

THE QUARANTINE

18 - 20 MAY, 2016

REGULATORS MEETING

COMMUNIQUÉ

**FEATURING
PRESENTATIONS BY:**

- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Sri Lanka

**DATA! DATA!
DATA -**

Managing biosecurity
risk demands data

**QRM
GOVERNANCE:
VISION,
MISSION AND
VALUES**



CHILE FIJI INDIA INDONESIA LAO PDR AUSTRALIA MALAYSIA MYANMAR

NEW ZEALAND OIRSA PERU PAPUA NEW GUINEA REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SOLOMON ISLANDS SRI LANKA TAIWAN THAILAND THE PHILIPPINES VIETNAM

➔ GPFD Workshop

Government Partnerships for Development

The 2016 Quarantine Regulators Meeting was preceded by a workshop for the Government Partnerships for

Development (GPFD) project, sponsored by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. GPFD counterparts discussed the next phase of the project, which will focus on the development and delivery of training courses to address in-country technical and administrative requirements pertaining to the application of biosecurity treatments. To support this phase, GPFD counterparts workshopped their in-country training requirements with an intent to identify similarities in training needs and a harmonised approach to training delivery.

➔ Field Trip



Ants, spiders, possums and kangaroos, were some of the insects and animals that delegates saw on their guided tour of the

La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary, which also showcased some of Australia's native flora. The tour provided delegates with information on La Trobe university's extensive program to eradicate exotic plants and re-establish indigenous species of plants.

The department's state-of-the-art Post Entry Quarantine facility (which opened in October 2015) was also visited. During the visit, delegates were provided with a presentation on the facility, its features and daily operations and were taken on a guided tour.

➔ ICCBA Meetings



Meetings of the four International Cargo Cooperative Biosecurity Arrangement (ICCBA) technical working groups were held in conjunction

with the QRM. The main outcomes were the finalisation of the Methyl Bromide Methodology and supporting Guide and the agreement to conduct operational trials to evaluate the Heat Treatment Methodology and the Post Treatment Storage Protocol. A technical working group, formalised by the ICCBA Steering Committee at the 2016 QRM for the development of the Methyl Bromide Schedule, will be considering and drafting the terms of the document within the coming months.

Don't forget to use the ICCBA and QRM network sites!

- QRM: <https://portals.edaff.gov.au/sites/qrm/default.aspx>
- ICCBA: <https://portals.edaff.gov.au/sites/iccba/default.aspx>

Please email QRM@agriculture.gov.au if you experience any difficulties when accessing these sites.



THE 2016 QUARANTINE REGULATORS MEETING

'Harmonising Regulatory Practices to Encourage Biosecurity Compliance' was the theme of the eighth Quarantine Regulators Meeting (QRM), held in Melbourne, from 18 to 20 May 2016.

Attended by 40 delegates representing 26 international biosecurity agencies, the 2016 QRM was a resounding success. The meeting was officially opened by Dr Robyn Cleland, Assistant Secretary (Compliance Arrangements), Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, with the keynote address provided by Lyn O'Connell, Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. The keynote address outlined the importance of international collaboration in managing biosecurity risks and Australia's approach to biosecurity compliance

The 2016 QRM had a full and interesting agenda, with presentations on several topics, including the Malaysian Department of Agriculture's experience in harmonising fumigation standards in-country; and the Indonesian Agricultural Quarantine Agency's and Sri Lankan Department of Agriculture's work with their respective industries, to encourage better compliance. New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries presented on the very real threat of marine biofouling, while the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis exposed delegates to the importance of data in managing pathway risk.

In recognition of the growth and direction of the QRM, delegates discussed the goals (mission, vision and values) of the meeting and proposed the development of a work plan, to assist in achieving the meeting's objectives. Delegates were also provided with a live demonstration of the network sites for the QRM and the International Cargo Cooperative Biosecurity Arrangement (ICCBA), which will undoubtedly make information sharing easier, into the future.

To conclude a productive three days, the 2016 QRM included the third meeting of the ICCBA Steering Committee, which endorsed the ICCBA Methyl Bromide Methodology, Guide to Performing QPS Fumigations with Methyl Bromide and the development of the Methyl Bromide Schedule to be introduced under ICCBA.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources would like to thank the 2016 QRM delegates for their support and invaluable contribution to this year's meeting, and encourages the ongoing collaboration between all participating agencies.