

Conference Evaluation Summary

Overall Evaluation

Participants were asked to complete a survey at the end of the conference. The survey was also placed online and the link circulated after the conference. A total of 71 out of 107 participants responded making the response rate 66%

Of those who responded:

- 37% work for the government
- 96% rated the conference as excellent to good
- 90% said the conference was valuable from their organisation's perspective
- 76% said the conference was able to meet their professional development needs
- 86% said the conference was relevant for the work they do
- 77% of the participants answering the question confirmed that the conference enabled them to identify areas where best practice could be implemented or improved in their national regulatory system
- 87% thought the conference helped to work towards more and better regional cooperation and convergence

Attendance

Confirmed delegates: 160 from 27 countries

Final number of delegates: 107 from 20 countries of which 71 from 8 Asian priority countries.

Speakers: 4 speakers and 1 session chair were unable to come at the last minute and were replaced by local government and industry. One presentation was replaced by a summary of the workshop held prior to the conference.

Dropout rate of 33% (c.f. 20% in GAHC2015) - Most of these were either unsupported local industry or supported but local regulators and academia so no actual reservations or bookings had been made for these invitees. But 10 no-shows were international supported invitees. Letters of apology from most of these no-shows have been received and visa requirements or urgencies in home countries seem to be the prominent reason. Conference information, including the conference report, has been shared with these persons.

Sessions

The rating of the different sessions was fairly even, although session 2 – improved Registration Processes to increase access to animal health products – scored significantly higher than the other sessions.

Generally most participants (87%) agreed that this conference increased their understanding:

- Of best practice in the regulation of veterinary medicinal products
- How appropriate regulatory systems can improve market access for veterinary medicinal products
- How regulatory convergence including alignment to international standards can improve market access
- Of the needs and challenges relating to the control of product quality during manufacture

Improvements

- More information on VICH guidelines could have been provided
- Not all presentations were of the same level of usefulness.

Follow-up recommendations

- To initially harmonise regulations in regulated markets to enable developing countries to follow one system. The divergence in different guidelines is also mentioned here (VICH/OIE/CFR/BR/EUPH)
- All VICH member countries to implement agreed guidelines in their countries
- ASEAN countries need to disseminate the key messages of this conference for follow up at regional level.
- The views of all stakeholders – industry, academics, farmers and veterinarians – should be considered to improve regional cooperation.
- By organising more similar meetings in different countries/regions interaction and cooperation will improve.
- A strong need for training is mentioned several times

Key Learnings

- Good contact with speakers prior to the conference improves the quality of the presentation content. Ideally this role is taken up by the session chair, but if not, this should be done by the organisers.
- Meeting professionals from the entire region was seen by participants as one of the great benefits of this conference and will enhance cooperation in the future. We took creating the time and atmosphere to network seriously and this should be repeated next time.
- The dropout rate for this event, as in Tanzania 2015, continues to be quite high.

Observations

- Only 37% of the participants heard of the conference from DIA (invitation letter/website). All others came because they heard about it at other meetings or from colleagues. This underlines that personal invitations work best to encourage attendance
- 94% said registration process was reasonable or easy