

**OIE Region of the Americas
Ad hoc Group on Risk Analysis
2nd Working Session. February 28 - March 1, 2000
Fort Collins, Colorado**

Objectives

The objectives of the second meeting of the Ad hoc Group on Risk Analysis were:

- (1) Improve “release” and “exposure” guidelines of the OIE in terms of
 - Steps
 - Tools
 - Methods
 - Best practice examples
- (2) Develop further the concept of the manual and training materials
- (3) Develop next steps for the Ad hoc group, including the meeting in Cartagena.

Meeting Activities

Participants at the meeting were: Eduardo Serrano (OIRSA), Eduardo Greco and Matias Fernandez (Argentina), Jose Naranjo (Chile), Alejandro Lopez Inzaurrealde (Panafiosa), Randy Morley (Canada), Assad Heneidi (Mexico), and Ken Forsythe and Cristobal Zepeda (USA). Stuart MacDiamid (New Zealand) attended as a special resource person. Rob Werge assisted with the facilitation.

Prior to the formal meeting, many of the participants attended a four day training seminar at the Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH), the OIE Collaborating Center for Animal Disease Surveillance Systems and Risk Analysis, in Fort Collins. The training seminar focused on risk analysis for decision making and quantitative techniques used in risk analysis.

The meeting focused on release and exposure assessments outlining the methods used and listing examples of "best practices" for each topic. The results of that discussion will be incorporated into the development of a Web based

manual, the key product of the Ad hoc Group. An outline of those results is contained in appendix A.

Next Steps

The Ad hoc Group must produce some tangible results if it is to make a contribution. The Ad hoc Group is in a position to move ahead with greater rapidity than other committees in the OIE. And there appears to be no conflict between the Ad hoc Group's agenda, that is, to harmonize approaches to risk analysis in the Americas, and that of other committees.

In order to do that, it formed three subgroups to develop specific outputs.

1) Development of the Web Site: Ken Forsythe, Matias Fernandez, and Cristobal Zepeda.

The nature of the Web Site was discussed at the first meeting of the Ad hoc Group, but it has not yet materialized. The Web Site actually forms the basis of the "manual" which the Ad hoc Group is committed to produce. It is critical that this key outcome be implemented soon or credibility for the work done to date will be lost. The Site should be up and running by the end of June.

2) Macro review of Risk Analyses: Matias Fernandez, Eduardo Greco, Ken Forsythe, Jose Naranjo. The purpose of this subgroup is to do a major review of analyses which have already been done. It would be possible to determine patterns and frequency of their development, types and frequency of methods used and transcending principles. This collection will, in itself, be valuable and serve as a sources which can be posted on the Web site. The materials pulled together for this meeting would be a good starting point.

3) Training: Alejandro Lopez Inzaurrealde, Cristobal Zepeda, Assad Heneidi, and Eduardo Serrano. The purpose would be to develop a basic package of materials and to use members of the Ad hoc Group to deliver it. It may be possible to deliver this using an existing venue. OIRSA is having an epidemiologic training course in October. This may be a way of launching the activity.

A tentative framework for this group is to have a rough curriculum outline for April, to discuss and review in May and have a module or a set of modules for

August. This could be posted on the Web site, but it would be implemented in an actual situation in the fall.

In addition to the above subgroups, Cristobal Zepeda will attend the meeting of the Region in Cartagena. He will present an update on the Ad hoc Group to the representatives and to Dr. Gimeno. Steve Weber will formally transmit the report of this group to Dr. Gimeno.

A tentative third meeting of the Ad hoc Group was scheduled for early November in Argentina. This meeting would, however, be contingent upon the ability of the subgroups to develop outcomes and products which could be reviewed and discussed.