

Dr Roger Phillips (BVSc)

30 May 1956 – 12 July 2021



The World Organisation for Animal Health has learned of the untimely passing of Dr Roger Phillips, the Delegate of Vanuatu.

Dr Phillips graduated from the University of Sydney, Australia, in 1981 and then worked for 12 years as a dedicated veterinary practitioner in northern New South Wales, close to where he grew up.

In 1995, he moved from Australia to Vanuatu to take up a placement as a volunteer teacher, teaching Agriculture to high school students in a number of locations and schools. He had a great natural skill as an educator and many successful Vanuatu farmers today attribute their success in part to Dr Phillip's teaching when they were his students. As a volunteer teacher he continued to conduct some veterinary service for smallholder farmers at no cost whenever possible.

After a decade-long break from veterinary practice, Dr Phillip's joined the Vanuatu Department of Livestock and Quarantine in 2004 as a veterinary officer. His natural skills as an educator were of great use in organising and training paravets, primarily across husbandry and welfare of pigs, poultry, cattle and companion animals. Dr Phillips was responsible for food safety in supervision of an export-approved abattoir close to Port Vila (Vanuatu's capital), as well as biosecurity duties in managing the imports of dogs and cats along with occasional imports of sheep and goats from Australia and New Zealand. In 2013, the Vanuatu Department of Biosecurity was established and included responsibility for meat inspection services as well as management of imported live animals and animal-derived food commodities.

For many years Dr Phillips held the post of Delegate of Vanuatu to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) within Biosecurity Vanuatu and contributed to regional capacity building across food safety, animal welfare, disease awareness, international trade and emergency preparedness.

Dr Phillips was a much loved and respected selfless professional who always contributed his utmost to improve animal welfare and the livelihoods of communities through extension and field services. He will be greatly missed by all in Vanuatu whose lives he touched through his kindness, dedication and commitment as well as the many international colleagues who were fortunate to know him.