

PROJECT REPORT SUMMARY

Project nr:	ZT(2010)2/1
Subject:	Development and delivery of a Training Conference on Food, Feed and Water Risk Assessment, Monitoring and Surveillance at the University of Khartoum, Sudan.
Offered to (ZT): Sponsored by (RT): Contracted by (FT):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange House Partnership (costs of preparation of the training by OHP experts (5); travel and related expenses of OHP experts. • Support was received from the University of Khartoum and the Federal Ministry of Health (meeting venue, lunches for all participants, lodging of all OHP experts (3)).
Start and end-dates:	21-25 November 2010
Experts involved:	<p><u>OHP:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Wallace Hayes, Senior Expert, OHP and Harvard University, Boston, USA; • Dr. Herman Koëter, Managing Director and member of the Management Board, OHP, Brussels, Belgium; • Dr Benno ter Kuile, Senior Expert, OHP and Dutch Agency for the Safety of Food and Consumer Goods, The Hague, the Netherlands; • Drs Kartika Liotard, Member of the OHP Management Board and Member of the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium; • Prof. Willem de Wit, Member of the OHP Leadership Team, OHP, and De Wit Consultancy, Wageningen, the Netherlands. <p><u>Khartoum University:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Nazik Eltayeb Musa, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Food Hygiene and Safety, and local organizer of the Training Conference; • Prof Abdel Rahim E-Karrar, Head of the Department of Medicine, Pharmacology and Toxicology.
Background and Objectives:	<p>On 21-22 March 2010, the First International Food Safety Conference was held in Sudan, organised by the Sudanese Standards and Metrology Organization (SSMO) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and under the patronage of Vice President H.E. Ali Osman Mohamed Taha. The Conference was a great success and showed the need for further training in the area of food and feed risk assessment and management both for scientists and the regulatory community.</p> <p>At the request of the Faculty of Public Health of the University of Khartoum, Orange House Partnership (OHP) has organised a follow-up training conference for the public health faculty staff,</p>

	<p>post graduate students and experts from the Ministry of Health with the objective:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) to contribute to a good understanding of the food and feed risk analysis process by lecturing on the basic principles and approaches of risk assessment and risk management and b) by means of practical examples, guide participants through actual risk assessments and risk management decision making cases. <p>The overall objective of the training conference was to achieve an adequate level of knowledge and understanding by the participants of risk assessment science and processes in order to be able to comprehend and interpret risk assessment outcomes and to make well-balanced risk management decisions based on these outcomes.</p>
<p>Meetings and Missions:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Conference on Food, Feed and Water risk Assessment, Monitoring and Surveillance at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, 21-25 November 2010. • Meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Public and Environmental Health, Prof. Kamil Mirghani Shaaban • Meeting at the Netherlands Embassy with the First Secretary for Development Cooperation to inform the Dutch Representation in Sudan of the OHP activities in Khartoum and explore possible co-funding of follow-up training and education in Sudan.
<p>Main Topics and observations:</p>	<p>Unfortunately, Kartika Liotard appeared to be unable to travel to Khartoum for medical reasons but had prepared a ppt-presentation about water management which was presented and moderated by Wim de Wit.</p> <p>Wallace Hayes experienced bureaucratic difficulties in obtaining his entry visa in time for the conference and, consequently, could not participate. He also submitted his ppt-presentation and case study which were presented and moderated by Herman Koëter.</p> <p>The training conference was attended by 55 participants from the Khartoum University and the Federal Ministry of Health. Backgrounds of the participants ranged from MSc and PhD students to Postdocs to PhD teachers and professors and professionals of the Ministry. Consequently, the level at which the training was given appeared to be at the appropriate level for about half of the attendants only. For the other half the level was slightly or, occasionally substantially, too complicated. Therefore, in particular the level of the practical work was somewhat lowered and essential scientific principles were explained</p>

repeatedly.

The participants were particularly interested in practical risk management applications, most notably in the microbiological area (HACCP). After the first day of introductory lectures to cover the basis of the risk analysis paradigm, days 2-4 were each divided in one full morning and one full afternoon session. These sessions comprised a 'setting the scene' presentation followed by assignments for practical work of the audience which was divided for this purpose into 4 subgroups, each working on the same case. The subjects were: microbiological risk assessment, food control approaches, chemical risk assessment, water management, international food risk assessment and management (setting food standards), and particular hot issues for Sudan, respectively.

All attendants worked very hard and were extremely motivated and disciplined. Men and women worked together at a fully equal footing and all expressed views, opinions and critical statements (mostly towards a lax and uninterested government) without reservations.

The training conference was generally considered very timely and absolutely successful: the overall mean score was 4.3 on a scale of 1 to 5 (see attached evaluation summary).

In the margin of the conference a meeting was held of the OHP trainers with the Dean of the Faculty. During this meeting the possibility of follow-up initiatives were discussed. One option may be to explore possibilities to establish a 4-year BSc and MSc education programme in food safety, management and security as a joint effort and intellectual investment of OHP, the University of Khartoum and a European University (possibly the Wageningen University or the Open University of Berlin). The University of Khartoum was obviously very enthusiastic about the idea. Further discussion will be needed with the suggested (and/or other) EU universities, preferably before 27 February 2011 when OHP will be back in Khartoum, lecturing (upon invitation) at a congress of the University of Khartoum.

Following the Training conference a courtesy visit was paid to the Netherlands Embassy in Khartoum where the OHP trainers met with the First Secretary for Development Cooperation. This meeting was instructive but not very rewarding as the Embassy did not see a possibility in supporting in any way future OHP training and education initiatives. Moreover, the embassy's focus is on Southern Sudan. The First secretary further mentioned that the embassy has outsourced its development cooperation work pertaining to higher education to NUFFIC (the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education) such as NFP and its NICHE Programme (Netherlands Initiative

	<p>for Capacity development in Higher Education). However, he also indicated that this programme is currently at a very low level of funding and aimed solely at Southern Sudan. The First secretary for Development Cooperation will pass on the contact details of the Vice-Chancellor of Juba University in Southern Sudan and expects that the needs in the south are even higher than in the north. He would appreciate to receive some brochures of OHP for distribution among interested parties. <i>[Note: the contact details have been received and the OHP brochures were mailed on 29 November].</i></p> <p>The expected severe cut in development cooperation as announced by the newly installed Dutch government was received with appreciation by the First secretary. He took note of the OHP belief that investing in education of the people (not providing funds) provides the best opportunities for influencing political dialogue. To our request for practical assistance to OHP when active in Sudan (identifying key government officials, assisting with visa, suggesting clean, good but otherwise modest hotels, etc.), there was no clear response.</p>
<p>Documentation (to be attached):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Conference Programme • Summary of the participants' evaluation of the Training Conference • PDF files of the 15 lectures and the 10 case studies (upon request)
<p>Date:</p>	<p>28 November 2010</p>
<p>Signature:</p>	<p>Herman B.W.M.Koëter</p>