

International Symposium on Koi Herpesvirus Disease
- Strategy for Koi Herpesvirus Disease Control -
(Saturday, 13 March 2004, Pacifico Yokohama Japan)

Dr. Teruhide Fujita
Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

Distinguished delegates and participants,
Distinguished speakers,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here with all the participants in this important International Symposium on Koi Herpesvirus Disease and to say a few words on behalf of Dr. Bernard Vallat, Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (in French acronym of OIE), Paris, France, and also on behalf of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific based in Tokyo, Japan.

OIE was established with its Headquarters in Paris, France in 1924 under the International Agreement signed by 18 countries at first, in order to promote world animal health.

OIE has now 167 member countries and its roles have been strengthened and expanded year by year to ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation; to collect, analyse and disseminate scientific veterinary information; to contribute expertise and encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases; to safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animal and animal products, within its mandate under the World Trade Organization (WTO) SPS Agreement; in other words OIE is recognised by WTO as the international standards-setting organisation for animal health and zoonoses; to improve the legal framework and resources of Veterinary Services and to cope with its new mandates for animal production food safety and animal welfare.

OIE has been widely considered as an international and intergovernmental organisation for terrestrial animal health but has played important roles for aquatic animal health as well.

One of the OIE Specialist Commissions, namely the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, so-called “the Aquatic Animals Commission”, develops the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* to assure the sanitary safety of international trade in aquatic animals (fish, molluscs and crustaceans) and their products, and

provides a uniform approach to the diagnosis of diseases listed in the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* so that the requirements for health certification in conjunction with trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products can be met.

Those OIE standards are continually revised and updated, and authorised by the OIE International Committee that is the highest governing body with participation of the OIE delegates from all the Member Countries, as new information on aquatic animal diseases in general and new emerging diseases in particular, becomes available.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The OIE HQ and its Regional Representation based in Tokyo are working with the Member Countries to collect and disseminate aquatic animal health information and for meetings including hands-on workshops on diagnosis and surveillance of aquatic animal diseases.

Aquatic animal diseases are quite important for the world, in particular in Asia as approximately 90% of world aquaculture production is covered by the Asian region.

Under these conditions, mass mortality of carp and koi was recognised in Israel and the United States in 1998, which included a new viral disease, Koi Herpesvirus (KHV) Disease. The disease was reported later also in Europe and the Asian region including Indonesia, and Japan in 2003, with a serious negative impact on the fisheries sector.

This International Symposium invites many internationally well-known scientists as speakers. And I do hope this meeting will discuss the control measures of KHV Disease and produce fruitful results of discussions which will no doubt contribute to the sound development of aquaculture not only in Asia but also in the world.

Thank you for your attention.