



WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION

2nd WVA Global Summit – Summary

“Global wellbeing – a Partnership of Animal and Human Health”

Organised with high-level support of FAO, OIE and WHO

Following the success of the 1st WVA, OIE, WHO and FAO Global Summit 2011, these organizations prepared the 2nd WVA Global Summit 2013: “Global Wellbeing – a Partnership of Animal and Human Health”. The event took place in Prague, Czech Republic, on 18th September 2013. The different sessions of the 2nd Global Summit focused on strengthening institutional collaboration, partnerships for effective prevention, control and emergency response, and cooperation between animal and public health education and research. Please find hereafter the main outcomes of the 2nd WVA Global Summit.

WHEREAS

Health

- Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmityⁱ. It is the outcome of a complex of several inter-dependent medical, economic, socio-cultural, environmental and ecological factors;
- People’s health and wellbeing, and equally animal health and welfare are strongly interlinked. Health is a precondition for wellbeing respectively welfare. Wellbeing and welfare reinforce health.
- Animals play a key role in the wellbeing of people and the future of our planet. They provide working power, food, protection, enjoyment, etc. Keeping animals healthy is essential for the health and well-being of people;
- Addressing animal health, public health and zoonotic issues as separate entities have limited effect. To make a lasting progress a broad inter-sectorial and interdisciplinary, holistic approach is essential;
- One Health recognizes that the health of humans, animals and ecosystems are interconnected. It involves applying a coordinated, collaborative, multidisciplinary and cross-sectorial approach to address potential or existing risks that originate at the animal-human-ecosystems interfaceⁱⁱ.

Partnership

- The advancement of the health and well-being of people depends on good collaboration between different professions and disciplines, in the public as well as in the private sector;

- The World Veterinary Association recognizes and supports the tri-partite note “Sharing responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal-human-ecosystem interfaces” jointly developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)ⁱⁱⁱ. The tripartite note clearly recognizes that addressing health risks at the human-animal-ecosystem interface requires strong partnerships among players. Partnerships which should include international organisations, governments, civil society, health professions and donors.
- Education, pre and post graduate, is key for the quality of the services delivered by the health professions. It is important to bring the One Health concept across to the future health professionals. Closer collaboration between veterinary schools and medical schools will foster a broader view on One Health issues. Student driven initiatives are effective and deserve to be promoted. New communication technologies provide a great opportunity to spread information and to engage people in post graduate education;
- Veterinary Services - the combined public and private animal health workers community - are global public goods. Together with good governance, well-functioning veterinary services are essential for translating policies into practical strategies, their implementation and the achievement of sustainable results in the field.
- Communication at different levels, such as:
 - between individual, private and public sector veterinarians and animal owners and keepers
 - between veterinary professional organisations and stakeholder organisations and policy makers
 - between the profession and society at large
 is crucial for achieving the veterinary profession’s aspirations and societal needs. The veterinary profession needs to foster good relationships. It needs to be clear about its goals, to make its goals known and to take responsibility for it;

Specific topics:

1. Rabies

- Human cases of rabies mainly occur in the context of many infectious and other health problems, competing for attention and resources. They need to be addressed in a combined approach;
- Compared with post exposure prophylaxis in people anti-rabies vaccination of dogs is cheaper and more sustainable at middle and long term. The efficacy of dog vaccination is strongly enhanced by dog population management;

2. antimicrobial resistance

- Since the introduction of penicillin in the 1940s antimicrobial medicines have become essential for the treatment of many microbial infections in humans and animals. In addition to the treatment of infectious diseases antimicrobials are vital for reducing the risk of complications in relation to medical interventions.

- The occurrence of micro-organisms that are resistance against antimicrobials is a natural biological phenomenon but is amplified by a variety of factors. The inappropriate use of antimicrobials in human and veterinary medicine as well as the pollution of the environment by antimicrobials accelerate the emergence and spread of resistant microorganisms, threatening the health of people and animals.

3. disaster management

- Large numbers of animals suffer and die every year as a result of natural disasters. With experts predicting more frequent severe weather events injury and loss of livestock will have a progressive impact on nations, with a majority of people relying on their animals for livelihoods and sustenance. Helping animals during adversities ensures communities are better able to recover in the aftermath of cyclones, tsunamis and floodings.

WVA CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The global veterinary profession represented by WVA shall reach out to and partner with the world medical profession and other relevant professions, disciplines and sectors for sharing knowledge, experience and best practices for the progress of the health of people and animals. The global veterinary community shall play a leading role in bringing together and supporting the collaboration between all appropriate stakeholders, governmental as well as non-governmental.
- Situated at the interface between animal owners and decision-making bodies and institutions, the veterinary professions shall play a strong role in two-way communication, to increase the effectiveness of initiatives to improve the health and welfare of people. The veterinary profession shall be aware of and have an open ear for societal needs and wishes, but at the same time stand for the principles of modern veterinary medicine based on sound scientific principles
- WVA representing the veterinary profession at the global level together with all partners with whom it has a formal relationship (OIE, FAO, WHO, WMA, WSPA, GARC, animal owner communities, etc.) will organise a global conference on the “drivers towards One Health - One Welfare”. Special attention will be given to rabies, antimicrobial resistance and disaster management.
- The conference will focus on possibilities and requirements for making a change at field level. It will work on strategies that are robust and clear about the goals to be achieved but leave enough flexibility at the level of local implementation. Education of future medical and veterinary health professionals will be a key element of these strategies.

PRESENTATIONS

The 2nd Global Summit presentations can be found in the Library section under [“One Health”](#) or by clicking of the following links:

- [David Waltner-Toews](#) : Eco-health, One Health, and Sustainable Development: a Practical Approach

- [Gideon Bruckner](#): The FAO-OIE-WHO collaboration – A tripartite concept
- [Lea Knopf](#): Global inter-sectorial collaboration in canine rabies control
- [Raffy A. Deray](#): National inter-sectoral collaboration in canine rabies control
- [Ian Dacre](#): Disaster and emergency preparedness and response
- [Koos Coetzer](#): strengthening collaboration in education: experience from the Africa region
- [Alistair Cribb](#): Collaboration in Education: experience from the North American Region
- [Sarah Cleaveland](#): Strengthening Collaboration in Research
- [Peter Jones](#): Strengthening Communication Pathways

ⁱ <http://www.who.int/about/definition/en/print.html>

ⁱⁱ http://www.onehealthglobal.net/?page_id=131

ⁱⁱⁱ http://www.who.int/influenza/resources/documents/tripartite_concept_note_hanoi_042011_en.pdf