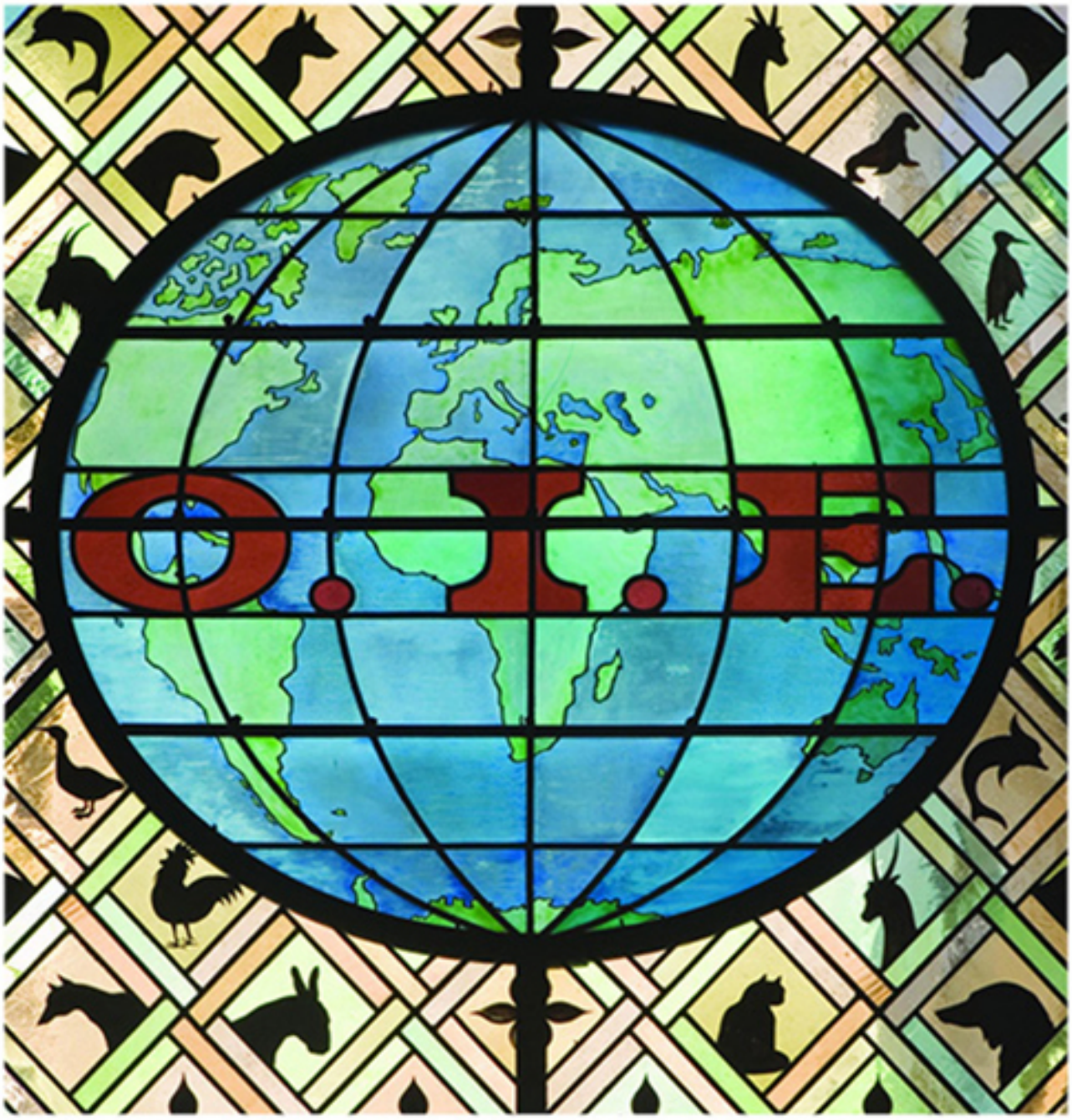
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The OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory Network for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) met during December 2019 in Busan, Republic of Korea to discuss and review information from field outbreaks of FMD.

This Network was established in 2004 as a forum for exchanging laboratory and epidemiology data for FMD, as well as to harmonise and improve the quality of diagnostic testing carried out by international and national FMD laboratories.

Recent data collected by the Network highlight how rapidly FMD virus lineages can spread in different parts of the world. Headline events for 2019 include the further expansion of the O/ME-SA/Ind-2001e lineage into Pakistan, as well as continued outbreaks due to the O/EA-3 topotype (2018/19) in North Africa.

An important role of the Network laboratories is to provide recommendations for the selection of appropriate vaccines that can be used to control outbreaks. A central topic of the meeting was to agree region-standardised approaches that can be used to assess heterologous vaccine performance in order to provide empirical evidence to customers to ensure that vaccines are matched and sufficiently potent for use. In support of these activities, a new two-year OIE Laboratory Twinning Project between the Pirbright Institute and the African Union Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU–PANVAC) is underway to establish capacity for the independent assessment of FMD vaccine quality in Africa.

Meeting report



The meeting was kindly hosted by the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (APQA)

ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMMES

REFERENCE CENTRES

14th Annual Meeting of the OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratories Network

Busan, Republic of Korea, 3–5 December 2019

KEYWORDS

#African Union Panafrican Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU PANVAC), #Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), #foot and mouth disease (FMD), #OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme, #OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratories Network, #reference centre, #Reference Laboratory, #The Pirbright Institute, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).



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The OIE is an international organisation created in 1924 with a mandate from its 182 Members to improve animal health and welfare. Its activities are permanently supported by 325 centres of scientific expertise and 12 regional offices with a presence on every continent.

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