

VOHUN

VIETNAM ONE HEALTH UNIVERSITY NETWORK

NETWORK OVERVIEW



25

Universities



32

Faculties



18

One Health
Student Clubs



15

Activities planned
for Year 3



2

Evidence-based
informational resources
and products made

ABOUT VOHUN

- VOHUN connects Vietnamese universities to equip a new generation of lecturers and researchers with a full range of One Health knowledge and skills.
- Our mission is to leverage the training, education, and research capacities of the University Network to build the skills, knowledge, and attitude base for OH leaders.
- Member of the Viet Nam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses.
- Established in November 2011.
- Visit our website at www.vohun.org.

Highlights

- VOHUN established a new One Health Site at Thien Thuan Tuong, a pig raising and breeding company in Quang Ninh. A One Health Site is a place where students may learn to apply the One Health approach and competencies.
- Thirty-five students gained practical experience in March 2022 through a field-based training course at Thien Thuan Tuong.
- VOHUN NCO successfully organized a semi-virtual workshop to update the competencies in One Health modules of member Universities; February 2022.
- One hundred and thirty-six attendees joined the “Policy Dialogue on Developing One Health Workforce in Vietnam,” 3 November 2021.
- Two policy briefs were developed on One Health capacity building intended for policy makers at the central and provincial level: (1) One Health policy and education; and (2) Increasing practical experiences in One Health education.
- Two hundred and twenty-three attendees joined the Student Talk Show “One Health - Career Development Opportunity,” 22 November 2021.
- VOHUN admitted Dong A University as its newest member, raising the Network’s total to 25 member Universities.
- VOHUN presented on the OHW-NG Project at the USAID Mission Partners’ Meeting on 15 February 2022.

Activities

Objective 1

Capacity Building in One Health

Hanoi Medical University (HMU) and VOHUN have evaluated and offered scholarships for fifteen Master’s students of One Health. After getting approval from the Ministry of Health, VOHUN NCO through Hanoi University of Public Health will sign a scholarship contract with HMU.

On 24 and 25 February 2022, with the technical support of two experts from the Global team, VOHUN NCO successfully organized a virtual workshop to update the One Health competencies in the teaching modules for specific majors in member Universities. Eighty-three lecturers

participated in the workshop to identify the competencies which meet local needs. A significant outcome was 17 member Universities committed to develop new or updated OH modules.

One Health Practice at the Animal-Human Interface

Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry (Thai Nguyen UAF) organized a field-based training course at the One Health Site (OHS) in Quang Ninh province, which engaged 35 students from two universities (Thai Nguyen UAF and Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy). The training focused on biosafety and biosecurity in pig production and hands-on experience performing rapid tests for the African swine

fever virus, a significant animal disease currently threatening swine populations in the region. For this course, VOHUN established a new OHS in partnership with a private company, Thien Thuan Tuong company. This company is a science and technology enterprise in livestock and crop production that owns 1,200 breeding sows, each year producing 6,000 gilts, 5,000 commercial breeding pigs, and 20,000 fattening pigs.

The Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, with support from VOHUN NCO, organized a virtual training course in the ethical use of animals for scientific research purposes, held on 24 to 25 March 2022. In attendance were 92 participants from One Health-related sectors, with the majority working in animal health.

Promoting One Health Student Clubs

Recognizing their effectiveness at engaging the youth, the VOHUN NCO organized a workshop in December 2021 to orient and share the activities planned for the One Health Student Clubs (OHSCs) for this Project Year 3. As the result, 18 OHSCs proposed 66 activities. VOHUN has provided technical and financial support to five OHSCs to implement activities such as recruitment and virtual contests.

One activity celebrated the 2022 World Wildlife Day (3 March). The VOHUN NCO organized a virtual talk show “Wildlife Conservation and Health” that reached more than 240 attendees. This talk show aimed to raise understanding of the link between wildlife conservation, human health, and environmental health. The speakers came from organizations active in environmental health, namely the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the World Wide Fund For Nature, Save Vietnam Wildlife, Vietnam

National University of Agriculture, and Nong Lam University.

Objective 2

SEAOHUN and VOHUN are supporting the Global Team-led activities for One Health Workforce Assessment and Tracking.

Training of Trainers on Knowledge Management

VOHUN NCO has prepared a tentative agenda for a Training of Trainers on Knowledge Management. This activity targets faculty members of VOHUN universities, with the aim to best meet their institutional knowledge management needs to sustain One Health curricula and workforce development. This event is planned for May.

Objective 3

VOHUN at Ten Years

To celebrate the 10th year since VOHUN’s establishment, we organized a semi-virtual “Policy Dialogue on Developing One Health Workforce in Vietnam”. With 136 participants drawn from representatives of the national government, international organizations and member Universities, we had a robust discussion on the current situation and future needs for the country’s One Health workforce. Read more in our [Success Story](#).

A One Health Student Talk Show and career development opportunity was held with 223 students, alumni, lecturers, and a representative from the private sector, the Thien Thuan Tuong company which hosts an OHS. The event aimed to: i) help students determine the importance of self-training,

supplementing knowledge, and One Health capacity to meet future job requirements; and ii) discuss opportunities to choose a job that is suitable for the profession the students are studying.

VOHUN developed policy briefs based on points raised in both events:

- One Health Policy and Education: https://vohun.org/uploads/data/5259/files/files/file-tin-tuc/Policy_Brief_No_1_ENG.pdf
- Increasing practical experiences in One Health education: https://vohun.org/uploads/data/5259/files/files/file-tin-tuc/Policy_Brief_No_2_ENG.pdf

Expanding VOHUN's Reach

VOHUN expanded its Network to 25 member Universities. The Dong A University was admitted into VOHUN on the recommendations of the university leader.

VOHUN gave presentations on the progress of the OHW-NG activities at the USAID Mission Partners' Meeting on 15 February 2022. The virtual meeting was organized to provide updates to the current priorities for Global Health Security, identify coordination needs and opportunities for collaboration.

Students learn how to perform rapid tests for the African swine fever virus at the Quang Ninh One Health Site.

Photo credit: VOHUN



Lessons Learned

Dialogue with partners yields insights for developing the One Health workforce.

The two events held for VOHUN's 10th anniversary celebration, the policy dialogue and the One Health career development talk show, were venues for interaction among stakeholders. The policy dialogue resulted in specific recommendations for policy and practice are proposed together with specific solutions on adding an One Health-related competency framework for job positions in health care units and training courses. The speakers emphasized the roles of the member Universities in One Health workforce education and the importance of the field-based learning and internship for students to gain critical skills and expand career opportunities.

Expand the network to connect universities with the private companies that employ the One Health workforce.

VOHUN has established a new OHS at a private company, Thien Thuan Tuong company. Thai Nguyen UAF successfully organized the field-based training course on this site. Students had the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills into actual practice on the site where they may apply for work after graduation. Organizing this type of field site promotes the exchange of ideas and practices between academia and the private sector. The diversity of One Health sites also contributes to the network's long-term sustainability.

Next Steps

VOHUN will continue providing member universities technical support in developing and updating One Health modules to increase diversity of affiliated disciplines. In addition, VOHUN will strengthen the capacity of district-level human and animal health staff through short courses in One Health-based disease surveillance, and data analysis and interpretation. Newly-developed and updated modules, together with practicals in the curriculum of member Universities, will improve the quality of current and future human resources at preventing, detecting, and rapidly responding to public health threats.

VOHUN will continue supporting member universities to establish One Health Sites and organize field-based training courses for students. This will help improve our current and future workforce knowledge and skills by developing and providing various OH training programs and events.

VOHUN will continue to encourage students to learn and practice skills by hosting a National One Health Camp and supporting OHSCs organizing seminars, competitions, field trips, and community outreach activities.

Success Story

VOHUN's 10-year journey with the Viet Nam One Health Workforce

“To attain the ultimate aim of human health, One Health must handle all areas with an inclusive degree in all sectors, including environmental health, animal health, economic health, social health, and so on.”



Prof. Le Vu Anh - VPHA

Image credit: VOHUN

The Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN) has become one of the world leaders in providing One Health capacity building. As noted by Dr. Pham Duc Phuc, Coordinator of VOHUN, this is the most crucial factor in transforming from reactive responses to health crises towards more proactive sustainable development practices that minimizes health risks to all living things. This approach emphasizes the important interconnection and interdependence between human, animal, and environmental health, ensuring an optimal One Health.

Founded in 2011 with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development, VOHUN has helped thousands of students learn about One Health through university courses, training modules, and field trips to curated One Health sites during the last ten years.

The sustainability of One Health teaching, research and practice have been the focus of VOHUN's efforts. To achieve these, two One Health Master's degree programs were developed in partnerships between VOHUN and Hanoi Medical University and Nong Lam University. To-date, 57 Vietnamese and 34 international students have received Master's degrees in One Health.

In November 2021, VOHUN invited government agencies to a policy dialogue on developing the One Health workforce in Viet Nam. The objectives of the dialogue were to discuss the current situation of the One Health workforce in the country, and identify the needs and requirements of the future. The event was organized as part of VOHUN's 10th anniversary celebration to highlight accomplishments and future plans for our network. From more than 130 attendees, a majority self-identified as practitioners from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, or lecturers from VOHUN member universities.

Highlight challenges identified for One Health workforce capacity building programs included: willingness of field-site owners for student internship; the roles of VOHUN members to sustain One Health education by improving the quality of educational content in One Health; increasing numbers of graduates equipped and articulate with One Health skills and competencies; and the need to focus on enhancing skills at collaborating across disciplines and applying knowledge to address real world health challenges.

Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic, an infectious disease resulting from human-animal-ecosystem interactions, Dr. Phuc stated that it is even more vital to adopt One Health as an approach to preserve global health. VOHUN and its One Health programs will continue to play an important role for the well-being humans, animals and our shared environments across the country and region.



Image credit: SEAOHUN