# Japan's comments on the Report of the meeting of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission in March 2013

Japan would like to express its appreciation to the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission for giving us an opportunity for offering comments on the proposed revision to Aquatic Animal Health Code.

## Chapter X.X Criteria for determining susceptibility of aquatic animals to specific pathogenic agents

### General comments

Japan regards "susceptible (host) species" as one of the most important disease information in determining animal health measures and facilitating safe international trade. Japan generally supports establishing criteria for determining susceptibility of a species to specific pathogenic agents, but has comments to be considered as below.

### Specific comments

**1. Possible susceptible species**

Japan reserves its opinion to the second paragraph of Article X.X.2. and would like to note that the ad hoc Group recommended that only definitely susceptible species be listed in the Aquatic Code (Annex 23, Report of the meeting of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, March 2012) .

If the opinion of the Commission is the same to the ad hoc Group, the paragraph 2 of the Article X.X.2 should be modified appropriately because inclusion of possible susceptible species into section 2.2.1 of the Aquatic Manual could imply that they are also within the scope of disease control measures in the Aquatic Codes.

Japan also considers that the OIE would need to complete 'worked' examples to check its applicability to all the pathogens listed in the report of the ad hoc Group with help of reference laboratory experts. Concerning KHV, Japan would like to

provide a scientific paper on susceptibility of goldfish (K. Yuasa, M. Sano and N. Oseko (2013): Goldfish is Not a Susceptible Host of Koi Herpesvirus (KHV) Disease. Fish Pathology, 48 (2), 52-55 ) .

## 2. Article X.X.4. Stage 1: criteria for transmission of infection and Article X.X.8. Taxonomic relationship of susceptible species

Article X.X.4.

**Stage 1: criteria for transmission of infection**

The evidence should be classified as transmission through: i) natural occurrence, ii) non-invasive experimental procedure, or iii) invasive experimental procedure.

Consideration needs to be given to whether experimental procedures (e.g. inoculation, infectivity load, host stress) mimic natural pathways under appropriate environmental conditions including the habitat water temperature for *disease* transmission.

Article X.X.8.

**Taxonomic relationship of susceptible species**

Defining species as possible susceptible on the basis of a taxonomic relationship at levels higher than genus requires solid evidence that the pathogen has a very wide host range.

For aetiological agents with a wide host range, the taxonomic relationship of a species to other known *susceptible species* may be used to assume susceptibility. Species can be classified as 'possible' *susceptible species* if they reside in a genus that includes at least two *susceptible species* and in which there is no strong evidence of resistance to *infection*.

Evidence of resistance would include the following:

1) Appropriate testing reveals no evidence of *infection* when animals are exposed to the pathogen in natural setting where the pathogen is known to be present

and to cause *disease* in *susceptible species*.

2)Appropriate testing reveals no evidence of *infection* when animals are exposed through controlled challenges by natural routes under appropriate environmental conditions including the habitat water temperature.

(Rationale)

The habitat water temperature is a critical factor which affects infectivity and disease occurrences. Concerning article x.x.8, an optimum temperature range varies with species and not all the species of the same genus live in the same range of water temperature.

## 3. Article X.X.6. Stage 3 : criteria to determine infection

Glossary

***Infection***

means the presence of a multiplying or otherwise developing or latent *pathogenic agent* in a host. This term is understood to include infestation where the *pathogenic agent* is a parasite in or on a host. In the absence of evidence to meet this criteria, satisfying any two of indirect criteria as described in Chapter X.X.(Articlex.x.6.) can also be assumed as infection.

(Rationale)

If the draft of new chapter is adopted, the definition in the glossary should be revised to ensure its consistency in the aquatic code.