

Abstract of presentation: Carel du Marchie Sarvaas, Executive Director, HealthforAnimals

Presentation title: “*VICH – International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products*”

The presentation is in three parts:

1. Explanation of **background**, structure, role, processes and members of the VICH initiative. This will be done summarily. VICH is an international tripartite cooperation programme set up in the early 1990ies, to harmonise of technical requirements for registration of veterinary medicinal products. The tripartite are the goverbmenst and industry groups of 1) US, 2) Japan and 3) EU. Four other countries (Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa) are observers, and a tier of 15+ countries are also involved actively. VICH is a unique set-up of public and private sector expertise sharing in a discussion forum yet with binding conditions upon the tripartite countries.
2. The **benefits and achievements** of VICH are:
 - acceptance of multilaterally agreed guidelines for studies (quality, safety and efficacy),
 - use of harmonised technical guidelines in the countries/regions participating in VICH,
 - minimisation of the use of test animals and costs of product development,
 - facilitation and acceleration of authorization in countries/regions participating,
 - participation in a forum dealing with new, emerging global issues and relevant science,
 - sharing information with others through public conferences (VICH Public Conferences 1 to 5),
 - reduction of costs and time for developing new product and bringing them on the market,
 - increased pooling and leveraging of regulatory resources,
 - increased availability of Veterinary Medicines
3. **What learnings** could be drawn from VICH for the global feed industry?
 - practicalities of working together between governments and industry
 - importance of rules of engagement
 - all countries or a group of leaders?
 - do's and don'ts
 - confidence building