

## **NOTE ON AVIAN INFLUENZA IN TURKEY**

- **IN RECENT YEARS, AVIAN INFLUENZA CASES HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED MANY COUNTRIES AND BECOME A GLOBAL THREAT.**
- **NO COUNTRY IS IMMUNE FROM AVIAN INFLUENZA, AND IN OUR VIEW, ALL COUNTRIES ARE ACTUALLY AT RISK.**
- **TURKEY, WHICH HAS MANY LAKES, RIVERS, WETLANDS, AND NATURAL BIRD HABITATS, HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT TRANSIT REGION FROM EAST TO WEST, AND NORTH TO SOUTH FOR SUCH BIRDS FOR CENTURIES.**
- **TURKEY EXPERIENCED THE FIRST CASE OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN POULTRY IN NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY (BALIKESIR, MANYAS) IN OCTOBER 2005.**
- **WE INDEED MANAGED TO CONTROL THE EFFECTS OF THIS CASE IN A CONSIDERABLY SHORT TIME BY USING RAPID QUARANTINE AND COMBAT TECHNIQUES.**
- **HOWEVER, SINCE 27 DECEMBER 2005 THERE HAVE BEEN SOME NEW CASES OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF TURKEY AND MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN IMMEDIATELY.**
- **21 PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT CITIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AVIAN INFLUENZA POSITIVE UNTIL NOW, AND FOUR OF THEM HAVE UNFORTUNATELY LOST THEIR LIVES.**

- SINCE THE SECOND OUTBREAK, THE REVISED PANDEMIC PLAN FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA HAS ALREADY BEEN PUT INTO IMPLEMENTATION ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
  
- QUARANTINE MEASURES HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED IN INFECTED REGIONS, AND ANIMAL MOVEMENTS FROM OR TO THE INFECTED AREAS HAVE BEEN BANNED, ALL POULTRY AT RISK IN THE REGION HAVE BEEN CULLED, VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED TO CIRCULATE ONLY AFTER COMPLETE DISINFECTION. HUNTING WAS PROHIBITED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
  
- WITH REGARDS TO HUMAN SURVEILLANCE, SAMPLES HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM PEOPLE, WHO WERE SUSPECTED OF CONTACTING SOMEHOW WITH POULTRY, AND EXAMINED IN DIFFERENT HEALTH INSTITUTES. POSSIBLE, PROBABLE AND CONFIRMED CASES ARE HOSPITALIZED. INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES ARE TAKEN FOR THESE PATIENTS.
  
- THE MAJOR AIM IS TO BREAK THE CHAIN OF TRANSMISSION IN THE LINE OF WILD BIRDS, BACKYARD POULTRY AND HUMANS.
  
- STRUGGLING WITH AVIAN INFLUENZA REQUIRES COORDINATED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS AND AN EFFECTIVE PANDEMIC PLAN. CAPACITY BUILDING IS UNDOUBTEDLY AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN STRUGGLING WITH THIS OUTBREAK.
  
- WE THINK THAT COUNTRIES SHOULD COOPERATE WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND SHARE INFORMATION.

- COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO ANNOUNCE THE CASES FOR FEAR OF NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THEIR POULTRY SECTOR. WE HAVE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED THE OIE, THE WHO AND OTHER RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT THE CASES.
  
- THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND OTHER RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS HAVE NOT ISSUED ANY MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR TRAVELING TO TURKEY. THEY ANNOUNCED THAT OUR GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR TAKEN VERY INTENSIVE AND COMPETENT MEASURES IN STRUGGLING WITH THIS DISEASE.
  
- THE WHO FURTHER REVEALED THAT TURKEY'S RESPONSE TO HUMAN CASES OF AVIAN INFLUENZA HAS BEEN TRULY EXCELLENT.
  
- IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT DUE TO LACK OF PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT AVIAN INFLUENZA, THE DANGER MAY CONTINUE TO GROW THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. FOR SUCCESS, WE MUST RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS.
  
- WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE FAO AND THE WORLD BANK, SHOULD ALLOCATE MORE FUNDS FOR THE SWIFT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECTS TO BE PREPARED IN THIS FIELD.
  
- AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, MORE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE COUNTRIES AT IMMEDIATE RISK.

**- WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF GLOBALLY SUSTAINED COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS AS THE KEY POINT IN COMBATING THIS DISEASE.**

**- HENCE, WE ARE SHARING OUR DATA AND INFORMATION WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN A TRANSPARENT MANNER AND ARE READY TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS AGAINST THIS GLOBAL THREAT, AVIAN INFLUENZA.**