



Chair's Summary

Representatives of 111 countries and 29 International Organizations met in New Delhi (India) from 4-6th December 2007 in the New Delhi International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza. The Ministers of Health and Animal Husbandry from several countries spearheaded the discussions. The meeting created a unique platform for bringing together the global community for the sixth time after the Washington, Geneva, Beijing, Vienna and Bamako Conferences as 'One World, United against Avian and Pandemic Influenza'.

The aims of the Conference included: -

1. Review of the progress and impact of efforts to control avian and pandemic influenza.
2. Control and containment of Avian Influenza & Pandemic preparedness.
3. Sustained transformation through a bio-secure poultry sector and effective animal health services.
4. Acknowledgement of the concept of 'One Health' that integrates animal health, human health and environmental health.
5. Recognition of communication as a powerful tool for the empowerment of the community.
6. Development of a Road Map atleast for one year.

This International Ministerial Conference was organized and hosted by the Government of India with cooperation from the United States of America (IPAPI chair), the European Commission and the relevant International Organizations viz. WHO, FAO, OIE, World Bank, UNICEF and the UN System Influenza Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza.

The Conference was addressed by the Prime Minister of India on the second day, the 5th of December, 2007. The three Directors General of WHO, FAO and OIE also addressed the delegates. The Open House Sessions provided an opportunity for significant ministerial interventions. The Third Global Progress Report of the UN System and the World Bank on “Responses to Avian Influenza and State of Pandemic Readiness” was presented in the Conference. The Conference heard that the Report confirms considerable progress in country responses to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). The Conference also heard that more than 95% of countries have developed pandemic preparedness plans but that most national pandemic plans are not sufficiently operational. Therefore, the Report calls for greater inter-country cooperation in capacity building for coping with a potential Pandemic.

Participating countries were called upon to outline how they intend to enhance their national efforts for better animal and public health, and pandemic preparedness; improve cooperation among these sectors; enhance inter-governmental solidarity and cooperation between countries, within the region and with support from international organizations and their technical partners.

Delegates from several developing countries spoke of their successful containment of outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the last two years. Control has been achieved despite severe limitations of national resources and capacities. It has involved the full participation of community members; open communication between the public and government officers; well-functioning systems for surveillance and effective responses to outbreaks; as also prompt compensation for culled animals. Success has depended on the response being supervised from a high political level;

coordination between the health and agriculture sectors; flexible and rapid response systems with sharing of resources; partnerships at the local level and extremely hard work put in by committed professionals.

A unique feature of the Conference were the two Open House Sessions for Ministerial Interventions, which was in keeping with the political nature of the Conference. The Conference brought issues of mitigating social and economic impacts, the One Health Concept, bio-secure poultry and communication into focus.

Recommendations were made by the Chairs/co-chairs at the end of each Session which further enriched the Road Map. Chairs of conference sessions concluded that countries could:

- invest more in protecting animals from further outbreaks of HPAI and other infectious diseases through sustainable (and not ad hoc) actions, with
 - better appreciation of disease risks associated with different production patterns,
 - improved bio-security at farm and market levels (without impeding production),
 - veterinary services in line with international standards and adapted to national context (operating within a well-enforced legal framework), and
 - effective and participatory response systems
- strengthen their capacities to diagnose influenza in humans, test their capacity to enact rapid protocols for early-stage containment of influenza pandemics,
- undertake national self-assessment of pandemic preparedness and make plans to take this work forward
- use pandemic preparedness work to strengthen the implementation of the International Health Regulations and seek

ways to plan for non-pharmaceutical interventions in pandemic response

- invest in greater production of influenza vaccines
- prioritize effective communication and ensure that global messages are translated and adapted so as to have meaning to the specific communities for whom they are designed
- establish a repository of communication practice and undertake applied research to establish factors affecting effectiveness of communication approaches

A Pledging Session was also held in which the Governments of UK, Greece, Germany, France, Norway, Japan, United States of America, European Commission and India announced additional pledges for the fight against Avian Influenza. The total pledges announced were to the tune of US \$ 406.1 million.

A positive outcome of the Conference has been that the three-day deliberations paved the way for the development and presentation of a Road Map by the host country.

The Road Map is an ambitious vision of measures and actions proposed till December 2008 as an immediate short-term strategy clearly linked to long-term sustainable planning. The UN Systems Influenza Coordinator and the World Bank have very kindly consented to accept the Road Map and to carry it forward herewith. We are hopeful that the Road Map will be an effective reference tool for evaluating the work done when we all shall reassemble in Egypt in 2008. The Government of Egypt has very graciously agreed to host the next international conference.

**FROM: VINEET CHAUDHRY, JOINT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE**

TO: SHRI VEERESH SAXSENA, DY. GM, ITDC

**CHAIR'S SUMMARY IS SENT HERewith FOR PLACING ON THE WEBSITE OF
THE NEW DELHI INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON AVIAN
AND PANDEMIC INFLUENZA**