

DISCOURS «Opening of World Veterinary Year in NZ"
Lundi 31 janvier 2011 à 17h30 à la résidence.

Bonsoir and thank you to Dr Wild for his kind invitation and the opportunity to host, here at the French Embassy, the opening ceremony for World Veterinary Year, 2011.

The official launch took place at the Palace of Versailles last week and associations around the world will be celebrating the occasion over the coming months - there are at least 380 corresponding members in 78 countries taking part.

I am honoured to be able to say that the first veterinary school was opened in Lyon in 1761, shortly followed by another at Alfort in 1764. Both veterinary schools were the initiative of Claude Bourgelat, who as well as creating the training establishments created the veterinary profession that we know today.

New Zealand and France have a strong strategic relationship. The Office International des Epizooties or OIE, was established in 1924 and is based in Paris.

New-Zealand has a long and proud history with this organisation with Dr Barry O'Neil being the immediate past President of the OIE and the first New Zealand President. Dr David Bayvel is the current chair of both the Permanent Animal Welfare Working Group and the Laboratory Animal Welfare ad-hoc Group and Dr Stuart MacDiamid is the Secretary General of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission in Paris.

I am sure many of you will be aware that all three Gentlemen have spent many of their working days and years at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry here in Wellington, so it seems fitting to hand over to our next speaker.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you, the Honourable David Carter, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Merci, thank you and Kia Ora.