

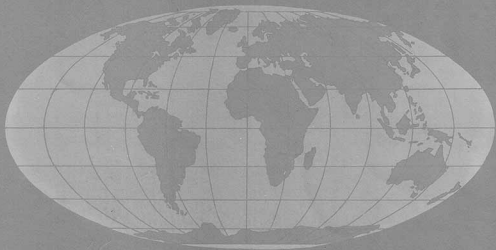
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July 2000



COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION



NEWS

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CVA Web site

<http://ecn.ab.ca/cva>
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President's Message

A new President, whether in private business or in an association, is faced with many challenges during the first year of his term, and that of the CVA President is no exception. New members have joined the Executive Committee and some seasoned and valuable members have left. The CVA is fortunate in that it's recently revised Constitution allows a relatively smooth transition from one President to another. That, together with an experienced Secretary and Treasurer, has made my job much easier.

During the first 6 months I have had the opportunity to attend the Asia Regional Meeting held in Kandy, Sri Lanka in conjunction with the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association Congress. I was most impressed with the content of the scientific program, the facilities and the punctuality; my congratulations to the Organizing Committee. After meeting with the President, Dr. Neil Horadagoda and the President-Elect, Dr. RMPH Dasanayake, I am confident the relationship between the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association and the CVA will continue to prosper.

On my way to Sri Lanka I met with the CVA Secretary, Dr. Abdul Rahman, in Chennai to discuss ongoing CVA business. I also had the opportunity to address the Tamil Nadu Veterinary Association, visit the offices of the Indian Veterinary Journal, tour the Madras Veterinary School Clinics, and have informal discussions with the President of the Indian Veterinary Association, Dr. R.S. Sharma.

A major advancement within CVA has been the decision by the Commonwealth Chief Veterinary Officers Forum to accept our invitation of Associate Membership. This brings to the CVA an added and important dimension. We look forward to their active participation in CVA activities throughout the Commonwealth.

The next 6 months will be equally challenging. The CVA Officers are meeting in London in September and in October the full Executive Committee will be meeting to review and plan activities for the next 3 years. These are important meetings and are made possible largely through the generous support of our Corporate member, Ralston Purina Company.

Members are encouraged to contact their Council Member or Regional Representative to provide suggestions or feedback on any CVA program. A list of the Regional Representatives and their addresses can be found on the back page of the CVA News.

June, 2000

Bert Stevenson
President

Commonwealth News

New Commonwealth Secretary-General Takes Office

Mr. Don McKinnon, 61, assumed office as the fourth Commonwealth Secretary-General at the beginning of April, 2000.



The appointment of Mr. McKinnon (left), former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of New Zealand, was announced by Commonwealth Heads of Government at their summit in Durban, South Africa, last November. He succeeds Chief Emeka Anyaoku of Nigeria.

Honours For Chief Anyaoku

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has appointed Chief Emeka Anyaoku as an Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (GCVO). Chief Emeka Anyaoku, who completed his term of office as Commonwealth Secretary-General on 31 March 2000, said he was "delighted to receive such a high honour from the Head of the Commonwealth." Chief Anyaoku has been appointed President of the Royal Commonwealth Society in London. He has in the past served on the RCS central council, and has been Vice-President since 1975.

Valedictory Speech By Chief Emeka Anyaoku

I believe I must have made my first valedictory speech five months ago, last November; since then, in the words of Charles II, I have been an "unconscionable time a-dying". But, with just nine days to go before I end my term of office as Commonwealth Secretary-General, and after almost ten of the most challenging and stimulating years of my life, I suspect this really is my final 'speech of farewell'.

I am especially pleased to be making it at this venue, in this revitalised and thriving Commonwealth Club. The Royal Commonwealth Society is a body with which I have had a long association. Indeed, I should recall here that in 1972, I became the first non-British Deputy Chairman. The Royal Commonwealth Society is not only the premier Commonwealth NGO in the United Kingdom but, with its affiliated societies in 35 countries overseas, has an important presence across the Commonwealth. That was why I was particularly delighted and honoured to have been elected your new President; for whatever the transient nature of office, the Commonwealth cause is one I can never put aside.

I came to the service of that great cause back

in April 1966 and, apart from a three-month pause in 1983-4 when I was Foreign Minister of Nigeria, have been continuously at the Secretariat since then. So this is an opportunity for me to reflect on how remarkably the Commonwealth has evolved through all these years, with particular attention to the last ten, and to look ahead to what these changes portend for the Commonwealth in this new 21st century.

Perhaps my starting point should be the highly successful and remarkably satisfying Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Durban last November. It was a meeting that genuinely marked a turning point in the fifty-year history of the modern Commonwealth.

I say 'fifty years', because 1999 marked half a century since the London conference in 1949 at which Pandit Nehru, Clement Attlee and other Commonwealth leaders arrived at the formula which allowed the Commonwealth to have as members, countries with their own Heads of State. While embracing the best in the old Commonwealth as it had existed, this new dispensation pointed the way to the framework of equality between sovereign nations and their peoples, bound

together by shared values, which has become the hallmark of the Commonwealth as we know it today.

These values were first formally propounded in the Declaration of Commonwealth Principles in Singapore in 1971; they found their fullest articulation so far in the Commonwealth Harare Declaration, adopted in 1991 by the first of the five CHOGMs which I have attended as Secretary-General. Looking back, I can readily say that Harare has been the Commonwealth's Mission Statement for the whole of my period in office. It has also become the yardstick by which that period will have to be judged, taking into account two imperatives - first, my belief that the Commonwealth needed at all times to live up to its principles, not by mere advocacy but by demonstrable action; and, second, for the association to show tangible and enlarging relevance to the needs of its members in a rapidly changing world.

In this context, the Durban Summit marked not just the fifty years of the modern Commonwealth but also the end of a particular phase in its history. That phase was marked by the battle to establish for real the shared values of the association. It was epitomised, first of all, by the completion of the remarkable democratic transition process in South Africa in 1994, and the return of Nigeria to a democratically elected government in 1999.

For much of the previous thirty-five years, the organisation had been dominated by the compelling issue of racial oppression. This came into particular focus in the struggle for the liberation of Southern Africa, a matter which has been interwoven with the Commonwealth's own evolution following the enforced departure of apartheid South Africa from the association in 1961. Most significant was the Commonwealth's deep involvement with Rhodesia-Zimbabwe from the time of UDI in 1965, through to the Lancaster House conference and the elections which brought Zimbabwe's independence in 1980.

The 1980s saw the increasing involvement of the Commonwealth in the mounting international campaign against the apartheid regime, in which the association, by virtue of its membership and its proclaimed anti-racist values was in the front line. This was seen particularly in sending to South Africa the Commonwealth Eminent Persons' Group of 1986, which played a key role in the diplomatic moves which eventually led to the release of Nelson Mandela and which, as importantly, arrived at the negotiating formula which unlocked the transition process.

As Secretary-General, I was later able to help further this process at crucial moments, including a ground breaking visit to South Africa in 1991. Thereafter, the Commonwealth was deployed with great efficacy, both in helping to combat violence in 1993-4 and in ensuring the success of the 1994 multiracial elections which brought the ANC to power, Mandela to the Presidency, and South Africa back to the Commonwealth. To have been able to play a positive and creative role at this key moment in history, I count as one of the most satisfying moments of my secretary-general-ship.

The holding of the 1999 CHOGM in Durban became in a sense a symbolic and joyful consecration of this transition to democracy, and of South Africa's return to the Commonwealth fold as a major player in the association. President Thabo Mbeki, who succeeded Nelson Mandela last year, hosted the Durban summit, his first major international conference, with consummate skill. Moreover, South Africa's special position within the Commonwealth was demonstrated by the new role accorded to the CHOGM chair between summits, and also by President Mbeki's appointment as Chairman of the High Level Review Group to consider the future of the Commonwealth as it enters the new century, ten years after Harare.

The development of the Commonwealth as a 'community of democracies' - from a position where, in 1990, there had been nine military regimes or single-party dictatorships - is something that I count as one of the major achievements of the past ten years. In a way, this is the reverse side of the coin represented by the attainment of full democracy in South Africa. It had been clear for some time that, if the Commonwealth was to be a force for good in the world, it needed to be consistent about the principles which it proclaimed. This was especially so in the post-Cold War world, where democracy had become a kind of international political gold standard. Harare had to be followed by practical means of implementing the Commonwealth's principles, and it happened that the Nigerian crisis provided the opportunity to demonstrate these principles in action.

In New Zealand, in 1995, at the same time as the suspension of Nigeria, Heads of Government approved the Millbrook Commonwealth Action Programme which gave teeth to Harare, by setting up the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) to monitor the implementation of the Harare principles.

The arrival of CMAG is a testimony to the transformation of the Commonwealth itself from being just an advocate of shared values to becoming the

very symbol and promoter of those values. As well as Nigeria and The Gambia, CMAG has also closely followed developments in Sierra Leone, where the Commonwealth has been an active force for democracy and peace. The Commonwealth led the campaign against the brief military government of 1997-8, and is one of the moral guarantors of the Lome peace agreement of July 1999, which, in spite of the fragility of that peace and the trauma which civil conflict has brought that country, should lead the way to all-inclusive elections in 2001.

Nowhere was CMAG's vitality more evident than after the military coup in Pakistan in October last year. The prompt reaction of the Commonwealth, through CMAG, saw the Pakistan regime of General Musharraf suspended from the 'councils of the Commonwealth'. This was endorsed by Heads of Government in Durban, although a proposed sharper definition of CMAG's mandate was referred to the High Level Review Group which reports back to the next CHOGM in Australia in 2001. I believe that this will be a challenge to Commonwealth member governments to demonstrate the reality of their commitment to democracy.

Indeed, in the course of a decade of promoting and monitoring democracy, the Commonwealth has moved from the arena of simply assisting and monitoring elections themselves (and nearly 30 elections have been observed in that time) to that of 'deepening democracy', through the involvement of what we now call 'civil society'. It has become increasingly apparent, as President Obasanjo told the summit in Durban, that democracy has, above all, to be "sustainable".

The Commonwealth's democratic vocation has developed alongside the increasing momentum that has been given to the idea of the Secretary-General's 'good offices'. The nature of the Commonwealth family, and its multiple informal ties, means that the Secretary-General is often called upon to exercise discreet influence in the resolution of disputes that threaten more serious conflicts, or are already existing conflicts. In the past ten years, I have been involved in a host of ways, including using special envoys, in Bangladesh, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Lesotho, Guyana and the Solomon Islands to name some. It is an area of activity which is clearly likely to grow in years to come, given the Commonwealth's ability to play a beneficial role where other mediators may have difficulty.

Apart from this evolution of the Commonwealth on the political front, there has also been in the past few years a reawakening of the idea of the Commonwealth as an economic force, as a catalysing

agent for development. The establishment of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation in 1971, whose flexibility and cost effectiveness have made it worth its weight in gold to those that have benefited from it, has provided the Commonwealth with a practical mechanism for assisting the socio-economic development efforts of its members. From beginnings of less than half a million pounds in 1971, it rose to nearly £30m, in the early 1990s. Although its resources have since declined, it must continue to be one of the Commonwealth's most important instruments in this new century and I would wish now to make this renewed appeal to member governments to ensure that this jewel is maintained in its full lustre in the Commonwealth's crown.

It has been in the 1990s, however, that further efforts have been made to increase the means available to its developing member states, to help promote that most telling of all human rights, the right to development. One important innovation, which has not received the publicity it deserves, has been the establishment of four regional investment funds - for Africa, South Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean - under the Commonwealth Private Investment Initiative. Administered by the CDC, this was initiated as a response to increasing fears that official development assistance was on a declining curve and the awareness that the engine of growth in more and more countries was private capital investment.

This concern to involve the private sector in development was directly behind the Edinburgh Declaration on the Promotion of Shared Prosperity, adopted by Heads at their 1997 CHOGM. Among the widely recognised concerns, was how Commonwealth instruments could be used to encourage trade, investment and commerce. The Commonwealth Business Council was set up in the run up to Edinburgh as a key agency for this purpose. In little over two years this has proved to be a remarkable success story from the inaugural forum in London in 1997, to the massively successful one in Johannesburg in November 1999. And I have just attended the Commonwealth-Nigeria Investment Conference in Abuja which attracted 120 foreign investors and 200 Nigerian businessmen, as well as considerable Nigerian government interest.

Edinburgh had also articulated growing Commonwealth concerns about both expectations and fears on the subject of globalisation. These concerns found full expression two years later in the main declaration from the Durban summit, issued from the Retreat at Fancourt. While recognising the unstoppable nature of globalisation, the Commonwealth's major concern is to see that many in their ranks are not marginalised by the process, and that the benefits are distributed more equitably both between and within

countries. The Trade and Investment Access Facility set up at Edinburgh in 1997, has already played a useful role in helping several Commonwealth member countries in their efforts to cope with globalisation and, as Heads of Government agreed in Durban, it could do much more.

The Fancourt Declaration also made the point that the world trading system must take account of the interests of all countries, and not just the most powerful. The next rounds of trade talks have to have a development dimension, and the Commonwealth can play an important and constructive role in helping that process.

Trade issues have also highlighted what the Commonwealth can do for small states, which again is a theme that has developed only in the past few years. The establishment in 1998 of the Joint Task Force between the Commonwealth and the World Bank on the subject has already produced important results. There was another meeting of the Task Force in London in February which agreed a report that can now become the basis for action, and illustrates how much the smaller members of the Commonwealth can look to the organisation to take up their cause.

The Joint Task Force is also a good illustration of the wider recognition of the potential of the Commonwealth in co-operating with other international institutions as a way of prosecuting more effectively our international objectives. In this respect I was particularly glad that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, was not only able to come to London to deliver the Commonwealth Lecture a week ago, but also attended the Commonwealth Day Observance and my evening reception the day before.

Again, on the economic front, the Commonwealth has played an often-unsung pioneering role in the whole campaign to secure debt relief for the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) through several Commonwealth Finance Ministers meetings in the past decade. In spite of a major breakthrough on the subject at the G7 summit in Cologne last June, which made a commitment to deepen and widen the process, it is still worth making a further impassioned appeal for the process to be speeded up. There are still too few countries who are actually benefiting from the initiative. The Commonwealth will surely continue to be in the forefront of the debt campaign, which is a key element, though by no means the only one, in international efforts for poverty alleviation.

I have tried, from the experience of the past ten years, to outline some of the challenges the Commonwealth has faced as we enter the new century. Let me now attempt to chart the future.

I cannot underline enough here the very real challenge of consolidating the fundamental values of the association among its members so that those values may become a way of life for Commonwealth peoples. We are still very far from that, as events in Pakistan have shown. In my view, basic to meeting this challenge is finding ways in which the Commonwealth can move from hectoring and assisting its members to become more democratic to finding effective ways of invigorating democratic practices with a view to putting right deficiencies before they result in crises.

I do not mind saying here that one of the ways in which I had sought to do this over the last two years was by actively promoting an enlarged mandate for CMAG to take account of this need for pre-emptive action. While CMAG itself had eventually agreed to recommend this, it was not readily accepted in Durban. I must therefore express the hope that the High Level Review Group will tackle this subject frankly and robustly, despite its sensitivities, because I believe that the challenge it contains will help increase the capacity of the organisation to become a more effective promoter of its fundamental values.

Related to this is the need for the Commonwealth to realise that it is uniquely well placed to have a singular role in serving as an example of how the often-damaging problems of divisive diversity and pluralism can be more successfully managed. Looking at so many bitter conflicts that have sprung in different parts of the world from the rise of ethnic, cultural and religious atomism following the end of the Cold War, this is arguably one of the most important issues facing the world today.

This January, the Commonwealth jointly with La Francophonie, held a colloquium in Cameroon on the subject of **Democracy in Pluralistic Societies**; I hope that we will be able to follow this up. I am sure that our association has a pioneering role in convincing the world that understanding this question and its institutional implications may well be the best form of conflict prevention.

By the same token, I have no doubt that this will be a millennium which would reflect a far greater role by civil society in promoting the welfare and good governance of our populations. The nation state in many respects is under siege: in some cases, it is too large to provide a means of identity or a channel of participation for the individual; but also, in an increasing number of areas, it is too small to be able to confront the new challenges of a globalised world. In that context, it is active citizens and civil society organisations which increasingly will be providing the

leadership in advancing the interests of the marginalised, the excluded and vulnerable groups, and which will be working, in partnership with governments for more humane and better governed societies. That was the message that came out of the Third Commonwealth NGO Forum on 'Citizens and Governance' which met shortly before the Durban CHOGM. I hope the same voices will be heard in the UN-Sponsored Forum on Civil Society at the time of the Millennium Session in New York next September.

There is a clear role in all this for the Royal Commonwealth Society in building on its already extensive Commonwealth network, and mobilising the people of the Commonwealth in their own countries, and across the association, towards this end. The agents for this activity can be Commonwealth Societies in each of our 54-member nations; I would hope that part of the RCS's future mission would be one of rejuvenation and expansion to every part of the Commonwealth in carrying forward that message. In saying this as your new President, I feel sure that this would be consistent with the excellent leadership which our Chairman, Sir Michael McWilliam has given to the Society. In turn, I can say with no less confidence that our new Director-General, Stuart Mole, will prove a worthy and dynamic successor to all the valuable work that has so far been achieved by Peter Luff.

I would like to close with one final observation: I have often said that the Commonwealth is indubitably a force for good in the world. But this is not just because of the common positions that the organisation can take on issues like democracy, debt or trade, but because each Commonwealth member can draw inspiration from its membership to sustain and help each other, as seen in the way several Commonwealth members rallied to support its newest member, Mozambique, when faced with the terrible tragedy of the recent flooding.

And this relates to the inspiration that also comes from the example Commonwealth countries set each other; or absorb from each other, sometimes at joint meetings of ministers, sometimes from exchanges at the level of civil society through the vital network of professional organisations which are one of the pillars on which the association rests. Besides, the more the

SAVA & RAS Joint Stand At CHOGM In Durban, South Africa Publicises CVA



Dr. Margaret Roos (left) a member of the South African Veterinary Association and Mr. Terry Strachan of the Royal Agricultural Show, Pietermaritzburg, who arranged a joint stand at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Durban, South Africa in November 1999, designed to publicise CVA's programmes and more generally, the work of the veterinary profession.

Commonwealth proclaims its shared values, however many shortfalls there may be, the moral inspiration and example is always there. I would like to feel that the last ten years have helped a further definition of the Commonwealth's role in this respect.

As I demit office, I will of course be passing the baton to my good friend Don McKinnon, with whom, as New Zealand's Foreign Minister through all my period in office, I have worked on some of the great issues facing the Commonwealth – human rights and democracy; Southern Africa; and small states. I have every confidence he will carry the burden well, and I believe he will find an organization in good heart and in high standing with the wider world.

Of the Commonwealth's increasing relevance and value in the 21st century, I have no doubt. And I expect that the tired old myths presenting the Commonwealth as an irrelevant imperial hangover, which are still occasionally repeated to the bewilderment of those that have had anything to do with the modern Commonwealth, may now be put to rest. The capacity of the Commonwealth to contribute to dealing with the challenges which the new century presents is too important for us to be still befuddled by ghosts and antiques. I hope that my stewardship has helped to better equip the Commonwealth to meet those challenges - and I take pride in having been in the service of such a noble cause.

The Commonwealth Celebrates Its Day



Commonwealth Day 2000 was observed in grand style on Monday, 13th March throughout the Commonwealth which celebrates its shared links on the day.

Top: Her Majesty The Queen and Chief Anyaoku chatting with artist Chinwe Roy (right) and other guests at the Commonwealth Day 2000 reception

New Director General At RCS



Stuart Mole, OBE, who is at present the Director and Head of the Secretary-General's Office at the Commonwealth Secretariat, has been appointed Director-General of the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS). Mr. Mole, 51, will assume duty from 1 May, 2000. He joined the Secretariat in 1984 as Special Assistant to the then Secretary-General Sir Shridath Ramphal.

The RCS, which has branches in the UK and affiliated societies across the Commonwealth, is a leading focus for Commonwealth activity in the UK and internationally.

Brisbane To Host The Next CHOGM

The next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting will be held in Brisbane, Australia in 2001, the second time Australia is hosting the meeting. Melbourne hosted the first summit in 1981.

New Director and Deputy Director of Commonwealth Foundation

Mr. Colin Ball, Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Foundation since joining in 1998, has been appointed Director following the retirement of Dr. Humayun Khan in January 2000. Mr. Ball, from the UK, has had a varied career beginning with teaching in Malaysia and West Africa, and straddling the voluntary sector and government.

Ms. Rudo Chitiga, from Zimbabwe, takes over from Mr. Ball as Deputy Director. Prior to assuming her post in February, Ms. Chitiga was the Secretary-General of the Geneva-based Development Innovations and Networks (IRED), an international networks of grassroots organisations working in the fields of economic empowerment, local governance and policy alternatives.

Ms. Chitiga began her career with the Ministry of Community Development and Women's Affairs in Zimbabwe where she contributed significantly to the policy reform to mainstream gender.



Mr. Colin Ball



Ms. Rudo Chitiga

A Message For Commonwealth Day 2000

- From Her Majesty The Queen - Head of the Commonwealth



It is highly appropriate that the theme of Commonwealth Day at the start of the new millennium should be The Communications Challenge. For much of the millennium just ended, the challenge was to relay

information as speedily and accurately as possible. What once took weeks is now instantaneous. But the advance in technology brings a new challenge, of how to use rapid communication responsibly and for the common good. We have to strive to ensure that the advantages of modern communication systems are available to all, and are used to bring us all closer together, not to create fresh divisions. And we need to remember that exciting though the new ways of communicating undoubtedly are, what matters most is what we say to each other.

The Commonwealth is an organisation so diverse and widespread that it has always depended on good communications which are helped, of course, by having a common language. Recent advances in communication technology are particularly helpful in fostering the non-governmental networks which help to make the Commonwealth so unique. The exchange of information and sharing of experience between representatives of civil society in the different countries form an important part of the Commonwealth's activities at the start of the 21st century. Both in these networks, and in our co-operation at government level, our shared values and traditions provide a foundation for using the new technology to our common advantage.

The challenge for the century just started will be to find ways to use ever faster communications to bring greater harmony and understand both within each of our societies and between them, and thereby to strengthen the Commonwealth.

- Elizabeth R.
13 March 2000

Realising The Potential of Communications and Information Technology

- The 2000 Commonwealth Day Statement By Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku

On Monday 13 March we celebrate the first Commonwealth Day of the new millennium. This year's theme, 'The Communications Challenge', has special significance because today, more than ever, the world has the capacity to communicate and share knowledge, ideas, and goodwill. This was amply demonstrated on New Year's Eve, when through television and radio, people in different corners of the globe figuratively linked arms and shared with the rest of the world welcoming ceremonies for the year 2000.

We in the Commonwealth are fortunate that our family of 54 countries share a common language, which facilitates communication among us - an advantage that information technology could enable us to exploit fully.

The 21st century is already seeing monumental developments in communications and information technology that are sure to impact on all of us. For example, even as the capabilities of the Internet continue to fascinate, we are told that soon electronic or digital books will be in general use - perhaps helping to save trees but may be posing other threats! Today's astounding information technology advances, which not so long ago we thought belonged only in the realm of science fiction, keep us informed of events around the world as they happen, enabling us to take a position, or act, on developments far away from us. However, they also serve to contrast the stark inequalities between rich and poor, and highlight the human suffering and social exclusion all around us.

Happily, these technologies present great potential for righting some of the world's wrongs because knowledge and experience can now be shared everywhere in the world instantaneously. I believe that this is an opportunity that must be seized. The challenge the world now faces is to find ways of making the best use of the wonder of information technology to communicate and share ideas in ways that benefit all segments of society. Most important of all, we must use these technological advances to nurture international understanding and world peace - two major Commonwealth principles. Positive communication can help avoid or resolve the divisive conflicts which have brought pain and hardship to so many, especially children and women.

The second Monday in March was chosen as Commonwealth Day for the reason that schools throughout the Commonwealth would be in session and thus have the opportunity to observe the Day with due ceremony, because Commonwealth Day is for our young people, our future leaders. But we know that unfortunately, as in past years, the Day will find too many young people living in avoidable situations of distress and deprivation.

I believe that we can only truly celebrate the enormous breakthroughs in information and communications technology when we know that these are being used to bridge the gaps between rich and poor, to cement friendships and co-operation between peoples and countries, and to break down the barriers to world peace, goodwill and understanding in the Commonwealth and the rest of the world.

- Emeka Anyaoku

CVA News

Dr. Pryor Honoured

Dr. W.J. Pryor, who is former President of CVA, has been accorded a high honour in being appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Queen's Birthday Honours for Australia on 12th June 2000.



This award was made "for services to Veterinary Science, particularly in the areas of education and professional development in Australia and overseas" and was one of thirty-two for the whole of Australia at this level. The AO "recognises distinguished service of a high degree to Australia or to humanity at large." The CVA is proud of Dr. W.J. Pryor's achievement - Editor.

New Zealand Vetscript Editor Receives President's Award

The President's Award for the year 2000 went to *Vetscript* Editor Elizabeth Sommerville.

In presenting the award, N Z V President Susan Morris said that *Vetscript* is considered one of the best veterinary magazines in the world.



Honorary Life Member of NZVA

At this year's NZVA Conference, Dr. Catherine Smith was made an Honorary Life Member of the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA). President Susan Morris announced the honour at the Annual Dinner, and acknowledged Catherine's outstanding contribution to the association.



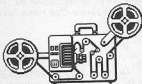
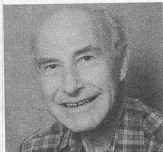
Catherine's achievements over this period are too numerous to list,' said Susan, 'but included in these must be mentioned her concern for the welfare of members of the profession.' Susan went on to refer to Catherine's part in developing the 'Prelude to Practice' seminars for undergraduates and new graduates, the mentor scheme and the liaison with the Doctors' Health Advisory Service. 'But perhaps her greatest contribution was her ready availability and willingness to spend time talking through problems with members on an individual basis,' said Susan.

New Prime Minister of Dominica

Mr. Roosevelt Douglas, 58, leader of the Dominica Labour Party, was sworn in as his country's Prime Minister on 3 February this year following his party's victory in the general election on 31 January. He replaces Mr. Edison James of the United Workers Party who had been Prime Minister for nearly one



term of five years.



JOURNALS, BOOK AND AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAMME



Contact: Dr. J.B. Derbyshire, Coordinator, CVA Book Programme, Department of Pathobiology, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1.

CVA Book Programme - ANNUAL REPORT 1999-2000

A. INTRODUCTION

Coordination of the Canadian component of the CVA Book Programme from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) at the University of Guelph has continued. The current inventory comprises 389 titles and 879 volumes. Most disciplines are reasonably well covered, although additional titles are needed in avian and fish diseases, microbiology, pharmacology and theriogenology. Donations of books have continued at a fairly high level, although more recent editions of some titles are needed. Through the courtesy of Mrs. Kimberley Allen-McGill, Managing Editor, the Canadian Veterinary Journal published an appeal for book donations in the May, 2000 issue of the journal, and the programme was also publicised in the January, 2000 issue of the CVA News by the Editor, Dr. Abdul Rahman.

B. SHIPMENTS

A total of 21 shipments, comprising 255 books, were sent to 5 commonwealth countries as follows: India (12 shipments; 78 books), Uganda (3 shipments; 62 books), Ghana (2 shipments; 38 books), The Gambia (2 shipments; 75 books) and Vanuatu (2 shipments; 4 books). Seven of the shipments were to universities or veterinary institutions, including research institutes, and 14 were to practising veterinarians (12 in the Indian province of Himachal Pradesh, and 2 in Uganda). While the number of books shipped increased by almost 20% compared with 1998-99, the number of recipient countries decreased by 50%, and more of the requests were from individual veterinarians rather than institutions, compared with 1998-99. In addition, the programme paid the shipping costs for a consignment of 6 boxes of books and audio-tapes

which were sent by Ms. Yogi Fell from the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island to the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago.

C. CORRESPONDENCE

Increasingly, correspondence has been by e-mail, which reduces costs and increases speed, although unfortunately books cannot be transmitted by this route!

In June, 1999, we received a copy of Pig Husbandry Technology for Warm Climates, edited by Ian McDonald, who kindly granted permission for the CVA to reproduce and distribute copies of the book. With the approval of Dr. Pryor, 20 copies of the book were duplicated, and several of these have been distributed.

Information about the Books for Africa project was received from the University of Pretoria. An offer of assistance from the CVA Book Programme failed to elicit a response.

As suggested by the Executive at the Calgary meeting last year, requests from individual veterinarians in India have been referred to Dr. Rahman for approval; one was rejected. Several requests were received from Nigeria, and each correspondent was informed that books cannot be sent to that country at present.

Dr. Nitish Debnath, Principal of the Chittagong Government Veterinary College in Bangladesh, requested assistance in meeting the costs of shipping a large consignment of books donated by Dr. E.A. Wells of the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine in Edinburgh. After consultation with Dr. Pryor, we agreed

to contribute up to £500 towards the cost of shipping these books to Bangladesh by sea. Further details will be included in the CVA News, and in the Annual Report next year.

D. FINANCES

Quarterly bank statements have been forwarded to Dr. Pryor. The total revenue has been \$4,157.90 and expenses have been 1783.33.

CONCLUSIONS

While it was possible to meet most of the requests received during the year from the budget allocation of \$2,000, the number of requests from eligible veterinary institutions was disappointing. The collaboration of the regional representatives in publicising the programme among the institutions in their regions is solicited.

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Drs. Stevenson, Lees, Pryor and Rahman have been highly supportive of the programme. Many requests

are still directed to Lethbridge and Dr. Lorne Jordan at ADRI has very kindly forwarded these to Guelph.

Dr. David Hull, the Librarian at the OVC, has continued to deal with all enquiries from potential donors, screened the donated books, and delivered these to the CVA book storage area. Dr. Lloyd Coleman continued to provide invaluable assistance in the packaging and shipping of books. The provision of storage space at the OVC by Dean Alan Meek, and Dr. John Leatherland, Chair of Biomedical Sciences, is gratefully acknowledged.

The Managing Editor of the *Canadian Veterinary Journal*, Mrs. Kimberley Allen-McGill, kindly published an appeal for the donation of books.

Finally, all the donors are thanked for providing their gifts of books, without which the programme would not exist.

J.B. Derbyshire
30th June, 2000
Program Coordinator

SPC and CVA Sign MOU

An agreement between the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and The Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) was signed on 31.12.1999. This historic agreement seeks to promote and achieve more effective coordination of scarce resources and hence reduce duplication of efforts between the work programmes of the organisations concerned in areas of mutual interest.

The SPC comprises 22 Pacific Island countries (and five metropolitan Members) and is primarily service oriented with significant training and limited research components. The two institutions acknowledge that they share common goals for the promotion of animal health related activities with in the pacific regions and further that they hold similar objectives for information and training and the two institutions recognise the existence of considerable scope for collaborations and cooperation and historical linkages based on the personal efforts and networks of the respective staff and desire to promote the increase of their interactions in both intensity and scope, and to place the linkages between them on a more formal footing, subject to the availability of the resources.

Nature of Co-operation

In order to attain the objective referred to in the preceding clause, the Parties will promote the following:

- a) Participation in administrative and programme planning meetings
- b) Free exchange of information, whether in the form of written materials (published or unpublished), computer databases, or other format
- c) Joint use of information networks for contact, collection and dissemination of information
- d) Sharing of expertise in collaborative activities and projects, and preferential use of appropriately qualified staff of the two institutions for consultancies
- e) Consultation in planning in specific areas of interest, for example quarantine, para-veterinary training, animal health and production
- f) Organisation of joint conferences, workshops and other meetings
- g) Attendance of non-member of countries at workshops, meetings, training courses and conferences sponsored by either the Secretariat of the Pacific Community or the Commonwealth Veterinary Association where possible
- h) Other activities of mutual interest and benefit.

CVA STUDY FUND

The Fund

This fund has been established by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) in conjunction with the Commonwealth Foundation to honour the contributions made by Mr. John Anderson and Dr. L.P.E. Choquette in establishing and promoting the activities of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

Financial support to match the funds contributed by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and the several national and local veterinary associations throughout the Commonwealth may be provided by the Commonwealth Foundation.

The Fund is independent and separate from the operating funds of the CVA. The money will be deposited in an appropriate bank at the discretion of the CVA treasurer subject to approval by the Commonwealth Foundation, to provide income to finance the fund.

1. Purpose

Its purpose is to provide financial assistance to:

1. Veterinarians who are members of their respective national associations to undertake short term study visits to schools, institutions or to undertake short term study courses in veterinary medicine, animal production or related areas in other Commonwealth countries.
2. Animal Health Assistants, recommended by the appropriate CVA Council Member and Regional Representative, to undergo further short term training at a school or institution in another Commonwealth country.

It is expected that such visits will promote professional and para-professional contacts and provide grantees with new knowledge and expertise in their respective fields of interest. Study proposals which will directly benefit the rural poor and disadvantaged will receive sympathetic consideration. All proposals will be expected to describe how they will benefit the home institution, veterinary organisation and community. The visit is also expected to result in a broadening of cultural experience and horizons and to promote Commonwealth understanding.

2. Guidelines

1. Preference will be given to visits to related regions with 'south-south' movements being encouraged.
2. The study period should, preferably but not necessarily, be less than two weeks in duration.
3. The study visits will be financed at a maximum of Aus \$ 2,000 including a prepaid air ticket for the least expensive and most direct route.
4. Usually, although not exclusively, grants will be limited to persons up to 35 years of age with field experience and not available to persons holding senior appointments.
5. Grants are provided only for periods of concentrated study or training on a particular topic activity, and cannot be made for attendance at conferences, meetings etc. nor to underwrite a tour of visits to a number of institutions.
6. A report must be submitted to the Secretary-

Treasurer, CVA within three (3) months of the completion of the study visit.

7. It will be necessary for the host institution to agree to assist in arranging suitable accommodation etc., within the applicant's ability to finance it.
8. The host supervisor will agree to provide a report on the success of the visit and his estimate of the benefit the applicant has achieved from the study experience.
9. Grantees will be expected to give one or two lectures at the host institution or veterinary association on aspects of animal health and production activities in their home country. These lectures should emphasise how their studies in the host country will benefit the rural poor and disadvantaged as well as their impact upon the environment.
10. These lectures and the discussions of topics, both professional and social, with the staff of the host institution or veterinary association will serve to further the aims and objectives of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.
11. The awards are not normally available for University academic or research staff.

3. Applications

- i) There is no set application form.
- ii) Applications should be submitted to the appropriate Regional Representative for processing, at least 6 months prior to the proposed visit.
- iii) Applicants will provide a complete curriculum vitae to the Regional Representative.
- iv) A list of travel and study visits by the applicants and the source of funding over the preceding 5 years is to be included. This should be verified by the applicant's employer or other suitable individual.
- v) Applicants will be required to provide evidence that the study visit has the approval of his/her home institution or national association and a letter of acceptance from the person who will supervise the study programme in the host country.

4. Administration

This will be kept simple to reduce costs and ensure that all available funds are applied to the proposed projects.

- i) Applications with supporting documents should be sent to the appropriate Regional Representative.
- ii) If the Regional Representative considers the applicant suitable, the application will be forwarded with appropriate recommendation to the Director of Programmes.
- iii) The Director of Programmes will select one or more countries to be awarded a Study Fund grant and make a recommendation to the President.
- iv) The award will be subject to ratification by the CVA President.

Last date of submission of request to Council Members/ Reg. Rep. 30th Oct. 2000. RRs to submit their recommendations before 30th Nov. 2000 to Programme Director.

Asia

India

President of CVA At Chennai

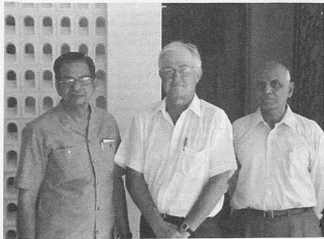
The President of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, Dr. Bert Stevenson visited Chennai on his way to Sri Lanka to attend the Asian Regional Seminar at Kandy, Sri Lanka. In Madras Dr. Stevenson visited the Madras Veterinary College and he was shown around the clinics by the Dean of the College Dr. R. Kadirvel.

Dr. Stevenson also visited the office of the Indian Veterinary Journal and had discussions with the Editor, Dr. V.D. Padmanaban and the President of IVA Dr. R.S. Sharma.

The Tamil Nadu Veterinary Association felicitated Dr. Stevenson at a function organised in the Veterinary College.



Dr. Stevenson being felicitated by the Tamilnadu Vet. Association. Dr. Ghose Presenting a memento.

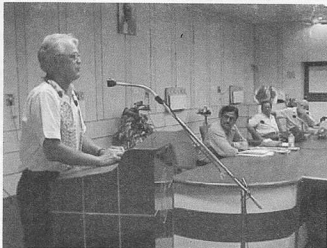


Dr. Stevenson at the IVJ Office. L-R: Dr. R.S. Sharma, President, IVA, Dr. Stevenson and Dr. V.D. Padmanaban, Editor, IVJ

Dr. Satchidanandan, President TVA, Secretary Dr. Mohd. Ghouse and President of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary Surgeons Association Dr. Dhandayuthapani were present. Dr. Stevenson was honoured with the traditional garland and shawl. Dr. R.S. Sharma, President IVA and Dr. S. Abdul Rahman Secretary, CVA were also honoured on the occasion.

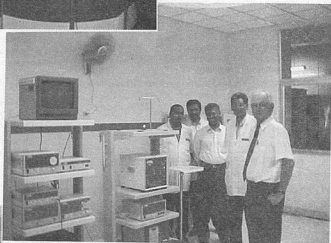
Dr. Stevenson in his speech stressed the role of Commonwealth Veterinary Association in helping the developing countries by various projects aimed at helping the farmers, especially the women.

Earlier during his visit to the college he was introduced to the faculty of the college.



Dr. Stevenson addressing a meeting of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary Association. L-R: Dr. Dhandyuthopani, President, VAS Association, Dr. R.S. Sharma, President, IVA and Dr. Rahman, Sec., CVA

President CVA, visiting one of the referral centres of the Veterinary College Hospital



Dr. Stevenson with the students at the clinics

West Indies Veterinary Dean Visits India

Prof. Abiodun A. Adesiyun, Professor of Veterinary Public Health, School of Veterinary Medicine and Deputy Dean, Basic Health Sciences, The University of the West Indies visited Bangalore, India on 27.5.2000. He visited the Veterinary faculty of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore and had discussions with the Professor of Microbiology Dr. L. Muniyappa and the Dean of Veterinary Faculty Dr. S. Abdul Rahman on issues of mutual co-operation between the two Universities. The School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine in the Trinidad and Tobago offers a five years course leading to DVM degree. The curriculum provides both theoretical and practical training as follows.



L-R: Dr. L. Muniyappa, Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Prof. Abiodun A. Adesiyun and Dr. N. Obeyesekere at Vet. College, Bangalore.

Curriculum

- A. Preclinical – Anatomy, integrated basic sciences, physiology, biochemistry, statistics and computer sciences and animal production.
- B. Paraclinical – Pathology, pharmacology, parasitology, microbiology, immunology, public health and epidemiology.
- C. Clinical – Surgery and medicine of large and small animals and avian species, anaesthesiology, radiology, veterinary jurisprudence, theriogenology and clinics

Clinics comprise attachment in:

- a) food animal and equine medicine/surgery
- b) herd and flock health
- c) companion animal medicine/surgery
- d) laboratory medicine/necropsy
- e) applied epidemiology/public health
- f) theriogenology

All the above named courses constitute a total of 4562 contact hours and 181 credit units and qualifies the graduate to enter into many varieties of employments.

Admission Requirements

For admission into the Faculty of Medicine Sciences (of which Veterinary Medicine is part) the requirement is possession of the general Certificate of Education (GCE) at Advanced Level in Chemistry, Biology/Zoology and Physics or Mathematics or a satisfactory performance in these subjects in the preliminary and/or introductory examinations in the faculty of Natural Sciences, the University of the West Indies (UWI) or equivalent examination in institutions recognised by the UWI. If Physics is not offered at

GCE 'A' level or equivalent examination, the candidate is required to have passed it at the GCE 'O' level or equivalent examination.

Because of difficulties in getting enough students with the above requirements, the following modifications were made:

- a) For an experimental period of five years, applicants will be allowed to replace Physics with any 'A' level subject in addition to Chemistry and Biology/Zoology provided they have passed Mathematics and Physics at 'O' level.
- b) Applicants to the School of Veterinary Medicine only will be considered for admission on the basis of two 'A' level passes in Chemistry and Biology/Zoology provided they also have 'O' level passes in Mathematics and Physics. Students gaining admission under this regulation will not be eligible for transfer to other disciplines within the faculty.
- c) For an experimental period of five years, holders of degrees in relevant science subjects of UWI or any recognised institutions or of approved diplomas from College of Agriculture and Animal Health may also be considered for admission to the School of Veterinary Medicine provided such holders possess the minimum matriculation requirements of UWI.

The DVM starts in October each year. The cost of tuition is approximately US \$13,500 per annum.

The application forms may be obtained from: The Senior Registrar (Student Affairs), The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad, West Indies. Tel: (1-809) 645-2942/3; Fax: (1-809) 663-9684 or The Senior Administrative Officer, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Mount Hope, Trinidad, West Indies. Tel: (1-809) 645-22640; Fax: (1-809) 663-9835.

Bharat Merino: A Promising Dual-purpose Sheep Breed For India

Bharat Merino strain of sheep has, basically, been developed at the Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute for fulfilling domestic requirement of the fine wool, while acting as a substitute for the exotic fine-wool breeds of the temperate countries. This breed has been developed through crossbreeding of exotic fine-wool breeds viz., Russian Merino and Rambouillet, with fine/coarse/wool/carpet-type native sheep breeds Jaisalmeri, Chokla, Nali and Malpura. The exotic inheritance, responsible for fine wool, has been stabilised at 75%, and the breed is maintained through *inter se* mating within the group.

In addition to fine-wool production, Bharat Merino sheep is an efficient converter of poor quality roughages into good quality mutton, which is reflected by the live-body weights expressed at different stages of growth (upto one-year of age).

Bharat Merino breed could be successfully reared up to 6 months of age to attain best salvage value by slaughtering them for fulfilling domestic and external requirement or demand of mutton, which is

additional to greasy fleece yield (0.90 kg), obtained in the first shearing (at about 6 months of age).



The breed is well suited to Indian climates, ranging from extremely hot (Rajasthan) to cold climates (Kodai Kanal Hills of Tamil Nadu). A sheep-farmer can enhance his income by rearing Bharat Merino lambs for mutton upto 6 months of age or so; as the growth rate reduces significantly during 6-12 months period, compared to 0-6 months period. Hence, if marketable age is stabilised at about 6 months or so, the sheep-farmer can attain at least 0.90 kg of (approximately) fine wool; fetching higher prices in market as compared to the price of the same amount of fine/coarse carpet-type wool, produced by other native sheep breeds of the country, in addition to an appreciable amount of live-body weight at this age (24-25 kg) under semi-intensive system of management.

A.K.S. Tomar and B.S. Mehta Division of Animal Genetics and Breeding, Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar, Rajasthan - 304 501.

Wool Quality Attributes of the Sheep		
Traits	Performance under	
	Semi-arid climate (Rajasthan)	Sub-temperate climate (Tamil Nadu)
Fibre diameter (μ)	19.34 \pm 0.11 (3 monthly)	20.24 (annual)
Staple length (cm)	3.91 \pm 0.51 (6 monthly)	9.40 (annual)
Medullation percentage	1.72 \pm 0.65	0.60
Annual greasy fleece yield (kg)	2.44 \pm 0.01	2.71 \pm 0.01
6-monthly greasy fleece yield in first shearing (kg)	0.88 \pm 0.02	-

Live Body Weights and Growth Rates of the Sheep		
Traits	Performance under	
	Semi-arid climate (Rajasthan)	Sub-temperate climate (Tamil Nadu)
Birth Weight (kg)	3.13 \pm 0.04	4.26
3 months (kg)	16.75 \pm 0.18	20.11
6 months (kg)	23.80 \pm 0.23	25.63
9 months (kg)	27.25 \pm 0.27	-
12 months (kg)	31.47 \pm 0.33	34.46
Average Daily Gains (g)		
Preweaning gain (0-3 months)	151.00	176.10
Postweaning gain (3-6 months)	78.30	61.30

Training Programmes For Women Farmers In India

The following training programmes were organised in the state of Tamil Nadu in collaboration with the Veterinary College.



Sheep being distributed to farmers

+ A training programme on "Livestock Management" for farm was conducted from 4th to 7th January 2000 at Veterinary College, Namakkal in collaboration with TANWA wing of Agricultural Department. Training was given to 25 women farmers on Dairy farming, Calf rearing, Poultry, Piggery, prevention and control of diseases in dairy animals and demonstration on clean milk production. Preparation of milk products were arranged. Video lessons were shown on dairy and poultry farming. Farm visits were also undertaken by the trainees.

+ Similarly, the Veterinary University Research Centre, Dharmapuri conducted a four day training programme from 24th to 27th January 2000 for 26 farm women at Palakkodu on "Broiler farming and Milk cattle Management." Video cassettes on the above subject were shown and the

preparation of enriched paddy straw and silage making were demonstrated. Co-1 sapling and *Subabul* seeds were distributed free of cost.

+ The Farmers Training Centre, Tiruvarur has organised and conducted two training programmes of 3 days each on "Profitable Goat Farming" for women farmers "self help groups" in collaboration with TANWA wing of Agricultural Department, Tiruvarur from 27th to 29th January and 1st to 3rd February at Kuniyur and Komal villages, respectively. In the above training programmes, a total of 40 farm women participated. The Joint Director of Agriculture, Tiruvarur stressed the importance of goat rearing for increased income for farm women.

+ A three day training programme on "Broiler farming" was conducted for convenors of "self help groups" of TANWA from 16th to 18th February 2000 at Farmers Training



Birds and calves being presented to women farmers

Centre, Tiruvarur. 20 women farmers participated.

Source: TNVASU, News Letter

• *Man has learnt to fly like a bird, swim like a fish but has not learnt to walk with dignity on earth*
- Mahathma Gandhi

• *If you have faith in 30 million Gods and still no faith in yourselves, you will have no salvation*

- Swami Vivekananda

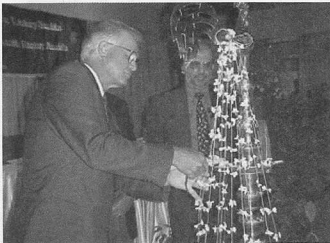
Sri Lanka

CVA Asian Regional Seminar and Meeting and 52nd Annual Convention of Sri Lanka Veterinary Association

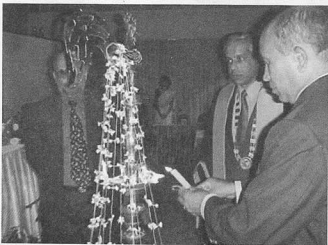
The Commonwealth Veterinary Association Asian Regional Seminar and Meeting was held at Kandy, Sri Lanka from 27th to 29th April, 2000. It was organised by the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association to coincide with its 52nd Annual Convention and General Body.

The theme of the CVA Seminar was "Veterinary Public Health". Over 200 veterinarians from Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh participated in the seminar.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Bert Stevenson, President and Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Secretary of Commonwealth Veterinary Association who is also the Regional Representative of the



Dr. Bert Stevenson lighting the lamp at the inauguration



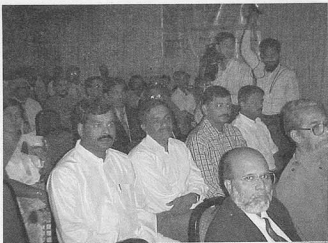
L-R: Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Sec. CVA, Dr. Neil Horadagoda, President SLVA and Dr. Dasanayake, President Elect at the inauguration

Asian Region.

In addition to Council Members Dr. A.A. Ramzee of Pakistan, Dr. Sultan Mohiuddin of Bangladesh and Dr. R.S. Sharma of India, the invited speakers included, Dr. V.A. Srinivasan, Indian Immunologists, Hyderabad, India, Dr. W.H. Pirzada, Pakistan and Dr. Atavar Rahman of Bangladesh.

The delegates from Sri Lanka included Dr. Neil Horadagoda, President SLVA and Council Member CVA who was also the organising Secretary.

The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. P. Ramanujam, The Secretary, and Ministry of Livestock Development and Estate



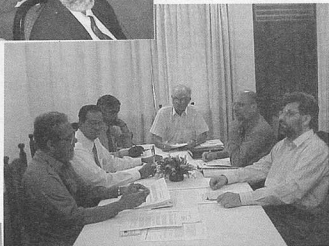
Section of the audience.

L-R: Mr. G. Anand, Mr. Poonacha, Mr. Ramesh & Mr. Manjunath, Members of the Board of Regents, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India

Foreground: Dr. V.A. Srinivasan, invited speaker (India) and Dr. Sultan Mohiuddin, Council Member Bangladesh

CVA Asian Regional Meeting.

L-R: Dr. Sultan Mohiuddin, Dr. R.S. Sharma, Dr. Neil Hoaradagoda Dr. Stevenson, Dr. S. Abdul Rahman and Dr. A.A. Ramzee



L-R: Dr. R.S. Sharma, Dr. Pirzada and Dr. A.A. Ramzee at the Scientific Session



Dr. Hanifa, Sri Lanka presenting his invited paper on Veterinary Public Health.

A section of the audience.



Infrastructure, Govt. of Sri Lanka on Thursday 27th April at 10 AM. Dr. Neil Horadagoda, President SLVA welcomed the gathering. Dr. Bert Stevenson, President CVA, in his address outlined the activities of the CVA and its aims and objectives and the role it plays in the developing countries of the Commonwealth.

In his presidential address Dr. Ramanujam, stressed the need to intensify the role of the veterinarian to deal with day to day problems of the farmers and provide them with quality life. He said that the veterinarians would be playing a major

role in the future to feed the increasing population of the subcontinent.

There were six scientific sessions on 1. Management for Veterinarians, 2. Veterinary Public Health, 3. Clinical Papers, 4. Animal health and 5. Animal Production. The CVA component of the Seminar on Veterinary Public Health had country reports from, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in addition to invited papers.

The proceedings of the seminar will be printed and released shortly.

New President of SLVA

Dr. RMPH Dassanayake, (49) has been elected as the new President of Sri Lanka Veterinary Association.



Dr. RMPH Dassanayake completed BVSc. at the University of Peradeniya (1973-1977) and Post Graduation at the Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya (1983/84). He did his MSc. (Agric.) in Animal Science. As his career extended he joined the Sri Lanka Air Force in 1978 in the Rank of Flight Lieutenant as in-charge of all livestock

projects and Dogs. The first Veterinarian to join the Armed Services in Sri Lanka and his present rank is that of Group Captain.

Later he was appointed as Command Agricultural Officer, In-charge of all livestock and Agricultural activities in the Air Force inclusive of about 200 dogs. He has attended overseas training courses such as 1. Military Dog Training, United Kingdom, 2. Training in Meat processing at China Meat Research Centre, Beijing, China. He is also actively involved in the SLVA activities during the past few years as a Committee member and as the Treasurer and has participated in the CVA Congress held at Bangalore in 1998.

CVA Study Fund

Report From Dr. Nalinika Obeyesekere, Sri Lanka

I have had the privilege of receiving the 1999-2000 CVA Study Fund Award to visit Chennai and Bangalore Veterinary Colleges in India from the May 28th to 3rd June 2000. This is my first working visit to India and it has been both stimulating and productive. The following is but a brief glimpse into what I have experienced and is not a comprehensive description of the institutions visited or the opportunities and benefits of the CVA program.

As we all know Veterinary practice is both an art and science. Although the fundamental knowledge and technical skills are similar world over, each region, school or even person have their own unique, distinctive ideas, interpretations and creative insights that can be shared.

In addition, certain regional institutions such as Madras Veterinary College have sophisticated diagnostic equipment not available elsewhere. Here, I had the opportunity to evaluate the practicality,

diagnostic applicability and usefulness, on a cost/benefit basis, of some of this equipment for Sri Lankan conditions. This University also has a specialized small animal reproduction section, which combines modern technology with practical requirements to provide special service to the public. The variety of specialities and programs available at this institution were too extensive for me to explore fully during this short stay. Madras Veterinary College should have something useful to offer to almost any Veterinarian no matter what is their interest.



My second stop was Bangalore. With all its growth and modern development this city still retains its beauty and charm and lives up to its name of a "garden city". The imposing stone buildings of the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary College are very similar in architecture to the older buildings at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka. I enjoyed the wide-open spaces, gardens, and gentle climate, all of which reminded me of Peradeniya.

Excellent departments of surgery, medicine & gynaecology, Embryo transfer research unit, extensive poultry farm, dairy unit and the variety of other departments kept me busy. Visiting the departments of pathology and physiology I realized how much could be achieved by a few people with interest, dedication and foresight. In addition to this University, Bangalore has numerous scientific and technological institutions that are useful to visit.

My visit to a private pharmaceutical company in Bangalore was one of unexpected surprises. The amalgamation of traditional knowledge with modern scientific thought and techniques, to create a marketable product with wide international appeal, is a feat to be respected and admired. It is a lesson in hope for all of us who are making innovative inroads into new areas. The Himalaya Drug Company sets an example, reminding us to remain focused and optimistic in the face of the frequent frustrations and obstacles that stand in the way of innovation and creativity.

Visiting regional Institutions also provides experience and exposure to animal species and breeds not commonly seen in ones own country. For example, both Chennai and Bangalore have a significant equine population. The Bangalore Turf Club exemplified this with its 1100 thoroughbreds. The afternoon racing was exhilarating, but seeing these majestic animals streaming out of the stables for their evening exercise was a even more beautiful sight. The track & premises are well maintained, with sophisticated Veterinary facilities and services. All the people involved with the racing and care of these animals are intensely interested. It would be an excellent place for an internship in Equine Medicine and Management.

A lot of valuable experience can be gained, by observing and discussing medical and surgical cases not previously encountered; as well as by comparing different treatment protocols and surgical methods used, to handle cases which are similar. One has

ample opportunity to compare and contrast, agree and disagree, teach and learn, to pick up some new techniques and ideas, as well as unlearn some old ones.

Beyond specific clinical experience is the vast range of information gathered through stimulating and sometimes extensive discussions with colleagues on various issues, ranging from student training techniques and wildlife conservation to regional politics. Then of course, most importantly, is getting to know ones colleagues in the region. Many who have similar goals and interests and with whom one can establish meaningful and lasting associations. During my stay in both Chennai and Bangalore I developed a great respect for the lady Veterinarians for their professionalism, energy and undaunted spirit.

I sincerely thank the CVA for affording me this opportunity and all my colleagues in Chennai and Bangalore for their hospitality and open welcome, and for making this trip productive, enjoyable and memorable.

Dr. Nalinika Obeyesekere

Private Practitioner

15, Lauries Road, Colombo-4, Sri Lanka

Frenchwoman Allergic To Sperm

A young woman has become allergic to sperm, forcing her partner to wear a condom, according to an unusual case reported at an Annual Seminar of French Allergy Specialists.

The patient, being treated at Paris' Tenon Hospital, developed the allergy after the birth of her second child; her doctor, Francisque le Ynadier, said. "Five minutes after intercourse, her body became covered in a rash, accompanied by Quincke's syndrome, in which the mucous membranes in the mouth and airways swelled up, almost causing her to suffocate," he said. Sperm allergy affects about 15 people in France per year and is caused by contact with any seminal fluid. In some cases, the condition suddenly stops after a few months, he said.

Collected by: Dr. V. V. Kumar,
Mysore.

Australasia/Oceania

Fiji

Report On Fourth CVA/SPC Fertility Workshop

The fourth CVA Workshop on Fertility in Village Livestock organised in conjunction with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community was held in Suva, Fiji from November 1st - 4th 1999. The workshop was officially opened by the Director General of SPC - Dr. Bob Dun.

The meeting was attended by delegates from five Commonwealth countries in the region who were sponsored by the CVA - Ilagi Puana from Papua New Guinea, Rheinhard Baer from Vanuatu, Israel Wore and Vic Epstein from the Solomons and Ken Lameta from Samoa plus a strong contingent from Fiji led by Raana Asgar and Kirsty van Hennekeler.

To enable participation from the other countries in the region, the Secretariat funded representatives from 4 of the other Pacific Island Countries - Valerie Antras from Polynesie Francais, Steve Nusbaum from Guam, Talitua Uele from American Samoa and Olivier Vilain from Nouvelle Calédonie.

The two resource persons at the workshop were Professor Jainudeen, who has participated in the three previous CVA workshops on Fertility in Village Livestock and Dr. Henry Too, an Associate Professor in pig diseases and production at UPM with over 20 years of experience.

From the country reports, it soon became apparent that fertility problems in the region are mostly management related and that infectious causes of infertility are rare. The participants cited cases associated with poor nutrition and lack of access to male animals. The regional situation is being evaluated by Professor Jainudeen from the country reports and his findings will be published at a later date.

During the course of the workshop, the participants also considered the economic impact of infertility and the use of computer modelling techniques.

One outcome of the meeting related to the limited numbers of veterinarians in the countries in the region, which means that the majority of clinical cases are

investigated by animal health assistants or paravets. The clinical ability of these individuals varies considerably and the workshop identified a clear requirement to provide improved training for these staff - a measure SPC is trying to implement.

Highlights of the workshop were the field trip, to a dairy herd with a fertility problem and the closing dinner where some of the finest local dishes were available.

Established in 1947 by the Treaty of Canberra, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community is a regional organisation which provides technical support and assistance, in areas as diverse as women and youth, culture, health, marine resources and agriculture to the 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories. SPC has been an Associate Member of the CVA since 1993 and has participated at previous regional meetings.

Fiji Suspended From Commonwealth

Fiji has been suspended from the Council of Commonwealth, pending restoration of democracy and the rule of law in that country.

This was announced by Commonwealth Secretary General Don McKinnon at the end of an emergency meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) on the Harare Declaration held on June 26th 2000.

The group unanimously condemned the use of armed force against Fiji's democratically elected government by a "group of extremists."

They also expressed concern over the imposition of martial law in the country and the abrogation of the Fiji Constitution Amendment Act (1997) saying it constituted serious violation of the Commonwealth's fundamental principles, as enshrined in the Harare Declaration.

Mr. McKinnon said a four-member mission would be despatched to Fiji immediately to press for a clear timetable for the restoration of democracy in the island nation. The CMAG mission would be led by its chairman, Lt. Gen Mompoti S Merathe, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Botswana and would include Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and the special envoy of Malaysian Prime Minister Tansri Datomusa Bin Hitam, he said adding foreign minister of New Zealand has also been invited to join it.

Mr. McKinnon said the group called for Commonwealth principles of good governance, democracy and the rule of law to be upheld in Fiji.

It also demanded the immediate, unconditional release of Fijian Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry and others being held hostage in Suva and urged Commodore Frank Bainimarama to secure and uphold their safety and well-being.

Animal Health: Pacific Community And Commonwealth Veterinary Association Join Forces

The Pacific Community's (SPC) newly-elected Director General Lourdes Pangelinan ratified a memorandum of agreement with the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) formalising a closer cooperation between the two organisations, especially in terms of training and information sharing for animal health in the Pacific.

For instance, last year, we did a workshop in Suva, where we had technical expertise from Malaysia provided by the CVA. And the participants came from both the Commonwealth countries (outside and in the Pacific) and within the Pacific Community, including French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Guam, which, as you know, do not belong to the Commonwealth."

"So it shows quite clearly that both realms can benefit from that sort of joint approach", Dr. Ramsay added.

"In general, the animal health status is very good in the Pacific. Having said that we must ensure things remain this way and the best thing to do this is to ensure Pacific island countries have the means, the knowledge and the information to prevent disease introduction from other parts of the world."

Areas concerned include animal health at large, including animal and livestock protection.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community covers 27 members (including 22 Pacific island countries and territories) and defines itself as "primarily service-oriented, with significant training and limited research components."

The CVA promotes the exchange and dissemination of technical information and experience on animal health among the member countries of the Commonwealth.

Under the agreement, the two organisations, would freely exchange information and share networks to communicate, share experts on training, consultancy or research projects, organise joint conferences and training workshops. The agreement was signed by CVA President, Australasia-based Bill Pryor. It was also the first official deed signed by Ms. Pangelinan in her capacity of Director General of the SPC, a position she took up early last month.

- Peter Saville, Animal Health Adviser, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Suva, Fiji.

Fiji Veterinary Association Office-Bearers And CVA Councillor For The Year 2000-2001

The Fiji Veterinary Association (FVA) has a new President and CVA Councillor Dr. Robin Yarrow for the next 2 years. Dr. Raana Asgar continues as Secretary/Treasurer.



Pacific Community Director General Lourdes Pangelinan signs the agreement between SPC and CVA Left: SPC's Deputy Director General Jimmie Rodgers; right: SPC's Veterinary Epidemiologist, Dr. Gavin Ramsay.

"In practice, this had already been happening for a couple of years, SPC and the CVA have shared technical expertise, resources and information", SPC's Veterinary Epidemiologist Dr. Gavin Ramsay said.

"What it means in practice is that we, at SPC, provide expertise and our resources and the CVA, on their side, provide theirs, from within or outside the Pacific region."

The agreement mainly aims at reducing duplication of effort between the work programmes of the two organisations "in areas of mutual interest."

Internet Humour

A five-year-old was discussing Noah's Ark with Grandma. Grandma asked, "How many animals went into the Ark?"

The younger replied: "One mail and one e-mail"

Second Meeting Of IVOC In London

Representatives of the American, Canadian and Australian Veterinary Associations visited the BVA's headquarters in London for the second meeting of the International Veterinary Officers Council. The presidents and chief executives of the American Veterinary Medical Association (Dr. Leonard Seda and Dr. Bruce Little, respectively), the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (Dr. George Guernsey and Mr. Claude Paul Boivin) and the Australian Veterinary Association (Dr. Garth McGilvray and Mrs. Barbara Horsfield) met over two days to discuss such matters as the public's expectations of veterinarians, food safety, and the business of veterinary services.



Australia

Veterinary Conservation Biology In Australasia

Wildlife Health and Management in the New Millennium

A Conference will be organised jointly by the Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists (AAVCB), World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (WAWV), Wildlife Society of the New Zealand Veterinary Association (WSNZVA) and the Wildlife Diseases Association Australasian Section (WDA) during July 2-6, 2001 at Taronga Zoo, Sydney, Australia.

For more information contact: Dr. Larry Vogelnest,
Taronga Zoo Veterinary and Quarantine Centre, PO
Box 20, Mosman NSW 2088. Australia.
Email: lvogelnest@zoo.nsw.gov.au;
Fax: (61 2) 9978 4516.

Solomon Islands

Coup In Solomon Islands

Malaita Eagles force militia took control of Honiara on 5th June 2000 cutting communications, and placed Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu under house arrest, demanding he resign. Andrew, Nori is a lawyer who acts for the Malaita Eagles and is the man behind the coup in the Solomon Islands, AP



Solomon Islands' New Prime Minister



Solomon Islands former opposition leader Mannasseh Sogavare (left) speaks to media after he was elected Prime Minister, by the country's lawmakers, a development welcomed by Andrew Nori, head of the main rebel group. Sogavare replaced ousted Prime Minister Bartholemew Ulufa'alu, who resigned under duress two weeks ago after Nori's armed rebels seized Honiara and briefly held him at gunpoint.

New Zealand

Labour Wins In New Zealand



Labour Party leader Helen Clarke, took over as Prime Minister of New Zealand on 27 November 1999, when her party ousted the National Party led by Ms. Jenny Shipley following a general election. Ms. Clark, born in 1950 in Hamilton, New Zealand, has had almost 30 years of involvement with the Labour Party which she joined in 1971 and is Member of Parliament for Mt Albert. She stood for election to Parliament for the first time in 1975.

Ms. Clark studied at the University of Auckland where her active involvement in politics began, sparked by such issues as Vietnam war and apartheid in South Africa, and later lectured there in political studies. She has held a number of ministerial posts in the past, including conservation, housing, labour and health. From August 1989 until October 1990 she was Deputy Prime Minister.

Singapore

New Office-bearers Of Singapore Veterinary Association

The following were elected as new office-bearers of the Singapore Veterinary Association for the year 1999/2000.

President:	Dr. Hsu Li Chieh
Vice-President:	Dr. Shane Ryan
Honorary Secretary:	Dr. Yap Him Hoo
Honorary Treasurer:	Dr. Chang Siow Foong
Honorary Editor:	Dr. Tan Hock Seng
CVA Councillor:	Dr. C.H. Giam
Committee Members:	Dr. Josephine Tan
	Dr. Tay Choon Nghee
	Dr. Chua Tze Hoong
	Dr. Tan Kok Cheong
	Dr. May Lim
	Dr. Ng Cher Yew
	Dr. Ng Fook Kheong

Canada Caribbean

Guyana

Guyana Veterinary Association Executives 2000-2001

The Guyana Veterinary Association (GVA) had its Annual General Elections on May 12, 2000. The names of the members of the new executive are as follows:

President:	Dr. Faye Moses-Caesar
Secretary:	Dr. Bernard Lord
Treasurer:	Dr. Kenrick Elias
Committee Member:	Dr. Trebouhan Meghoo
Reserve Member:	Dr. Nicholas McLean
CVA Councillor:	Dr. Lowell Porter

The CVA Councillor will serve from 2000-2004. The members of the new executive will serve for one year.

Research For Better Johne's Test

CSIRO Animal Health, CSL Ltd., and the Victorian Institute of Animal Science (VIAS) are working towards a faster, more reliable test for Johne's disease. This debilitating disease of sheep and cattle is estimated to cost farmers millions of dollars a year.

"Our aim in developing a new test is to reliably detect Johne's disease in a single animal, and in the early stages of the disease, before the spread of the bacterium to other animals. At the moment farmers have no way to do this," says Dr. Tizard.

It is expected that the cost of the test produced through the research program will make it accessible for use in both beef and dairy cattle herds plus stud sheep flocks. However it may be too expensive for use on commercial sheep properties.

Existing Johne's disease tests, introduced by CSL and NSW Agriculture in recent years, have proven effective as screening tests for flocks and herds. Used for repeated testing of a large sample of animals, these tests have underpinned Australia's market assurance programs and helped to reduce the spread of *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*, the bacterium that causes Johne's disease.

A more sensitive test is needed to help with later stages of the disease control program.

"Initial field trials of one new test for cattle have started. Our best candidates will go to a larger trial in 2001 when, with the help of VIAS, various tests will be evaluated on working farms. If our candidates work, test kits for cattle could be on the market as early as 2003," says CSIRO Animal Health researcher Dr. Mark Tizard.

Hard to detect

Testing for most diseases relies on antibodies, proteins that the immune system makes to fight invading organisms. The current flock test for Johne's disease works by detecting antibodies.

Dr. Tizard says Johne's disease is one of a number of hard-to-diagnose diseases. There are few antibodies to find early in infection, as the bacteria can grow slowly and hide in the animal for years before triggering a large antibody response.

Tuberculosis (TB) presented similar problems in cattle and humans. Over the last decade CSIRO Animal Health and CSL developed a series of TB tests that bypass the search for antibodies. Instead the tests look for T-cells, special white blood cells that the body produces early in infection.

East, Central and Southern Africa

Report of Regional Representative, ECS Africa

The region has been active in the implementation of activities earmarked at past regional meetings. The major problem, however is still bad communication. Most of the councillors have now e.mail addresses, yet communication with them is as difficult as it used to be. At times, it becomes annoying when mails are not replied to on a regular basis. A handful of councillors notably South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Tanzania do respond to mails. The remaining councillors are rather dull and require, in my opinion, further motivation. At least four countries, namely Malawi, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland have been absent from Regional meetings on one or more occasions and have not effectively communicated with the RR.

At the Nairobi conference, it was decided to engage personal efforts from one and all to establish contacts with the councillors of above countries. I have been successful in establishing contacts with Botswana and Malawi and it is hoped that the councillors will respond.

2.0 Active Associations

As on today, all members of the ECS Region are fully active financially with Malawi which has even paid up in advance.

3.0 Change of Councillors

The new councillor for Malawi is Dr. P B Chikungwa who can be contacted at patchi20@hotmail.com. In Mozambique, Dr. Caravella is now the new vice-president of the Mozambique Veterinary Association and CVA Councillor. Dr. R M Busayi is no longer the CVA Councillor of the Zimbabwe Veterinary Association and the new councillor has yet to communicate to formalise his position.

4.0 Natural disaster in Mozambique

As you must be aware, parts of Mozambique was severely affected by floods early this year and it has caused considerable loss of both human and animal

lives. The repercussion of this flood has been tremendous and has caused a severe blow to the Mozambican economy. Many international agencies and friendly countries have contributed to assist Mozambique both in terms of financial support and manpower. The president of CVA, was instrumental in coming up with an assistance programme which was rapidly implemented.

Coincidentally, I was visiting Mozambique during the same time and had working sessions with the executive of the MVA and came out with a programme of adoption of one affected village. It was decided to supply live chicken to the farmers of the village which will be sponsored by the CVA at the cost of US \$1,000/-. The MVA will assure the delivery of the chicken to the village, vaccinate the poultry according to established vaccination programme and carry out follow up visits. The financial transaction between Dr. W.J Pryor, Treasurer - CVA and Dr. Caravella, Councillor, MVA has already been effected. Further details are expected from Dr. Caravella.

5.0 CVA Study Fund

One application has been received from Kenya (Dr. Japheth N Muthoka) who has shown keen interest to study Ostrich farming. This is his second application, the first being made in 1997 without success. Councillor has been requested to support this application. Similarly other councillors will be informed to submit names of potential candidates.

6.0 Proceedings from the CVA/ Kenya Veterinary Association Regional Conference

The proceedings of the joint CVA/KVA conference are over due. Correspondences from the CVA Councillor, Dr. W.O. Ogara indicate that the proceedings are nearly ready and will be made available soon.

7.0 Regional Programmes

The work programmes namely 1. Privatisation of Veterinary Services 2. Establishment of Livestock

Management Systems and 3. Survey and encouragements on the keeping of non traditional livestock have been finalised and responsible councillors are expected to produce a final comprehensive paper at the next meeting. New work programs namely 1. Women's participation in small scale poultry production, 2. Promotion of private veterinary services and 3. Review of veterinary related laws will be thoroughly discussed at the next meeting and firm proposal to be submitted to CVA Executive for financial consideration.

8.0 Sheep Conference in Stellenbosch

As agreed, the CVA-ECS Regional Conference will take place in Stellenbosch in January 2001 and it will coincide with the Sheep Conference. Effort is made towards CVA participation at the meeting and a preliminary budget is actually being prepared to submit to CVA.

M.R. Jaumally
CVA-ECS RR

South Africa

5th International Sheep Veterinary Congress 2001

The University of Pretoria, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Veterinary Production and Ethology, Republic of South Africa will be organising the 5th International Sheep Veterinary Congress 2001 in Stellenbosch, South Africa during 21st-25th January, 2001.

The final registration documents will be forwarded shortly and will be notified as soon as the on-line registration form is ready. Visit the website at <http://www.up.ac.za/academic/lhpg> for the latest information regarding the congress and tours. This website is constantly being updated for your information.

Abstracts for papers, videos or posters may still be forwarded to Professor Ken Pettey, if you have not done so already, before the deadline of 30th June 2000. Professor Pettey's e-mail address is: kpettey@op.up.ac.za

We would like to suggest that you visit the following websites to whet your appetite for Cape Town and wildlife attractions in South Africa: www.gocape.com; www.wildnetfrica.co.za.

- Anelja de Bok
Reservations Hot-line

CSIRO 'takes on' Nipah

The CSIRO has launched an intensive project to try to develop treatments for the deadly *Nipah* virus and its Australian relative, *Hendra*. The work will be conducted by researchers at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) at Geelong. The Malaysian scientist, Dr. Chua Kaw Bing, who discovered the *Nipah* virus during the serious outbreak there last year – which killed more than 100 people and led to the slaughter of more than a million pigs – will be part of the project team. Dr. Chua, who will spend at least nine months working at AAHL, will also be studying a totally "new" paramyxovirus that he isolated from the urine of bats on a coastal island of Malaysia in August. The aim of that work is to determine whether the new virus can also affect humans – or if it might pose a threat of contamination to

research efforts, even if it ultimately proves harmless to humans or animals. Dr. Chua selected AAHL, as the location for his work because of its world-class biocontainment facilities – and the fact that its staff had extensive experience – through their work on *Hendra* virus, *Nipah* and *Australian bat lyssavirus* – in characterising bat-borne disease. The project will use blood samples taken over the past two years from the only known survivor of *Hendra* virus, which is known to have killed two people and 16 horses in Queensland, as well as samples from survivors of the *Nipah* outbreak in Malaysia. CSIRO researchers have found that the two viruses are very closely related and hope this fact will mean that any useful antibodies discovered from either may assist in the development of a treatment for both.

West Africa

Dr. Fofana Reg. Rep., CVA, West Africa Visits Cameroon

The following is the report of Dr. Fofana on his visit to Cameroon - Editor

In my capacity as Regional Representative (RR) for W/Africa, I was invited to visit Cameroon during one of their four-yearly National Veterinary Association Conference held in the capital city, Yaounde from 11th to 12th April, 2000. This has been made possible due to the enthusiastic support and encouragement from Dr. Pryor and Dr. Touray, both active members of CVA Executive and have also served in their capacities as Presidents of this worldwide association of professionals.

Cameroon which is a member state of 'la Francophonie', is proud to have its National Veterinary Association (NVAC) obtain membership of both the CVA and the World Veterinary Association. Sponsored by CVA, I arrived in Yaounde on Monday, April 10th after two days of travel time. The purpose of this visit was to establish personal contact with officers of the NVAC in order to further strengthen the West African region and to keep it active throughout.

In this part of the world, one of our major problems is the difficulty in communication between the Regional Representative and the various Associations (country councillors) in the region.

This region has also been severed in the recent past following the suspension of Nigeria from the CVA and the effect of political upheaval in Sierra Leone (a former active member state).

During this national conference, the Veterinary Council was reconstituted. Dr. T.K. Laurenzo has replaced Dr. Tumenta as CVA country councillor. Details of the election results will be published in the next CVA News. A brief look at history will remind us that Cameroon came on board barely two years ago but that does not mean that it has not been actively involved in the affairs of our noble profession.

The conference lasted about two days and amongst the many deliberations, I was most impressed with the presentation on the theme: **Development of the poultry industry in Cameroon and its constraints**. I am sure the lively discussions that followed will be reflected in the conference proceedings. On the second day of conference I was given the opportunity to speak to my fellow professional colleagues about the activities of

the CVA. This I must say was appreciated very much because adequate time was allocated for presentation, questions and discussions. I am of the belief that this first-time encounter between NVAC membership and myself will go a long way in achieving the goals of CVA in our region.

Our discussions centred on how to effectively implement regional programmes and members unanimously agreed that their closer link with CVA could only be of mutual benefit to both organisations. Crucial amongst the issues discussed were the appointments of women councillors, the increasing role of women in the veterinary profession today and aspects of veterinary education. Special request was made for the intervention of CVA in the area of veterinary privatisation, presently a hot issue in the heart of all vets in Cameroon. During my discussions with NVAC Executive, emphasis was laid on giving adequate support to the CVA workplan and active participation in the forthcoming Regional Workshop to be held in Banjul, The Gambia. They have also expressed interest in hosting the next fertility workshop in West Africa.

Finally, I will not hesitate to put on record the never ending hospitality of the Cameroon Veterinary Association. Undoubtedly, the cocktail party at the end of the conference provided me the opportunity to talk and laugh with everybody, this will always leave in my mind pleasant memories about Cameroon.

Dr. D.S. Fofana

Regional Representative, West Africa Region

• *Great minds discuss ideas; normal minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.*

- Basavanna

• *Anything easily attained, anything attained without effort, is of highly dubious value*

- Leonid Leonor

U.K. Mediterranean

Uganda Wildlife Veterinarian In Britain

Dr. Gladys Kalema BVetMed, MRCVS, Head of the Veterinary Unit at Uganda Wildlife Authority, Uganda was recently in Britain where she lectured at Cambridge and Glasgow Universities. She also



L-R: Professor John Cooper (Councillor, CVA), Michelle Clarke (BVA), Gladys Kalema, Mrs Helena Cotton (BVA), Mr. Effion Evans (President, BVA)

- Photo credits Mrs. Helena Cotton

visited BVA Headquarters in London where she was welcomed by the President and discussed her work in Uganda with members of BVA and Professor John Cooper (Councillor, Commonwealth Veterinary Association). Dr. Gladys has received donations and equipment for her work from British veterinary surgeons, through the BVA, and was able to express her thanks for this support to the President, BVA.

Gene Altered Rice With VitaminA

A gene-altered rice that includes VitaminA has been produced by a team of Swiss bio-chemists. Stating that it took the team, led by Ingo Potrykus, ten years to produce the rice, the Science said the research costs \$100 million. The new "golden rice," if it lives up to its promise, will be a boon to poor countries where 250 million children suffer VitaminA deficiency, a leading cause of blindness.

Collected by: Dr. V. V. Kumar,
Mysore.

Healthier Animals With Natural Immune Boosters

A CSIRO Animal Health team has developed a method to deliver natural proteins, cytokines, into animals, in combination with better vaccines. Cytokines are proteins produced by the body's own defence mechanisms to help fight disease.

CSIRO Animal Health Vaccines and Therapeutics Program Manager, Dr. Adrian Hodgson, says adenoviruses include harmless viruses that can be engineered to act as a vector or 'taxi' to carry part of a disease-causing virus as a 'passenger' into an animal.

"This part on its own will not cause disease, but alerts the animal's immune system to recognise and kill disease infected cells, effectively producing a vaccine. The modified adenoviruses can also carry beneficial natural molecules such as cytokines," says Dr. Hodgson.

Delivery of cytokines to chickens through this method has led to improvements in health, resulting in weight gain of up to 11 per cent, with a lower food conversion rate than the commercial average.

Dr. Mike Johnson of CSIRO Animal Health spoke at the 11th International Congress of Virology, held at Sydney during August. He described how adenovirus vectors are being applied to create a range of new vaccines for animal diseases.

"We created an adenovirus vector vaccine for Infectious Bronchitis, a respiratory disease which afflicts poultry in Australia and overseas. Over 80 per cent of vaccinated birds were protected from the disease.

"This technology is particularly effective for gut and respiratory diseases of livestock. Using porcine (pig) adenovirus we produced a vaccine for Classical Swine Fever, a deadly disease of pigs. The vaccine protected 100 per cent of pigs from the disease in our trial," Dr. Johnson says.

The trial vaccines offer a number of advantages over existing vaccines' as protection can be achieved with just one dose of the vaccine, which can be administered in a variety of ways. It is likely the vaccines will be able to be infected, added to drinking water or food, or inhaled.

Dr. Hodgson says the use of pig and poultry adenoviruses for gene modified vaccines is ideal, as these adenoviruses only infect one species. For example, a pig adenovirus will infect pigs, but not humans or other animals. Another safety factor is that the vaccine will only remain in the vaccinated animal for a few weeks, although the protective effect will last much longer. This means the carcasses of vaccinated animals will be completely free of the vaccine.

An agreement between CSIRO Animal Health and Canada's Veterinary Infectious Diseases Organisation (VIDO) could see an expansion in the application of this technology to control a variety of other pig diseases.

CSIRO Animal Health is keen to hold discussions about the research with veterinary pharmaceutical companies, and hopes that a commercial product will be on the market within five years.

Funding for some of the CSIRO Animal Health research has been provided by CSIRO, the Pig Research and Development Corporation (PRDC), Inovax Pty Ltd, and the Chicken Meat Research and Development Corporation (CMRDC).

For information contact: Dr. Hodgson on +61 3 5227 5120 or e.mail adrian.hodgson@dah.csiro.au

Women Vets Of Commonwealth

Dr. Eunice Foster, Gambia

Born and bred in Banjul, the Capital City of the Gambia, Eunice attended Gambia High School, which was then acclaimed as one of the best secondary schools in the country. Even though she grew up in the city, her endless love for country life and the veterinary profession and her eagerness to help poor farmers and their livestock became part of her character formation throughout her studies.



When Dr. Foster graduated from the University of Ibadan with a DVM in 1983, she became the first Gambian female vet. But her hopes to come back and work as an exemplary female vet were dashed when she married a Nigerian and therefore continued to live and work in Nigeria.

After her graduation she worked in the private sector for six years helping to plan projects for small holder farmers in a private institution and later became self-employed as a poultry farmer. In 1989 she took up appointment with the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the University of Ibadan where she rose to the rank of Principal Resident Veterinary Officer.

However, Home-Sweet-Home could not allow her stay away any longer than necessary and in 1998 she came back home with family after 23 years living, studying and working hard in Nigeria. Upon her arrival in the Gambia, she wasted no time in getting engaged by the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) in the Ministry of Agriculture. Surprisingly, Dr. Foster still finds herself to be the only female amongst 20 veterinarians in the country because her only female colleague has also left for USA on grounds of marriage. Briefly, she was appointed vet officer in-charge of the veterinary clinic for mixed practice run by DLS in Abuko not far from the city. With her area of specialisation as veterinary epidemiology, she currently heads the Epidemiology Unit of DLS and at the moment actively engaged in the control of African swine fever. It will always be a pleasure for her to have personal contact with anyone working in this area. Finally, I must not forget to mention that Dr. Foster now lives happily with her two boys and two girls in the Gambia and actively participates in the affairs of the Gambia Veterinary Association. We are proud of her and we look forward to her taking up one of the executive posts of the Association in the near future.

by Dr. D.S. Fofana
RR, West Africa

Couch Potatoes Are No Vegetables

Sitting in front of the television can be as good for you as body-building, according to a team of British researchers.

The survey of 50 Hull University under-graduates showed that they felt as good playing chess or watching television as they did by keeping fit. *The Times* has reported.

Peter Clough, a sports psychologist who worked on the study with David Sewell, of Hull's psychology department, said that they found that both physical and non-physical exercise made participants feel in a

better frame of mind. Dr. Clough told the London newspaper the findings "suggest that if you don't like physical exercise, you are better off doing something you enjoy."

The Times said the researchers picked five groups of ten students each from clubs and societies doing weight-training, running, squash, war strategy board games and chess. Each kept diaries for four weeks, noting their moods and reactions. The researchers found that all activities made participants feel better.

Collected by: Dr. V. V. Kumar,
Mysore.

Abstracts

Improving Welfare Of Layer Hens By Cage Design

Modifying conventional layer cages has shown promise in improving the welfare of poultry. A team of researchers from Melbourne and Adelaide¹ tested the effect of building solid sides to the cage on the behaviour, growth and stress in Tegel Tint layer hens. In addition they examined housing the hens in upper or lower tiers, and alone or with another hen in the cage.

The behaviour of the hens was studied with the help of video-tape and stress was measured with cortisol assays alone and after ACTH stimulation, and by determining the heterophil:lymphocyte ratio. The condition of the plumage and the bone density were also assessed.

Solid sides in cages reduced stress in comparison to standard cages and floor pens. The condition of feathers was also better in altered cages than in standard cages and similar to that in floor housing. Cage design did not affect bone density, which was better in floor-housed hens. Hens that were housed alone or on the floor were more stressed than those that were housed with a mate in cages. Hens that were housed on the upper tier were more stressed than those housed on the lower tier.

Despite the positive effects achieved by cage design, the authors point out that in a parallel study higher mortality was found among hens housed in cages with solid walls. This is a consideration in hot temperatures and naturally ventilated premises. However, this mortality may be obviated by the inclusion of a perch in the design.

Barnett JL, Glantz PC, Newman EA, Cronin GM. Effects of modifying layer cages with solid sides on stress physiology, plumage, pecking and bone strength of hens. *Aust. J. Exp. Agric.* 1997; 37:11-18.

Residues Of Synthetic Corticosteroids In Milk

A team of Swiss researchers assessed the concentrations of dexamethasone and flumethasone, two commonly used synthetic corticosteroids, in the milk of dairy cows. They gave 10 cows with primary

ketosis a single therapeutic dose of either dexamethasone or flumethasone by the intramuscular route. Three formulations of dexamethasone were used and the doses varied from 20 to 40 µg/kg. The dose of flumethasone was 13.5 µg/kg.

Twelve hours after treatment dexamethasone concentrations of up to 8.4 ng/mL were found in milk. The residues were reduced to less than 1 ng/mL in three days. Flumethasone concentrations were smaller in concordance with the smaller initial dose. Residue concentrations in urine were 5- to 50-fold greater than in milk.

The residues exceeded the maximum limit given by FAO/WHO Expert Committee. The authors recommend that a withdrawal period of 2 to 3 days, depending the pharmacodynamics of individual preparations, be imposed on these very potent substances.

Reding J, Sahin A, Schlatter J, Naegeli H. Dexamethasone and flumethasone residues in milk of intramuscularly dosed cows. *J. Vet. Pharmacol. Therap.* 1997; 20: 198-203.

Risk Factors For Equine Laminitis

Equine laminitis is a painful inflammation of the laminae of the hoof. The condition can be divided into acute, subacute and chronic forms. Acute laminitis lasts less than 72h and chronic laminitis involves the displacement of the third phalanx.

Researchers of the Texas A and M University examined the risk factors for equine laminitis in a case-control study of 70 acute cases, 183 chronic cases and 779 control horses. The factors studied were age, breed, sex and seasonality. The breeds tested were American Paint, Appaloosa, Arabian, mixed pony, Thoroughbred and Quarter horses.

There were no significant risk factors for acute laminitis. Age and seasonality were risks for chronic laminitis. For each year of age the risk increased 5% and the diagnosis of chronic laminitis was made significantly more often during the third quarter (July to September) than the rest of the year. The authors explain the age factors with the increased probability of older horses which have survived laminitis to be seen at a referral hospital. The risk associated with the hot season may be a result of the stress of racing, feeding more grain during periods of activity, the heat stress, or the combination of all these factors.

Polzer, J. Slater MR. Age, breed, sex and seasonality as risk factors for equine laminitis. *Prev. Vet. Med.* 1996; 29:179-184.

General Articles

After White Revolution – The Quiet Revolution To Women Empowerment

H. Chennegowda

*Managing Director
Karnataka Milk Federation, Bangalore, India*

It is now history that Karnataka Milk Federation has rewritten the great cooperative epic called 'AMUL' successfully practising its philosophy of White

The growing list of socioeconomic changes stand as a scrutiny behind "Nandini" spreading rural prosperity in the State of Karnataka.



Women Dairy Cooperative Society staff receiving training on milk testing

Revolution in the State of Karnataka. It includes the following.

- Over 8000 Village Dairy Cooperative Societies
- 1.5 million Farmer Members including
235 thousand Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Members
250 thousand landless farmers
285 thousand Women Members
- 1.8 million KPD milk procurement
- 14.5 million rupees daily payment to Milk Producers
- 70 thousand tons production of balanced cattle feed
- 1 million semen straw production
- 6 thousand direct employment of men and women
- 34 thousand indirect employment of men and women
- 40 million investment on infrastructure like Village Dairy Cooperative Society buildings, Donation towards community development works like - roads, school and hospital buildings, drinking water facilities etc..

'Step' – Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women, to empower the rural poor women of India is going to be another epic of socioeconomic change in the coming days to bring equality among men and women as enshrined in the Constitution of India. It is a programme conceived and funded by Government of India under Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child Development, implemented by Karnataka Milk Federation, through its thirteen affiliated District Milk Unions in the State of Karnataka.

Twenty thousand rural women from among rural wage labourers, migrant labourers, unpaid daily workers, female headed house holds, migrant labourers, tribal and their dispossessed groups particularly from poor or assetless marginalised women with special focus on Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe households are identified and covered under the programme.

Four hundred Women Dairy Cooperatives are being established covering 50 beneficiaries as a group in each Woman Dairy Cooperative Society throughout the State of Karnataka. The project outlay is 99 million rupees. The project which took off in the year 1997 is scheduled to be completed by the year 2000.

The objectives are socioeconomic in nature with equal emphasis on both economic and social activities towards real empowerment of women and are as follows:

- To provide training for skill upgradation in dairying.
- To mobilise women in groups of 50 and make available the facilities of training and access to credit.



Women Dairy Cooperative Society managing committee members on a field visit to dairy farm

- To enable these groups to take up employment-cum-income generation programmes by establishing Women Dairy Cooperative Societies.
- To provide support services through these Women Dairy Cooperative Societies for further improving training and employment conditions of women.

Karnataka Milk Federation is implementing the above objectives, the economic part through organisation of Women Dairy Cooperative Societies on 'AMUL' pattern. The success of this pattern is already an history and social objectives of empowering women through varieties of training programmes for the beneficiaries and project functions.

Expert resource persons drawn from different walks of life and experience impart training on following social subjects to project functionaries and beneficiaries.

- Health and nutrition, rural sanitation and personal hygiene and use of safe drinking water
- Gender sensitisation and male orientation
- Literacy and legal literacy.
- Use of non-conventional energy resources.
- Recycling of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.
- Formation of self help groups for credit needs etc..

The training programmes to the beneficiaries are conducted right at their village doors with an integrated approach by dovetailing various governmental and non-governmental agencies involved in rural development.

Access to credit is provided partially through the scheme funds mainly through dovetailing various government financial schemes aiming at improving the rural poor women.

General Awareness is created by arranging field visits to 'AMUL' Dairy at Anand, District Milk Union Dairies, Police Stations, Banks and other financial institution, Post Offices, various Governmental Departments like Taluk Revenue Office, Health Departments, Public Works Department etc.

Workshops to Chairpersons of Women Dairy Cooperatives on 'Leadership & Empowerment of Women' are conducted annually. A one hour tele-film is specially produced to propagate the concept of 'STEP' by a renowned National Awardee Film Director.



Women Dairy Cooperative Society staff receiving training on artificial insemination

Fifteen thousand beneficiaries are already covered in 300 Women Dairy Cooperatives. Fifty one thousand KPD of milk is being procured. Rupees Four Hundred Thousand is being paid towards procurement of milk daily directly to rural poor women. Seven thousand five hundred beneficiaries from 150 Women Dairy Cooperatives have received trainings on the social objectives. The remaining 12 thousand five hundred beneficiaries will be given training by the year 2000.

There is an overwhelming response from the rural poor women for organising Women Dairy Cooperatives under 'STEP'. This is naturally so, as dairying is one of the main occupations of the rural women. Here involvement in the programme has made to feel that the day is not too long when the Cooperative Dairy Management in India will be taken over by Women and rightly so. Therefore, there is every reason to feel that **THE QUIET REVOLUTION TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT** through the programme of 'STEP' shall follow the **WHITE REVOLUTION**.

Private Veterinary Practice In Ghana

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Introduction

Animal resources are key components of the national economy. Their availability in sufficient quantities to meet the growing demand of the Ghanaian largely depends on their production, processing, and distribution. The macroeconomic and agricultural policies greatly influence the levels of high sustainable production and use of animal resources in the country.

One such policy in livestock development long-term strategy is to promote private participation in animal health services delivery. The main purpose of private participation in the management of animal resources is to make veterinary services, which are public goods to be cost-effective and readily available to livestock owners with a minimum transaction costs in order that high productivity can be achieved. Veterinary inputs needed for livestock production include vaccines and drugs, laboratory diagnostic services, equipment, and technical information. All these services were provided free of charge by the public sector.

Cost recovery system

However, with the Economic Recovery Programme of the Government of Ghana in the 1980s, a cost-recovery system was introduced for some aspects of veterinary activities such as clinical treatments, poultry vaccinations, and dipping against external ticks. These services are considered for the private good, in which the individual livestock owners derive direct economic benefits without any free-rider effect (excludability). This was the start of the private sector fully participating in the provision of veterinary pharmaceuticals, production services, and equipment.

Consequently, the public sector was relieved in the provision of some of these services and then concentrated on activities mainly of economic importance to the general public. Such services consist of regulatory services (quarantine, meat inspection, and control of livestock movement at entry points in the country) and laboratory services (conducting post-mortem examinations and others).

Source of funding privatisation

Today, the process of private participation in the delivery of veterinary activities has taken a further step,

in which government veterinarians have opted to leave government services and have started to establish private animal hospitals in the country. Nine government veterinarians have left the public sector and now have set up their own private hospitals. This has been realised by the Government of Ghana/World Bank funding implemented by the National Livestock Services Project of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, a project, which ended in December 1999. Nine out of the 169 government veterinarians entered private veterinary practice through this funding. With still a large number of 169 government veterinarians means that there remains much to be achieved in the privatisation of veterinary medicine in the country. Besides, the nine veterinarians are located only in three regions out of the ten regions of the country. Under the same Government of Ghana/World Bank funding, community livestock workers (CLWs) were trained in many livestock communities. The key objectives were the provision of animal health services made available to livestock farmers in the communities and the improvement of disease reporting system through the CLWs. The CLWs operate on a cost recovery system, whereby farmers pay for their services.

Earlier, the European Union had initiated plans of funding the privatisation of veterinary practice in Ghana, to support veterinarians wishing to enter private practice with loans. This was at the time of the implementation of the Pan African Rinderpest Campaign in the country, which started from June 1992 to 31st March 1999. However, this did not materialise. Other sources of funding and incentive packages need to be formulated to encourage a good number of the government veterinarians to set up private hospitals. Out of a total of 229 veterinarians working in the country, 20 are women and 5 are foreign nationals.

Location of private hospital

The locations of these private veterinary hospitals are in areas of high veterinary activity. In poultry the activities are in husbandry and economic management, where regular services of vaccination and prophylactic treatments against endemic disease such as Newcastle disease, fowl pox and infectious bursal disease (Gumboro) are a threat to the poultry industry. Presently, in urban areas, the role of companion animal medicine is playing a meaningful role for pet owners. The social importance of the use of companion animals

Table-1: Distribution of veterinarians in Ghana

Institution	Number of veterinarians
Ministry of Food and Agriculture/Veterinary Services Department	169
Universities	10
Animal Research Institute	3
Ghana Armed Forces	3
Private Veterinary Practice	13
Pomadze Farms Ltd	2
Ghana Atomic Energy Commission	2
Drug Companies	9
Miscellaneous	18
Total	229

Source: Veterinary Council of Ghana, 2000

is on the increase in the country. These days, it is commonly heard that it is useful to keep dogs for security purpose in the homes. Consequently, companion animal owners willingly pay for veterinary services to maintain their pets in sound health.

With the establishment of private veterinary hospitals, an enabling environment has been created for competitive animal health delivery system between the private practitioners. Such a healthy competition will ensure quality veterinary services to livestock owners.

The realisation, today, of government veterinarians to enter into private veterinary practice has a long historical background. For a long time now, the private sector has employed some veterinarians, which mainly work in the drug companies. Examples of such companies are Resis & Co., Dannex, (formerly Danafco), Frankatsons Ltd., and Berosa. Besides, veterinarians with personal funding sources started private veterinary hospitals and private veterinary business.

Analysis of impact of privatising

Privatisation of veterinary practice has a considerable impact on the national economy. Though much of the services benefit individuals, some of them are associated with positive externalities. Thus treatment services rendered to one farmer prevent the spread of disease to another, when it is an infectious disease. Nevertheless, the provision of curative services is not a public good. The economic analyses of privatising are:

- Competitiveness in animal health service delivery
- Availability of quality services
- Government savings from payment of salaries and other allowances to veterinarians. The emoluments of a senior veterinary officer, qualified to enter private practice in Ghana are calculated. This is based on the government civil service pay structure. As indicated in the Table-2.

Another type of allowance not quantified here are a medical bills, which are payable not from the mechanised payment role.

The annual salary of a senior veterinary officer with the government service is \$1811 annually, excluding other allowances. Therefore, for ten veterinarians who wish to go into private practice, the government will be saving \$2383 x 10 = \$23830 annually. The condition for privatising is the payment of two-year emoluments to veterinarians wishing to go into private practice. Now, an amount of \$47660 (\$23830 x 2) will be paid to ten veterinarians to enable the ten to start private practice. The future value of this amount in the next five years will be

Table 2. Emoluments of senior veterinary officer

Type of emoluments	Amount/year
Salary	1,811
Car maintenance allowance	214
Fuel allowance	331
Inducement allowance	27
Total	2,383

calculated at an interest rate of 12% which will be the savings government will be making, if the ten were in government service. Using the formula, $FV = PV(1+i)^n$, where n is 5 and the interest is 12%, and PV is the present value of 47660. Therefore, the future value of \$47660 is $47660(1.12)^5 = \$266896$. This means for the government to invest \$47660 today for ten veterinarians to go into private practice, the break even return in a five-year period, the amount is \$266896. The return is good enough for such investment.

The total savings government will be making out of privatising will be the addition of all types of allowances and salaries paid to veterinarians. Other aspects of unquantifiable savings to government apart from emoluments are use of government facilities such as government residences, vehicles, and office accommodation.

Contracting out of services

Animal health services that can be contracted out to private veterinary practitioners in Ghana are animal vaccinations (*pestes des petits ruminant*, anthrax, and rabies), and some regulatory services (meat inspection, animal movement). Contracting out of services at the initial stages of privatisation of veterinary practice in the country is not recommended.

Conclusion

The process of private veterinary practice has started mainly in the urban areas, with high concentration of commercial poultry farms and pets. However, the prospects of starting private practice in rural communities in Ghana still have a long way to

go. Farmers in the rural communities earn very poor income from animals because of inadequate marketing infrastructure, making farmers to sell their animals to middle animal dealers at relatively cheap prices. Therefore, majority of farmers in these communities do not attach direct monetary value to the keeping of livestock, but rather keep these animals for social and cultural purposes. On many occasions the animals are sold to settle incidental expenditures. The animals are poorly medicated and some use local remedies to provide health care. Additionally, the average herd size is small, ranging from 3-10 animals. However, rural farmers will be willing to pay for services when they are well educated to know the economic benefits that they will derive from such services for their animals, no matter the numbers.

Fighting Foot-And-Mouth Disease In Lao PDR And China

CSIRO Animal Health is managing a project to improve diagnosis and control of two important livestock diseases in Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) and the Yunnan province, China.

Funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the project is targeting Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and Classical Swine Fever (CSF).

Both diseases are exotic (foreign) to Australia. FMD is a highly contagious disease which causes weight loss, lameness, and loss of milk production in cattle and pigs, and also infects other cloven-hoofed animals. CSF is a deadly virus of pigs that can kill nearly all the animals it infects.

Project scientist with the Australian Volunteers International, Mr. Stuart Blacksell, says the project has important benefits for Lao PDR, Yunnan province, and Australia.

"The project aims to improve the standard of living of the large numbers of people in Lao PDR and Yunnan province who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.

It also benefits Australia by improving our understanding of the epidemiology of these diseases in tropical areas where vaccines are not widely used. These would be conditions under which we could be fighting the diseases if an outbreak ever occurred in Northern Australia.

"An outbreak of FMD would immediately shut Australia's export markets for many agricultural products, costing the economy as much as A\$6 billion if an outbreak occurred. We need to be able to diagnose and control any outbreak as quickly as possible, to reopen export markets," Mr. Blacksell says.

The ACIAR project has established field laboratory techniques to gain information about the significance and prevalence of CSF and FMD. It has involved a serological survey to better understand the epidemiology of the disease, along with transfer of diagnostic tests, and training of field and laboratory workers.

In Lao PDR, many villagers rely on the use of buffaloes for the production of a dry-season rice crop for the coming year. If the animals are affected by FMD, planting is severely curtailed.

"Villagers are forced to rent buffaloes from neighbouring villages, or even sell their animals for rice. This exacerbates the spread of the disease," says Mr. Blacksell.

The project has monitored an outbreak of FMD in the Lao PDR provinces of Champassak and Attapeu in 1998 and 1999. Over 200 villages have been affected, with up to 100 per cent of susceptible animals suffering from the disease in some villages.

"We have identified the virus as FMD type O, and work has been carried out to further characterise the strain of the virus at the FMD World Reference Laboratory, Pirbright in the United Kingdom," says Mr. Blacksell.

The three-year project commenced in May 1997, and has led to the establishment of the first animal health virology laboratory in Lao PDR, in the capital, Vientiane.

Mr. Blacksell is based in Lao PDR for the duration of the project, assisting Lao PDR scientists to develop skills in the latest diagnostic techniques.

The Vientiane laboratory is now receiving blood samples from animals across Lao PDR to test for CSF and FMD. Samples from the Yunnan province of China are being processed at the Yunnan Tropical and Subtropical Animal Viral Disease Laboratory in Kunming, where Mr. Blacksell also works.

Diagnostic samples are sent under strict quarantine conditions to the CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong, Victoria, where they undergo further analysis.

For information, contact Dr. Westbury on +61 3 5227 5115 or email harvey.westbury@dah.csiro.au

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**2000**

British Equine Veterinary Association Congress (BEVA), Birmingham, UK. **September 13 - 16.**

International Pig Veterinary Society Congress, Hosted by the Australian Association of Pig Veterinarians, Melbourne, Australia. **September 17 - 21.**

2000 South African Veterinary Association Congress, Holiday Inn, Durban, KwaZuluNatal, South Africa. **September 19 - 22.**

ESVP Congress 2000 and 18th Meeting of the European Society of Veterinary Pathology. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. **September 19 - 23.**

SAVA Congress, Durban, South Africa. **September 20 - 22.**

British Veterinary Association, Annual Congress. Chester, London, UK. **September 28 - October 1.**

Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association Congress 2000 and CVA Regional Meeting hosted by the Jamaica Veterinary Association. **November 15 - 19.**

2001

5th International Sheep Conference, Stellenbosch, South Africa. **January 21 - 25.**

5th International Conference for Sheep Veterinarians, Stellenbosch, South Africa. **January 24 - 27.**

BSAVA, Birmingham, UK **April 5 - 8.**

Fifth CVA Workshop on Fertility in Village Livestock, **West Africa.**

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Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, Jamaica, West Indies **November.**

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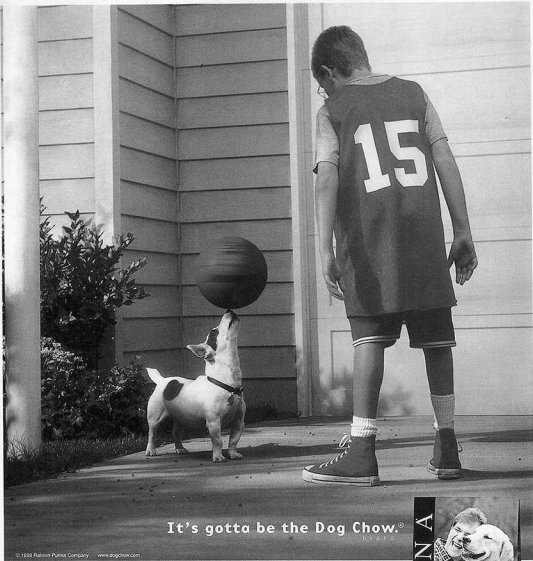
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