

PROGRAM ACTIVITY REPORT (PAR)



Wildlife Disease Symposium

Since 2008, the NWDP and the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences have jointly sponsored an annual Regional Asia-Pacific Meeting on Wildlife-Borne Diseases. Initially, the primary objective was to share information on H5N1 disease surveillance, but the focus has evolved to include a broad spectrum of wildlife diseases that may impact agriculture or human health. Approximately 20 countries have participated in these meetings.

This year a Wildlife Disease Symposium was incorporated into a larger conference, “The International Union of Biological Sciences General Assembly Conference on Biological Sciences and Bioindustry” held in Suzhou, China. The Wildlife Disease Symposium featured several talks on avian influenza projects, but also covered other vector-borne and bacterial diseases, along with emerging diagnostic tests being developed in China. A NWDP representative provided opening and closing comments for the Symposium. Representatives from China and Mongolia presented overviews of avian influenza

work conducted in collaboration with the NWDP. The NWDP introduced feral swine issues and gave a summary of feral swine disease surveillance projects in the United States.



The NWDP also presented information from a paper previously published in conjunction with the Chinese Academy of Science comparing plague (*Yersinia pestis*) ecology and surveillance in China and the United States. Additionally, a NWDP collaborator from Colorado State University provided insights on vector-borne viruses, including West Nile virus, Japanese encephalitis, and Chikungunya.

While in China, the NWDP met with several other delegations from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Hangzhou Center for Disease Control

and Prevention. Hangzhou Center for Disease Control and Prevention hosted a seminar on wildlife disease issues and their potential impact to humans. The NWDP presented information on the role wildlife

may serve in spreading or maintaining some pathogens and approaches for conducting wildlife disease surveillance. While in the region, NWDP and Colorado State University collaborators reviewed cooperative projects in Indonesia and Cambodia. Graduate students from Bogor University presented

findings of surveillance activities for avian influenza in live-bird markets. The students have collected 862 samples from live-bird markets, some of which were matrix positive by RT-PCR. Discussions in Cambodia focused on a current project collecting blood samples from bats, as well as on potential to collaborate on a project to assess possible Chikungunya virus reservoirs.

For more information, please contact Sarah Bevins.

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The original artwork on this page was created by the National Wildlife Disease Program's Erika Kampe and Sarah Goff