



Presentation

Dear Colleagues and Readers,

This month we begin the final preparation for the 15th INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE, RIMSA, which this year will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from June 11-12, 2008. The RIMSA meetings have been a forum of the greatest regional importance for bringing together the Health and Agriculture sectors of Member States of PAHO/WHO.

In addition, for the first time, RIMSA is being organized jointly by PAHO/WHO with the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture (IICA) in the scope of the Strategic Alliance established between these two organizations, and with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, Ministry of Health, Ministry of External Relations and the Government of Brazil.

The topic chosen for this year is "Agriculture and Health: Alliance for Equity and Rural Development in the Americas".

We invite all of you to visit the web page of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO (<http://www.panaftosa.org.br>) where you will find further information on the 15th RIMSA.

VPH News

Special

COSALFA 2008

PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO WELCOMES COUNTRIES AT THE 35TH COSALFA MEETING

The 2008 edition of the Meeting of the South American Commission for the Fight against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), COSALFA, held by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil (MAPA), welcomed representatives of the eleven countries of South America – Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela – from March 13th and 14th, in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul (RS), to discuss issues relative to the status of diseases in the countries and the Hemispheric Plan for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

During March 11th and 12th, the pre-COSALFA international seminar was held and the subject was "South America Free of Foot-and-Mouth Disease: New Paradigms". There were discussions on how to reach the FMD-free status at the present time, work methodologies for eradication goals and how to maintain them after 2009. The Seminar reinforced the request made to the countries for greater efforts to comply with the objectives of the Hemispheric Plan for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease – PHEFA, and recommended the development of public and private sector projects in health activities for eradication programs.



The COSALFA Meeting assembled representatives of eleven South American countries to discuss the situation of foot-and-mouth disease

From March 13th and 14th, during the COSALFA Meeting, the attention of the discussions was focused on the sanitary status of FMD and its persistence in some areas, as well as on the technical and economic cooperation between international agencies.

Among the resolutions, the publication "Social Communication and Risk Communication in Animal Health", issued by PANAFTOSA

-PAHO/WHO in November 2007, was highlighted and it will become an instrument in a regional training program on social and risk communication for the official veterinary services.

This and other resolutions of COSALFA are available in the of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO site (<http://www.panaftosa.org.br>).

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO promotes animal health training



The focus was to test and adapt the model to the South American productive-epidemiologic reality and to propose pilot projects in accordance with the characteristics of each country

From March 31st and April 4th, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO offered joint training with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on the North American Animal Disease Spread Model (NAADSM).

The workshop was part of a technical cooperation agreement between the Canadian Government and PAHO, an effort to increase the capacity to respond to animal diseases emergencies. For the first time the meeting was held in South America to stimulate the creation of pilot projects so that, with them, the agreement can be adapted to the requirements of each country and, consequently, to South America in general.

The event was attended by representatives of national animal health services from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay; professionals from the University of Guelph (Canada) and the University of Colorado (USA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture (IICA), researchers and technicians from EMBRAPA and inspectors from the Animal Health Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil (DSA/MAPA).

PANALIMENTOS

Security and Food Safety

In March, PWR BRA held a workshop to present and discuss models and strategies of technical cooperation with PAHO/WHO. There were 20 participants and various subjects were discussed, such as food security and safety, activities of cooperation and strategies to reach municipal markets and schools, and epidemiological studies of diseases transmitted by food.

Also in the meeting program there was the issue of distance education with the introduction to a software developed by FOS-PANALIMENTOS, technical cooperation activities and working schedules through its Center of Reference – PANALIMENTOS – together with other national institutions: the National Agency for Health Surveillance (ANVISA), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA) and the Ministry of Health of Brazil (MS).

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

II National Seminar on Hanta-virus advanced research

PAHO/WHO is holding in Brazil the National Seminar II on Advanced Research on Hantavirus, the WNPAAH II, in partnership with the Health Surveillance Secretariat of the Ministry of Health (SVS/MS) and the State Secretariat of Health of Mato Grosso (SES-MT). The Secretariat of Science and Technology and Strategic Inputs – MS will also participate in the event.

In accordance with Dr. Mauro Elkhoury – consultant in Veterinary Public Health at the PAHO representation in Brazil – the objective of the WNPAAH II is to stimulate new research and learn about those that are already underway in the area and their development. In addition, WNPAAH II aims to learnso about new researches on four subjects: Epidemiology and Surveillance in Health, Ecology and Reservoirs, Medical and Therapeutic Clinic, Virology and Laboratory Diagnosis. Those who wish to present their research projects can apply for inscription up to May 20 through: <http://www.saude.gov.br/svs> or <http://portal.saude.gov.br>. Vacancies are limited.

STD/AIDS

Congress discusses fight against STD and AIDS



The Congress held in March in Rio de Janeiro assembled representatives from Portuguese-speaking countries

The second edition of the Congress of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP, in Portuguese) on STD/AIDS was promoted by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) in order to discuss clinical, epidemiologic and social features of these diseases as well as the field action of technicians in diagnosis and the link to antiretroviral drugs.

Dr. Luis Sambo, Director of the Regional Office for Africa of the World Health Organization, participated in the event at a table coordinated by the director of PAHO/WHO, Dr. Mirta Roses Periago.

At the meeting the participants signed the Letter of Luanda which committed them to carry out joint action to fight AIDS.

First Conference on Health Innovation is held in Brazil



First row: Dr. John N. Lavis, president of CAIS; Dr. Luis Sambo, Dr. Mirta Roses and Dr. Reinaldo Guimarães, secretary of Science, Technology and Strategic Inputs, Ministry of Health of Brazil

With the objective of assembling Latin American countries to discuss the success, challenges and development of health research systems, the Council of Health Research and Development (COHRED), held the First Latin American Conference on Research and Innovation in Health in Rio de Janeiro, during April this year.

Dr. Diego Victoria, PAHO Representative in Brazil, Dr. Mirta Roses, Director of PAHO, and authorities of the Ministry of Health of Brazil met with specialists and staff of the governments of Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua; members of PAHO; the regional representatives of UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO for Tropical Diseases Research (TDR). PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO participated and offered support for the organization of the event.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Emergency Simulation in Paraguay

From February 25th-26th, 2008, the National Service of Animal Quality and Health of Paraguay (SENACSA), held a workshop to discuss issues regarding the process of prevention, diagnosis and eradication of FMD, as well as, Risk Communication in Animal Health. To test how joint action could face a risk situation, the organizers of the event prepared a simulation of FMD occurrence based on the "Manual of Procedures for Attention to occurrences of FMD and other Vesicular Diseases" and various subjects and actions in an emergency were discussed with the 97 participants.

The simulation started on the evening of February 26th with a notification of sick animals, which was the starting point to the execute procedures from the guidelines issued by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO last year. In view of the scenario created for the simulation, SENACSA made a positive evaluation of the result, which achieved the proposed objectives.

SENACSA

On March 27th, the report on the status of Yellow Fever in Paraguay was issued, which was the result of the volume of outbreaks recorded in the previous months Paraguay reported the cases to the World Health Organization immediately after they were confirmed in February.

In order to activate a control program, the Paraguayan Ministry of Health received the support of the agencies of the United Nations, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Red Cross for actions of communication, vectors control – through technical resources – and for a mass vaccination campaign.

Efforts are still ongoing and are directed to the informing the population through educative messages that call on the community to help in the control of the vector. This is further to the National Program of Immune-Preventable Diseases which is carried out through the surveillance of occurrences together with some other national organs as well as promoting vaccination campaigns in the affected areas.

PWR CHILE

Rabies Situation

The representation of PAHO in Chile is preparing a report on the situation of canine rabies. In the document the health authorities intend to present all background incidents that indicate that the cycle of the disease transmitted by virus V1 and V2 has been interrupted. In Chile there is still a rabies cycle transmitted by bats.

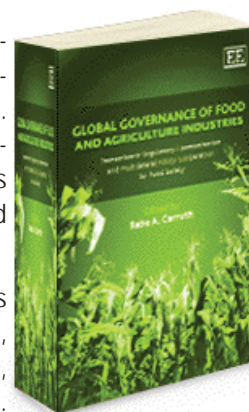
Research is also directed to a possible wild variation of *triatoma infestans*, which transmits Chagas Disease. Since 1999 no occurrence of the disease has been reported in the country.

Book Launch

Articles

The book "Global Governance of Food and Agriculture Industries" was launched. It contains articles on regulations for activities and efforts in the area of Food Safety and Food Security.

One of the articles was written by Dr. Genaro García, Director of PANALIMENTOS, on the *Codex Alimentarius*. And there is also an article from Dr. Jorgen Schlundt, director of the Department of Food Safety, Zoonose and



Foodborne Diseases for the WHO.

Visits to Panaftosa - PAHO/WHO



Dr. Albino Belloto and a group of employees from PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO welcomed Dr. Mirta Roses, Dr. Diego Victoria and Dr. Luis Sambo, Regional Director for Africa for the World Health Organization



Visit from Eng. Diego Victoria, Dr. Mauro Elkhoury and Dr. Ruben Figueroa



Visit from Dr. Paolo Zanotto, Professor at the Institute of Biomedical Sciences of the University of São Paulo (USP)

FIGHT AGAINST ANIMAL RABIES

Agreement for the creation of a laboratory network

During February 11th, 12th and 13th, PANAF-TOSA-PAHO/WHO welcomed of Dr. Tomas Krotsh from the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Silvana Favoretto from the University of São Paulo (USP) and Drs. Lucia Maia and Dr. Sheila Matos from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil (MAPA), for a meeting on the creation of a network of rabies diagnosis laboratories linked to MAPA.

VISIT OF DR. MIRTA ROSES
Partnership between PAHO and the city where Panaf-tosa -PAHO/WHO has its headquarters



Signature of the agreement: Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, director of PAHO; Washington Reis, Mayor of Duque de Caxias; Dr. Albino Belotto, director of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and Dr. Diego Victoria, Representative of PAHO in Brazil

During the visit to Brazil of Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, her agenda included the signature of the protocol of intentions between PAHO and the City Hall of Duque de Caxias, represented by Mayor Washington Reis, which is the municipality where the Veterinary Public Health Unit – PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO is located.

The objective of the protocol is the support and cooperation in the implementation of the Initiative Project of *Faces, Voices and Places* in the municipality of Duque de Caxias, in order to reach of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. It also includes collaboration on activities for the control of determinants, linked to primary attention to health, control of zoonose, endemics, food safety, nutrition and environmental management within the scope of the Network of Municipalities and Healthy Communities.

Production

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