hope of receiving good cooperation from pharmaceutical companies to complete the form. They also appreciated the OIE's organisation of the webinar that helped participants to learn how to improve reporting and requested that this type of training continue in the future. In general, the participants were content with the webinar, although several indicated that the online platform is no substitute for a face-to-face training workshop.

■ May 2020