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## Global Animal Health Conference delivers recommendations



The third global animal health conference on '[Developing global animal health products to support food security and sustainability](#)' hosted by IFAH in partnership with the Drug Information Association-US (DIA-US) was held in Arlington, USA on 17-18 October 2013. Taking place the day after World Food Day the event served as a platform for the animal health industry and other international delegates to discuss methods of maximising the development and use of animal health products to support food security and sustainability around the globe.

Presentations from academia, industry, non-profit and international organisations as well as government officials reflected the global challenges of animal health product development and allowed participants to share opportunities for global regulatory convergence to ensure access to safe and effective medicines. IFAH took the opportunity to stress the importance of a harmonised science-based regulatory environment and emphasise the need for research into developing new technologies to meet the challenges of increasing demand for animal protein brought on by a growing population.

Stakeholders agreed on several recommendations:

- Need for advocacy of role of animal health products in promoting food security
- Need for global regulatory convergence based on science-led standards
- Need for increased transparency to build consumer confidence in animal health products including use of biotechnology
- Continue measures to promote innovation for new tools to meet the increasing demand for animal protein
- Need to promote standards in the interests of availability using both push and pull measures
- Develop infrastructure such as laboratories to support the monitoring of product quality at both regional and continental level

Read the [IFAH press release on the Global Animal Health Conference](#).

For a [summary report of the conference as well as the full list of recommendations please visit the IFAH website](#).

## IFAH publishes white paper on emerging and re-emerging diseases



IFAH presented the white paper on 'Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases -Overcoming Barriers to Disease Control' to key international stakeholders and discussed the findings during a roundtable event at the London Royal Society on 5 November 2013. The paper was commissioned by IFAH to serve as a launch point for wider collaborative discussions with international bodies on what future efforts would be required to overcome barriers that limit our ability to control emerging and re-emerging animal diseases.

The paper identifies steps that governments, regulators and industry representatives can take to reduce obstacles:

- Empower veterinary services, strengthen governance, improve local knowledge and

infrastructure especially in developing countries as a vital step to ensuring effective response to disease outbreaks.

- Develop uniform standards, harmonised regulations and streamlined market authorisation processes that are crucial to ensuring response preparedness and availability of veterinary medicines in a timely and effective way.
- Foster closer cooperation between governments, regulators and industry to ensure the development of new and innovative products, acceptance of modern technology and to address barriers to animal movement and international trade of animal products. More public public-private partnerships and regional vaccine banks should be promoted.
- Increase interaction and communication between the animal and human health sectors.

Download the full [IFAH White Paper](#)

View the [infographic on barriers to disease control](#)

Read the press release: '[IFAH calls for joint efforts to overcome barriers to control emerging and re-emerging diseases](#)'

## IFAH at IGSP Conference



An IFAH delegation participated in the Institute for Science in Global Policy (ISGP) conference entitled 'Food Safety, Security, and Defence: Focus on Food and Water', which was held in Lincoln, Nebraska (USA) on 20-23 October 2013. Food safety, security, and defence has been identified by participating governments, international organisations, and the private sector as major policy priorities, and so will be the topic of a new series of invitation-only conferences organised by the ISGP.

With one of the most urgent challenges for the 21st century being to achieve and sustain global food security without compromising the use of water, this second conference in the series considered the intersection of water resources and food security in relation to crop and livestock production. Focusing on proposed regulations on water quality and food production, the objective was to develop clear, actionable and consensus actions that governments and other agencies can use to create and implement as policy. Participants discussed the need to develop specific water quality standards for agriculture rather than imposing drinking water quality standards.

For more information visit the [FSSD: Focus on Food and Water IGSP website](#).

## VICH announces public conference in October 2015

IFAH organised the 29th VICH Steering Committee meeting and supported the OIE in organising the 3rd Outreach Forum held in Auckland, New Zealand on 11-14 November 2013. VICH was delighted to welcome South Africa as an observer at the Steering Committee meeting.

Following the meeting the Steering Committee announced that the 5th VICH Public Conference will be organised in Tokyo, Japan on 28-29 October 2015. This public conference will focus on current activities of the Expert Working Groups as well as on the VICH global outreach initiative.

The VICH Outreach Forum is an important platform to engage with non-VICH countries. It provides opportunities to educate, raise awareness and broaden harmonisation understanding and efforts across countries in all continents including the so-called BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China).

For more information on VICH visit the website.

## Season's Greetings from IFAH



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