**ADDRESS AT PRESENTATION OF FAO/WHO CERTIFICATE OF HONOUR TO THE GOVERNOR OF BALI**

**DENPASAR, FRIDAY 12TH APRIL 2013**

Excellency Mr Made Mangku Pastika, Governor of Bali;

Mr Putu Sumantra, Head of the Bali Province Livestock Service;

Representative of the Bali Province Health Service;

Staff members of the Bali Animal Health and Public Health Services involved in rabies prevention and control;

Colleagues from FAO and WHO;

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;

It is indeed an honour for me to be present here today as the acting Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Indonesia, to participate in this Certificate Presentation ceremony.

The two United Nations agencies most closely associated with control of zoonotic diseases such as rabies, FAO and WHO, agreed that it would be most appropriate to present a Certificate of Honour to the Governor in recognition of the impressive investment and excellent progress made in Bali on the control of rabies, both in humans and in dogs.

This demonstrates a real and tangible commitment on the part of the Bali Government to safeguard the health and livelihoods of the people on this island through a programme of mass dog vaccination and rapid post exposure treatment of dog bite victims.

In 2010, up to 11 people were dying of rabies in one month. Now we’ve gone many months without even one human case!

The 90% reduction in human cases since 2010 is unprecedented. Never has rabies been brought under control so drastically and so rapidly;

The success has been so great, because human and animal doctors agreed to work together in order to focus on vaccinating the dogs of Bali in a highly organized manner, and to ensuring that VAR was immediately available to victims of dog bites.

Specifically, the movement away from dog elimination and **towards dog vaccination** was the essential change in 2010 that enabled such amazing progress to be achieved. Instead of being seen as the enemy, animal and human health officers have realized that vaccinated dogs, especially street dogs, are our comrades in the fight against rabies.

Every time a dog is vaccinated, they are recruited into a virtual “army against rabies”, and work every day of their lives to protect their banjars from the horrible rabies virus.

But now that we are close to achieving full eradication, the work becomes the hardest. Now is the time that everyone must make sure that their puppies get vaccinated as soon as they are 2 weeks old.

Now is the time that every vaccination team has to make sure that they go to every house in every banjar. Now is the time to make sure that every human bite case has access to the VAR that they need.

And now, with the commencement of the Fourth Mass Dog Vaccination Campaign, is the time that the district A-teams have to make sure that every outside dog and puppy is vaccinated, and that emergency vaccination is immediately conducted whenever a positive case is detected.

Now is the time that we must realize that **only** by everyone working together, in every hospital, every animal clinic, every puskesmas, every puskeswan, and every district, is the only way we can succeed in finally making Bali free from rabies virus once again.

It is only through the focus, commitment, and great efforts of the local governments of Bali that rabies has been brought under control, and it will only be through even more hard work, integrity, and dedication over the coming year that the virus will finally be eradicated.

Excellency, I take this opportunity again to commend you and your Government on your enlightened approach to rabies control and to your continuing commitment and investment to complete the job of rabies eradication.

On behalf of the international community, I extend my heart-felt thanks to you.