Zoonosis Threatens World Cattle Trade

The world trade of animals and animal products has the risk of carrying pathogens that affect the health of animals and humans besides the economic and environmental impact. Moreover following the agreement on the free trade marked by the General Agreement on Tariff and Trades (GATT) in the World Trade Organization (WTO), easy exchanges of animal are made possible. “The potential transfer of zoonosis disease from animals to humans is quite high. The animal diseases under the attention in the trade of animals and animal products are for example mouth and feet diseases, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or mad cow, and avian influenza (AI). Meanwhile, potential as zoonosis are among others Ebola virus and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).” This was put forward by the teaching staff of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicines, Bogor Agricultural University (FKH-IPB), Dr. drh. Denny W. Lukman in the Stadium General on Policies on Export-Import Trade of Animals and Animal Products in Relation to Zoonosis, Saturday (5/6) at IPB’s Campus of Darmaga.

The zoonosis disease has a big negative impact on all aspects of human life, particularly socio-economics. “For example, the spread of virus H5N1 causes a decrease of 0.7 percent in Growth Development Product (GDP), changes agricultural and market condition, while SARS results in a big loss of 60 million dollars,” said Dr. Denny.

A representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Republic of Indonesia, drh. Fadjar Sumping Tjatur Rasa, Ph.D. talked about the policy on the international trade of animal products. “WTO regulates the policy on the world trade including animal products. In WTO there is an agreement on Sanitary Phytosanitary (SPS) that gives protection to human health, but occasionally damages the trade because the importing country of origin sets up a quite high standard,” said Dr.Fadjar. Some issues in international Trade of food products and animal products, according to Dr.Fadjar, are trade protection, dumping, production subsidy, entry tariffs, bioterrorism, SPS, and Genetically Modified Organism. (mtd)