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MODERATOR

Kazuaki Miyagishima

Director, Food Safety and Zoonoses Department, WHO



Kazuaki Miyagishima studied medicine and received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Tokyo. He received an international diploma of public administration from the Ecole nationale d'Administration, France, and a doctorate degree in medical sciences from Showa University, Japan. In 1998, he became Associate Professor for public health and health policy at Kyoto University, Japan.

In 2003, Kazuaki Miyagishima was appointed Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO. In 2009, he joined the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as Deputy Director General and Head of Scientific and Technical Department.

Since March 2013, Kazuaki Miyagishima is Director, Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses, World Health Organization, Geneva. He is also serving as WHO's focal point for multisectoral collaboration between WHO, FAO and OIE.