EDITORIAL

France, WHO and global health security
- A privileged partnership, a shared goal

On 22-23 March, the French Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Women’s Rights hosted the High Level Conference on Global Health Security: Solutions for strengthening State’s capacities, at the Palais des Congrès, Lyon, France. The main objective of the conference, co-organized with the European Commission and co-sponsored by the Netherlands Presidency of the European Union and WHO, was to advance implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), which is critical for ensuring global health security.

The 2-day conference — opened by Mr Gérard Collomb, President of the Lyon Metropolis and with closing statements by President François Hollande, Minister of Social Affairs Mme Marisol Touraine, and WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan — hosted over 200 participants from both the within and beyond the health sector, such as the animal health and travel and trade sectors, including actors from the public and/or private arena as well as representatives from national, regional and international levels, who all play a role in implementing the IHR (2005).

Presenters shared pertinent initiatives and innovative tools based on lessons learned during recent public health emergencies, notably the Ebola virus disease outbreak that ravaged West Africa from 2014 to 2016. In his closing statement, President François Hollande underscored the commitment of France in support of WHO’s activities to detect, prevent and respond to public health emergencies and in particular the work of the WHO Lyon Office, whose mission is to provide guidance and support to countries to have in place more effective national surveillance and response systems.

This conference provided the opportunity to convene major WHO partners, such as CDC, USAID, ECDC as well as the Institut Pasteur and the Fondation Mérieux, and local actors such as the Lyon Metropolis and the Rhône-Alpes Region, all of whom remain longstanding partners and share the goal of improving the health of vulnerable populations around the world.


TECHNICAL MEETINGS

IHR Review Committee, Geneva, Switzerland • From August 2015 to March 2016, the IHR Review Committee on the role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak Response, chaired by Professor Didier Houssin, convened 6 sessions for a critical review of how the IHR (2005) performed during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The final report of the Committee’s findings and recommendations has been presented at the 69th World Health Assembly in May 2016.

IHR Emergency committees • From July 2015 to May 2016 WHO Director-General Margaret Chan convened II IHR
Outbreaks and emergencies:

- **Ebola**
  www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/

- **MERS-CoV**
  www.who.int/emergencies/mers-cov/en/

- **Yellow fever**
  www.who.int/emergencies/yellow-fever/en/

- **Zika virus and complications**
  www.who.int/emergencies/zika-virus/en/

>> Emergency Committees on Ebola, MERS CoV, Yellow fever and Zika virus. Findings and recommendations of the Emergency Committees are available at:
  www.who.int/ihr/procedures/ihr_committees/en/

28-30 September, 2015 • “Strengthening public health preparedness to respond to Ebola: Lessons learned from Rapid response teams training”, Lyon, France. The objective of the meeting, comprised of members of the Rapid Response Teams Community of Practice from the WHO Lyon Office, Geneva Headquarters and the WHO regional office for the Eastern Mediterranean, was to finalize the terms of reference, activity plans and implementation plan.

07-08 October 2015 • Emergency Operations Centre Network (EOC-net consultation), Geneva, Switzerland. The objective was to finalize the Framework for a public health emergency operations centre (PHEOC framework). Developed through consultations with network members from the 6 WHO regions, this framework provides high-level methodical guidance for establishing or strengthening a functional EOC.

19-22 October 2015 • International Technical consultation on IHR monitoring and evaluation of functional core capacities for implementing the IHR (2005), Lyon, France. This meeting brought together experts from Member States, representatives of international organizations, partners and WHO staff and was the start of the development of a new framework for improving the monitoring/evaluation process, the IHR (2005) Monitoring and evaluation framework Joint External Evaluation Tool (JEE Tool). The JEE Tool is now available at:

10-12 February 2016 • Participation in the 22nd annual FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite meeting, Rome, Italy. This meeting takes place each year between the three international agencies to discuss strategic directions to support capacity building activities at the human animal interface.

15-17 March 2016 • Third technical Consultation on Early Warning and Response (EWAR) with a focus on Event-Based Surveillance (EBS), Lyon, France. After 2 meetings in 2013, the working group made of international experts and WHO staff members met for the 3rd time in Lyon, from 15 to 17 March in order to ensure the accuracy and the update of the reference guide developed on this topic in 2014 and of the accompanying material.

22-23 March 2016 • High level conference on global health security and IHR (2005) implementation, 22-23 March, Lyon, France (see edito).

22 March 2016 • Side event on “WHO and EU technical projects to support global health security” under the scope of the High level conference on global health security and IHR (2005) implementation. This event was co-organized with the European Commission and highlighted common projects to support global health security in the area of laboratories, surveillance and points of entry.

26-28 April 2016 • National Laboratory Policy Consultation meeting, Lyon, France. Laboratory experts from the six WHO regions came together to share information, experiences and lessons learnt by WHO, partners and Member States on the development of National Laboratory policies and strategic plans and proposed high level recommendations on the way forward to support resource-limited countries in the development of National Laboratory policies and strategic plans.

25-30 January 2016 • WHO Executive Board, Geneva, Switzerland. The four new components of the IHR (2005) Monitoring and Evaluation framework (JEE Tool) were presented to the Members of the Executive Board (see above, 19-22 October).

The Scientific Network in Lyon: Synergies between the WHO Lyon Office and the Local and Regional Actors

15 October 2015 • Presentations on the WHO Dengue and Influenza control programmes during the inaugural conference of the Musée Mérieux entitled, “Influenza: Our worst ennemie is of zoonosis origin”, Marcy l’Etoile, France.

26 November 2015 • Presentations on Laboratory quality as part of the course, “Medicine in developing countries” delivered by the Jacques Lisfranc Faculty of Medicine, Saint-Étienne.

03 May 2016 • Participation in BioTuesday, Université de Lyon, Lyon, France.

20 May 2016 • Participation in Smart cities workshop, Lyon Hôtel de Ville, France.