

## RAPPORT DE MISSION / MISSION REPORT

Nom du rédacteur / Name:

**Jennifer Lasley, Gounalan Pavade, Ghazi Yehia and Rita Rizk**

Date et lieu du déplacement / Dates of the trip:

**7-11 October 2018, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

Titre de la mission / Title of the mission:

**National Focal Point Veterinary Laboratories seminar – CAMENET Steering Committee Meeting – Italy/UAE camel diseases Twinning Project Steering Committee Meeting**

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### **Objet de la mission / Aim of the meeting:**

This mission was composed of three different meetings:

- OIE Regional Seminar for National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories (NFP) in the Middle East Region
- CAMENET Steering Committee Meeting
- Italy/UAE Twinning Project Steering Committee Meeting

Specific themes explored include transport of specimens, biological risk analysis, quality management systems, laboratory networking and the role of National Focal Points. In addition, the Seminar allow experience-sharing and discussion between countries of the region and stakeholders.

### **Participants du Siège / Participants from the OIE Headquarters**

- Jennifer Lasley, Programmes Department, HQ
- Gounalan Pavade, Programmes Department, HQ

### **Participants des RR/RSR ou experts OIE / Participants from the RR/SRR or OIE experts**

- Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East
- Rita Rizk, Administrative and Financial Assistant, Representation for the Middle East
- Melissa Finley, Sandia, OIE CC on Biological Risk Management
- Lynda Wright, CSIRO, OIE CC on Laboratory Capacity Building

### **Résumé / Summary:**

A total of 10 countries attended the OIE Regional Seminar for NFP for Veterinary Laboratories; this was the third regional seminar of the second cycle.

The official opening of the Seminar was made by His Excellency Dr Thani Bin Ahmad Al Zayoudi, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Delegate from UAE, Dr Majid AL Qasimi. After a general introduction to the OIE, the CAMENET Project, and the NFP for laboratories, a plenary seminar was held on sample transport. Days 2 and 3 were conducted mainly in parallel sessions for epidemiologists and laboratory focal points, and the final session was held jointly to decide on the final surveillance plan for the CAMENET Project. A visit of the ADFCA Veterinary Laboratory was organised and was very appreciated by the participants.

Representatives from Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and UAE participated in the CAMENET Steering Committee meeting. The group discussed the mechanism of network management and coordination of technical activities. The countries will participate in a questionnaire survey to be coordinated by ADFCA to gather information on brucellosis and then data evaluation by OIE experts. The experts worked out timelines to complete the surveillance plan, training capacity needs, enriching the CAMENET website and research topics for collaboration. The group agreed to propose an international camels day that can be recognised globally.

The Steering Committee meeting for the OIE twinning project on camel diseases reviewed the progress made since the last meeting. The Head of Microbiology and Molecular Biology Section at ADFCA presented the trainings received this year at UAE and Italy laboratories and achievements made in the twinning project. The twinning partners finalised the time schedule and activities for the next year 2019. Both the partners are

satisfied with the progress of activities done so far. Other possible collaborations in research on camel pox, and camel ticks was discussed and agreed.

### **Commentaires / Comments:**

The seminar explored a new joint format which had its successes and challenges. It was interesting to have a concrete objective (project-based CAMENET surveillance plan) with both epidemiologists and laboratory focal points to develop it together, bridging a typical gap between these two groups. The concept of a joint seminar with some joint and parallel sessions was also a good format to test. However, in practice, this requires a very strong host country secretariat who is invested (it was the case here; but it rare) in the outcomes of the seminar in order to succeed, as well as well-planned logistics in terms of planning the rooms available, speakers, IT equipment, etc. Close collaboration between the OIE technical lead at HQ, the OIE RR/SRR, the host country, and the hotel are required for a good seminar of this type. This experience will be interesting to provide to Dr Nadège Leboucq in regards to the NFP reboot that she is developing.

There are very few OIE Reference Centres in the Middle East region related to laboratory capacity building or horizontal topics as related to the first 7 chapters of the Terrestrial Manual (as relevant to the Laboratory Focal Point). It is always a challenge to find experts within the region, although it is clear that they exist, to speak on these topics. With this in mind and after a visit to the ADFCA lab, I encouraged the Lab FP of UAE to apply to be the OIE CC on QMS. With the OIE Delegate of the UAE on the Council, it is an opportune moment for UAE to further engage in the OIE by highlighting their expertise as an OIE CC.

In fact, there are few OIE CC on the relevant chapters throughout the world. In the framework of the sustainable labs project, I will encourage additional OIE CC applications according to the list of main focus areas and specialties for OIE CC on the OIE website, as relevant to the first 7 chapters of the Terrestrial Manual (laboratory management, resource sustainability, sample collection, sample transport, biorisk management, QMS, laboratory information systems technology and validation of diagnostic tests). ANSES Maisons Alfort has expressed interest in submitting an application for the Feb 2019 meeting of the BSC as well. This will assist in having more comprehensive expertise available to Members on topics related to laboratory sustainability, and allow more diverse topics for Laboratory Twinning to reinforce laboratory sustainability across the globe.

Discussions with ADFCA occurred on the cost of QMS implementation in the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the PVS Lab tool. They expressed interest to examine Terrestrial Manual Chapter 1.1.5 (QMS), define the major components of the standard, and propose standardized unit costs for the PVS Lab tool at the AHG on the PVS Lab tool. They will also do the same for ISO 17025 and present the findings at the OIE session at the WAVLD Biannual Meeting in June 2019. In the framework of the Sustainable Laboratories initiative, the OIE should approach ADFCA about its interest in being a parent laboratory for a horizontal laboratory twinning project on QMS. The UAE Lab FP was also asked to participate in the PVS Lab AHG.

Discussions with CSIRO occurred on the cost of biological risk management implementation in the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of PVS Lab tool. They expressed interest to examine Terrestrial Manual Chapter 1.1.4 (biorisk management), define the major components of the standard, and propose standardized unit costs for the PVS Lab tool at the AHG on the PVS Lab tool. In the framework of the Sustainable Laboratories initiative, the OIE should approach CSIRO about its interest in being a parent laboratory for a horizontal laboratory twinning project on validation of diagnostic tests or laboratory capacity building (more precise subject to be defined).

Modifications based on time management, appropriateness, and effectiveness will be made to the programme of the next Regional Seminars for Asia and the Americas (TBD in 2019) and the agenda will be further adapted to take into account the successes and lessons learned of the Africa and Middle East seminars. A preference for fewer presentations and more interactive exercises was expressed by both participants and the ROs and this will be taken into account immediately.

The TOR of the NFP for laboratories became more salient by the end of the seminar, and through the activities, presentations, and discussions, the NFP seemed to have a better understanding of their role, ideas on how to implement it, and an interest to go further. However, they do not seem to understand how they are meeting their OTR in doing their everyday jobs. Their role is seen as an extra task that requires additional resources, that they do not have.

The NFP for Labs highlighted the need for increased and more value added interactions with their Delegate. We could do more to encourage Delegates to organize regular (e.g., quarterly) meetings with their Focal Points, as well as to involve them in the General Session delegation. Along with these suggestions, the OIE should consider developing a Guidance Document for NFP for Delegates, revised TORs, selection criteria of NFP for each topic, M&E framework, and best practices in information sharing, networking, and implementation.

The CAMENET started its objective of collaboration among the countries in the Middle East on camel diseases. The countries chose brucellosis as a first priority disease for harmonization of laboratory tests and improving capacity in the region. The ADFCA which is the leading and holds the secretariat of the network is active to keep the network active and engaging with partner countries for research collaboration. The network agreed to observe an international camels day every year that can be recognized globally and will be proposed to OIE and FAO next year.

The five year twinning project between Italy and UAE on camel diseases is well on track as per plan set in the project. Over the years ADFCA veterinary laboratory has improved its capacity for diagnosis on various camel diseases and quality management systems through technical advice of the twinning project. A detailed annual progress report on the twinning project was submitted to OIE for review and record. The laboratory is keen to submit an application for the OIE Collaborating Centre status after the end of the project.

**Personnalité(s) rencontrée(s) et sujet des entretiens / Key person(s) met and subjects of discussion:**

*See detailed list of participants in appendices*

**Suites à donner / Follow-up:**

- Follow-up with ADFCA on the OIE CC application in the framework of the Sustainable Laboratories Initiative, as well as their interest to compile QMS costing data and participation in the PVS Lab AHG
- Follow-up with CSIRO on their interest to compile biorisk management costing data and potential participation in the PVS Lab AHG, as well as potential interest in a Lab Twinning project on QMS or biological risk management
- Follow-up with ANSES Maisons Alfort on their interest to submit an OIE CC application in the framework of the Sustainable Laboratories Initiative on biorisk management, as well as their interest to be a parent in a laboratory twinning on the topic.
- Share mission report with Nadège as a case study in new formats for seminars for NFP
- Share mission report with Sophie Muset as a case study in preparation of the new format she will pilot under the EBO-SURSY project for seminars for 4 NFP + Delegate.
- Adapt the second cycle curricula to reflect lessons learned at ME seminar
- Send more regular general information to the NFP about the OIE (target quarterly communication)

**Documents joints / Enclosed documents:**

- Agenda
- List of participants
- Mission photos

Annexe I Agenda

The 3<sup>rd</sup> CAMENET Steering Committee Meeting  
and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for  
Veterinary Laboratories

**Joint Meeting on Camel Diseases**

TIME	DAY 1: SUNDAY 7 Oct		SPEAKER
8:30	Registration		
<b>PLENARY SESSION 1: WELCOME NOTE AND OVERVIEW OF THE OIE</b>			
9:00	Welcome speeches		Officials
	Introduction: Objectives and expected outcomes		S. Almuhairi
	Exchange of commemorative shields		OIE and UAE officials
9:45	<i>Group Photo and Coffee Break</i>		
10:00	OIE Standard setting process		G. Yehia
10:30	Update on the work of the Biological Standards Commission		M. El Harrak
11:00	CAMENET Present and Future		M. Alhosani
11:15	Objectives and format of the workshop		J. Lasley
<b>PLENARY SESSION 2: SURVEILLANCE PLANNING</b>			
11:30	Epidemiological surveillance and sampling approaches		P. Calistri/De Massis
12:00	Animal brucellosis: epidemiology, diagnosis, control and prevention Main features		P. Calistri/De Massis
12:45	Discussion, challenges and solutions		G. Yehia
1:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
<b>PLENARY SESSION 3: SAMPLE COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT FROM THE FIELD TO THE LABORATORY</b>			
2:00	Effective surveillance plan and expectations: Planning, sample collection and transportation, testing, data analysis and action		M. El Harrak
2:20	Sample reception, assessment and handling		L. Wright
2:40	<i>Panel Discussion and Member Country Experience</i> Sample collection, reception, shipment and transport challenges: Stakeholder Perspectives		J. El Hajj, Lebanon A. Abdi (UAE) Iraq Bahrain Courriers L. Wright, CSIRO
3:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
4:00	Discussion		
4:30	Mutual transfer agreements: Potential solution to common challenges		M. Finley
4:45	OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme		G. Pavade
5:00	End of Day 1		
TIME	DAY 2: MONDAY 8 Oct		SPEAKER
<b>PLENARY SESSION 4: BIOLOGICAL RISK ANALYSIS FROM THE FIELD TO THE LABORATORY</b>			
9:00	Zoonoses Associated with Dromedary Camels		A. Khalafalla
	<b>PARALLEL SESSION 1: EPIDEMIOLOGY</b>	<b>PARALLEL SESSION 1: LABORATORY</b>	
9:30	Risk analysis from epidemiological perspective: a component of animal disease emergency preparedness planning	Biological risk analysis and OIE Standards: Available tools for Laboratory Focal Points	M. El Harrak (P. Calistri/De Massis)
10:00	Country Reports: the situation of animal and human brucellosis, with focus on	Biohazard identification: The first step in biological risk analysis	M. Finley (Participants)

	camels	Biological risk assessment: Laboratory and Laboratory Network perspectives	
10:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:00	Country Reports: the situation of animal and human brucellosis, with focus on camels	Introduction to Working Groups: ‘Biological risk analysis’ Working Groups	M. Finley (Participants)
12:00-1:00	Practical session on risk assessment of brucellosis	Working Groups (continued) Discussion	M. Finley
1:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
	<b>PARALLEL SESSION 2: EPIDEMIOLOGY</b>	<b>PARALLEL SESSION 2: LABORATORY</b>	
2:00-3:00	Working Groups Brucellosis in camels: identification of possible risk factors, main objectives and target populations for a harmonised multi-country surveillance plan	Terms of Reference of National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories Interpretation of Focal Point’s role and working together	G. Pavade & J. Lasley (P. Calistri/De Massis)
2:30	Discussions	Sustainable national laboratory networks	J. Lasley
2:50	Epidemiological data analysis using R- software or any other suitable open- source software	The Quality Assurance Cycle: A systems- based approach	L. Wright (A. Almajali)
3:10	Discussions	Working in laboratories: Competencies and curricula development	J. Lasley
3:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
<b>PLENARY SESSION 5: REFLECTING ON WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED</b>			
4:00	Group exercise: Epidemiology and laboratory experts work together to continue to design the camel disease surveillance plan for each country		All
5:00	End of Day 2		

TIME	DAY 3: TUESDAY 9 Oct		SPEAKER
	<b>PARALLEL SESSION 3: EPIDEMIOLOGY</b>	<b>PARALLEL SESSION 3: LABORATORY</b>	
9:00	Epidemiological Simulation modeling and spatial analysis: Practical on open source disease simulation modeling software	Leave the hotel for Al Wathba Laboratory. The laboratory visit will include demonstration on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality manual, Documented procedures, Procurement system, Handling non-conformity, Risk register, Equipment maintenance &amp; calibration, Management review meeting</li> <li>• Data management system &amp; traceability of data</li> <li>• Staff training manual &amp; competencies, Internal &amp; external quality assurance</li> </ul>	(P. Calistri/ DeMassis)
10:00	Case study to apply epidemiologic knowledge and skills learned		(P. Calistri/Demassis)
10:30	Coffee Break		
11:00	Cost benefit of animal diseases analysis		(A. Almajali)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business continuity system (sustainability)</li> </ul>	
12:00	Discussion and finding solutions to challenges	Laboratory Visit Debrief	G. Pavade
1:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
<b>PLENARY SESSION 6: CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PLAN</b>			
2:00	Final draft surveillance plan on selected camel disease(s) for each country and summary		CAMENET Secretariat
3:30	Seminar take-home messages & final discussion		J. Lasley
4:00	Closing ceremony		G. Yehia
5:00	End of Day 3		

<b>DAY 4: WEDNESDAY 10 Oct</b>	
<b>CAMENET STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (MEMBERS ONLY)</b>	
<b>AGENDA</b>	
Mechanism of network management and coordination of activities	آلية إدارة شبكة كامينيت وآلية التنسيق بين الدول الأعضاء لإنجاز أنشطة الشبكة.
Concrete Surveillance and Activities Plans for the network suggested from countries	وضع خطة لأنشطة الشبكة من خلال حصر مقترحات الأنشطة من الدول الأعضاء في الشبكة ويمكن أن يتم تنظيم الأنشطة المقترحة في أي دولة مستضيفة للنشاط.
Plans for capacity building in diagnosis and disease control	وضع موجهات لتعزيز وتطوير القدرات في دول المنطقة في مجال تشخيص ومراقبة ومكافحة أمراض الإبل ذات الأولوية.
Enriching the CAMENET website	تطوير وتغذية الموقع الإلكتروني للشبكة.
Research topics for collaboration	حصر المواضيع المقترحة للأبحاث المشتركة بين الأعضاء ويمكن التعاون مع جهات بحثية أخرى في إجراء الأبحاث.