The OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme: Concept to functioning program

Regional Seminar on the OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme: Concepts and Perspectives
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Background

• On the current 178 Members Countries of the OIE, more or less 70% are developing or in-transition countries;

• In 2002, the World Assembly of Delegates adopted a Resolution for the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to enter into partnership with laboratories of developing and in-transition countries;

• The concept of Twinning between laboratories or Collaborating Centres was born to address this Resolution
World distribution of the OIE-Reference Laboratories

236 Reference Laboratories with 176 experts covering 112 diseases/topics in 37 countries
World distribution of the OIE-Collaborating Centres

41 Collaborating Centres covering 38 topics in 22 countries
The Twinning Concept

Sustainable enhancement of capacity and expertise by supporting a link between an OIE RL or CC (parent) and a national laboratory (candidate)
Aims and objectives - networking

• Provide better global geographical coverage of OIE expertise for priority diseases in priority areas
• To form long and lasting links between the institutes
• Strengthen global disease surveillance networks
• Strengthen national, regional, and international scientific networks
• Create collaborative research opportunities - improve sharing, and advance science
Aims and objectives - expertise

• Improve compliance with OIE standards (surveillance and control)
• Improve access to high quality diagnostics and technical assistance for more OIE Members
• For some Candidates to apply for ‘OIE reference’ status
• Help more countries enter scientific debate on an equal footing with others
The twinning project is just the start...

- Engaging with the international scientific community
- Engaging with regional and global networks
- Supporting neighbour countries
- Pursuing opportunities for joint research
- Applying for OIE Reference Laboratory status when ready
Twinning programme timelines

- Concept launched at 1st OIE RL/CC Conference in Florianopolis in Dec ‘06
- OIE Resolution adopted in May ‘07
- Twinning manual published in Dec ‘07
- Inaugural project starts in Feb ’08
- First project completed Sept ‘09
**Prerequisites**

- Parent must be an OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre
- Candidate must have potential to provide support
- Project needs full support of Veterinary Services
- OIE Delegates are directly involved in the project
Projects

Twinning can accommodate multiple diseases or topics:

- Specific diseases

- Multiple diseases (CSF/rabies; AI/ND; PPR/FMD/SGP)

- Topics: epidemiology, veterinary medicinal products, molecular diagnostics, food safety
CURRENT STATUS
2012

• Situation in September 2012
  - 6 projects completed
  - 33 projects underway
  - 5 projects approved and waiting to start

• 42 countries involved
OIE Laboratory Twinning
Parent and Candidate laboratories
Regional status – Candidate labs

- Completed/underway/about to start projects by OIE region of candidate laboratories
  - Africa (17)
  - Americas (8)
  - Asia (11)
  - Europe (6)
  - Middle East (2)
Disease break up

• AI/ND (10/44)
• Brucellosis (6/44)
• Rabies (3/44)
• CBPP; CSF; Food safety; EI (2/44)
• AHS, ASF, African Trypanosomiasis, BT, FMD, PPR, IBD…… (1/44)

• Aquatic disease: Infectious salmon anaemia (1/44)
A Guide to OIE Certified Reference Centre Twinning Projects
Updates to Twinning guide

- Possibility of involving more than one Parent or Candidate in a twinning project
- Where possible, develop synergies between twinning and other capacity building projects
- A limit on the number of twinning projects per laboratory (a maximum of two)
- Assistance with finding complementary funds from other donors
- Possibility of resource rich countries to fund their own OIE twinning project
Candidate institutes join the OIE laboratory network

At the 80th OIE General Session (May 2012) in Paris, three Twinning Candidates were designated as OIE Reference Laboratories. The latest additions to the OIE Reference Laboratory network, Changchun Veterinary Research Institute (P. R. China), the National Centre for Animal and Plant Health (Cuba), and the National Veterinary Laboratory (Botswana) will be recognised for their expertise in rabies, avian mycoplasmosis, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) respectively. Marking a milestone in the Twinning programme, these are the first Twinning Candidates to be granted OIE Reference Laboratory status.

Additional funds urgently needed

OIE Twinning is a popular option for institutes aspiring to provide technical support to other countries. As of today OIE Twinning projects are delivering expertise and technical capacity to more than 40 institutes across the Americas, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe. With at least as many applications in the pipeline, the popularity of OIE Laboratory Twinning is outstripping the resources available to fund new projects.

In short, Twinning has become a victim of its own success and funds are urgently needed to ensure that the programme continues to deliver much-needed sustainable benefits worldwide.

One of the strengths of OIE Twinning is that no one dictates to countries or regions what their needs are. OIE listens to national Veterinary Services about their needs, providing guidance and objective assessment.
Conclusions

• Twinning concept is functioning well
• Countries in all 5 OIE regions are benefiting
• Most beneficiary CL are in regions with the lowest density of OIE RL
• OIE twinning is addressing the current bias in the geographical distribution of OIE RL
• Greatest contribution to twinning is being made by OIE RL in European region
Conclusions

• AI/ND are the most popular topics for OIE twinning; but this trend is changing now as other priority diseases are addressed
• Countries in all 5 OIE regions are benefiting
• There are currently no OIE twinning projects underway for priority diseases such as Rift Valley fever
• Aquatic animal diseases are under represented in OIE twinning
Thank you for your attention