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## Guest of honour at inauguration of Indian Federation for Animal Health (INFAH)



The newly-formed Indian Federation for Animal Health - INFAH – hosted an inauguration event on 20 December 2012 in New Delhi with IFAH as one of the guests of honour.

The theme of the event was ‘public-private partnerships’ and this was aptly demonstrated by the wide-range of delegates at the conference which included representatives from the animal health industry, government officials, policymakers, the media and other interested stakeholders. INFAH President Dr. Asim Banerjee (Managing Director of Vétôquinol India Animal Health) welcomed participants by saying that this was a “dream come true” and the various speakers agreed that this was indeed a major achievement and that they looked forward to working together to facilitate research and improve product and technology

development in the field of veterinary medicines.

IFAH's Executive Director Barbara Freischem, one of the guests of honour at the event, congratulated INFAH on a successful inauguration and welcomed this initiative to further promote awareness of animal disease control in India.

For more information on INFAH visit: [www.infah.org](http://www.infah.org)

## IFAH publishes infographic on One Health concept



At the end of 2012 IFAH launched an interactive infographic on the website - [www.ifahsec.org](http://www.ifahsec.org) - featuring some facts and figures that help to put the one health concept into context and demonstrate how animal health, human health and ecosystems are inextricably linked.

Focusing on two zoonoses to help illustrate that disease knows no boundaries the info graphic illustrates the spread of H5N1 avian influenza in 2003. It also pinpoints the areas in which rabies remains endemic despite the availability of vaccines and calls on a wide-range of stakeholders to work together to help stop the spread of infectious diseases.

[View the infographic.](#)

## IFAH in late night discussions at INC5



Taking place in Geneva from 13 to 19 January 2013, IFAH was just one of the many delegates participating in the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC5) to prepare a global legally-binding instrument on mercury. After often all-night sessions

and complex negotiations, at which the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE,) outlined potential public health consequences if veterinary vaccines were impacted, more than 140 countries agreed on a set of legally binding measures to curb mercury pollution which can produce adverse health effects, including permanent damage to the nervous system.

For the animal health industry the new rules will impact topical antiseptics, which are to be phased out by 2020. However the public health benefit of vaccines where mercury is used as a preservative was acknowledged by excluding them from the treaty. Governments also approved exceptions for some large measuring devices where there are currently no mercury-free alternatives.

The treaty, titled the “Minamata Convention on Mercury”, which has been four years in negotiation, will be open for signature at the Diplomatic Conference to be held from 7 to 11 October 2013 in Japan.

[Visit the UNEP website for more info.](#)

## **VICH: Harmonising Global Processes for Authorising Veterinary Medicines**



The VICH Steering Committee met in Washington during the third week of February 2013 and hosted a second VICH Outreach Forum, where non-VICH countries were invited to learn about what the programme does and how they can become more engaged in the VICH process. This second outreach forum welcomed representatives from 11 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Burkino Faso (representing the UEMOA), China, India, Korea, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine.

High-quality medicines and vaccines for animals, are an indispensable tool for veterinarians and animal owners to treat and prevent diseases and suffering in pets and farm animals around the world. To ensure these medications are appropriately produced, countries require that animal health products be manufactured to specific standards of quality, safety and efficacy. For over 15 years, VICH has been working to ensure the quality, efficacy and safety of veterinary medicines and has also, where feasible, reduced the number of animal tests required and associated costs.

VICH is a trilateral programme led by the animal health industry from the EU, Japan and the USA, with Australia, New Zealand and Canada as observers.

[For more information visit the VICH website.](#)

## Save the date! Global Animal Health Conference, October 2013

IFAH in partnership with DIA, the global forum for advancing therapeutic innovation and regulatory science, as well as US regulatory authorities FDA-CVM and USDA-CVB is hosting a Global Animal Health Conference on 17-18 October 2013 in the USA.

Visit the [IFAH website](#) or the DIA website for conference details in the coming weeks or follow us on [Twitter](#) to get updates on the conference as they are posted.

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