



FAVA Free Rabies Asia Special Committee Kickoff Meeting

March 23, 2025

"Rabies, which kills more than 60,000 people annually"
Strengthening international cooperation to achieve One Health.
 ~Establishment of the FAVA Free Rabies Asia Special Committee:
 Participation from 12 Asian Countries~



President of FAVA, Dr. Ju Hyung Hur

The Kickoff Meeting of the FAVA Free Rabies Asia Special Committee (FRASC) was held in Dongdaemun District, Seoul, South Korea.

Dr. In Seong Jeong, Chairman of the Education Committee of the Korean Veterinary Medical Association, was appointed as the Chair of FRASC. Dr. Harris Constantino, the President Elect of FAVA from the Philippines, and Mr. Duhwan Moon, Vice President of the Korean Veterinary Medical Association, were appointed as Vice Chairs. Additionally, a total of 16 members will serve on the committee, recommended by veterinary associations from various Asian countries.

FRASC Chairman Dr. In Seong Jeong called for raising public awareness of rabies issues in Asian countries and for cooperation among the government, academia, and the veterinary industry. He stated, "I hope this inaugural ceremony will serve as a foundation for achieving One Health, where humans, animals, and the environment can thrive together."

FAVA President Dr. Ju Hyung Hur stated, "FAVA will take the lead in eradicating rabies together with its member countries, with a special committee at its core."

In addition, Dr. Isao Kurauchi, President of the FAVA One Health Fukuoka Office, also attended the inaugural ceremony. He referred to the joint declaration made at the Ninth Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit and stated, "The JVMA is committed to working together with all FAVA member countries to share our experience and contribute to common goal of a rabies-free Asia"



President of FOF, Dr. Isao Kurauchi



The inaugural ceremony was attended by former World Veterinary Association President Dr. Johnson Chiang, veterinarians from various countries, as well as representatives from the South Korean government, industry, and animal welfare organizations. They reaffirmed their commitment to cooperation in addressing rabies and other zoonotic diseases.

From the left: Dr. Jerry V. Alcantara, President of the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association; Dr. Ju Hyung Hur, President of FAVA; Dr. Isao Kurauchi, President of FOF; Dr. Johnson Chiang, Former President of the World Veterinary Association.

FRASC was established with the goal of promoting the health and welfare of both humans and animals through the eradication of rabies in Asian countries, as decided at the 46th FAVA Council Meeting last October.

Subsequently, at the closing ceremony of the 23rd FAVA Congress, FAVA President Dr. Ju Hyung Hur, declared the "FAVA Rabies-free Declaration."



Current Status and Challenges of Rabies in Asia

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) report in 2023, approximately 59,000 people die from rabies each year, with more than 95% of cases concentrated in Africa and Asia.

There are significant differences in the rabies situation across Asian countries. In Japan and South Korea, no cases of rabies have been confirmed in humans or animals for a long time. Similarly, in Taiwan, while infections have been reported in wild ferret-badgers, no cases have been reported in humans or dogs.

On the other hand, in Southeast Asia, particularly south of the Philippines, and around India, rabies remains a serious issue, and further countermeasures are needed.

Rabies is a disease that can be completely prevented through vaccination and proper preventive measures. Under the One Health approach, it is essential to share diagnostic information between animals and humans to implement more effective and efficient prevention measures.