

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Veterinary Association

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The 31<sup>st</sup> World Veterinary Congress (WVC) took place in Prague (Czech Republic) from 17 to 20 September. This year, the WVC was marked by World Veterinary Association's 150 years Anniversary celebrations. Over 1350 delegates from 75 countries attended the WVC 2013.

The scientific programme included 11 parallel sessions covering every veterinary discipline; from companion to exotic animals, from wellbeing of animals to wellbeing of veterinarians.

A two-day Global Veterinary Seminar on Animal Welfare brought together specialists from different world regions to discuss the different aspects of Animal Welfare. On that occasion, the WVA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WSPA to promote animal welfare globally via agreed specific goals and actions.

This year, the WVA-WHO-OIE-FAO 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Summit focused on strengthening institutional collaboration and cooperation between animal and public health in education and research.

During the WVC 2013, the WVA held its own Presidents' Assembly. The main issue on the agenda was the vote on the proposal to change the WVA Constitution and By-Laws with the aim to broaden membership, improve members' involvement and enhance dynamics and decision-making. After in-depth presentations and discussions on the proposal, it was adopted with 100% of the votes in favour.

On the occasion of the WVA 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, the WVA presented the John Gamgee Award to James Harlan Steele (USA), Milton Thiago de Mello (Brazil) and to Bernard Vallat (France) in recognition of their outstanding and exemplary services to the veterinary science and to the veterinary profession.

The WVC 2013 was concluded by a presentation from the Turkish Veterinary Medical Associations, the organizers of the 32<sup>nd</sup> WVC to take place in September 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey.