1. Introduction.

WVA is a federation of over 80 national veterinary medical associations throughout the World. We also have regional, specialist, and observer veterinary association members. The WVA is the internationally recognized representative of global veterinary medicine. It was founded in 1863 in Hamburg, Germany, but was completely reorganized in 1997. The WVA has collaborative agreements with the OIE, FAO and WHO. The World Veterinary Congress [WVC] is held every two years. In 2013 WVA will celebrate its 150th anniversary with a WVC in Prague, Czech Republic. The current President WVA is Dr. Faouzi Kechrid

2. Events

i. 30th World Veterinary Congress 2011 in Cape Town. South Africa.

The theme "CARING FOR ANIMALS: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES" lends itself to fulfilling a global need and sets the scene for a varied, stimulating, multi-session scientific and professional programme, to cater for the diverse needs of a multi-disciplined veterinary profession. With more than a century of organised veterinary science, South Africa has an important role to play in the dissemination of knowledge across the continent and the globe.

The focus will be on food production, safety and security as well as disease control in communities served by the veterinary profession. The continuing professional development needs of veterinary clinicians were also comprehensively catered for. This was the most extensive veterinary scientific showcase ever offered in Africa. The congress was well attended by about 2,000 delegates from all over the world.


The Turkish Veterinary Medical Association together with the Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology Association Turkey were the joint winners. The award was a prize plus the 1000 USD cheque. Conclusions from the summit were:

• Antimicrobials must never be a default for poor animal husbandry;
• Both animals and humans require treatment by making best use of certain actives from all available classes of antimicrobials;
• Responsible use of antimicrobials is pivotal for use in both humans and
animals. Raising awareness and education on the responsible use of these medicinal products in both the veterinary and human sectors is essential on a global scale.

- Antimicrobials should only be used on prescription, made by a person under whose care the patient(s) are, who is qualified, licensed and accountable to the licensing body.

iii. **World Veterinary Day** was initiated by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in 2000 to be celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April. In 2008 the WVA and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) agreed on the creation of the World Veterinary Day Award aimed at rewarding the most successful celebration of the veterinary profession by national veterinary associations, alone, or in cooperation with any other selected veterinary body.

iv. **WVA joins World Medical Association.** The WVA Past President Dr Tjeerd Jorna was invited to the meeting of the Council of the World Medical Association (WMA), which was held in Prague on April 26th – 28th. The meeting was attended by more than 100 WMA Councillors coming from all corners of the world. The presentation by Dr Jorna about WVA was well received. He also used the opportunity to highlight the need for close cooperation between medical doctors and veterinarians for achieving the "One Health" objectives. WVA and WMA are preparing a Memorandum of Understanding to underline the importance of their collaboration. Report of the visit to the 191st Council Session of the World Medical Association [WMA] refer to the website.

v. **Chinese Veterinary Medical Association wants to join the WVA.** WVA Past- President Dr Jim Edwards met with Dr Jia Youling, President of the CVMA in Beijing. The CVMA has expressed keen interest to join the WVA. The problem involved the WVA membership being based on “National Members” and the “One China” policy. The Taiwan Veterinary Medical Association has long been a member of the WVA and this has prevented China’s participation. The WVA has been reviewing its Constitution and Bylaws on membership criteria that will encourage and facilitate more veterinary associations and organizations, including the CVMA, to join the WVA and grow it into a larger global body. China wants to host World Veterinary Congress in 2019 if admitted as a WVA member.

vi. **OIE Global Conference on prudent use of antimicrobial agents for animals. International Solidarity to Fight against Antimicrobial Resistance** Paris (France) 13th – 15th March 2013 Antimicrobial agents are essential tools for protecting animal health and welfare. They also contribute to satisfying the increasing world demand for safe food of animal origin, such as milk, meat and eggs. To ensure sustainability of livestock production, the efficacy of antimicrobial agents must be preserved through their responsible and prudent use. Antimicrobial resistance is a global human and animal health concern that is influenced by both human and non-human usages of antimicrobial agents. The human, animal and plant sectors therefore have a shared responsibility to minimise antimicrobial resistance selection pressures on human and non-human pathogens and to contain antimicrobial resistance
illustrating the One Health approach. The OIE has worked actively for more than a decade on veterinary products, including antimicrobial agents, and developed a strategy for its activities in this area. Given that antimicrobial resistance is often an animal and human health issue, the OIE works closely with all its Member Countries, as well as with international organisations such as WHO, FAO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Read more at: www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Conferences_Events/docs/pdf/A_Announce_AMR_Conference_e.pdf

vii. Recently Revised Animal Welfare & General Position Statements. On 12th August 2013, the WVA Council adopted a WVA position on Control of Inappropriately Aggressive Dogs. Most responsibly managed dogs will not become dangerous to people or domesticated animals. However, aggression is part of the behavioral repertoire of any dog, and may occur for reasons not immediately apparent to a human observer.

viii. A new global alliance for a safer, fairer and more sustainable livestock sector. Nairobi, Kenya 12-13Mac 2012. In the face of a fast-growing, resource hungry and commonly misunderstood livestock sector, it is clear that increased investment in the sector is essential to livelihoods, global health and the environment. To address livestock as a global public good, a strengthened alliance has been formed among key institutions charged with shaping and steering the global livestock agenda. April 2012 - We, the representatives of global and regional institutions whose mandates cover livestock, met in Nairobi, Kenya, 12th -13th March 2012. We exchanged ideas, concerns, experiences and expertise with the aim of developing closer partnerships, a shared vision and more complementary programs for a global livestock agenda. Our consultation came at an opportune time. Global production and consumption of meat, milk and eggs are growing fast, especially in developing countries, in the face of diminishing natural resources. Decision-makers and investors continue to under-appreciate the critical role that livestock play in the lives and livelihoods of the world's poorest people. The world remains alert to the risk of pandemics arising at the interface between people and animals. We agreed that social equity, global health and the environment should be considered among the strategic 'pillars' of the global livestock agenda. There was also much concurrence on the issues and challenges facing the livestock sector and the ways to address them. We are building this alliance to work in closer partnerships, with each organization bringing to bear its comparative

ix. 11a World Congress of Veterinary Anaesthesiology 24-26th Sept 2012. Cape Town, South Africa. Website : www.wvwa2012.com

x. 31st World Veterinary Congress in Prague, Czech Republic on 17-20 September 2013. This is a very special year for WVA who will be celebrating 150 years of existence. The main issues for WVA are Animal Health, Animal Welfare, Public Health, Veterinary Education and Life Long Learning, Development and Environment/Climate.
3. **VAM participation in the Working Group on the redrafting of the WVA Constitution.** Dr. René Carlson, Chair of the Constitution & ByLaws Working Group, has reported to the WVA EXCOM that the Working Group met in Brussels at the WVA office on March 28-29, 2012. All members of the appointed working group were in attendance and included:

- Dr. René Carlson, Chair
- Dr. Khaled El Hichery (Tunisia) – representing N. Africa/Middle East
- Dr. Vincent Ng In Hooi (Malaysia) – representing East Asia and Oceania
- Dr. Clive Peter Marwick (South Africa) – representing Africa
- Dr. S. Abdul Rahman (India) – representing Associate Members (Commonwealth Veterinary Association)
- Dr. Bob Stevenson (Wales) – representing Europe
- Dr. Pat Turner (Canada) – representing North America
- Dr. Jan Vaarten – WVA Secretariat

Regrettably, there was no nomination submitted for a representative from Latin America.

4. **Conclusion**

VAM must be seen to participate actively in world body especially WVA & Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) and regional organisation such as FAVA. This is in view of globalization and advancement of technology & medical knowledge and the international policy that will affect us. The world is well interconnected where massive movement of animal products and people within hours especially in the relevance of animal health, disease, prevention and control, food safety and food security. With the growing recognition of One Health issues and with the increasing awareness of animal welfare, the importance of veterinary medicine has only grown. More than ever, veterinary issues require a well coordinated, global approach, involving all stakeholders. Thus, whether we like it the world policy & action will affect us. We are mindful that we are part of the world and we share in the world vision of one profession, one vision and one voice to advance the profession.