MESSAGE FROM THE WVA PRESIDENT

Dear WVA members,

First of all, I would like to wish you a wonderful and productive 2019. I’m looking forward to work closely with each of the WVA member associations in the coming year to advance and promote the veterinary profession globally.

I would like to draw your attention to the rapid spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) in different world regions and the threat to health and welfare of pigs around the world. ASF is a highly contagious haemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs, which is responsible for serious economic and production losses. Unfortunately, for the time being, there is no approved vaccine for ASF. The disease is present in wild and/or domestic pigs in regions of Europe and Africa, and recently also in Asia. The recent hundreds of ASF outbreaks in China and Mongolia may disseminate the disease further to East and South East Asia and also to the region of Oceania and the Americas.

I would like to emphasise the importance of the veterinary profession in preventing and controlling ASF and to ask the WVA member associations to promote and remind to your members the importance of implementing appropriate import policies and biosecurity measures, ensuring that neither infected live pigs nor pork products are introduced into areas free of ASF. This includes ensuring proper disposal of waste food from aircraft, ships or vehicles coming from affected countries and policing illegal imports of live pigs and pork products from affected countries. The full ASF Prevention and Control measures can be found at the OIE ASF disease card.

WORLD VETERINARY DAY AWARD 2019
The 2019 World Veterinary Day (WVD) will take place on 27th April 2019 to celebrate the veterinary profession around the world focusing on the theme; **The Value of Vaccination**.

To continue the WVD legacy and to increase its visibility, prestige, and value, the WVA has partnered with [HealthforAnimals](#), the global animal medicines association, to organize the 2019 World Veterinary Day Awards and to honour the most impressive activities by WVA members associations celebrating the WVD 2019. More information on the WVDA2019 and application process will be published soon.

**35th WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION CONGRESS**

It is less than 100 days to the 35th World Veterinary Association Congress that will take place in San Jose, Costa Rica. The WVAC2019 organizers prepared a rich and exciting scientific program covering many fields of the veterinary profession to be delivered by top veterinarians from different parts of the world. In addition, the WVAC2019 organizers also offer a variety of tours to discover the wonderful land and nature of Costa Rica. Don’t miss the WVAC2019!

**WVA ACTIVITIES DURING WVAC2019**

In addition to the WVA General Assembly 2019 that will take place on 28th April 2019, the WVA is preparing the following activities to take place during the WVA Congress in Costa Rica.

1. WVA Animal Welfare Awards Ceremony.
2. Announcement of the winners of the WVA Veterinary Student Scholarship 2018.
3. The 6th WVA Global One Health Summit with high-level support of FAO, OIE and WHO on the theme: *the Value of Vaccinations*.
4. WVA Veterinary Education Seminar on Veterinary Education in Latin America.
5. WVA Animal welfare Seminar on the theme of *Animal Welfare in disaster management*. 
The WVA needs your expertise and participation for the world to hear our message on our role as veterinarians for the global public good. We need your input as Constituent Members or Observers for our discussions. Don’t be left out of the process!

Please forward this info-news to your individual members

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