



FAVA ONEHEALTH FUKUOKA OFFICE

## World Veterinary Association President Rafael Laguens issued the press release on the Commemorative Celebration and Dr. Kurauchi's "Contribution to the Promotion of One Health"



Press Release

### World Veterinary Association honours Japanese veterinarian with special "One Health" award as forerunner to new Global Veterinary Awards.

Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan leads the way in planning to avoid the next pandemic.

**Fukuoka; 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023:** The President of the World Veterinary Association (WVA), Dr. Rafael Laguens today presented Dr. Kurauchi with an honorary prize to recognise his personal efforts and that of the Fukuoka Prefecture to bring real meaning to the concept of One Health.

WVA recently launched a new format of its Global Veterinary Awards, supported by Ceva Sante Animale (Ceva), extending their scope from animal welfare, to include it's 3 other major strategic focus areas – One Health, Medicine Stewardship and Veterinary Education.



As the world emerges from the shadow of Covid-19, no one needs to be reminded about the value of preparing for the next pandemic. As a result, adopting a One Health approach has been endorsed by major governments such as G7 and international organisations, including WHO, WOAHP, FAO, or UNEP, but in practice, there are still few strategies implemented in the different countries to undertake practical steps to create the organisational structures capable of working across human, animal and environmental health.



Press Release

That's why WVA considered the work of Dr. Kurauchi and Fukuoka to be such an important example of how to create a functioning One Health body capable of translating theory into practical, preventative health programmes.

Throughout his career both as a veterinarian and politician, Dr. Kurauchi has always believed in the importance of One Health, that human, animal and environmental health are interconnected and should be addressed together.

In 2012, the WVA and the World Medical Association signed a memorandum of understanding to promote One Health, prompting in 2013, the Japan Veterinary Medical Association (JVMA) and the Japan Medical Association to sign a similar agreement to promote One Health.

In 2016, JVMA had the honour of organizing and hosting the second WVA - WMA One Health Conference in Kyushu, resulting in the Fukuoka Memorandum, which commits members to take actions based on One Health principles. As the President of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations, Isao Kurauchi, has continued to work tirelessly to promote One Health and thoroughly deserves this global recognition.

Commenting on the Award, WVA President, **Dr. Rafael Laguens** said:

*"Dr. Kurauchi has been an inspiring example in the practical application of the principles of One Health through the constant dialogue between physicians, veterinarians, environment professionals, policymakers and others, looking for the best of our society."*



Dr. Isao Kurauchi

*"This award is a testament to the effectiveness of our One Health initiatives in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan, and across Asia. One Health is more than just a concept; it's a practical framework that has been integrated into concrete preventative health programs. This multidisciplinary approach extends beyond healthcare—it has the potential to revolutionize education, the automotive industry, semiconductors, and agriculture."*

*We are more committed than ever to strengthening collaborations across sectors. Our ultimate goal is to leave a healthier planet for the next generation and to prepare proactively for future pandemics."* declared **Dr. Kurauchi**.

For Ceva, President & CEO **Dr. Marc Prikazsky** said,

*"We are delighted to support WVA as they continue to illustrate how our profession brings value to society. As a fellow veterinarian, I really admire the work Dr. Kurauchi has done to draw attention to the importance of One Health in his local prefecture, in Japan and now the whole of Asia."*

— ENDS —

On Saturday, September 2, 2023, a celebration was held at Hotel Nikko Fukuoka to commemorate the inauguration of Dr. Isao Kurauchi as President of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA), the receipt of the World Veterinary Association President's One Health Special Award, and the opening of the FAVA One Health Fukuoka Office. Dr. Rafael Laguens, President of the World Veterinary Association, gave a speech as a guest of honor, and on Monday, September 4, the World Veterinary Association sent out a "press release" to the world about the celebration and President Kurauchi's contribution to the promotion of One Health.

Below is the content of that press release.

World Veterinary Association (WVA) President Rafael Laguens presented the honorary award to Dr. Kurauchi "in recognition of his own and Fukuoka Prefecture's efforts to bring substantial meaning to the concept of One Health." The World Veterinary Association (WVA), with the support of Ceva Sante Animale (Ceva), recently announced a new format for the Global Veterinary Awards, which includes not only animal welfare but also other key strategic focus areas such as One Health, pharmaceutical management, and veterinary education. Now that the world has emerged from the shadow of COVID-19, everyone is reminded of the importance of preparing for the next pandemic. As a result, while the adoption of a one-health approach has been endorsed by major governments such as the G7 and international organizations such as WHO, WOA, FAO or UNEP, in practice, few strategies have been implemented to create organizational structures and take practical steps across human, animal and environmental health in different countries. In practice, however, strategies to create organizational structures and take practical steps across human, animal and environmental health in different countries are rarely implemented.



For this reason, the World Veterinary Association considered Dr. Kurauchi and his work in Fukuoka Prefecture as an important example of how to build a functional One Health institution that can translate theory into practical preventive health programs. Throughout his career as a veterinarian and politician, Dr. Kurauchi has always believed in the importance of One Health and that human, animal, and environmental health are interrelated and should be addressed together.

Rafael Laguens, President of the World Veterinary Association, had this to say about the One Health Special Award.

"Dr. Kurauchi exemplifies the practical application of One Health principles through his constant dialogue with a wide range of professionals, including physicians, veterinarians, environmental experts, and policy makers."

Dr. Kurauchi then stated the following.

"This award is a testament to the effectiveness of the One Health initiative in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan, and throughout Asia. One Health is not just a concept, but a practical framework embedded in specific preventive health programs. This approach has the potential to revolutionize not only healthcare, but also education, the automotive industry, semiconductors, agriculture, and much more. We are more committed than ever to strengthening cross-disciplinary collaboration. Our ultimate goal is to leave a healthier planet for future generations and to proactively prepare for future pandemics."

(Excerpts)