38th WVAC2023

WVA Activities
26-29 April 2023
Overview

The 38th World Veterinary Association Congress (WVAC) was held from April 26 to 29, 2023, in Taipei, Taiwan. The congress was a great success due to the commitment and hard work of the local organizers, led by Dr David Tan, president of the Taiwan Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA).

This edition of the congress hosted 3500 delegates from 31 countries. During four days, 109 high-level speakers delivered lectures on subjects related to One Health, small and exotic animals, food and large animals, animal welfare, laboratory animals, and public health.

The 38th WVAC brought together renowned experts and professionals. **Dr. Mark Schipp**, the Past President of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), **Dr. Juan Lubroth**, former Chief Veterinary Officer of FAO, and **Mr. Chen Chi-Chung**, Minister of the Taiwanese Council for Agriculture were among other key persons who actively participated and supported the congress.

2500 in-person delegates >30 countries

This report is a summary showcasing selected events and WVA activities held at the WVAC 2023

- Proceedings
- Opening Ceremony
- 9th Annual WVA Global One Health Summit
- WVA Veterinary Education Seminar
- Awards and recognitions
- WVAC2022 Closing Ceremony
The WVA Congress 2023 was opened on April 26th, 2023, with a grand Opening Ceremony. Dr. Rafael Laguens, the President of the World Veterinary Association (WVA), extended a warm welcome to the esteemed delegates. Joining him in welcoming the attendees were Dr. David Tan, the President of the Emirates Veterinary Association, and Dr. Mark Schipp, the Past President of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). The ceremony also saw the presence of distinguished representatives from the Taiwanese Council for Agriculture, who added their valuable insights to the event. The opening ceremony set the stage for an engaging and enlightening congress, dedicated to advancing veterinary medicine and animal welfare on a global scale.
9th Annual WVA Global One Health Summit

The WVA One Health Summit took place on April 27th. Chaired by Dr. Shannon Mesenhowski, the Summit addressed “Environment, an essential element of One Health”.

Dr. Rafael Laguens, WVA President, opened the seminar by welcoming participants and emphasized that implementing One Health requires a multi-sectoral approach with three equally important elements: human health, animal health, and environment. However, environmental dimensions of One Health need to catch up to the human and animal dimensions. The WVA is willing to contribute to making One Health an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems.

Dr. Juan Lubroth, former CVO of FAO, presented "Health in a Changing Environment: A Global One Health Perspective." He discussed the complexity of the interface between humans, animals, and the environment and how anthropogenic changes and threats to the planet affect them. He also looked at One Health and some of its newer iterations, including drivers to the changing disease landscape and other threats, challenges of forming policies, and community concurrence or confrontation, including environmental law. He challenged participants to consider the role of wildlife, water, bees, and biosecurity within One Health, and emphasized that One Health is about relationships and breaking down wicked problems.

Dr. Mark Schipp, WOAH Delegate for Australia and WOAH Past President, presented "The environment on the One Health plans and strategies developed by WOAH." He focused on the environmental aspect of One Health plans and strategies developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). He shared how WOAH has engaged in global One Health forums such as COP 15, COP 27, and the Global Biodiversity Framework, and continues to advocate for global commitments on One Health as they develop.
Dr. Margaret Khaitsa, member of the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP), presented on the Quadripartite Alliance’s One Health Joint Plan of Action and actions towards equity in global health. She highlighted the OHHLEP's role in providing policy-relevant scientific assessment on health crises arising from the human-animal-ecosystem interface, as well as guidance on the development of a long-term strategic approach to reducing the risk of zoonotic pandemics.

They also discussed the OHHLEP's contributions to the Quadripartite Alliance's initiatives, including the Global One Health Agenda and the Pandemic Instrument, and emphasized the importance of addressing health inequities in implementing One Health approaches, and how the OHHLEP is working to breakdown the theory of One Health and into concrete steps of country implementation.

Mr. Hirofumi Hirayama, Director of One Health General Promotion Division, presented the "Fukuoka Prefectural One Health Initiatives" during which he highlighted the pioneering efforts undertaken by Fukuoka Prefecture in Japan. The prefecture has established a solid foundation for their One Health initiatives by implementing ordinances and plans. They have developed the "Fukuoka Prefecture One Health Promotion Action Plan," making them the first in Japan to do so. To address issues like emerging infectious diseases and global warming, Fukuoka Prefecture will establish a dedicated "One Health Center." Collaborative
research with the National Institute of Infectious Diseases is ongoing to create a national surveillance system for zoonotic diseases transmitted by wild animals and pets. The prefecture has also conducted surveys to assess the prevalence of zoonotic diseases and drug-resistant bacteria and is promoting responsible use of antimicrobial agents. Additionally, Fukuoka Prefecture is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, implementing measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They are actively involved in developing heat-tolerant agricultural products, supporting local adoption, and raising awareness about heatstroke prevention. In line with their One Health principles, Fukuoka Prefecture has created the "One Health Forest," where individuals can experience the importance of One Health through activities like forest therapy and controlled interaction with wildlife.

Ms. Vanda Dućić, a sixth-year veterinary student at the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and a dedicated member and President-Elect of the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA), presented "Perspective of the veterinary student in the role of the environment in One Health." She explored the perceptions of today’s students regarding One Health and how the environment impacts this approach. She highlighted that the majority of students say that the One Health approach is essential, but are looking for more emphasis of the environmental component in their studies. This brought out good discussion among the participants on how best to prioritize within veterinary education, the topic of the second day of the Summit.

Dr. Olga Shevchenko, Chief Veterinary Officer of Ukraine and Acting Head of State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection sent a message. Dr. Andrii Klietsov, and Prof. Nataliia Klietsova presented "Consequences of war in Ukraine on One Health." They described the lessons derived from the first-year experience of martial law in Ukraine and its impact on animals’ health, food safety, and the environment. They also presented the
governmental vision on veterinarians’ capability under conditions of war, Grain corridor initiative, and the role of veterinarians in global food security.

Dr. David Hayman, a researcher and educator in infectious disease dynamics and epidemiology, presented "One Health: an approach for a sustainable and healthy future," which focused on One Health’s role in achieving a sustainable and healthy future.

The session ended with a panel discussion featuring the speakers. In Summary, the WVA One Health Summit provided a platform for experts to discuss the importance of environment within One Health and highlighted the role of veterinarians in promoting One Health, providing insight into the challenges and opportunities involved in the One Health approach. The presentations spurred questions on how to illustrate the impact of One Health on the average veterinarian, farmer, citizen; how to increase political will for prioritizing the One Health approach; the need for building earlier engagement across disciplines for collaboration in One Health; and how to bring One Health into tangible impacts.

Finally, the new WVA Global Veterinary Awards supported by Ceva was presented.

The new WVA Global Veterinary Awards will recognize veterinarians for their outstanding work in One Health, Animal Welfare, Medicines Stewardship, and Veterinary Education. With six categories, including "Veterinary Student of the Year," and an overall winner as “Veterinarian of the year”.
These awards celebrate the exceptional contributions of veterinarians worldwide. Members of the World Veterinary Association are invited to nominate candidates, and winners will be announced in early 2024 during a ceremony at WVAC 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa.

WVA Veterinary Education Seminar

The WVA One Health Summit - Veterinary Education Seminar took place on April 28th, 2023. Chaired by Dr. Charlotte Nkuna, featured presentations from veterinary education experts from around the world. The event aimed to discuss and share perspectives on how to prepare veterinary practitioners in the field of One Health, which requires a multidisciplinary approach that integrates knowledge and skills from various disciplines such as veterinary medicine, public health, and environmental sciences.

Dr. Fang-Chia Chang, Asia AAVS Vice President, discussed how preparing veterinary practitioners in One Health requires a multidisciplinary approach that integrates education and research. Incorporating One Health concepts into the curriculum, providing practical experiences, and prioritizing research in this field can help produce practitioners who can address complex health challenges and promote the health of animals, humans, and the environment. Dr Chang further outlined the
need to consider triangle of Food Security, Management Strategy and Sustainable Ecology as part of the education and research agendas. The Program for Animal Welfare and the One Health Specialisation Program developed by the University of Taiwan are practical examples of how institutions try to find structured approaches to One Health education.

**Dr. Noursaid Tligui**, 2A2E-V Vice President, presented the recent progress made by the African Association of Veterinary Education Establishments (2A2E-V) in promoting the quality of veterinary education and research in Africa. The organization aims to achieve harmony and excellence of veterinary education and research in Veterinary Education Establishments (VEEs) in Africa to address current obstacles, including regulations for the trade of animals and animal products and a lack of harmonization of veterinary standards amongst the different member states. Dr Tlingui elaborated on other challenges including the competition for academic staff and the cost of training for veterinarians. The lack of resources to implement regulations and standards remains one of the main challenges for the Veterinary Education Establishments.

**Dr. Juan de Jesús Taylor**, FPEFMV, shared the Latin America perspective on veterinary education. He discussed the importance of veterinary medicine in the context of Latin America and emphasized the need for veterinary schools to incorporate One Health concepts into their curricula, in order to support global food production.
Dr. Stéphane Martinot, President of EAEVE, discussed the European perspective on veterinary education. He emphasized the importance of interdisciplinarity and collaboration between veterinary medicine, human medicine, and environmental science and discussed the role of veterinary schools in preparing graduates for the challenges of the 21st century. Dr Martinot elaborated on the value of having a system for setting standards of education in order to harmonise veterinary training and having a system for accreditation and evaluation of the standards, something the EAEVE with its 110 members have successfully implemented.

Dr. Andrew T. Maccabe, CEO of AAVMC, presented the North American perspective on veterinary education. He emphasized the importance of addressing the changing landscape of veterinary medicine, including emerging diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and climate change, and discussed the need for veterinary schools to prepare graduates who can address these challenges. He addressed the need for a mind shift change for training institutions to consider competency-based education and collaboration between various disciplines to produce relevantly skilled professionals. He calls on Veterinary Training Institutions to explore the role and value of artificial intelligence in the training of future veterinarians.
Mr. Yuri Victor Calvo, IVSA President, presented the student perspective on veterinary education. He emphasized the importance of practical experiences in One Health and discussed how student organizations can play a role in promoting interdisciplinarity and collaboration between veterinary medicine, human medicine and environmental science. Mr. Calvo detailed economics of the distribution of veterinarians whether within country or around the world as a function of supply and demand and how striking the balance remains a big challenge. He stressed that the generational gap between educators and the students remains an obstacle because the educators do not have an understanding of what the students value and need. The establishment of platforms where educators and students can engage is key.

Dr. Patricia Turner, WVA Immediate Past President, presented the Global VEE Quality Standards Project and discussed the actions developed and future activities of the project. The project aims to develop and implement global quality standards for veterinary education and promote the harmonization of veterinary education globally. Dr. Turner used the programme implemented by the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Achariya Sailasuta as an example of how collaboration within a region and among countries can be achieved.

Dr. Maho Urabe, WOAH Regional Veterinary Officer for Asia and the Pacific, discussed WOAH activities related to veterinary education. She discussed the role of veterinary schools in promoting One Health and discussed the importance of interdisciplinarity and collaboration between veterinary medicine, public health and environmental science.
The event concluded with a panel discussion on preparing One Health veterinary practitioners at the university level, focusing on education and research levels. The panellists discussed the importance of interdisciplinarity and collaboration between different health disciplines.

**Awards and recognitions**

During the gala dinner, which was graced by the presence of WVA Delegates, WVA Councillors, and esteemed guests such as Mr. Hou You-Yi, the Mayor of New Taipei City, the World Veterinary Association (WVA) presented a series of awards and recognitions.

**President Award attributed to Dr Isao Kurauchi**

Dr Isao Kurauchi from Japan received the WVA President Award for his outstanding contribution to the One Health approach, in particular the in the Fukuoka prefecture which now stands as example of good practice for one health.
**WVD 2022**

During the WVA Congress WVA handed the World Veterinary Day 2022 award to the Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association for their great campaigns under the theme ‘Strengthening Veterinary Resilience which included media outreach and rabies mass vaccination. The cheque was handed to Dr Mrs Adetuberu Olutoyin, President of the Association.

**Dr. Johnson Chiang recognized as WVA Honorary Member**

Dr. Chiang honourably served the WVA almost continuously between 2002 and 2022 having had multiple roles, the last of which being President and Immediate Past-President (ended in 2022). Dr. Chiang was the first WVA President from Asia and has significantly increased the profile of the WVA amongst countries in Asia. The distinction was well received by the whole community.
WVAC2022 Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony of the WVA Congress 2023, held on the 29th of April 2023, marked the official conclusion of the event. Dr. David Tan, TVMA President, along with his lovely family, and Dr. Rafael Laguens, WVA President, delivered the closing remarks. Dr. Laguens expressed his gratitude to the speakers, organizers, exhibitors, participants, sponsors, WVA leadership, and convention center staff for their contributions in making the congress an extraordinary success.

We look forward to welcoming you to the next World Veterinary Association Congress!