World Veterinary Day (WVD) will take place globally on 29 April 2017. This event aims to highlight and promote the different facets of the work performed by veterinarians all over the world, and to raise awareness on their contribution to improve animal health and welfare, as well as public health. Each year, a different topic is selected by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) which are at the initiative of this event.

**THEME 2017**

**ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE - FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION**

The availability and use of antimicrobial drugs has transformed the practice of human and animal medicine. Infections that were once lethal are now treatable, and the use of antimicrobial agents has advanced global health as well as animal health, which is a key component of animal welfare, food security and safety.

Safeguarding the efficacy of these life-saving medications, as well as their availability and effectiveness for both human and veterinary use, is essential to preserve our future. However, overuse and misuse of these drugs in humans, animals and plants sectors has dramatically accelerated the emergence of resistance to antimicrobials.

Veterinary Services including veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals have a key part to play in the fight against antimicrobial resistance, through their role in regulating and supervising the use of antimicrobials, offering professional advice to farmers and animal owners and collaborating with the human health sector.

To continue to progress in disease control management and in improving animal welfare, veterinarians need to encourage and achieve a sustainable change in behaviour towards a responsible and prudent antimicrobial use.

It is time to turn the words into action. Through this year’s WVD theme, the OIE and the WVA seek to encourage all the initiatives and events led by veterinarians, in collaboration with other sectors, to fight antimicrobial resistance and raise awareness on this essential issue in their countries.

The competition is open to all WVA member associations, alone, or in cooperation with any other selected body. The organisers will select the winners according to the quality of their project and activities, their ability to raise awareness on the topic as well as their capacity to implement coordinated and multi-sectoral actions, at the occasion of the WVD 2017 and all year long. The winner will be announced at the Opening Ceremony of the OIE 85th General Session to be held in Paris, France on 21 May 2017 and the award will be presented to the winner during the World Veterinary Congress 2017 in Incheon, Korea (Rep. of) from 27th -31st August 2017.

**Please click on the following links to access the WVD2017 announcement and application form in English, French and Spanish.**