

Statement by H.E. Toshiko Abe, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for
Foreign Affairs, at the 7th FAO¹/OIE² Regional Steering Committee
Meeting of GF-TADs³ for Asia and the Pacific (July 18, 2013)

Dr. Juan Lubroth;
Dr. Mara Gonzales;
Dr. Zhang Zhangqiu;
Dr. Kugita;
Dr. Kawashima;
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to speak today at this conference on behalf of the
Japanese government.

First of all, I would like to pay tribute to the OIE and the FAO for
implementing effective measures to control animal diseases by
mobilizing the work of member states and international
organizations.

In April, I visited Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary

¹ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

² OIE: World Organization for Animal Health

³ GF-TADs: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Trans-boundary
Animal Diseases

Medicine and its National Research Center for Protozoan Diseases. It is the first OIE Collaborating Centre in Asia and a Reference Laboratory of the OIE. Also, the Center and India's National Research Centre on Equines, coupled as "twinning" laboratories, are collaborating in developing human resources and sharing scientific knowledge.

I am very pleased with such cooperative efforts by research institutes in Japan, and I am determined afresh that Japan should help empower communities in developing countries to enhance resilience to animal diseases and ensure human security. In this regard, we have been collaborating with educational and research institutes in Japan, and implementing training courses and other technical cooperation projects including those by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, or JICA.

The eradication of the rinderpest infection was officially declared in 2011, as a result of many years of efforts by veterinarians. Technological advances such as the development of rinderpest vaccine, pioneered by Dr. Chiharu Kakizaki, a system of quarantine and disease prevention, as well as the individual identification of livestock, played an important role.

Equally important is the enhancement of knowledge and skills in feeding and managing outbreaks of infectious diseases at the community level. We should aim at sustainable development, rather

than a short-term solution to infectious diseases.

In closing, while globalization enriches human life, it also increases the risk of worldwide spread of infections. Environmental changes in rural and urban areas cause SARS and other emerging infections. The movement of people or agricultural and livestock products at the global level spreads avian influenza. I believe, however, that global cooperation is a key to preventing pandemics and safeguarding human and animal life.

The Japanese government will contribute to fostering global cooperation for controlling trans-boundary infectious diseases.

Thank you for your attention.