

Organized by



FAO-OIE- WHO Joint Technical Consultation on

AVIAN INFLUENZA AT THE HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERFACE

Organized in collaboration with IZSve and OFFLU

Palazzo Verità Poeta, Verona, Italy
7 - 9 October, 2008

Many essential scientific questions about avian influenza infections in humans, including questions on the risk to humans and emergence of a pandemic influenza strain, remain unanswered.

Addressing these questions requires cross-disciplinary analysis of comprehensive information on virological and epidemiological aspects of avian influenza in animals and people.

The animal and public health sectors have generated data and expertise in their respective areas, but there is room for closer cooperation between the two sectors and the promotion of shared use of the accumulated data.

This joint **by-invitation-only** technical consultation will be a milestone towards better global understanding of avian influenza risks at the human-animal interface.

It will offer a forum for sharing the benefits of research and surveillance efforts in both fields, and will provide a valuable opportunity to discuss how tools and systems might be developed and further adapted for broader application at this interface.

OBJECTIVES

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO), with support from the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSve) and the EC-funded project FLUTRAIN, have called this technical consultation to

- identify critical virological characteristics for the emergence of zoonotic and pandemic viruses
- evaluate external factors affecting the evolution and emergence of a pandemic strain, and identify monitoring mechanisms for pandemic strain emergence
- identify likely modes of transmission and exposure sources for zoonotic infection with avian influenza viruses
- maximise outcome of ongoing research and preparedness efforts and identify gaps in knowledge
- identify next steps for further integrated data collection, analysis and research

In collaboration
with



SCOPE

Although avian influenza subtype H5N1 is currently seen as the most immediate public health threat, other animal influenza viruses can be considered potential zoonotic pathogens and potential pandemic threats.

This meeting will therefore focus on avian influenza H5N1 but will also address zoonotic risks from other animal influenza viruses, as well as technical implications of other zoonotic diseases at the human-animal interface.

AGENDA

The meeting will be structured as a series of short presentations, with substantial time designated for moderated panel discussions and direct technical input from participants (see attached *Draft Summary Agenda*).

Technical recommendations will be developed to address identified issues for influenza, and their applicability to other zoonotic diseases at the human-animal interface.

PARTICIPANTS

Participation is by invitation only.

Approximately 75 participants will be invited as speakers, moderators, and/or technical experts, including:

- influenza virologists and molecular biologists from the animal and human health sectors
- influenza epidemiologists from the animal and human health sectors
- scientists involved in field surveillance for avian and human influenza
- technical staff working on scientific aspects of avian influenza assessment/control from FAO, OIE, and WHO headquarters and H5N1-affected regions and countries

Speakers and participants are being chosen on the basis of their specific individual technical experience or expertise in the topics to be addressed.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

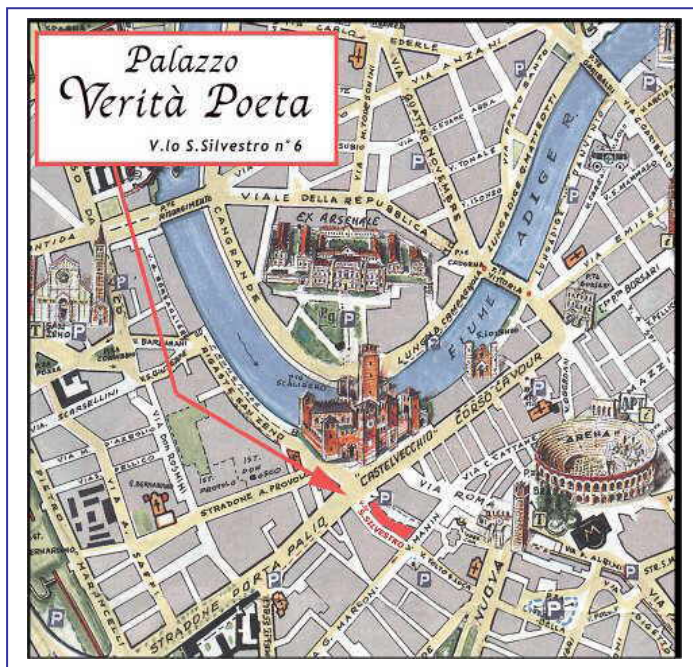
The technical consultation will start at 9:00 am on Tuesday 7 October and end at 16.00 on Thursday 9 October.

The working language will be ENGLISH only (no translation/interpretation facilities available).

The consultation will take place in the Palazzo Verità Poeta, a magnificent building in the heart of Verona, Italy.

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Distances (from Palazzo Verità Poeta)

Verona Porta Nuova (railway station)	1 km
Verona Sud (motorway exit)	2 km
Verona Nord (motorway exit)	5 km
Aeroporto Catullo (airport)	8 km

Distances (from Verona)

Bologna	135 km
Brennero	260 km
Florence	153 km
Milan	155 km
Rome	341 km
Venice	110 km