JUAN LUBROTH

Chief Veterinary Officer

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Dr Juan Lubroth is the Chief of the Animal Health Service and Chief Veterinary Officer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Dr Lubroth previously served for seven years as the senior officer of FAO's Animal Health Service and head of the Infectious Diseases Group/ Emergency Prevention System in charge of worldwide surveillance, capacity building, and progressive control of transboundary animal diseases (2002-2009).

Born and raised in Spain, Dr Lubroth received his bachelor's degree (biology) from Whitman College in Washington State and worked as a wildlife biologist before continuing studies at the University of Georgia, where he earned both a master's degree in medical microbiology and DVM in 1985. After a stint with the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, Dr Lubroth joined the diagnostic services section of the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Plum Island Animal Disease Center, USDA. In Mexico he served as a technical officer for the Mexico-US Commission for the Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and other Foreign Animal Diseases, returning for advanced studies in the United States. In 1995, he received both a M Phil (arbovirology) and PhD (epidemiology and public health) from the School of Epidemiology and Public Health at the Yale University, School of Medicine. Dr Lubroth returned to USDA and was posted at the Panaftosa Center in Brazil as research epidemiologist before being named head of Diagnostic Services at Plum Island, where among other duties managed the North American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Bank.

In 2002, Dr Lubroth joined the Animal Health Service of FAO. He has worked extensively throughout Latin America, North Africa and the Middle East. He has initiated several major initiatives for the control of transboundary animal diseases in Central Asia, South Asia, southern Africa, and served on the Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics Advisory Committee. He was the driving force behind several key cooperative initiatives of FAO with the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), including the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases, the Global Early Warning System for major animal diseases including zoonoses (GLEWS), and the establishment of the Crisis Management Centre for Animal Health. As an expert on animal health and infectious disease transmission, Dr Lubroth is often called to assist in bringing animal production and health perspectives to the work of the WHO on issues related to "One Health"zoonoses, biological safety of laboratories, and matters regarding bioterrorism and agroterrorism.

On 1 October 2009, Dr Lubroth was appointed as Chief of the Animal Health Service and Chief Veterinary Officer of FAO, headquartered in Rome, Italy, where he now resides with his wife, Adriana, a journalist, and a coterie of dogs and cats of all sizes.