



## Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations FAVA

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**Dr. Johnson Chiang**  
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**Dr. Said Gul Safi**  
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**Dr. Achariya Sailasuta**  
Secretary General  
Thailand (TVMA)

## 2016 FAVA President's Report

### August 2016

At the 2015 FAVA Council meeting in Ulaanbaatar, the council set FAVA a number of goals to achieve prior to the 19th FAVA congress in September 2016 to be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

One of the most important – the review of the FAVA constitution (and by-laws) - also proved one of the most contentious. A constitutional update became necessary once FAVA established & registered its permanent office in Bangkok. An initial review to modernise & update the constitution (beyond a simple amendment) was started during the 2014 Singapore Council meeting & then continued at the 2015 Mongolian meeting. However, the turn-out for the online voting in February this year to approve the draft constitution was insufficient to constitute a quorum. As such the new constitution was not adopted and we are still operating under the 1993 charter. The matter of how to proceed with constitutional reform/changes now remains to be discussed by the council this September. I would encourage all FAVA representatives to closely read the current constitution prior to our meeting.

In other matters FAVA achieved rather better results. The second online FAVA postgraduate animal welfare (AW) course was held from September 2015 through January 2016, attracting 15 students. FAVA was again partnered in this project by World Animal Protection, and the course endorsed by University of the Philippines Los Banos, Chulalongkorn University, University of Edinburgh and City University Hong Kong. The program was very successful and the feedback from the students strongly positive.

Although World Animal Protection can no longer financially support this endeavour, FAVA has received permission for further use of their learning modules so we can continue offering the AW course to veterinarians in Asia. Along with Dr. Natasha Lee from Malaysia, I have had discussions with Dr. Howard Wong from City University Hong Kong and WCEA (the CE platform used by the WVA) about the online hosting of the welfare course & hope to have it up & running again in 2017.

FAVA continued the collaboration with Dr. Mark Johnson from Vetstream (UK) and provided free access to online veterinary teaching materials for staff &

students at 12 universities in ASEAN. Some of these educational establishments have made good use of this resource while others are in the early stages of the accessing materials & assessing the benefits.

In February 2016, I met with Dr. Kate Blaszak from World Animal Protection & discussed continued sponsorship of the FAVA congress & the Asian Animal Welfare Award. I am very appreciative of World Animal Protection's continued support in what has been a challenging time. The recipient of this year's Animal Welfare award is Dr. Peter Thornber from Australia. Kate & I hope to meet with Peter to discuss the future of the award as well as nomination & selection protocols.

Throughout 2016 I was fortunate enough to be invited to various events as FAVA's representative. In February I spoke on "*Veterinary Education & Veterinary Practice in Asia*" at the **83rd PVMA Congress** in Davao, southern Philippines. As usual, the Filipinos were excellent hosts, and the PVMA remains a very strong supporter of our federation. In April, I represented FAVA & spoke to veterinary students & staff on "*The Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations & our approach to animal welfare*" and "*Animal Welfare Issues in Asia*" at the **International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA)** congress held in the Netherlands. This was the first international student conference dedicated to animal welfare & it was heartening to see the large number of students - including a good representation from Asia - who had freely given of their time (& finances) to attend. Then in May, FAVA was invited to Adelaide to attend the **Australian Veterinary Association's** annual conference. Along with the AVMA president-elect, the NZVA president & CVA (Commonwealth) representative, I was given the opportunity to address the AVA's AGM, & (again) encouraged the Australian veterinary profession to become more participatory in Asia & increase their involvement with the Asian veterinary community.

In June, Dr. Achariya & I represented FAVA at the **4th OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education** in Bangkok. This was a very good opportunity to connect with veterinary colleagues from all over the world & also gave chance to various side meetings on matters relevant to FAVA (e.g. with CUHK, WAP, OIE SRR). Mid-July, prior to the **Veterinary Practitioners of Thailand (VPAT)** meeting, FAVA assisted in arranging a meeting for the **WSAVA Animal Welfare Guideline** group & through the generosity of the TVMA, provided WSAVA a meeting room at the TVMA/FAVA office in Bangkok. And through the FAVA connection, the WSAVA group then provided an animal welfare lecture stream at the VPAT congress.

Recognising FAVA's increasing relevance & stature both in Asia & internationally,

FAVA was invited to the **AVMA Annual Convention** in San Antonio in August. Along with the presidents of major veterinary groups like WVA & Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), I was allowed the opportunity & privilege of addressing the AVMA House of Delegates on 5th August. Explaining that FAVA's role & objectives included serving communities through the promotion of animal health and welfare, and the promotion of communication & collegiality amongst the veterinary associations and the veterinarians of the Asia-Oceania region, I encouraged our American colleagues to engage more fully with the Asian veterinary profession.

And this September I will again represent FAVA at the VIP meeting to be held during the **WSAVA Annual Congress** in Cartagena, Colombia.

Some additional items:

- It has been a busy year for FAVA through 2016, and many of FAVA's other activities & collaborations are listed in our General-Secretary's report.
- During the same week as our council meeting & congress, Dr. Natasha Lee will be in Cambodia on behalf of FAVA, training staff for a pilot rabies vaccination program. This is a joint program with **OIE, FAVA & the Cambodian Department of Animal Health & Production**. Ten provincial officers, 10 district veterinary officers, 40 vaccinators, 10 training organisers from Phnom Penh & Kandal province are expected to be trained in mass dog vaccination, handling/restraint, surveillance, case investigation and data recording / reporting.
- We have been in discussion with WCEA (the World Continuing Education Alliance), an online CE platform, about developing a FAVA CE portal. This has great potential where our proceedings, AW course & seminars can be made available for our members' benefit.
- We have had a membership application from the Association of Veterinarians of Tajikistan (TVA). As we look to expand FAVA's influence, I have been in discussion with the Chinese VMA about the possibility of their joining FAVA. I had a full and frank discussion with their delegation at the AVMA convention & believe continued future negotiations will be useful.

A few final matters:

- As we all know, the FAVA congress is a biennial event. However, I would like the members to consider holding an annual meeting – i.e. during the year between FAVA congresses – where the member association acting as the venue for the annual council meeting would “co-host” or “co-

brand” with FAVA at their own annual conference. This proposal is still in the developmental stage & needs to be discussed, but could be acted upon as soon as 2019.

- I believe we should have a FAVA Congress Scientific Committee, membership comprising the local hosting association, with other FAVA member associations to ensure that our sponsorship obligations & the education & social needs of the congress delegates are met.
- Dr. Achariya Sailasuta has done an excellent job as FAVA Secretary-General, and is vital to the success & the efficient running of the Federation. I would like the council to consider having a “secretary-general in training” under Dr. Achariya’s mentorship, to ease the transition & retain institutional memory when she finally decides to retire from her position.

I have come to the end of my term as the president of FAVA & I have been honoured to represent our federation & our various associations in the international arena. I hand over to Dr. Dao Ngoc Hao from the Vietnamese Veterinary Association, wishing him all success in his new position & confident that FAVA will be very capably led into the future.

The FAVA Council has many things to discuss in HCMC in September, and I thank our Vietnamese colleagues for hosting the meeting. I am looking forward to catching up with you all then.

Dr. Shane Ryan  
President  
Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations  
Quondam President  
Singapore Veterinary Association