



LBVD-JICA Bulletin

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By the Project Office : LBVD Region Office Campus, 78th St., Pyi Gyi Tagon Tsp, Mandalay



PREFACE

Dear Stakeholders,



Mingalar bar!!

The JICA's Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) was kicked-off on 22nd May, 2019 when the first expert, Dr. Kanameda, myself, for the project arrived at the country. I am very delighted to be assigned here to lead the initial stage of the project.

This Bulletin will be issued bi-monthly with much info on the project activities. The first issue is ready to share our events in June-July and our people with you.

We would be happier if you could give us any comments on the articles in this issue as well as the activities.

--- Dr. Kanameda, Chief Advisor ---



Ground-Breaking Ceremony for New National FMD Laboratory was organized on 22nd June, 2019 with Minister for MoALI and Japanese Ambassador in attendance.



Dr. Sakamoto, short-term expert, discusses his work plan with the staff of National FMD Laboratory, on 5th June 2019. He also alerts staff/officers here, as well as in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, to African swine fever.

Dr. "Sake" Arrives

Dr. Sakamoto Kenichi, DVM, PhD

Dr. Sakamoto, rather known as "Dr. Sake", the former Director General of National Institute of Animal Health, Japan, was assigned here for taking the initiatives of improvement of diagnosis and epidemiological surveys of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in this Project. He brought standard inactivated FMD virus antigen with him and worked together with Yangon FMD Lab staff to prepare five types of FMD vaccines with different compositions. A field trial of these vaccines then started to test their efficacy at the end of June (see Page 2 for the details). The experiment continues and we hope to publicize the results in this Bulletin.

Temporary Project Office

On 5th July, 2019, opening ceremony for the project office which was temporarily housed in Mandalay Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) was organized with the participation of township officers as well as staff of the laboratory. The program was kicked off by a welcome note by Dr. Maung Maung, the Region Director, followed by 2 presentations, namely, "Introduction to the JICATCP" by Dr. Kanameda and "Imminent enemy to Myanmar: African swine fever (ASF)" by Dr. Sakamoto. In the latter it was emphasized that no vaccine for ASF was available in the world. During the Q&A session, the participants' interests focused on the involvement in the local practice of seasonal migration of cattle herds.



Group photo session of the opening ceremony: MVDL and the townships of Mandalay region are the project's major sites of activities

Laboratory Expert

Dr. Sato Mitsuo, DVM, PhD

Dr. Sato, a former local government officer of Tochigi Province, Japan, has joined this project from 8th July to 21st Sep., 2019 for collecting necessary information for improvement of diagnostic activities (though he has to be away for 3 week in August due to a diplomatic reason). He has many practical experiences of research and diagnosis of viral diseases and veterinary administration and hopes to disseminate them to wherever required. We are exploring sound ways for lab capacity development based on his findings. He is a father of 2 daughters with 3 grandchildren.



Dr. Sato gets impressed with very quick motion of local cattle of Myanmar, "They must be deer with the face of cattle".

FMD Vaccine Trials in 2 LBVD Farms:

Htee Saung Station and Patheingyi Cattle Farm

Vaccine is one of the main tools proven to better manage or eliminate the disease when properly applied and with desirable quality and composition. JICA-FMDTC Project will mass-produce FMD vaccines for the use in Myanmar. How to evaluate and ensure the success of vaccination programs will also have to be focused within the project activities. We are required to determine the vaccine effectiveness against the circulating FMD viruses, which directly affect local animals and indirectly cripple local and regional trade. On 12th and 14th June, a total of 40 calves of the 2

LBVD farms at their age of 4 to 8 months were blood-sampled and tested for FMD antibodies. As all of them were proven to be test-negative, each animal received one of 5 trial vaccines respectively after ear-tag identification. These 2 farms will increase their research functions through this project.



Project Coordinator

Daw Kirino Yumi, DVM, PhD

On 19th July, 2019, Dr. Yumi and her family arrived at Yangon Airport and after several days' briefing sessions by JICA Myanmar they finally reached Mandalay. This is her first trip to Asian region out of Japan, and therefore, everything looks very fresh for her. She had experiences in African countries and worked as a university teacher in Japan just before the assignment.



Dr. Yumi, "So fresh and interesting; people, clothes, foods, especially ngapi",

Senior Project Officer

U Sai Leng Wan

Mr. Sai Leng Wan has joined this project team since the mid-June. He previously worked for JICA's OSHAN Project, based at Lashio, as Project Administrator for 4 years up to May 2019. He facilitates the communication between JICA and LBVD. He is a super gourmet as he guides us most of the cuisine in Mandalay, even though he can cook instant noodles only at home.



EDITOR'S POSTSCRIPT

The first quarter of the Project has passed so quickly. Editor will make all the efforts to issue this bulletin bi-monthly. The inaugural number featured the members of JICA team. However, the editor cordially invites your opinion, articles, stories, and photos. Please contact U Sai Leng Wan or call me at: 097 6176 8608.

