|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Press Release** |
| **Release from the morning of October 25, 2017** |
| **Acting Director Jang Jun-yeon Deputy Director Jeong Myeong-hee (82-54-912-0716),****Research Planning Division, APQA / Provided on October 24th (two pages in total)** |
| World-Class Experts to Discuss Ways to Eradicate Foot-and-Mouth Disease- 2017 Global FMD Research Alliance (GFRA) Conference to be held - |

□ The Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (director Park Bong-gyun) will hold the Global Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Research Alliance Symposium with the Global Foot and Mouth Disease Research Alliance (GFRA\*) at the Nest Hotel in Incheon from October 25 to October 27, 2017.

❍ This symposium will focus on the development of FMD vaccine and diagnostic methods, basic research on immunization, and the sharing of outbreaks by country, with 200 participants, including FMD researchers and government officials from all over the world.

\* The Global Foot and Mouth Disease Research Alliance (GFRA) is an international association of researchers in the fields of FMD control, epidemiology, diagnosis and prevention. The alliance was established in Italy in 1908 and it holds biennial meetings. Its working-level committee consists mainly of government officials. The GFRA partners 16 national organizations, including the US Department of Agriculture, Pirbright Laboratory of the UK, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) of Australia.

□ The symposium is being held jointly with the APQA and the GFRA at the request of the GFRA.

❍ The Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency said that they requested the GFRA to hold the symposium jointly as the agency was designated as an international standard laboratory for foot-and-mouth disease approved by the OIE (or World Organization for Animal Health), and Korea has shown excellent FMD management capabilities, such as terminating FMD which broke out in February for a short period.

□ This conference is composed of 12 sessions and practitioners' workshops covering scientific and social issues about FMD, such as the latest trends in the development of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines, and the prevention and management of foot-and-mouth disease in Asia and Africa.

❍ Specifically, on the first day, October 25, a special session will be held on the topic of "Korea’s Research on and Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease" by the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency.

 - In this special session, government and private experts will make presentations on the characteristics of the recent foot-and-mouth outbreak, epidemiological characteristics, diagnosis and observation programs, as well as vaccination and countermeasures in Korea.

□ An official of the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency said that the symposium will introduce FMD management by the governments of each nation, as well as successful rapid diagnosis and vaccination cases in countries around the world.

❍ “Foot and mouth disease experts from around the world are expected to discuss actual experience and in-depth research, from basic FMD research to clinical outcomes via the event,” the official said.