Annual Report 2010

Regional Representation
For the Middle East
1. Activities of the Regional Representations (RR) in 2010

1.1. Introduction to the Regional Representation

The OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East (RR-ME), created in 1998, is based in Kfarshima on the suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, in premises provided by the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture.

The Regional Representation covers 21 countries or territories:

- Countries belonging to the OIE Regional Commission: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, KSA, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Syria, UAE and Yemen
- Countries also participating in the OIE Regional Representation activities: Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Libya, Palestinian Autonomous Territories (as observer - non OIE Member), Somalia, Sudan and Turkey.

The primary objective of the RR-ME is the reinforcement of Veterinary Services capacities in the Middle East in order to control and manage animal diseases, notably transboundary ones.

The RR-ME has also the objectives to improve animal diseases information system, strengthen collaboration with regional and international organisations, hold conferences and seminars that will help to target specific issues related to animal and public health, promote the capacities and capabilities of regional laboratories and coordinating their activities.

The RR-ME is also involved in the harmonization of regulations to favour the safe and fair trade of animal and animal products,

In the Middle East, large ruminant livestock resources are bred, providing livelihood and employment to a high proportion of the population. Geographically, this region is characterised by extensive land border and much of the region is arid or semi-arid, which drastically limits the potential availability of natural pasture. Therefore transhumance and animal movement, both for grazing or trade, between neighbouring countries are important, notably in order to satisfy people needs during Muslim special events (Hajj and Ramadan). Such fluidity has significant consequences for the spread of animal diseases.

The major animal diseases in the region are FMD, which is still one of the main constraints affecting livestock production in this part of the world, remaining a significant drain on the budgets of the national veterinary services of each country (cost of surveillance plans and vaccination) and on the livelihoods of livestock owners across the region, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Sheep Pox and Goat Pox and in terms of public health Brucellosis (both B. abortus and melitensis), and Rabies, affecting regularly substantial humans.

According to the particularities of the Middle East in terms of animal imports, animal trade is a way of potential introduction of exotic diseases into the region. One of the main risk concern is RVF.

1.2. Human resources of the RR office

The RR-ME has actually three veterinarians, the OIE Regional Representative, a veterinarian in charge of technical consultancy, also webmaster of the RR-ME website, and a project officer, position funded by the government of France.

The administrative staff is composed by a trilingual secretary, an IT officer and 3 assistants.

The OIE Regional Representation staff during the visit of Dre Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director general and Miss Alix Weng, from the OIE Headquarter
1.3. **General financial considerations of the RR office**

The funding of the RR-ME depends on an annual voluntary contribution of the Lebanese government and on the 10% of the annual contribution to the OIE of regional Members. But, according to the fact that there are only 12 Members in the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and that most of these Members are not in the highest contribution categories, the part of regional Members contribution is not sufficient to reach the annual budget the RR-ME needs annually to implement its activities programme.

Fortunately, most of the workshops, seminars and conferences organized by the RR-ME are co-sponsored mostly by hosting countries. Some others, like trainings of Delegates and Focal Points, are covered by the World Fund.

As often as possible, joint meeting are also organized with our regional partners, such as FAO, WHO, AU-IBAR and others.

1.4. **Regional Commission Activities**

The main objective of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (RC-ME) is to tackle specific problems relevant to the veterinary services and establish cooperation at regional level to improve the quality of Veterinary Services in accordance with the OIE standards.

The RC-ME reports on their activities and submits recommendations to the World Assembly of Delegates.

To achieve this goal the RC-ME leans on the RR-ME. Through an active and efficient collaboration and thanks to different and relevant common activities, the RC-ME and the RR-ME implement several programmes in order to reinforce capacities of Veterinary Services to control and manage animal diseases, particularly those of a transboundary nature.

1.5. **Technical programme report**

The main activities of the RR-ME in 2010 were oriented towards implementing recommendations made at several workshops and conferences organized in the region, as well as the guidelines of the OIE 4th and 5th Strategic Plans. Series of workshops for training Focal Points took a good part from activities of this year.

The objectives pursued within the framework of these activities were as follows:

- To encourage Members to improve their Veterinary Services using the OIE PVS process (PVS assessment, Gap Analyses, Follow Up, Legislation);
- To promote capacity building of the Veterinary Services of Middle Eastern countries;
- To strengthen collaboration with the international and regional organisations and agencies to develop a common framework in order to initiate programmes for surveillance and control of animal diseases and zoonoses.

**Zoosanitary situation, including emerging diseases**

- **FMD** is one of the main constraints of animal production in the Middle East. To tackle this issue, the outlines for a relevant programme in support of the OIE/FAO strategy for the global control of FMD were adopted during the 5th FMD Round Table held in Beirut Lebanon in April 2009. Accordingly a detailed draft project was set up by the RR-ME and funds are required to actively implement it in the framework of the OIE-FAO Regional Animal Health Centre of Beirut.

- As this region is an important importer of animal and animal products, notably from the Horn of Africa, the introduction risk of emerging or exotic diseases, such as **RFV**, is very high. Through regular and active participation in several meetings and conferences, the RR-ME emphasized the application of OIE standards and...
certification in terms of animal trade and encouraged the establishment of pre-export quarantine facilities in exporting countries, such as Djibouti, Sudan and Somalia, in order to safeguard animal and human population in the Middle East.

- In 2010, the region was also affected by the reoccurrence of glanders, a severe zoonosis, particularly affecting equines. This disease was reported in Bahrain and Kuwait where several horses died and hampered horse movement within the region. As soon as this crisis broke out, expertise missions with the support of expert of both OIE Reference Laboratories from UAE and Germany and of the OIE Headquarter (Dr Ben Jebara) were conducted by the RR-ME in order to assist Members implementing relevant control measures. Surveillance programmes were set up in Bahrain, Kuwait, Syria and samples were sent to both OIE Reference Laboratories.

**Good Governance of the Veterinary Services**

The RR-ME enhanced Members to adopt the PVS Pathway and at the end of August 2010, 19 Members (about 90 %) requested the PVS evaluation and missions were completed in 18 of them. Regarding Gap Analysis, 7 countries requested the OIE such a process, 4 missions were completed and 6 other countries requested OIE assistance on legislation and 2 missions were completed.

This situation proves the good confidence of regional Members in this OIE programme.

The RR-ME assists Experts’ Teams in the preparation of the missions, facilitating relationships between experts and competent authority of the concerned country and as often as possible the OIE Regional Representative participates in such mission as facilitator.

As certified OIE experts, both Dr Yehia and Primot participated in PVS or GA missions. Indeed the RR-ME is able to provide technical assistance to regional Members to develop national strategy to improve the quality of their Veterinary Services in compliance with OIE standards and to encourage them to request follow up PVS missions.

**Arabic translation**

To facilitate the understanding of OIE standards and recommendations by animal health professionals from Middle East regional Members, Arabic translation is an important tool used by the RR-ME. Most of OIE reference documents (OIE Codes, PVS Tool...) and documents of the RR-ME are translated in Arabic language and all published on the RR-ME website.

The website, both in English and Arabic, provides relevant technical and scientific information highlighting topics of importance for the region (diseases cards, summaries of diseases situation in the region, bibliography related to the region, reports and power point presentation of all conferences organized by the RR, model of sanitary certificates for the trade of animals and animal products in the region).

**Capacity Building**

In addition to the regular programme of capacity building in animal health surveillance and control, the RR-ME focused its action in OIE Focal Points capacity building and continued its program of training. 3 trainings were scheduled in 2010:

- Training of OIE focal points for Animal Production Food Safety, in Kuwait, 2 - 4 February;
- Training of OIE focal points for wildlife disease, organized jointly with the OIE RR for Africa, in Tanzania, 16 - 19 March;
- Training of OIE focal points for Aquatic Animal Disease, in UAE, 27 - 29 September;

*Participants during the training of Focal Points on Animal Production Food Safety in Kuwait*
Furthermore, in collaboration with the OIE Communication Unit a seminar on communication for VS was organized in Muscat, Oman, 20 - 22 April.

The objectives of this seminar were to identify constraints, information gaps, and best practices related to animal health and prevention/control of animal diseases in the region in order to set up relevant communication strategies. 15 countries of the Middle East (Bahrain, Cyprus, Djibouti, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, KSA, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Syria, Turkey, UAE and Yemen) were represented. 44 participants, including OIE Delegates and their communication officers, representatives of regional organisations and relevant representatives from the private sector of the region, as well as from the media, attended the meeting. Video conference slots with the OIE Headquarters in Paris where set up to benefit from the inputs of the OIE Director General and the Head of the OIE Communication Unit.

Active discussions between all participants lead to relevant conclusions and to the adoption of 12 appropriate recommendations.

Since 2006, the RR-ME reinforces also its collaboration with FAO through OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) under the umbrella of the GF-TADs regional steering committee in order to reinforce the capacity and capabilities of countries in the region.

Such kind of collaboration has also been strengthened with other organisations, such as WHO/MZCC.

- **GF-TADs**

The FAO - OIE GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee (RSC) was created in April 2006 in Beirut with the main objective to adapt policies and programs to the region needs with regard to epidemiology and prevalence of priority diseases.

Since 2006, annual meeting are organized with the objective to follow up the activities implemented under this framework and to develop consensus for future actions notably through the OIE - FAO Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC), created in 2007.

The purpose of the RAHC is to improve animal health in the Middle East by implementing programmes to control TADs using a concerted approach with the two partner organizations, the OIE and the FAO, pooling their resources and competencies.

Unfortunately, due to lack of funding none of the activities of the RAHC working plan, adopted during the 4th Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs, held in Beirut, Lebanon in May 2009, could be implemented.

The 5th Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs proposed to be held in Cairo, Egypt in June 2010 has been postponed to March 2011.

- **Assistance to members**

On the request of importing countries of the Middle East, the RR-ME has provided specific assistance to Somalia and Djibouti on their project to implement pre-export quarantine facilities to secure the trade of live animals (cattle, small ruminants, camels), complying with importing country requirements and OIE international standards.

Several expertise and follow-up missions were conducted by OIE expert, in such matters and the quarantine stations are now recognised by regional importing countries.
• **Interventions to members for OIE contributions**

All the Members contributions have been funded in 2010. Countries from GCC were asked to raise their contributions and to support funds to the regional office.

• **Interventions to members for improving transparency on disease notification**

The RR-ME actively insists on the notification requirements of OIE Members and contacts OIE Delegates when rumours of important new outbreaks or epidemiological events are not followed by official notifications to OIE within a reasonable lapse of time. The issue of notification is also part of any country visit conducted (or to be conducted).

The RR-ME provides also assistance to requesting countries on the use of WAHIS.

As of 31 August 2010, 6 Members addressed to the OIE immediate notification report or follow up, on Glanders (Bahrain), Rift Valley Fever (KSA), Blue Tongue (Qatar and the PAT), FMD (Egypt), Equine Rhinopneumonitis (UAE), Rabies (PAT) and Scrapie (PAT).

• **Contacts with Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres**

In the framework of the on-going OIE Twinning Projects worldwide, 4 projects are being implemented in 3 countries of the region, namely Egypt on Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease, Qatar on Avian Influenza and Turkey on Brucellosis and Rabies.

The RR-ME actively supports the application of Egypt (RVF), Kuwait (PPR), Lebanon (BT in a joint project with Tunisia), UAE (Brucellosis and CCPP) and Oman (Rabies).

• **Issues of growing importance in the Region**

The situation of Glanders in the region needs to be well understood and cooperation programme to be improved with regional Health Authorities.

FMD still also an important issue in the region with regular epizootics events such as the ones the Middle East experienced in 2009. Thus the implementation of a harmonized and coordinated program to control the disease shall be a priority, position regularly wished by regional countries.

The reoccurrence of RVF in KSA last august showed that the Middle East region has the relevant ecological conditions for a lasting establishment of this zoonotic disease.

Furthermore, the situation of PPR and Blue Tongue in the Middle East and the impact of brucellosis on the human health in the region are regularly underestimated but represent a growing issue in the region.

Also the persistence of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Egypt, with human cases, shall be considered by all regional countries as a potential source of introduction and therefore high vigilance needs to be maintained in the entire region.
1.6. Activities carried out by the Regional Representation in 2010

- Events organized by the Regional Representation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity building</strong></td>
<td><strong>Outcomes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training of OIE Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety Workshop on BSE (with the support of the EU) 2 – 4 February Kuwait City, Kuwait</td>
<td>Considering the lack of competencies of Veterinary Services in terms of food safety and the fact that a large part of the food supply consists of imports, this workshop was a first step to enhance the knowledge of Focal Points on APFS, on OIE standards and on their role, according to their relevant Terms of Reference. A proposal was made to build a network of regional OIE Focal Points on APFS. This would be a good start to improve collaboration and exchange of information between all regional countries, playing a large part in improving knowledge of and respect for standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training of OIE Focal Points on Wildlife (jointly organized with the OIE RR for Africa) 16 – 19 March Arusha, Tanzania</td>
<td>This seminar proposed particular clarifications and explanations on the role of the OIE Focal Points for wildlife, particularly in the collection of information on wildlife diseases and the support of National Delegates in their relation and obligation to the OIE. Networking in terms of disease surveillance and control and conservation management was also stressed in order to improve collaboration and exchange of information between all regional countries. The improvement of knowledge on wildlife diseases or infections and particularly their implication at the livestock – human interface was particularly underlined during the seminar. The needs of reliable diagnostic tests and diagnostic capacities at national and/or regional level were also highlighted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE Regional Seminar on Communication for Veterinary Services 20 – 22 April Muscat, Oman</td>
<td>All the participants recognised the absolute necessity to strengthen capacity building of Veterinary Services in communication as an additional tool in the control of all the sanitary challenges they are facing. It was agreed that a relevant and coherent communication strategy is an essential tool to raise visibility on the work of VS and that it can also contribute efficiently to the achievement of their tasks. It was underlined that collaboration between national media and the national VS must be developed, especially during &quot;peace time&quot; in order to provide correct messages in crisis period. This was also mentioned to fill the lack of communication in some countries between the VS and the private sector, such as private producers. OIE communication messages and press releases were recognized by all participants as the most relevant source of information because based on the OIE scientific expertise. Most of the country representatives highlighted the lack of competencies of VS in this domain and the need to have education and training on this matter. Resorting to well trained and specialized staff in the VS was perceived as the best solution but difficult to implement in most of countries due to lack of resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training of new OIE delegates 23 May Paris, France</td>
<td>The objective of the training was to inform and sensitize new OIE Delegates on their role and obligations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The main purpose of this workshop was to increase understanding of the OIE’s roles and mandates and the relationships between veterinary, fisheries and aquaculture officials (as several OIE Focal Points are based in other Competent Authorities such as in Fisheries Departments, in Research Centres or Universities).

Accordingly, this workshop was a first step to enhance the knowledge of Focal Points for Aquatic Animals on the OIE standards and on their role, according to their Terms of Reference.

Participants supported the idea to build a network of regional OIE Focal Points for Aquatic Animals. This would provide a good start in improving collaboration and the exchange of information between all regional countries, playing a large part in improving knowledge with respect to standards. such a network at the regional level in order to discuss particular issues they are facing.

The main purpose of this workshop was to increase the understanding of the OIE’s roles and mandates and to support the activities of the OIE Focal Points on Animal Welfare by giving them guidance to follow and implement their Terms of References.

The proposal to build a network of regional OIE Focal Points on Animal Welfare would provide a good start in improving collaboration and exchange of information between all regional countries, playing a large part in improving knowledge with respect to standards. Participants expressed also their wishes to benefit from regular follow-up workshops on this topic.

The main areas of improvement, as underlined by the results of the preliminary questionnaire and by discussion occurred during this training, are the transport and slaughter of animals and the control of stray dog population. Both could be a good start for the establishment of a regional animal welfare strategy because every country is facing such a situation and both are of regional concern. To this end a proposal will be made to the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East in order to propose a regional strategy through the establishment of a dedicated working group.

### Capacity building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 – 6 May</td>
<td>Laboratory Biorisk Management Awareness Training and Infectious-Substances Shipping Training, organized by the WHO with the support of the EU.</td>
<td>Muscat, Oman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Certification of OIE Experts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 – 18 June</td>
<td>PVS Gap Analysis Feed Back Session</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 – 22 October</td>
<td>PVS Gap Analysis Training</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 11 December</td>
<td>OIE Legislation Training</td>
<td>Djerba, Tunisia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Coordination of regional position regarding OIE standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 – 28 March</td>
<td>FEI Group VII</td>
<td>Dubai, UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 – 15 May</td>
<td>Coordination meeting for RVF (AU-IBAR – COMESA – APHIS)</td>
<td>Entebbe, Uganda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2 – 4 August

Dubai, UAE

Representation of OIE in other events not previously mentioned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 – 17 February</td>
<td>Trilateral Conference for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease in Pakistan and Afghanistan, organized by USDA</td>
<td>Islamabad, Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 – 3 March</td>
<td>Middle East Network for Animal Welfare (MENAW) conference</td>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 – 20 May</td>
<td>Biosecurity workshop – Sogéval</td>
<td>Marbella, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 – 20 May</td>
<td>BBIC Steering Committee</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi, UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 – 17 December</td>
<td>BBIC Steering Committee</td>
<td>Beirut, Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 December</td>
<td>Consultative regional meeting on movement of horses</td>
<td>Damascus, Syria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Meetings

Visits to country authorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-8 February</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>In the framework of Dr Bernard Vallat visit. Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture. Intensive presentation of IVO activities and work. Discussion on OIE programme and on the feasibility of a training course programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 February</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>In the framework of Dr Vallat visit to the Minister of Agriculture. Maintain close collaboration between OIE and the Lebanon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 – 8 April</td>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>In the framework of Dr Vallat visit to the Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture. Appreciation of trade of live animals and OIE assistance to secure such a trade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 – 17 June</td>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>OIE expertise mission on glanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 – 24 July</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>OIE expertise mission to Berbera and Bossasso quarantines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 – 07 October</td>
<td>Syria, Bahrain, Kuwait, UAE</td>
<td>OIE expertise mission on glanders (follow up)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Relevant OIE meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 – 28 May</td>
<td>OIE General Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 – 23 June</td>
<td>Second Global Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 – 29 October</td>
<td>OIE RR and sRR annual meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 – 9 December</td>
<td>OIE Global Conference on Legislation, Tunisia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.7. Expectations

Despite the creation in 2007 of the OIE-FAO RAHC and the drawing of several programmes for improving the control of transboundary animal diseases in the region, adopted during the 4th Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs, in 2009, the funding of these programmes is still lacking. Expectations from Members are very high and they are particularly favourable improving this collaboration between the two organisations. But, the current situation could favour the future discredit of the OIE-FAO RAHC. We need to improve and find funding.

The Middle East suffers from a lack of expertise in the diagnostic of animal diseases and zoonoses. To resolve this situation the improvement of laboratories in the region is crucial. The OIE programme of laboratory twinning is a real chance for Members to progress in this domain by providing assistance and expertise needed to reach the level of an OIE Reference Laboratory. Therefore it could be possible to build a real network of regional reference laboratories, covering major diseases in the region.
2. Programmed Activities of the Regional Representation for 2011

2.1. Regional Commission Activities

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East will pursue its activities in collaboration with the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East notably to follow the recommendations adopted during its 10th Conference, held in Doha, Qatar in October 2009, respectively on improvement of capabilities of veterinary laboratory in the region, on the development of coordinate actions for the control of Brucellosis in the region and on the transport and movement of horse.

During the OIE Regional training for Focal Points on Animal Welfare a proposal was made to establish a regional strategy particularly on the transport and slaughter of animals and on the control of stray dog populations. To this end a formal proposal to constitute a working group to establish the base of this strategy will be made during the next meeting of the Regional Commission, the 23rd of May in Paris, France.

As adopted during the 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, the State of Kuwait will host the 11th one in October 2011.

2.2. Technical Programme

- **Good Governance of the Veterinary Services**

  In the two next years, the RR-ME will concentrate its efforts to improve the capacities of veterinary services using the PVS results to assist Members implementing adapted strategy for their specific needs.

  The RR-ME will encourage and motivate last regional Members, whom have not been already assessed, to request for a PVS evaluation. The RR-ME will also promote countries, already assessed, to continue the PVS process and to request Gap Analysis and Follow Up missions.

  To favour the well understanding and appropriation of the PVS process, the RR-ME will start a programme of PVS training for Members staff on PVS self-evaluations.

  Assistance of each Team for the preparation and realization of in-country missions will still a high priority of the RR-ME.

- **Capacity Building**

  Specific focus will be made on the training of Delegate and their national focal points in order to facilitate the work of each Delegate and strengthen technical communication between Members and the OIE.

  The RR-ME will organize in Beirut, Lebanon a training of OIE Focal Point for disease notification, 22 – 24 January 2011 and in Dubai, UAE a training of OIE Focal Points for veterinary drugs.

  Jointly with the OIE Regional Representation for Africa a training of OIE Focal Points on Animal Production Food Safety will be organized in Tunis, Tunisia, 4 – 8 April 2011 and a workshop for new OIE Delegates in Nairobi, Kenya, 6 – 10 June.

  A workshop on OIE Standards on trade and risk analysis is planned in order to improve the capacity of Members to take right decision according to OIE standards.

  The RR-ME will also continue to translate as often as possible all documents of importance in Arabic language to promote the access to such information and will upload them on its website, where more and more document of regional interest are published.

- **GF-TADs**

  Cooperation and collaboration with FAO through the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) need to be strengthened to implement adapted and concerted regional strategies to control animal disease in the region.
However, to be able to reach the objectives adopted by the Regional Steering Committee the reinforcement of means and resources of the OIE – FAO RAHC is essential.

The 5th Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs will be organized in 2011 in Cairo, Egypt as well as the 6th FMD Round Table.

According to the availability of funds, training sessions on FMD diagnostic in laboratory and FMD field surveillance are scheduled in 2011 respectively in KSA and Turkey. This will launch the FMD regional control programme established in 2009 in Beirut.

- **Assistance to members**
  
The RR-ME will provide specific assistance to regional Members according to their needs and requests.

- **Interventions to members for OIE contributions**
  
The RR-ME will continue to sensitize regional Members on their obligation regarding financial contribution to the OIE.

- **Interventions to members for improving transparency on disease notification**
  
Efforts will be also made in assisting countries to comply with their obligation to transmit clear and frequent sanitary information, using WAHIS system, notably through training courses.

  The RR-ME will also continue to help the OIE Information Department in his programme of tracking information.

- **Contacts with Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres**
  
In the framework of the recommendations of the 10th Conference of the RC-ME, specific efforts will be made on the improvement of veterinary laboratory in the region. The RR-ME will actively follow the application of KSA, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman and UAE for an OIE Twinning programme and will strongly support Egypt for application for a new twinning programme on RVF.

  Collaboration with OIE Reference Laboratories on FMD is also an important part of the project, the RR-ME wish to implement in the framework of the RAHC. The development of an efficient laboratory network is a key component of regional strategies in order to well control transboundary animal diseases. In this area the OIE Regional Representation will also collaborate with the RAZI Vaccines and Research Institute of Teheran (Iran) and with the Islamic Development Bank.

- **Interventions on issues of growing importance in the Region**
  
According to the current spread of PPR in different part of the world, the RR-ME will conduct in the framework of the RAHC the assessment of PPR impact in the Middle East by developing collaboration programmes with other RAHC, notably the RAHC of North Africa - Tunis.

  In accordance with recommendations of the 4th RSC of the GF-TADs and of the 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, the RR-ME will develop coordinated and harmonized actions on the control of brucellosis; considering also its endemic situation in the Middle East.
2.3. Activities planned by the Regional Representation for 2011

- Events to be organized by the RR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 – 24 January</td>
<td>Training of OIE Focal Points for disease notification</td>
<td>Beirut, Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 – 08 April</td>
<td>Training of OIE Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety</td>
<td>Tunis, Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 – 10 June</td>
<td>Training of OIE New Delegates</td>
<td>Nairobi – Monbassa, Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 – 08 December</td>
<td>Training of OIE Focal Points for Veterinary Products</td>
<td>Dubai, UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be decided</td>
<td>Workshop on Laboratories capabilities</td>
<td>KSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Workshop on equine diseases and transport</td>
<td>Bahrain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Workshop on OIE standards on trade</td>
<td>Djibouti/Benin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Coordination meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To be decided</td>
<td>5th RSC of the GF-TADs and 6th FMD Round Table</td>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Coordination of regional position regarding OIE standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>RVF Meeting (AU-IBAR)</td>
<td>Oman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Regional Events to be attended by the RR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>BBIC Conference</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 – 27 May</td>
<td>OIE General Session – Paris, France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 May</td>
<td>Meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, Paris, France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 – 7 October</td>
<td>11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East - Kuwait</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Others

To strengthen our assistance to regional Members we will initiate and facilitate networking of regional VS particularly for each OIE national focal points. To this end, we will develop and improve the website of the RR-ME.

To improve actions of the Regional Representation we foresee to create in the same premises of our facility a well-equipped conference room for training and meeting activities. The Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture agreed to give the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East more space for that purpose.

This room could be also dedicated to the activity of the RAHC.

The RR-ME encourages also its Members to send on a voluntary basis trainees to its office in Beirut to train them on the different issues related to OIE objectives and activities.
Participants during the OIE regional training of Focal Points on Aquatic Animals, Dubai, UAE, 27 – 29 September

Participants during the OIE regional training of Focal Points on Animal Welfare, Beirut, Lebanon, 23 – 25 November

Participants during the OIE regional training of Focal Points on Wildlife, Arusha, Tanzania, 15 6 19 March