

One Health-Ecohealth in Vietnam



No. 2 June 2013

IN FOCUS

One Health Approach to Tackle Infectious Diseases in Vietnam



The National Conference on applying a One Health approach to infectious disease risks at the human - animal - ecosystem interface in Viet Nam

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Embassy of the

United States of America, the United Nation organizations in Vietnam i.e., the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization held the National Conference on Applying One Health Approach in Vietnam in Hanoi on 2nd and 3rd April 2013.

The conference aims at 'promoting the application of a One Health approach to address zoonotic diseases and non-zoonotic diseases impacting food security, food safety and livelihoods with national leaders, senior officials and experts; considering how the ongoing national One Health programs and activities in Viet Nam fit into the larger context of the global movement towards a One Health approach; and identifying a key set of next steps and a timeline to support the Government of Viet Nam in establishing a One Health road map and action plan including discussion of resourcing requirements'.

The Vietnam One Health University network (VOHUN) gave a presentation in which gave an introduction on the network, its vision and mission as well as its structure. VOHUN is an initiative to connect 17 universities that works on One Health approach from Bac Giang, Thai

Nguyen, Hanoi, Hue, Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Hue, Dak Lak and Ho Chi Minh city in Vietnam. The VOHUN office is located at the Center for Public Health and Ecosystem Research (CENPHER) and coordinated by Dr. Pham Duc Phuc.

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ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



1 The One Health Risk Assessment Short Course

The One Health Risk Assessment Short Course was held in Hanoi from 3rd to 7th June 2013 by the Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH) and the Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN), funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) through the RESPOND/EPT program. The Course was attended by 28 participants who are currently lecturers from Public Health, Veterinary, Nursery and Tropical Medicine fields from Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

The three facilitators of the course were Dr. Christine L. Rioux - Department of Public Health and Community Medicine at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts, Dr. Fernando Sampedro - the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety from the University of Minnesota, and Dr. Nguyen Viet Hung - Center for Public Health and Ecosystem Research (CENPHER), the HSPH.



Such topics as: concepts of Risk Assessment, Risk Assessment Framework of the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE), the CODEX ALIMENTARIUS (CODEX), and in the Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment (QMRA), Risk Assessment in food safety and water quality management were covered during one week of the course. In 5 days of the training, the Scenario Based Learning (SBL) and Problem Based Learning (PBL) approaches were also discussed. The 'from fork to farm' approach in food safety was illustrated in the field trip to Bac Ninh province. The Course wrapped up with presentations from a group working activity mainly based on the information gaining from the field trip. The organizers hope to see more such in-depth courses of Risk Assessment like this in the region in future.

The material of the course including presentations, video, and photos can be found at this link:
http://cenpher.hsph.edu.vn/english/publication_training_material_One_Health_RA

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2 EcoZD FBI One Health-Ecohealth Short Course

The first EcoHealth-OneHealth short course in Vietnam took place May 27th through May 30th, 2013, hosted by the Center for Public Health and Ecosystem Research (CENPHER) out of the Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH) and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). The participants included an international, multi-disciplinary, and multi-sector team of representatives from across the globe, including Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, the United States, and the Netherlands. The short course fostered an opportunity to highlight the conceptual framework of EcoHealth and One Health and its potential utility in the advancement of the public health agenda. Specifically, activities generated from the workshop provided a chance to demonstrate the utility and application of the theory in the context of infectious disease control and prevention, using risk analysis as a tool. Through the introduction of concepts and didactic teaching, application of case studies, and participation in fieldwork, participants in the workshop were able to learn about the major concepts of EcoHealth and hone the skills necessary for its application in their respective fields of expertise. The course focused on how ecohealth can be applied for infectious diseases and risk assessment. Beyond the immediate successes of expanding the scope of EcoHealth concepts and applications, the community at HSPH and CENPHER hopes that the output of this workshop is significant in facilitating continued growth, sustained partnerships, and lasting opportunities for collaborative learning.

The material of the course including presentations, video, and photos can be found at this link:

<http://cenpher.hsph.edu.vn/english/content/ecozyd-fbli-ecohealth-one-health-short-course-material-0>

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3 International Conference and Prince Mahidol Award conference 2013 (PMAC), Bangkok, Thailand

The PMAC 2013 was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 28th January to 2nd February 2013 covered. The theme of this year's Prince Mahidol Awards Conference "A world united against infectious diseases: cross-sectoral solutions" highlights how infectious diseases continue to threaten the well-being of the world, and the opportunity we have to more successfully counter these threats in the future through a more strategic



Participants of the Ecohealth course in Hanoi, May 2013

cross sectorial approach to global health preparedness.

Many participants from Government Organization, Research institutes, Universities and scientists in OneHealth and Ecohealth field attended. The Conference includes The 1st Global Conference on Regional Disease Surveillance Networks, the 2nd International One Health Congress and the Centennial Commemoration of the Rockefeller Foundation.

This year's Prince Mahidol Award Conference was a unique opportunity to consider recent progress, remaining challenges, and the collaborative solutions required for the future. This Conference provided us with a forum to assess the investments required to reduce economic, societal, and health impacts. Threats to health are too complex for any country or organization to be successful on its own; collaboration among international, regional, national, non-governmental, academic and private sector players will be essential.

4

Circular (Ministry of Health - Ministry of Agricultural and Rural development) Guideline for Zoonotic diseases prevention and Protection.

In Hanoi 27th June, 2013, the Department of Preventive Medicine under the Ministry of Health in collaboration with Department of Animal Health under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development held a workshop to introduce the Circular: Guideline for Zoonotic diseases prevention and Protection which is effective from July 15th 2013. The Circular is the result of the interdisciplinary collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with the active support from international organizations such as WHO, FAO, and USAID. The Circular specifies principles and methods of cooperation between the two ministries at each level in term of equality, timeliness and continuity. The circular is a strong point of the formulation of laws and policies in order to help realize the application process of One Health approach to address health issues including prevention and protection against zoonotic diseases.

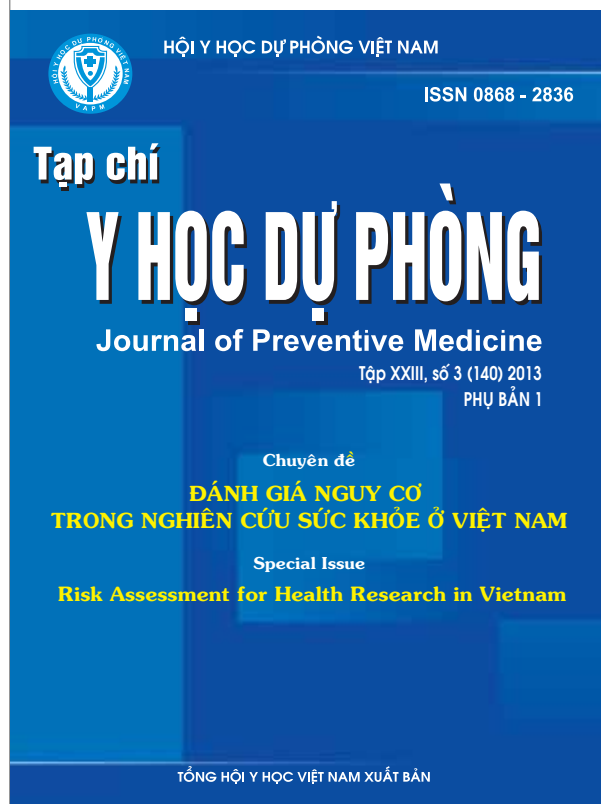


Dr. Tran Duc Phu- Deputy Director of the General Department of Preventive Medicine, Ministry of Health opens the workshop.

5

Special issue of Vietnam Journal of Preventive Medicine "Risk assessment for Health Research in Vietnam"

Risk analysis comprises three components: risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. Risk assessment (RA) is a scientific approach to assess adverse health effects of hazards, and is therefore conducted by scientists, providing scientific evidence on health effects. These evidences serve to inform and assist risk managers in taking measures to mitigate health risks. In the developed world, risk assessment - supported and guided by the large database of diseases and exposure - is widely applied and used as a tool for risk management. In developing countries, including Vietnam, there is a gap in applying risk assessment in forming policy due to



the lack of risk assessment research and expertise as well as of data availability. Risk assessment was used to assess health impact in specific case studies covering microbial hazards (*Salmonella*, *E. coli* 0157, *Listeria monocytogenes* in pork value chain) and chemical hazards (arsenic contaminated water, dioxin in food, pesticide in agricultural production).

This research used risk assessment for various environments including food matrix, water, and atmosphere. Review and discussion papers will provide a general landscape on the current status of risk assessment research, skills in risk assessment, as well as the linkage between risk assessors and policy makers in translating risk assessment results into making decisions for risk management measures.

In this issue of the One Health-Ecohealth in Vietnam we will introduce the new special issue of Risk Assessment of the Vietnam Preventive Medicine Journal and a number of activities in the field of One Health and Ecohealth that include Risk Assessment as a component in their schedules.

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Application of SSIA on detection of rabid dogs

In accordance with the VOHUN policy and sponsored by the Hue University research fund with a limited sum of "school level", the Faculty of Animal Production and Veterinary Sciences of HUAF has succeeded in implementing research on application of the Shifting assay of standardized indirect agglutination (SSIA) in detection of rabies virus in animals. The experiments showed that saliva of the dog did not affect the performance of SSIA since while mixed separately in both saliva and physiological saline solutions all negative saliva samples were homogeneously negative meanwhile all of a large number of RabigenRmono rabies vaccine samples showed homogeneously positive. Having tested 118 samples of saliva of dogs reared in Hue city we found five individuals (4.23%) had the viral antigens in their mouths.

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Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)

With the collaboration between General Department of Preventive Medicine of MoH, and Animal Health Department of MARD, and Institute for Public Health and Preventive Medicine of Hanoi Medical University, The Vietnam FETP Management Board was organized series of workshops for participants to report back results of field projects and closing the training at the national conference. The workshop in the Central and Highlands was conducted in Nha Trang City on May 27th 2013; the workshop in the South was conducted in HCM City on May 29th 2013; the workshop in the North was conducted in Hanoi on May 31st 2013; and the National Conference was held in Hanoi on June 6th-7th 2013.



Participants of the National FETP workshop in Hanoi 6-7 June 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTRE OF ASIA PACIFIC (VPHCAP), CHIANG MAI, THAILAND, FROM 3-6 JULY 2013

The Veterinary Public Health Centre of Asia Pacific (VPHCAP) has been conducted since 1994 with a vision of international academic and collaborative reference centre in the Veterinary Public Health including food safety, zoonoses and epidemiology. According to the attentive and perceptive hardworking for many years, VPHCAP arranges the 10th year anniversary to reveal the achievement and success of the centre and network cooperation. Within this special occasion, the symposium based on local and international academic activities to generate innovative knowledge, exchange experiences and network communication between expert and academic scientists in Food safety and zoonoses, EcoHealth/OneHealth will be organized for further academic cooperation and researches.

- THE 57TH WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE SYSTEMS SCIENCES

In Hai Phong city, 14-19 July 2013, the 57th Annual ISSS World Conference will provide an opportunity to showcase advances in systemic sustainability initiatives from around the world with hands-on experience in the UNESCO Cat Ba Biosphere Reserve and at Hai Phong City, the first city in the world to be managed using an integral systems approach.

The Conference committee invites contributions from systems scholars and professionals – whether in the academic world, industry/commerce or professional practice – to engage with one another, to create a space where systems theory/ modeling/simulation meets systems practice/living/being and to co-create a living network of institutions and individuals learning together how the frameworks and practices help humanity tackle complex problem in reality

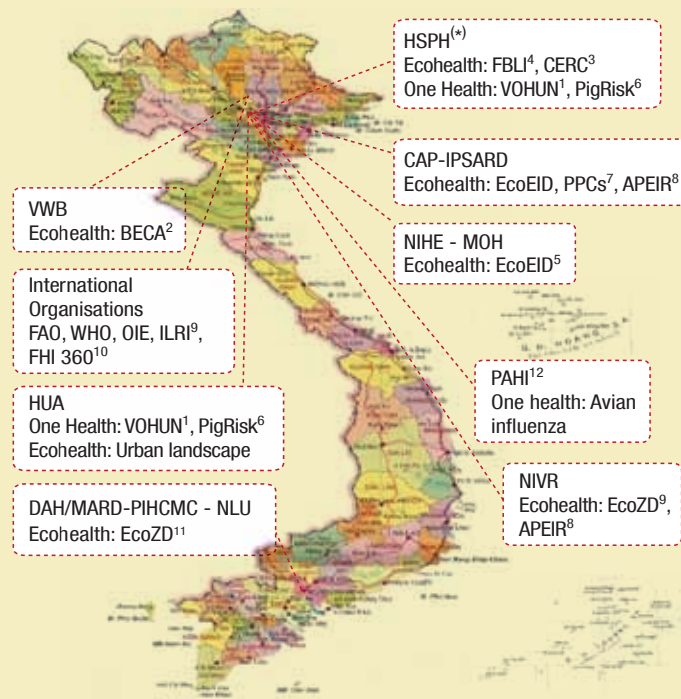
- STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP OF VIETNAM ONE HEALTH UNIVERSITY NETWORK (VOHUN), 16-17 JULY, NHA TRANG

To operate effectively VOHUN, become a sustainable network in a long-term to solve the problems related to health and population development, need to be developed a strategic plan for VOHUN development with a high consensus and quality. The VOHUN Management Board will organize a strategic plan workshop in Nha Trang City on July 16-17th 2013. The workshop will have the participation of representative leaders of University/Faculty members.

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One Health - Ecohealth Activity Map In Vietnam (Figure Heading)



(*) For a description of the activities of each organization, refer to the corresponding numbered heading in "Activity Highlights."