

Concluding remarks

This book should speak for itself. However, we felt it necessary to mention the issues that came out the discussion as issues that should be addressed with the highest priority:

The virus

- elucidate the biological relevance of the genetic variation

The monitoring

- improve diagnostic tests to facilitate cost-efficient mass monitoring of LPAI in poultry

The spread

- study the role of wildlife birds in generating and spreading of new variants

The control

- exchange experience in control measures such as mass killing of birds and mass vaccination campaigns, to prevent unnecessary animal or human suffering

The organizations

- organize structural co-operation between FAO, WHO and OIE on avian influenza

The regulations

- reduce the time needed before regulations are adapted to the newest scientific insights

The tools

-explore antivirals

-improve marker vaccines.

We consider the meeting successful thanks to the following conditions:

- the subject was focused
- there were experts from different fields
- there were experts from various countries
- it was a small group
- participants joined in an open debate in a pleasant atmosphere
- the conference was very productive.

We trust it has brought the solution to the avian influenza problem just a little bit nearer!