



Words of the Director

INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

In these days, also known as the time of the Information Society, the capacity to diffuse and share knowledge has become a decisive factor in the success of organizations.

On the one hand, there is the ethical obligation and democratic duty to avail the largest possible volume of useful and pertinent information to the user and citizen. On the other hand, internal communication channels must be improved all the time to strengthen links of fraternity and to deepen the feeling of a joint mission and the awareness of common responsibility.

In fact, communication is as important to the staff as to the external user.

Internal communication is the instrument that allows central administration to motivate, promote, differentiate, award or group the members of an organization.

Within this perspective, the objective of this bulletin is to integrate all actions the unit is promoting and their focal points in the countries where the Unit is acting.

We expect the participation of all of you with news of your respective activities.

Good reading!

Albino Belotto,
Director PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO

Connections

RUSSIAN MISSION EVALUATES THE BRAZILIAN VETERINARY PUBLIC SERVICE



From left to right: The Coordinator of the Vesicular Center, Dr. Victor Saraiva, the Director of PANAFTOSA, Dr. Albino Belotto, The representative of MAPA - Dra. Francianne Abrantes Assis - DSA, and members of the Russian Delegation: Dr. Valery Zakharov, Dr. Alwksy Mishchenko e Dr. Victor Filatov.

The Russian delegation visited the installations of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO) on 17 September and was present at talks of technical staff on activities developed in the unit. The schedule also included a visit to the Laboratory. The Director of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, Dr. Albino Belotto, considers that the Russian Mission will contribute to the strengthening of links and the improvement of communication between the veterinary services of both countries.

The largest delegation of the Russian Veterinary Service that ever visited Brazil, with nearly 20 professionals, arrived in the country on 4 September to inspect the whole Brazilian meat production chain. During the visit they evaluated the Brazilian Veterinary Service, laboratories, general status of animal health in the country, and control of tuberculosis and brucellosis.

The Minister of Agriculture, Reinhold Stephanes, stated that the Brazilian government will strive to comply with all requirements of the Russian Veterinary Service:

- This is an important market for Brazil and deserves our whole attention, the Minister said.

The Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Brazil, Vladimir Tyurdenev, was incisive:

- Only a clear and transparent position will result from consideration given to the interests of both parties.



Dr. Ingrid Bergmann, Coordinator of the Laboratories of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO explaining laboratory procedures to members of the Mission

VISIT OF THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE WHO



Dr. Margaret Chan at PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO with Dr. Mirta Roses, Dr. Albino Belotto and Eng. Diego Victoria .

The General Director of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Margaret Chan, accompanied by the Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Dr. Mirta Roses, visited Brazil last August to discuss and intensify technical cooperation in the health area.

During her stay in the country, the Director of WHO and the Director of PAHO, together with the PAHO Representative in Brazil, Eng. Diego Victoria and the Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME), Abel Packer, visited the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO) and they were welcomed by its Director, Dr. Albino Belotto.

In accordance with Dr. Belotto, the visit pointed out the importance given by WHO and PAHO to production and innocuousness of food, and it also promoted discussion on priorities in areas of unconsidered zoonoses and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

VISIT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF OIE

The Regional Representative for the Americas of OIE – World Organization for Animal Health, Dr. Luis Barcos, in July visited the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO), Rio de Janeiro.

The purpose of the visit was the strengthening of synergy between the two institutions and the programming of joint activities, such as the organization of an inter-agencies meeting of national chiefs of laboratories for August 2007 in Buenos Aires.

According to the Director of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, Dr. Albino Belotto, the decision to hold the meeting in Latin America was of great importance to confirm the tendency to decentralize OIE and also for the acknowledgement of the high technical and scientific level of reference and collaborating centers, such as PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO.

Issue of Manual

MANUAL ON FMD

The Manual of Procedures to attend FMD outbreaks and other vesicular diseases was adopted and copies of it were delivered to the National Animal Health Service of Paraguay – SENACSA.

The event took place at the SENACSA Stand, Fair Field (Campo Ferial) of the Rural Association of Paraguay on 16 July of the current year.

The manual is the result of action of two international organisms: IDB and PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO.

Isabel Sánchez – VPH Consultant – PAHO/WHO Paraguay



Dr. C.R. Serrano officially delivers the Manual of Procedures: another action in the combat to FMD.

PANAFTOSA AT CONBRAVET

PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO was present at the 34th Brazilian Veterinary Medicine Congress (CONBRAVET) held in Santos on 9-12 September 2007. It participated at the inauguration table of the event.

The Veterinary Public Health Unit of PAHO/WHO organized a cycle of panels focused on FMD, zoonoses and innocuousness of food. Also, a stand prepared jointly with the Brazilian Veterinary Medicine Society diffused material such as news on the celebration of the World Rabies Day.

CONBRAVET, a traditional event of the Brazilian veterinary sector, was held at a time when livestock activities have reached a leading level in the world market. Discussions were held on subjects related to the environment, animal welfare, aquiculture, wild life, sustainable production, family agriculture, modern diagnosis methods, eradication and prevention of various diseases which affect trade, whose control is indispensable for the innocuousness of animal origin products.

ANIMAL WELFARE



The World Society for Protection of Animals – WSPA Brazil, held in August the II International Congress of Concepts on Animal Welfare – Theory, Teaching, Application, which was directed to veterinarians, zootechnics and professionals of related areas.

The objective of the Congress was to motivate the flow of scientific information and to promote the interchange of ideas and experiences. With this finality, it assembled in the country some of the best representatives in the world on the subject, including technical staff of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

PAHO/PANAFTOSA held jointly with IICA and USAID a Course on Avian Influenza in the Caribbean on 4-6 September.

COURSE ON CONTROL OF WILD RABIES

Last month the II Course on Control of Wild Rabies (*D. rotundus*) was held in Brazil, in Cáceres, Mato Grosso. Its objective was to stimulate standardization of anti-rabies actions, which have been recommended in the National Program of Control of Rabies of Herbivorous Animals – NPCRHA.



Bat under study by researcher



One of the natural shelters of bats

Training is part of the activities outlined in the Technical Cooperation Agreement signed in December 2006 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO). Their objective is to develop activities to strengthen official programs of animal health of Brazil.

The theoretical part of the course transmitted information on rabies of herbivorous animals, bio-ecology and behavior of bats.

Practical learning took place in two working days when information was transmitted on location and registry of shelters of bats and application of control measures.

Cooperation

COMBAT AGAINST LEPTOSPIROSIS AND DENGUE

In Guatemala, Honduras and Cuba they started a program of Technical Cooperation between Countries (TCC) to strengthen national capacity for surveillance of Leptospirosis and Dengue. Activities started in August with a course on Dengue in Cuba followed by a seminar in Guatemala on epidemiology and diagnosis of Dengue and Leptospirosis.

Raymond Dugas – VPH Consultant – PAHO/WHO Guatemala

SAFE FOOD

In Guatemala as well as in Venezuela the implementation of the manual Five Keys for the Maintenance of Safe Food was approved for the curriculum of primary schools of these countries. The product was developed by WHO and is directed to the educational community – teachers, students and parents.

Starting from this project, it is expected that complementary educational material will be prepared, to be used in the improvement of food maintenance and that it will be adopted in the future by other countries, such as the sub-Andean region.

Raymond Dugas – VPH Consultant – PAHO/WHO Guatemala

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS

In June the I Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Countries of the Americas was held. It was followed by a ministerial meeting of the Inter American Assembly of Agriculture.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) participated in different forums which discussed cooperation in the construction of a new institutionalization in the field, and prepared a stand to present their activities and publications.

Raymond Dugas – VPH Consultant – PAHO/WHO Guatemala

ANIMAL DEFENSE

The government of the state of Pará (northern region of Brazil), through the Agency of Agriculture and Livestock Defense of Pará – AALD, (ADEPARÁ in Portuguese), and the Regional Council of Veterinary Medicine (RCVM) promoted in August the I Forum of Sanitary Animal Defense of the Northern Region and Border States and the VII Assembly of Presidents of RCVMs of the North, North-east and Espírito Santo.

The objective of the event, held in Belém, was to discuss and establish strategies for joint actions of the involved states, to strengthen animal defense in the northern region of the country.

Dr. Belotto, Director of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO was invited to participate in the event and he gave a talk on Goals of the Hemispheric Plan for Eradication of FMD (PHEFA).

QUALITY OF FOOD IN PARAGUAY

Between 30 July and 3 August, the Seminar on Development, Vision and Strategy of National Services of Innocuousness of Food was held in Paraguay.

The event was the result of intersectorial action of the National Service of Animal Health (SENACSA), National Service of Vegetable Quality and Health and Seeds (SENAVE) and the National Institute of Food and Nutrition (INAN), under the coordination and initiative of the Inter American Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture (IICA) and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).

The methodology proposed by the Seminar made it possible to characterize the performance of official institutions responsible for the quality of food in Paraguay, the establishment of priorities and strategic planning.

Isabel Sánchez – VPH Consultant – PAHO/WHO Paraguay

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO) held a ceremony honoring the staff, with the presence of the General Director of WHO, Dr. Margaret Chan, and the Director of PAHO, Dr. Mirta Roses.

At the event, homage was extended to staff members with more than ten years of service. Special acknowledgement was given to Jorge Sebastião Santos and Maria Helenilza Silva with more than 35 years working at the Center. Also the following staff members were indicated for their good services rendered to the Organization: Adelia de Almeida Silva, David Victor dos Santos, José Lourenço dos Reis, Nelson Rodrigues Silva and Rosane Lopes.

GREAT CROSS

The Director of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, Dr. Albino Belotto, received the maximum homage awarded by the Brazilian Society of Veterinary Medicine, the Medal of Merit of Veterinary Medicine in the degree of Great Cross, for his services to the area of Veterinary Public Health and for the enhancement of the veterinary medical profession.

COMMANDER MEDAL

The Coordinator of the Vesicular Diseases Unit of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, Dr. Victor Saraiva, received during the 34th CONBRAVET the Medal of Merit of Veterinary Medicine in the degree of Commander, for his contribution to Brazilian Veterinary Medicine.

MERIT

The Veterinary Doctor Primo Arámbulo III, ex-Director of the Unit of Veterinary Public Health of PAHO and present consultant for international affairs of the American Association of Veterinarians, received the award of this Association for his contribution to the veterinary public health of the Americas

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WORLD DAY OF RABIES



On 8 September the World Day of Rabies was celebrated. Its purpose was to educate the population to become aware of the effects and measures for rabies prevention, a disease which still kills more than 50 thousand persons yearly, and also affects the health and welfare of animals.

With the participation of PAHO, the World Day of Rabies promoted the methodic use of approved efficient techniques which may result in the global elimination of the main sources of human rabies.

DAY OF THE VETERINARIAN



The Day of the Veterinarian was commemorated on 9 September. Due homage was paid to the professionals, with emphasis on the scope of their work, which is often associated exclusively to clinical treatment of animals. Prevention of human contagion by diseases transmitted by animals, as well as assurance of food quality of a country, constitutes the essential practice of veterinary medicine.