

**Minutes of the WSAVA Assembly 2018**  
**Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre – Hall H – Singapore**  
24<sup>th</sup> of September 2018

**Session I: Members' Forum**

**1. President's Welcome and State of the Association**

The meetings started at 09:00 AM. Dr. Walt Ingwersen (WSAVA President) welcomed all those present and invited Dr. Eleanor Ho, Chair of the Local Host Committee 2018, to address the Assembly Members and present the WSAVA World Congress 2018.

Dr. Ingwersen delivered his state of the association address

It has been another great year of progress and achievement for the WSAVA, which marks the successful final stage of our 2014-2019 WSAVA Strategic plan. All of its 16 strategic initiatives have been delivered or are underway. thanks to the engagement of our volunteer base. Vice President Siraya Chunekamrai will lead a task force into our next round of strategic planning, the outcomes which will ensure that our community is keenly involved in setting our path for the next five years and beyond. The last twelve months have seen the establishment of new Committees, formed because of member feedback:

- a. WSAVA Professional Wellness Group
- b. Therapeutics Guidelines Group
- c. The expansion of the One Care initiative

Dr Ingwersen concluded with thanks to the Executive Board, member representatives and committee members for their support during his Presidency and their engagement with the WSAVA.

**2. Presentation of Format of the Day**

**3. Presentation of the Consent Agenda from the Business Session and Call for Removal of Items**

- 3.1. The Consent Agenda includes all officer's reports, committee reports, Standardization group reports, Congress reports, Member Association reports, and other information that needs to be mentioned, but does not need to be discussed

**4. Members Forum – potential topics to be covered**

**4.1. Availability and Access to Veterinary Therapeutics** – facilitated by Dr. Walt Ingwersen (WSAVA President)

*Outcome: A clear plan to influence policy changes that make one standard possible globally*

The issues of availability and access to veterinary therapeutics was introduced by Dr Walt Ingwersen after which it was discussed in two groups. The outcome of the Members' Forum would be shared in the upcoming VIP Summit, later that week.

It was agreed that equitable access to therapeutics is a multifactorial and global problem:

- Various Underlying Causes: there are different reasons for inequal access to therapeutics such as; socio-economic issues or inconsistent regulations on therapeutics.
- Healthy VCPR: in order to ensure the welfare of animal and wellbeing of veterinarians worldwide it is crucial to maintain a healthy "Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship" (VCPR)
- WSAVA Support in smaller countries: the WSAVA could support smaller countries by introducing new therapeutics in their markets by establishing a connection between the veterinary community and the industry and government
- Accurate Information: the WSAVA could support in providing and disseminating accurate information on therapeutics available on the market, with a focus on developing countries.
- Unethical distribution: the unethical distribution and dealing of drugs via the black market, local vendors, pet stores or the internet should be addressed.
- Recognition: there is a lack of recognition that veterinarians have the authority to prescribe therapeutics

The outcome of the discussions was summarized in 'Problem' and 'Solution/Actions' below:

Problem	Solution / actions
<u>Vaccine/therapeutic Availability</u> Veterinarians in developing countries struggle to access vaccines as these countries are unable to produce therapeutics	Industry should partner with veterinary associations so that social responsibility can help drive breaking the problem
<u>Regulations by manufacturers and limited access</u>	Veterinarians to influence government and regulations
<u>Availability of (unapproved) drugs on the internet / local vendors / black market</u>	More ethical channels and products available
<u>Lack of Recognition that veterinarians have the</u>	

authority to prescribe drugs

#### 4.2. **World Congress Structure and Potential Mini-Congresses** – facilitated by Dr. Nicola Neumann (WSAVA Congress Liaison Officer)

*Outcome: A meaningful activity that together everyone takes ownership and benefits*

##### **WSAVA Mini-Congresses**

The ideal situation in the WSAVA would be where:

Multiple regional events are linked to the main congress and smaller regional congresses are organized annually with the support of the WSAVA. This would have the following benefits:

- Decrease in Membership Fees: the income from these additional congresses would decrease the membership fees.
- More suitable programs: the scientific programs and topics of Members' Forums could better suit local/regional problems
- More accessible location: it would be closer for many members making it easier to attend a WSAVA (mini)congress
- Benefit for Local Associations: these congresses could help support the local WSAVA Member Associations financially as well as create pride to be a WSAVA member.
- Translation: translations could be more effectively used and tailored to the languages spoken in those regions
- Online Streaming: the local congresses could be streamed to Members in other parts of the world.

##### **WSAVA World Congress**

With the current WSAVA World Congress, there are some parts that do and do not seem to work. These are outlined in the table below.

What Works	What does not Work
<b>Scientific Program – high quality</b>	<b>Workload for Local Host Committee</b> – the Local Host Committee has too many responsibilities which creates a workload that is too heavy
<b>Sponsorship</b>	<b>Scientific Program</b> – there is a lack of control over the scientific program and it should include more local subjects <b>Workshops</b> – there are not enough workshops
<b>Culture / Social Bonds</b>	<b>Bidding for Congress</b> - smaller countries are not able to bid as they cannot

	offer a venue of the 'required' size - the guidelines for bids are unclear - affiliate members cannot bid
<b>Exhibit Hall</b>	<b>Competition</b> The WSAVA World Congress has to stand out more from other congresses
<b>Organization - PCO/Local Host Committee</b>	<b>Social Program</b> – the number of social events should be increased as this leads to more cultural exchange
<b>Costs – Accessibility / Low Risk LHC</b>	<b>Not applicable for Students</b> – there are no lectures that are helpful for students

- 4.3. **WSAVA Membership** – facilitated by Dr. Brook Niemiec (Chair of the WSAVA Regional Member Advocates) and Dr. Ellen van Nierop (WSAVA Honorary Treasurer)  
*Outcome: A satisfied community that understands the value of WSAVA membership*

The words that used to represent the WSAVA were; caring, engaged, inclusive and informed. In order to create more engaged WSAVA Membership, the following:

- Local/National feedback after events: WSAVA Member Representatives and all members should be encouraged to report back to the local association after international WSAVA events so that local members are informed of the current WSAVA activities and local associations are included more.
- One Member Association per country: The WSAVA brand would be stronger if each country only had one WSAVA Member Association, unless a mutual agreement between associations in one country had been signed.
- Leadership Training: WSAVA Member Representatives should receive leadership training to empower “Key Opinion Leaders” and encourage networking amongst countries in all the WSAVA regions. The member representatives present agreed that they carry responsibility for the communication between WSAVA global and local. A leadership training would assist them to carry out this responsibility more adequately.
- More Local Events: WSAVA Member Representatives should be encouraged and assisted to organize local events to inform the members of all WSAVA activities and opportunities .
- Communication between Global and Local: the communication between the WSAVA Executive Committee and the WSAVA Member Associations should be improved.



**WSAVA**  
Global Veterinary Community

- Twinning Programs, Mentorship and Student Ambassadors: Several projects, such as twinning, mentorship and student ambassadors programs should be implemented to encourage local associations to create bonds with one another and create a stronger WSAVA network worldwide.
- Regional Meetings: regional meetings improve the efficiency and productivity of WSAVA Member Associations and assists in including and motivating all members.

*Extra: WSAVA Member Representatives should have a platform to openly communicate (e.g. WhatsApp group) where they can discuss and share information.*

- 5. Future Steps** – the Executive Board will take note of all the outcomes of the Members' Forum and will work towards achieving the goals and completing the actions outlined in each topic.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM GMT+8

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