



Communiqué:
2018 Quarantine Regulators Meeting
Bali, Indonesia: 9-11 May 2018

The 2018 Quarantine Regulators Meeting (QRM) was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 9 to 11 May 2018. Following discussions at the 2017 QRM in Lao PDR, it was decided that the theme of the 2018 meeting would be developed to encompass a three year forward plan, with a focus on achieving tangible outcomes as well as continuing to build on the success of the collaborative nature of the forum. The theme for the 2018-2020 QRMs is '*Advancing biosecurity systems through a success-oriented plan*'. Each QRM over the next three years will focus on different aspects of managing a biosecurity system, with the 2018 QRM focusing on identifying risks and designing controls.

The meeting, the tenth meeting of its kind, was co-hosted by the Indonesian Agricultural Quarantine Agency (IAQA) and the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR).

The meeting had an attendance of 52 delegates representing 21 international biosecurity agencies. Representatives from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and the World Bank were also in attendance. Dr Antarjo Dikin, Director – Centre for Plant Quarantine and Biosafety, IAQA and Mr Dean Merrilees, Assistant Secretary from DAWR, opened the meeting. Their remarks highlighted the importance of the meeting in continuing to foster international cooperation, the progression of tangible deliverables that will enhance biosecurity measures and the expansion of fora such as the QRM, which are vital to sharing ideas and future visions for sustainable biosecurity systems.

Mr Nathan Reid of DAWR gave a ten year review of the QRM and what it has achieved to date, along with a presentation on the importance of understanding biosecurity systems which flowed into the purpose of the development of a three year theme for the 2018-2020 QRMs.

Following on from the presentation on understanding biosecurity systems, a workshop was held to complete process matrix maps with real life examples of biosecurity risks and the controls that are required for their effective management. Groups were asked to identify risks within their own biosecurity continuums and collectively analyse the controls they currently have in place. Delegates agreed to take alternative views and experiences, learned through the workshops, back to their respective agencies with the intent of being better equipped to develop appropriate controls to manage identified biosecurity risks.

This will continue to enhance the development of actions to drive outcomes in year two of the QRM cycle. This work will be built upon next year when the focus of the QRM shifts to implementing and verifying controls.

IAQA, and the Chilean Agriculture and Livestock Service, both presented on new legislative measures that have been implemented in each of their respective countries to accelerate import and export service activity (Indonesia), as well as progress the introduction of the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) (Chile). These presentations highlighted the need to ensure biosecurity legislation provides a framework for managing biosecurity risk.

Ms Theresa Morrissey of the World Bank provided an overview of the work the World Bank does in trade facilitation. Ms Morrissey also provided an update on the International Plant Protection Convention's Sea Container Task Force and Mr Dean Merrilees complemented this with a presentation on the Integrated Risk and Compliance Model developed by DAWR, which relates to using risk modelling to manage sea container cleanliness. Air container cleanliness was also covered in depth by New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), focussing on a standard that has been developed and implemented in New Zealand.

The International Regional Organisation for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA) presented to the forum about how its e-learning course on AFAS has been developed and prepared for implementation, which demonstrated an alternative method of educating government and industry personnel on a biosecurity treatment management arrangement. This presentation was widely regarded by QRM members as an innovative solution to resourcing problems being faced by all members.

The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji presented to the group on alternative treatment methods and MPI discussed its recent major incident response regarding increased detections of Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs.

Marlynne Hopper from the STDF introduced the work that the STDF does with governments and presented a video and moderated discussion on the importance of facilitating safe trade around the world. The STDF emphasised the importance of all stakeholders recognising their responsibilities and the criticality of partnerships being formed.

The 2018 QRM included a field trip to the South Western corner of the island to the cliffs of Uluwatu, exploring the beautiful views of the Balinese coastline. Alongside the cliffs was the Pura Luhur (Balinese Hindu temple) which was able to be trekked. A trip to Pandawa beach followed and insightful cultural information was provided to all participants during the day. The field trip also included a visit to an Ethylene Oxide facility which showed participants an alternative biosecurity treatment facility. Following the facility visit, the group travelled to a coffee processing facility and were educated on the production of coffee from the farm through to export. The QRM Official Dinner also included a performance of traditional Balinese dance.

The meeting concluded with a final workshop reinforcing the need to take a systems approach to managing biosecurity risk. Participants agreed to disseminate what they

had learned at this QRM with their respective agencies and were reminded that the QRM group would be an excellent resource to tap into should anyone need guidance or information on current or emerging issues that are being faced.

The QRM again demonstrated the value of the forum as an information sharing platform and as an opportunity for biosecurity agencies to engage and collaborate on issues of shared interest.

Finally, OIRSA announced that it would be co-hosting the 2019 QRM with DAWR in Panama City, Panama and that it looked forward to seeing all QRM delegates in Central America.