

The Tropical Disease Research Laboratory and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Control of Opisthorchiasis, Khon Kaen University, with the support of the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, successfully organized the first TRF Senior Scholar Symposium on Neglected Tropical Diseases in Asia (NTDASIA2014) in Khon Kaen, Thailand in September. The meeting had 3 key objectives: (1) to open a forum to bring together researchers and world leading scientists from Asian neglected tropical disease (NTD) endemic areas; (2) to create a communication environment for building and strengthening future research collaborations among Asian NTD researchers; and (3) to set up an Asian Network of NTD research teams for the purpose of strengthening collaborative research in to the region's critical NTD research priorities. One hundred and twenty five participants from 22 countries attended the meeting. At the meeting, the presentation and discussion topics covered the current status of NTDs in Asia, related scientific advances in those fields, and in particular the biology pathogenesis, diagnosis, ecology, epidemiology, treatment and control of liver fluke infections.



Fasciolidae for biomedical studies,” by Assoc. Prof. Le Thanh Hoa from the Institute of Biotechnology (IBT) and “The Genome-wide microsatellite analysis of *Clonorchis sinensis* and *Opisthorchis viverrini*,” by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Bich Thao from VOHUN NCO. During this 2-day meeting, the Vietnamese scientists had many opportunities to discuss potential collaborative research on the topic of liver flukes with NTD experts from Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Switzerland. We propose to join the research team and the project called the “Mekong Opisthorchiasis Control Initiative” and to increase our collaboration with the NTD network in Asia.

The scientists representing Vietnam presented work from various fields, including public health, parasitology and biotechnology. Two topics were presented - “NTD trematode - mitogenomic database with addition of the recent mtDNAs from Heterophyidae, Echinostomatidae, Opisthorchiidae and

## Upcoming Events

### 1. European-Southeast-Asian Experts One health in action workshop: From OH Theory to Reality: Practical Challenges, Impact of OH Initiatives and Gaps in Research, Hanoi, October 13-15, 2014.

The workshop will be organised at the Melia Hotel, 40 Ly Thuong Kiet street, Hanoi, Vietnam from 13 to 15 October 2014 as joint collaboration among the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), The National Institute for Veterinary Research (NIVR), The French Agricultural Research Center for International Development (CIRAD) and the GREASE regional network in partnership; the British High Commission Singapore (BHC), the Southeast Asian One Health University Network (SEAOHUN/VOHUN) and Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN), and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

Technical objectives of the workshop aim at providing information on the proof of concept, the impact/added value of One Health implementation in the field, identifying practical challenges linked to implementation of One Health concept and identifying gaps and needs for One Health research. The workshop will cover 3 main topics: 1) One Health surveillance; 2) One Health/EcoHealth research at the wildlife/domestic animals/ humans interface and; 3) Antimicrobial resistance: a One Health challenge.

### 2. International symposium on One Health and INDOHUN annual meeting, October 22-23, 2014 in Sarakarta (Solo), Indonesia

Indonesia One Health University Network (INDOHUN) will hold an event which called “International Symposium on One Health and INDOHUN Annual Meeting: Improving Human, Animal and Ecosystem Health through Integrated Approach”. This event will bring together professionals and stakeholders in both the scientific and practice realms of One Health to bridge knowledge gaps among them. INDOHUN is one of the leading institutions for the implementation One Health approach in Indonesia. It will feature keynote speeches, seminar series, as well as oral and poster presentation, followed by One Health collaborative workshop, leadership training and youth forum. The Symposium topics including: (1) Controlling Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases (2) Emerging and Re-emerging Pandemic Threat (3) Environmental Health and Ecology (4) Climate Change and Population Health (5) Behavior Change and Policy Advocacy (6) Capacity Building on Education and Community Services. The representative VOHUN members will be attended and shared their experiences in training, research and development of OH network in Vietnam.

VOHUN National Coordinating Office - 138B Giang Vo, Ba Đình, Ha Noi

Tel: 04 62733162, Fax: 04 627 33172 / Email: lqt@hsph.edu.vn

Networking – For the Ultimate One Health of the public

# VOHUN

No.1-3, September 2014

## Highlights

### VOHUN ANNUAL MEETING

On May 26-27, 2014, the Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN) successfully organized the annual meeting in Nha Trang city, with strong participation by representatives of 17 Universities/ Faculties/ Departments in the VOHUN network. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Le Vu Anh. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> leadership meeting after the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on VOHUN Strategic Planning in May 2013. Representatives of Hanoi Medical University, Vietnam National University of Agriculture, Hanoi School of Public Health, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, and the National Coordinating Office of VOHUN briefly highlighted some important recent activities of VOHUN.

During the last year, VOHUN has implemented several activities to build and develop the content for an appropriate One Health curriculum to



train medical, veterinary, and public health students in the importance of the multidisciplinary approach to disease investigation and control. A major achievement was the development of One Health curriculum and materials for preventive medicine doctors and public health professionals.

During the meeting, participants discussed and planned the activities and direction of VOHUN for the next 5 years. In this regard, VOHUN was greatly honoured to hear a statement from Prof. Nguyen Cong Khan, Director of Administration of Science Technology and Training, Ministry of Health, who shared his views on the orientation and development of VOHUN and how the organization could work closely with government agencies.

At the end of the meeting, the proposed activities for the next 5 years of VOHUN were agreed by all VOHUN members. VOHUN will continually focus on building activities and developing curricula to benefit the training of One health in all member Universities. Simultaneously, VOHUN will actively expand cooperation to national and foreign partners and other stakeholders to implement priority research and to improve communication about One Health.

### SEAOHUN FOUNDATION

The SEAOHUN Foundation was established as an independent international organization on August 15, 2014. This Foundation was registered by Government of Thailand with Registration No. Kor Tor 2482. The Board of Directors of the SEAOHUN Foundation include, Prof. Noor Hassim Bin Ismail, Chairman of the Board (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia), Prof. Ali Ghufon Mukti (Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia), Prof. Le Vu Anh (Hanoi School of Public Health, Vietnam) and Prof. Letrak Srikijakam (Chiang Mai University, Thailand).

The objectives of the foundation are: a) to promote and advance interdisciplinary collaboration and communication in all aspects of health care for humans, animals and the environment. This will advance health care by accelerating biomedical research discoveries, enhance public health efficacy, expeditiously expand the scientific knowledge base related to One Health, and improve medical education and clinical care for control of emerging and re-emerging infectious and zoonotic diseases (hereinafter referred to as “One Health”); b) to promote the competency of One Health Professionals; c) to build a One Health evidence-base through research activity; d) to build cadres of trained professionals to be One Health current and future leaders.

The SEAOHUN Foundation will act as a bridge between donors (e.g. USAID, WB) and the regional and national-level networks to achieve a simple and flexible system for grant and financial management for activities implemented by the National Coordinating Offices (NCOs) and affiliated university members. A key function of SEAOHUN is to encourage and facilitate collaborative activities and projects among network members, with an emphasis on trans-disciplinary and trans-boundary partnerships. Programming includes, but is not limited to, support for student and staff exchanges, curriculum development, strengthening and developing teaching methodologies, and support for research capacity building and innovative projects that provide an evidence-base for One Health advocacy with government and other collaborating partner agencies.

## Training activities

### DEVELOPING CURRICULUM AND MATERIALS OF ONE HEALTH MODULES FOR PREVENTIVE MEDICINE DOCTOR, HANOI MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

In January 10-12, 2014, a workshop was held in Danang to discuss developing a curriculum and One Health module materials for training at Hanoi Medical University. The workshop was attended by participants who are currently lecturers from Hanoi School of Public Health, Hanoi Medical University, Vietnam National University of Agriculture (VNUA), HCMC Medicine and Pharmacy University and representative from RESPOND. This workshop was the first of a series of activities to develop a training program on One Health for Hanoi Medical University sixth year preventive medicine students. The workshop objectives were i) to agree on the One Health competencies important for a One Health preventive medicine training program; ii) to establish learning objectives for the preventive medicine One Health training program; iii) to draft outlines for each lesson of the preventive medicine One Health training program; iv) to designate specific tasks related to development of the program for each of the working group members. All of the participants reached a consensus for writing a training textbook on One Health and agreed that the priority was to develop the textbook by the end of May.

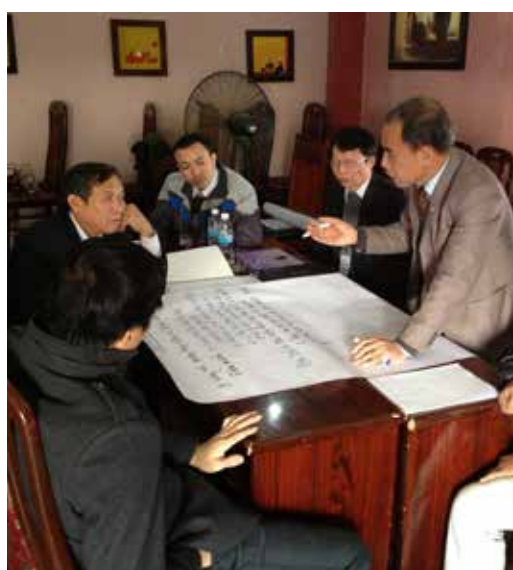
Currently, the OH textbook has been approved by the Education Committee and has received a license from the Medical Publishers. The book has been printed and is ready to be used for teaching One Health to sixth years preventive medicine students. The material has also been used to train Preventive Medicine doctors working in the North of Vietnam and was well-received. This initiative should result in more use of the curriculum for in-service training of Preventive Medicine practitioners in the future.



### DEVELOPMENT OF RABIES CASE STUDY FOR TRAINING

In recent years, rabies has become a priority re-emerging zoonosis in Vietnam. Rabies occurred spatially in 27 provinces, with 391 human cases from 2010 to 2013. The main reservoirs and transmitters of rabies in Vietnam are dogs, while the vaccinated dog population is not high enough to control the disease, and domestic transport and import/export of dogs and cats are not well regulated. To reduce the rabies burden, it is necessary to harmonize rabies prevention and control from both the human and animal health sectors, and there is thus a great need to bring the concepts of multidisciplinary collaboration and One Health to the program. A rabies case study for training, based around relevant One Health core competencies, has been developed at Thai Nguyen University of Medicine and Pharmacy, and Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, and includes an integrated approach, contributing a deeper and more practical knowledge on rabies prevention and control than the current situation demonstrates. The case study was developed from two 2 day-workshops in December 2013 and March 2014, with the objectives to improve the recognition and tracking of rabies in Thai Nguyen and Vietnam, and to discuss the current curricula related to rabies teaching at medical and veterinary universities. Completion of a suitable case study on rabies for education and training curricula of medical and veterinary students was achieved by the end of the second workshop.

The rabies situation in Vietnam and in Thai Nguyen was used to underline the importance of an integrated approach to implementation of prevention and control programs in animals and humans. The case study will be used to teach final year students from both medical and veterinary fields on the approaches used by human and animal health professionals. In addition, integration of VOHUN's One Health Core Competency Domains into a lesson on rabies will be applied and explored through various classroom activities. The nine domains will be used to enhance student skills on communication and informatics, collaboration, culture and beliefs, planning and management and other important areas to achieve good multidisciplinary collaboration. The rabies case study will be piloted in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of 2014 at Thai Nguyen University of Medicine and Pharmacy, and Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry.



### GLOBAL HEALTH TRUE LEADERS

Global Health True Leaders is a program designed in Indonesia that is being used to fulfill the needs of future health leaders in Vietnam. This program aims to equip young health science professionals, who have the greatest potential to be future health leaders, with hands on experiences and the opportunities to engage with local leaders and communities in the areas where global health problems exist. Multidisciplinary cooperation will be initiated at this early stage in their careers since young professionals from various health disciplines were invited, including medicine, public health, veterinary medicine, and environmental science from a number of different universities and institutes, including Hanoi Medical University, Vietnam National University of Agriculture, Hai Phong Medical University, HCMC Medicine and Pharmacy University, Nong Lam University HCMC, and Can Tho University. During one week training program from 25 - 29 April, 2014, the participants received intensive training in leadership, communication, interpersonal skills and global health by a group of international and national trainers. The site visit was carried out in the Hoang Tay commune, Ha Nam province, where Ecohealth related problems exist and need to be solved, for example health risks related to wastes management, use of chemical pesticides in agriculture,

and food safety issues. The training course was a joint effort between the Field Building Leadership Initiative (FBLI), HSPH, Universitas Indonesia and the VPHA. This training in the field of Ecohealth in Vietnam was supported by the International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada.



This training was carried out within the framework of cooperation between Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH) and Mahidol University, Thailand. VOHUN members from Hanoi Medical University, Vietnam National University of Agriculture and Hanoi School of Public Health introduced the One Health concepts to Bachelor of Public Health students from Mahidol University. Experts from the medicine and veterinary fields were invited to co-teach the classes, and students visited a study site where the One Health and Ecohealth projects are ongoing. The field visit helped students understand the real world situation and how to apply the One Health approach for better prevention and control of Avian Influenza in Vietnam.

### TEACHING ONE HEALTH CONCEPTS FOR MAHIDOL BACHELOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS IN MAY 2014 AT HANOI SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**WILDLIFE INVESTIGATION IN LIVESTOCK DISEASE AND PUBLIC HEALTH - INTRODUCTORY TRAINING COURSE IN ONE HEALTH (JUNE 1-15, 2014 HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM)**



This training course was organized by the Department of Animal Health (DAH) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with support from USAID. The objectives included: a) Building One Health professional capacity for veterinarians, medical officers, wildlife and environmental experts at the field level; b) Increasing the knowledge, understanding, skills, and buy-in related to human-livestock-wildlife-environment interface issues; c) Initiating and encouraging One Health networking and collaboration among field-level professionals; and d) The use of problem-based learning, didactic and field visit approaches to demonstrate human-livestock-wildlife-environment interface issues. The workshop had 37 participants from a number of different fields, including epidemiology, veterinary medicine, forestry, environmental science and public health. VOHUN supported 5 members to participate in this training course, from the Vietnam National University of Agriculture, Nong Lam University HCMC, Can Tho University, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry and Tay Nguyen University. The lecturers and facilitators were subject matter experts from FAO, WHO, DAH, WCS, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU), and VOHUN. The main training course content introduced the One Health approach and the relevance of human-livestock-wildlife-environment interface issues to health. This included a global perspective on One Health; the role of biodiversity and current regulations on wildlife management; anthropogenic and environmental drivers of disease emergence in wildlife, livestock and humans; zoonoses and public health issues of significance in Vietnam; design of a zoonotic disease prevention, control and response plan at the human-livestock-wildlife interface; the

importance of bats: ecology and ecosystem services; and wildlife farming and trade. On the first day of the training course, Dr. Phuc, on behalf of VOHUN, presented the development and application of One Health training modules, which will be used to train veterinary, medical and public health students at the universities and also for in-service training.

**PILOT TRAINING COURSE ON ONE HEALTH FOR THE CENTER FOR PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IN THE SEVEN NORTHERN MOUNTAINOUS PROVINCES OF VIETNAM, HANOI MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, JUNE 16-21 AND JUNE 23-28, 2014**



A program of One Health modules for preventive medicine and public health students was developed, including One Health training textbook, by lecturers and subject matter experts from the universities of VOHUN. Before the curriculum and the textbook was applied for training students, two pilot training courses of One Health in preventive medicine and public health were conducted for Preventive Medicine doctors employed in northern Vietnam by the Institute for Preventive Medicine & Public Health, Hanoi Medical University.

The eighty trainees who attended the training courses came from the Center for Preventive Medicine in the 7 northern mountainous provinces of Vietnam, and the training was delivered by the lecturers who developed the curriculum and wrote the textbook. The training courses were evaluated by the trainees as having a high quality of content and innovative teaching methodologies. The training course has given the trainees a perspective on a new approach which will be useful for solving the problems that they often face in their daily working lives. The content of this training course was appreciated and it will be revised following feedback and applied to teach health workers and preventive medicine and public health students in the future.

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DIAGNOSIS AND PROFILING OF LEPTOSPIROSIS AT UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA, FEBRUARY 4-7, 2014**

The Malaysia One Health University Network (MyOHUN) invited more than 20 participants from the South East Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN) to a regional workshop, funded by the USAID-RESPOND program, on the diagnosis and profiling of leptospirosis. The workshop was held at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). The lecturers and facilitators were from Universiti Putra Malaysia, James Cook University (adjunct position at Tufts University, Boston), Australia, and the University of Minnesota, USA. A total of 30 trainees attended from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. The objectives of the workshop were: (i) to share good practices and experiences among SEAOHUN members in the development of reference laboratories for leptospirosis; and (ii) to share technical expertise on the

diagnosis of leptospirosis and the identification of *Leptospira* strains in humans, animal and the environment.

The content of the workshop included presentations from experts on the leptospirosis situation in the Asia-Pacific Region, current research and advances in the control of leptospirosis in humans and animals, application of mathematical transmission modeling to leptospirosis research and control, and how to carry out leptospirosis research using the One Health model. In addition, the epidemiology, diagnosis, prevention and control strategies of leptospirosis in each country were shared. Lastly, all participants also had an opportunity to visit the diagnostic laboratory for leptospirosis at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Putra Malaysia, and to learn methods for evaluation of test accuracy via lectures and computer exercises. Overall, the workshop was well planned and organized and participants felt that they gained useful information and knowledge on leptospirosis from the workshop. This opportunity identified new ideas for research collaborations in the future, and this will help to strengthen co-operation between One Health university network members.

The One Health Forum Korea 2014 was organized by the Institute of International Health, Michigan State University, the College of Veterinary Medicine, Seoul National University and the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools. The conference focused on three themes: (i) the current status of the One Health Initiative, including collaborative research, (ii) One Health curricula and (iii) joint international educational resources. The principle objectives were (i) global networking in One Health, with particular emphasis on Asian countries and (ii) expanding on worldwide strategies of interdisciplinary collaborations and the triple health threats: human, animal and environment. The conference participants were from universities and institutions in Korea, USA, Japan, Laos, Vietnam and Taiwan. The Vietnam delegation at the conference presented at the roundtable discussions - a colleague from PAHI shared Vietnam's coordination toward One Health, and the development of a One Health university network was presented by Dr. Phuc and Dr. Thau. The Vietnam delegation also met with several colleagues from Korea, Taiwan, Japan and the USA to discuss potential One Health research collaborations and development projects.

**THE ONE HEALTH FORUM KOREA, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA, JULY 10-11, 2014**

Recognizing the interconnectedness between human, animal and ecological health, the One Health Initiative seeks to increase communication, collaboration, and cooperation across a wide variety of disciplines, including human medicine, veterinary medicine, public health, microbiology, and other professions contributing to the health of humans, animals and the environment. The realization of this interconnectedness actually started in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, however, as time passed, the dividing line between various professions working in the health sectors has become more and more enhanced due to the division of health professions in various central and local government agencies and university faculties, as well as in the government budgeting mechanism. This situation has resulted in fragmented efforts in dealing with health problems affecting humans, animals and ecology. Therefore, it is important to disseminate the concept and approach of One Health to wider health professions.

The symposium objectives were: a) to disseminate the One Health Initiative to other health professions who are not currently core members of INDOHUN and SEAOHUN; b) to get acceptance of the One Health Initiative from other health

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH FOR HEALTH PROFESSION EDUCATION, APRIL 7-10, 2014, YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA**



professions; and c) to agree on the adoption of the One Health Core Competencies in health profession education curricula. Resource persons from THOHUN, VOHUN, MyOHUN and INDOHUN presented on the topic "Experiences of Applying One Health Initiative: Lessons Learnt", with reference to their respective countries.

## NETWORKING EVENT OF THE INNOVATE ONE HEALTH PROGRAMME IN ASIA

Under the framework of the INNOVATE One Health Programme in Asia four grant proposals were selected after a call for proposals involving mainly non-governmental actors in Asian countries, covering Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal and Thailand. The objective of the programme is to further strengthen the collaboration between the animal and human health sectors by tackling health risks and challenges at the interface between animals, humans and their various environments. The Networking Event was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 8-9 April 2014 and the meeting objectives were: a) present the main characteristics of the INNOVATE programme, in particular its objective of addressing the remaining gaps in the One Health movement: the involvement of non-state actors (Civil Society, NGOs, Academia, Think Tanks ...) and the need to reinforce the OH environment and ecosystems components; b) offer a convivial platform to share participants' experiences and exchange views on both the grant projects implementation so far and their specific approach to One Health; c) provide an opportunity to share knowledge and perspectives in a more general sense on the effective replication and extension mechanisms of successful One Health practices in Asia and globally; and d) contribute to the OH networking, regionally and globally, by creating links and promoting comprehensive partnerships on all aspects of One Health. Dr. Phuc was invited to participate on behalf of VOHUN, and he shared his experiences on promoting the One Health and Ecohealth approaches for training and research in Vietnam.



ECOHEALTH CONFERENCE, MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA, AUGUST 11-15, 2014

The Ecohealth Conference is a biennial event organized by the International Association for Ecology and Health (IAEH). With the theme of "Connections for health, ecosystems and society", this year's Conference marked the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event. Approximately 500 scientists working in the Ecohealth field from 60 countries around the world gathered in Montreal to present their research and achievements in the Ecohealth field, including the introduction of new training and research programs in Ecohealth. Hundreds of abstracts from more than 60 countries were submitted covering all aspects of health and related angles.

The Vietnam Ecohealth group participated in the Conference with researchers from different fields, such as Public Health, Economics and Social Sciences, who have been involved in projects including: "the Ecohealth Field Building Leadership Initiative (FBLI) in South East Asia", the "Ecohealth Assessment on Poultry Production Clusters (PPCs) for the

Livelihood Improvement of Small Producers", the "Eco-bio-social Approach To Emerging Infectious Diseases In South East Asian Global Outreach Hotspots" and so on. The Ecohealth research group, consisting of researchers from the Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH) and the Vietnam Public Health Association, introduced their initial results from several already-implemented Ecohealth activities. These included research on using the Ecohealth approach for better human and animal waste management in Ha Nam province of Vietnam, the implementation of new tools for outcome evaluation of the Ecohealth FBLI program, the use of the Ecohealth approach to tackle the issue of dioxin in Vietnam, the current and upcoming One Health-Ecohealth training programs at HSPH, and the One Health-Ecohealth Network in Vietnam. Among a group of four emerging scholars, the representative from Vietnam, Ms. Tran Thi Tuyet Hanh, lecturer at HSPH, shared her research and training experiences, as well as challenges and visions in the field of Ecohealth.

## SEMINAR: A GLOBAL UPDATE ON THE USAID EMERGING PANDEMIC THREATS PREDICT PROJECT - DR. KIRSTEN GIRLADI, HANOI SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, AUGUST 13, 2014

Dr. Gilardi – Co-director of the Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center (WHC) at the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, and the head of the PREDICT project, visited the PREDICT project partner in Vietnam. On her visit, she was invited by VOHUN, one of the PREDICT project partners, to give a talk to the lecturers and students of the Hanoi school of Public Health. The content of the talk was divided into two parts. The first part was a presentation entitled "A Global update on the USAID emerging pandemic threats PREDICT project: Detecting and discovering zoonotic viral pathogens in wildlife around the world". The second part was a seminar entitled "The gorilla doctors: One Health in Action". During these talks, the lecturers, researchers and students in Hanoi School of Public Health had a good opportunity to discuss with experts about the One Health approach and potential pandemic threats to public health.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VOHUN WEBSITE

As outlined in the Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN) strategic plan, in September 2014, the website of VOHUN was built and launched by the National Coordinating Office (NCO) at HSPH, with the support of USAID and RESPOND. The overall purpose of the website ([vohun.org](http://vohun.org)) is to strengthen and develop communication activities about One Health in Vietnam. Vohun.org was initiated in order to a) promote VOHUN and its functions, visions, missions, and objectives to government, other stakeholders working in the One Health arena in the future, and the general public; b) provide a service to help members of the network update and share information easily; c) disseminate the OH philosophy and approach widely to the community at large. All the information about One Health in Vietnam and VOHUN, including activities, workshops, trainings, news, strategic plans will be displayed on the website. VOHUN NCO has the responsibility to administer and update all related One Health information from 17 universities/ faculties/ departments of the network to the website. We are hoping that this website will be useful for organizations and people who are interested in One health. Any feedback is most welcome, and will help us to improve this website on an ongoing basis.



## THE DEVELOPMENT OF ONE HEALTH AND ECOHEALTH TRAINING PROGRAMS AT HANOI SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

The One Health (OH) and Ecohealth approaches involve many different disciplines, working trans-disciplinarily, to strengthen the ability of professionals to work together, and with communities to address and respond to complex health problems. In particular, these approaches help to react strategically, effectively and efficiently to outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases in the region. Professionals from government agencies, NGOs and the private sector working in outbreak responses (e.g. medical doctors, veterinarians, nurses, public health professionals, ecologists, epidemiologists, etc.) usually have undergone university training programs. Therefore, embedding the philosophy of OH and Ecohealth in the university training programs can be an appropriate way to ensure that the approaches will be strongly supported and implemented in the near future. In this

presentation, described our experiences in developing training courses in OH and Ecohealth in Vietnam within the Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN) and the Ecohealth Field Building Leadership Initiative (FBLI) Program.

The OH and Ecohealth training programs in Vietnam have been developed and applied for undergraduate and post graduate students by incorporating relevant modules from OH and Ecohealth programs into existing courses, in particular in environmental health, water and sanitation and food safety. Full courses of OH and Ecohealth are being developed and will go through the approval process of universities to be accredited as elective courses. Training courses for professionals are being designed by teams of academics from multiple Vietnamese universities to enhance the knowledge and skills of future professionals. All of the team members have deep expertise in their disciplines and the desire to work collaboratively across disciplines in order to respond to complex one health and ecosystem health issues. These courses will enable learners to effectively deal with public health challenges beyond their own disciplines and to successfully function as an integral part of a larger, multi-disciplinary team of professionals.

## ONE HEALTH COMMUNICATION NETWORKING MEETING, HANOI, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

The One Health concept and the One Health approach have recently become very popular and well known by the various medical science related disciplines in Vietnam. Nowadays, One Health is not only of academic interest, but it also is of great interest to several stakeholders and managers of governmental and non-governmental organizations. In particular, the issue of most importance to them is communication activities. Hence, in Hanoi on 18 September 2014, the Partnership on Avian and Human Influenza (PAHI), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, organized a one day meeting to update communication activities on One Health in Vietnam. Participants who are working in agriculture, medicine, WHO, FAO and representatives from USAID in Vietnam attended the conference. The VOHUN National Coordinating Office was



invited to attend the conference as a guest. At the conference, Mr. Luu Quoc Toan, on behalf of VOHUN NCO, presented an overview of VOHUN communication activities, in particular introduction of the newsletter and the VOHUN website ([www.vohun.org](http://www.vohun.org)). He emphasized that VOHUN has a strong focus on cooperation with other networks through attending conferences, workshops and courses which are related to One Health in Vietnam and globally.