

### Trans-disciplinary Capacity Building of THOHUN and VOHUN for Streptococcus suis Infection Prevention: Training of the Trainers, October 16-18, 2013, Chiang Mai, Thailand

This workshop was designed as a training of the trainers program and aimed to produce educational materials to reduce the incidence of *S. suis* infection in Thailand and Vietnam; members from THOHUN and VOHUN were heavily represented at the event. The objectives was to establish collaborative network among THOHUN and VOHUN for *S. suis* infection prevention; to build and strengthen trans-disciplinary of THOHUN and VOHUN capacity for *S. suis* infection prevention; and develop training program and educational materials for *S. suis* infection prevention.

### OHCEA Conference: One Health and the Control of infectious Diseases - Building Capacity, Systems and Engaging communities, September 22-25, 2013, Addis Adaba, Ethiopia.

Over two hundred and eighty seven (287) participants with representation from 17 countries in Africa, Asia and America attended this successful One Health Event. Countries represented included Burundi, Cameroon, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Malaysia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, United States of America and Vietnam. The location of this first conference was particularly important because Addis Ababa is the home of the African Union. At the conference, Dr. Phuc presented a case study on Anthrax, which is a common zoonotic diseases in Vietnam. He also had a chance to learn and share the knowledge and experiences to apply and communicate the One Health approach in training and educational program, in particular infectious diseases and zoonotic diseases relevant to both Southeast Asian and African countries.



### 2nd GRF One Health Summit 2013: One Health - One Planet - One Future Risks and Opportunities, November 17-20, 2013, Davos, Switzerland

The 2nd Global Risk Forum (GRF) One Health Summit explored, expanded and agreed on the need for a global integrative risk management approach for One Health. Furthermore, the conference identified the ways to achieve added value by involving multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder cooperation and promoting enhanced public-private partnership models for risk-based financing tools. The findings of the conference will be used to make recommendations on policy and organizational changes and stimulate a more efficient collaboration between stakeholders. At the conference all participants had the opportunity to meet "one-on-one" with any of the presenters, to discuss data & methods, to brainstorm ideas, and to foster collaborations on One Health topics.

At the conference, Dr. Phuc presented a poster to introduce the Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN) strategic plan: the foundation for sustainable development in Vietnam. He also had a chance to learn and share the knowledge and experiences to apply and communicate the One Health approach in training and educational programs in particular infectious diseases, zoonotic diseases, food safety and environmental health in collaboration between southeast Asia and other countries in the world.

### Upcoming Events

- **Preventive Medicine One Health Integration Workshop, January 10-12, 2014, Da Nang.** The overall aim is to discuss and outline a plan to integrate elements of the SEAOHUN One Health Modules into a four-week training block for Hanoi Medical University's sixth year preventative medicine students. The objectives are to agree on One Health competencies important for the One Health preventative medicine training block; to establish learning objectives for the preventative medicine One Health training block; to draft outlines for each lesson of the preventative medicine One Health training block; and to designate specific tasks for One Health integration working group.
- **Revision of Training Curricula for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in Vietnam, January 7-8, 2014, Hanoi.** The workshop objectives are to review the current curricula of DVM training system in Vietnam in order to harmonize training material among all the veterinary institutions; to establish a training material and program for the purpose of OH training; and to introduce some OH competencies across the veterinary curricula.
- **Prince of Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) pre-conference session discussion, January 27-31, 2013, Bangkok, Thailand.** The Executive Board agreed on the importance of the meeting and the suggested format. During this event, participants from SEAOHUN and OHCEA will discuss food safety, antimicrobial resistance, global trade and spread of disease, and the topics more broadly related to disasters (on the theory that trans-disciplinary, trans-sectoral collaboration is necessary and utilizes the One Health approach).

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Emerging Pandemic Threats Program  
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VIETNAM ONE HEALTH UNIVERSITY NETWORK

Networking – For the Ultimate One Health of the public

# VOHUN

No 2 & 3 – 2013

### Highlights

#### Vietnam One Health University Network Strategic Planning Meeting

The Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN) was established on 22 November, 2011, with the participation of 17 medical, veterinary and public health Universities/ Faculties/ Departments in Vietnam. Two years after its establishment, a number of activities have been held in Vietnam, as well as internationally. VOHUN has shown positive results in introducing the concept of One Health to the scientific community in the country, particularly in teaching activities at the faculties of medicine and veterinary medicine. The strategic planning meeting is designed to define the organizational objectives that need to be achieved in future years and how to obtain those objectives.

The One Health approach has received strong concern from the Government of Vietnam through many national and local activities. Highlights have been (i) the National Convention on the application of a One Health approach to the risk of infectious diseases in human - animal ecosystems in Vietnam; (ii) a Joint Circular from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development providing Guidelines for coordination on prevention of disease transmission from animals to humans; (iii) Development of necessary capacity to support the One Health approach; (iv) Building and develop One Health courses into training programs at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

However, a number of issues confront VOHUN in the coming years - how to operate VOHUN effectively and sustainably to provide long-term support to solve problems related to population health and development; how to maintain commitment as an active member of the SEAOHUN network (South East Asia One Health University Network); and how to contribute to the sustainable development of SEAOHUN. Thus, the development of a high quality strategic plan for VOHUN should be carried out as a priority with consensus from all members. This requires active participation of the network members with initiative and commitment to the activities. Through effective strategic planning VOHUN



members can establish and develop new partners, and seek multilateral funding beyond the support of USAID/RESPOND for the network's development.

A framework will be developed with significant involvement from the active VOHUN members to identify the geographical areas related to disease characteristics, then Sub-VOHUNs will be established in each area as following:

- Sub-VOHUN 1: Hanoi School of Public Health, Hanoi Medical University, Hanoi University of Agriculture
- Sub-VOHUN 2: Thai Nguyen University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, Bac Giang University of Agriculture and Forestry
- Sub-VOHUN 3: Hai Phong Medical University, Thai Binh Medical University, Nam Dinh University of Nursing.
- Sub-VOHUN 4: Nghe An University, Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, Tay Nguyen University.
- Sub-VOHUN 5: Ho Chi Minh University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Ho Chi Minh University of Agriculture and Forestry, College of Agriculture and Applied Biology - Can Tho University, Can Tho University of Medicine and Pharmacy.



### ONE HEALTH CORE COMPETENCIES AND CURRICULUM MAPPING WORKSHOP

The workshop was conducted in Can Tho, September 28-30, 2013. The One Health Core Competency (OHCC) initiative had involved U.S. partner organizations (University of Minnesota and Tufts University), the South East Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN), as well as Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN) in building a competency framework on which both in-service and pre-service curricula can be designed and initiated. The OHCC framework encompasses three levels of program and curriculum development: i) country level competencies to facilitate curriculum development to meet the needs of institutions and programs within a specific country such as VOHUN, ii) regional competencies to facilitate coordination of curriculum development within a regional network such as SEAOHUN, and iii) global competencies to facilitate sharing curriculum development across regional and network boundaries. Within this framework core competencies are defined as knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes needed by every member of a One Health outbreak team for prevention, surveillance, or response. Building on the

One Health Core Competencies drafted in October 2012, a number of activities were planned to use these to work with the faculties in VOHUN to build OH related programs. Firstly a Curriculum Mapping (CM) workshop was held to discuss the OHCC in relation to existing curricula and to train participants in CM techniques. A number of faculties used their own curricula for the mapping exercise and identified gaps related to the competencies that they will work with RESPOND to fill in the coming months.

The overall goal of the workshop was to concisely review the One Health program and OHCCs to the staffs in relation to major areas. The workshop also provided appropriate conditions for closely making connection between faculties. The workshop introduced OHCC Domains and Core Competencies associated with sharing faculties' experience so that the appropriate OHCC curricula would be established in their institutions. Target audiences of the workshop are mostly from lecturers/researchers of institutions which offer programs of human medicine and veterinary in Vietnam.

### ONE HEALTH COURSE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Strengthening One Health at educational institutions in EPT hot-spot regions is a cornerstone of the RESPOND approach. The South East Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN), as well as Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN) has been created as a new model of cooperation that strengthens regional and national capacity across disciplines and sectors to improve whole health systems throughout the region and nations. Twinning or partnering between the SEAOHUN and VOHUN universities with Tufts University and University of Minnesota will be an integral part of regional capacity building. SEAOHUN and VOHUN in the creation a curriculum framework for a One Health (OH) Introductory Course that will combine human and animal health sciences with the principals of ecology and environmental science. A total 15 One

Health course modules, adapted from the One Health Core Competencies, have been developed through a series of 3 workshops that was completed in late October 2013. The aim of these modules is to integrate and customize them for the regions and nations. The workshop objectives were i) Identify potential courses where One Health modular content can be embedded or developed; ii) Prioritize and scope of One Health modular content to be integrated into the existing courses and/or curricula; iii) Develop learning objectives and activities for proper integration of the One Health modular content. The workshop was held in Ho Chi Minh City, December 12-13, 2013. The OH modules were illustrated in Figure 2.



### GRANT WRITING AND PUBLISHING WORKSHOP

The workshop was held in Da Nang, August 21-25, 2013 with support by

colleagues from Tufts University and the University of Minnesota. The purpose of the workshop is to build the capacity of local faculties to write professional grant applications and to publish their research findings in international journals. The workshop was successful and participants were able to search for a funding vehicle or possible sources of funds; determine staffing, budget and other related matters for a grant application; identify the partners needed to complete the project; develop key questions, aims and hypothesis for a research project; design the appropriate research methodology to meet the study goals or aims; craft a statement of impact and significance for the research proposed; and analyze how, when and where the findings can be published.



**ONE HEALTH WORKSHOP ON TRAINING AND RESEARCH OF UNIVERSITIES IN SOUTHERN VIETNAM, CAN THO, OCTOBER 24-25, 2013**

The OH workshop was held involving multiple faculties in Southern Vietnam to discuss and strengthen understanding of OH and the OH approach to control emerging infectious diseases. The workshop was part of an effort to facilitate coordination of One Health curriculum development within a regional network in Vietnam. Under tight collaboration between VOHUN and Can Tho University, the organized workshop aims to introduce One Health's knowledge on training and research of universities in Southern Vietnam and to extend the One Health network in both Medical and Veterinary universities, colleagues and institutes in this region. The target audiences of the workshop were lecturers/ researchers/ government staffs of institutions, government organizations which offer programs of human medicine and veterinary in Vietnam or involve in zoonotic diseases prevention.

**STRENGTHENING TEACHERS' CAPACITY ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF EMERGING AND RE-EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES USING ONE HEALTH APPROACH.**

On October 16-18, 2013, a workshop was held in Ha Long city, northern Vietnam to discuss the OH approach to investigation and control of priority zoonoses in Vietnam. The target audience of the workshop were lecturers at faculty of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Public Health. Capacity teaching about One Health approach, which use in the prevention of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, is one of keys. It is the basis for building a new generation who are wider understanding and practice of One Health. There were 31 lecturers from 9 Universities in the Northern Vietnam who attended the workshop. The workshop presented the one health core competencies (OHCC) that could be applied to prevent emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. The presentations vividly illustrated the current situation and epidemiology of zoonotic diseases in some provinces of Vietnam, focusing on avian influenza, rabies, leptospirosis, and Streptococcus suis.



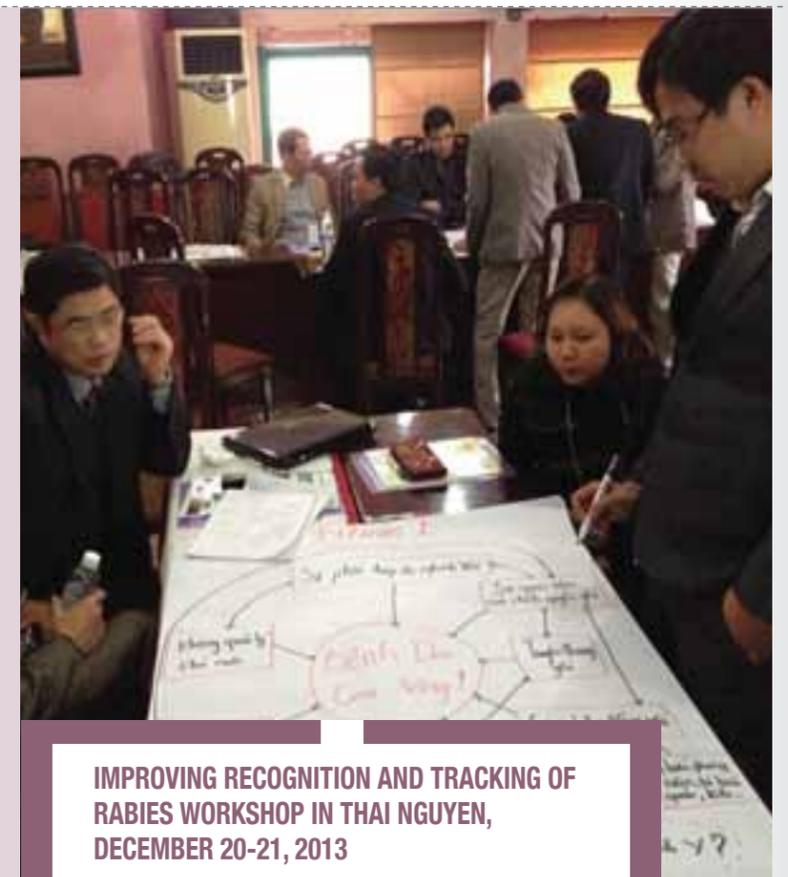
**ONE HEALTH SESSION AT THE 4TH ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC HEALTH WITH THE THEME OF "CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMERGING DISEASES", NHA TRANG NOVEMBER 21-22, 2013**

Faculties from all VOHUN member institutions attended the forum and a number of presentations were delivered. Our colleagues from MyOHUN and INDOHUN faculties were also supported to attend and present their research findings to the conference. The 4th Asia Pacific Conference on Public Health is a forum for scientists working in the field climate change and population health, including professionals from public health and veterinary medicine. A forum on One Health for scientists, who are working inside/or outside VOHUN, to share the results of their research based on One Health approach was a part of this conference. At the Conference, the activities and mission of VOHUN were communicated with other science networks in Vietnam. Moreover, at the conference, VOHUN members were able to share and learn from many experiences of network organizers from APCPH, and also from various Ecohealth



experts worldwide. During the 4th Asia Pacific Conference on Public Health, a panel discussion was conducted for all participants to join with the topic: "DISCUSSION ON THE FURTHER DIRECTION FOR HEALTH RESEARCH ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND POPULATION HEALTH IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION". This was a great opportunity for all health workers and future OH leaders to discuss the situation of climate change in Asia Pacific and exchange information on public health and population health.

The Thai Nguyen area is a part of Vietnam where the rabies prevalence seems to be quite high compared to the rest of the country. Currently, there is no standardized curriculum for training either medical or veterinary students on rabies prevention and control. We brought research and teaching professionals from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Institutes and Universities to Thai Nguyen province to discuss developing a rabies curriculum for medical and veterinary students as well as creating a health education program for local human and animal health professionals on rabies. The workshop objectives were understanding the rabies situation in Thai Nguyen and Tuyen Quang provinces; proposing an integrated rabies curriculum for medical and veterinary students at Thai Nguyen universities; and developing a case study on Rabies for use in One Health educational activities .



**IMPROVING RECOGNITION AND TRACKING OF RABIES WORKSHOP IN THAI NGUYEN, DECEMBER 20-21, 2013**



**HUMAN-ANIMAL-ENVIRONMENT  
TRANSMISSION AND RISK FACTORS FOR  
LEPTOSPIROSIS IN THANH HOA**

In September 19-21, 2013, a workshop was held to discuss the routes of transmission and risk factors for leptospirosis in Thanh Hoa province, an endemic area of Vietnam. The workshop was attended by VOHUN members involved in leptospirosis research and by representatives from government ministries involved in responding to leptospirosis outbreaks. In this workshop, participants investigated the prevalence of leptospirosis in Thanh Hoa and discussed the Human-Animal-Environment transmission as well as the risk factors for leptospirosis in this province. The data on leptospirosis in Thanh Hoa is very limited with no publications on the disease in the region; however we have annually meeting with Center for Preventive Medicine in Thanh Hoa and they are concerned about leptospirosis, because they have many leptospirosis suspected cases with the symptoms which are likely with other diseases (Dengue Fever, Hepatitis,...). In addition, they are lack of experience to detect, treat and prevent this disease. Their search findings were shared and discussed with our colleagues from MyOHUN, who also are interested in collaborative work on leptospirosis in the future. On the second day of workshop, all participants visited Yen Dinh district, where an outbreak of leptospirosis had occurred (Photo 8). Participants had chance to collect samples from soil and pig urine at farms. All the samples will be tested for leptospirosis at National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology.

**STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT-UNIVERSITY  
RELATIONSHIPS**

**The 3rd Alumni Veterinary Epidemiology training & 1st  
Epidemiology One Health Forum, in Ho Chi Minh,  
September 12-13, 2013**



VOHUN members attended this FAO sponsored meeting to discuss their involvement in AVET training (Hanoi University of Agriculture) or their willingness to be involved in future training activities. The joint OH training of AVET and FETP trainees supported by RESPOND in 2012 was highlighted and the future of this type of training involving VOHUN faculty members was discussed.

**Teaching on Environmental Health and integration of  
the One Health concepts for public health undergraduate  
students in the highland areas of Vietnam, Buon Ma  
Thuot, September 9-11, 2013**

At this workshop forty health workers were trained by VOHUN staff on zoonoses, One Health, and the One Health approach for disease control. The main goal of this event was to give lectures on Environmental Health and integrate the One Health concepts for Public Health undergraduate students. Additionally, VOHUN members

at the University of Tay Nguyen discussed VOHUN activities and training curriculum on One Health. Lecturers at the Faculties of Veterinary Sciences and Medicine introduced the OH concept into their training of relevant subjects such as epidemiology, environmental health, food safety and nutrition, infectious diseases, prevention and control, etc. The heads of Faculties of Veterinary and Public Health agreed to support VOHUN members at their university to develop a scientific workshop on infectious diseases using the OH approach in the highland areas. Veterinarians and public health experts and clinicians at the provincial levels would be invited.

**Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public  
Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) in  
Da Nang**

November 12-14, 2013 - A pre-conference workshop entitled "Government-University Partnerships for In-Service Outbreak Response Training" was supported by RESPOND and VOHUN with attendees from the government and universities of Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Participants discussed a wide range of activities where universities currently support, or could support in-service training. Networking developed between government and university attendees and a number of planned activities were discussed. Dr. Nguyen Dang Vung, Institute of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Hanoi Medical University on behalf of VOHUN given a presentation of VOHUN activities, especially focusing on OH training course development for undergraduate and graduate students.

**Dong Nai Province Wildlife Disease Training  
in Bien Hoa, November 25-27, 2013**

This pilot activity under the PREDICT Project, and supported by RESPOND and VOHUN, aimed at government officers involved in assessing and certifying wildlife farms in the area. The workshop discussed One Health, zoonotic diseases of wildlife and biosecurity on wildlife farms. Farm visits complemented the lectures and participants carried out a short biosecurity risk assessment on selected farms in the Dong Nai area. This joint PREDICT - RESPOND - VOHUN event was a great success and will hopefully be built on in the future.

**Other  
activities**

**South East Asia Regional Wildlife  
Health Capacity Assessment &  
Networking Forum, Bangkok, Thailand,  
August 13-15, 2013.**

The regional wildlife health forum was designed to bring together government agencies with oversight over wildlife health and conservation, and members of VOHUN universities and other organizations that contribute to strengthening capacity in wildlife health. The overarching goal was to establish a shared understanding of the status of wildlife health protection and management in the region, including who is working on wildlife health and what resources (both technical and financial) are available to support the work and strengthen capacity, to facilitate university and government dialogue concerning the strengthening of wildlife health capacity; and to identify opportunities to strengthen wildlife health management at both the country and regional level. The co-hosting agencies for the wildlife health forum are (1) Thailand Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of National Parks (DNP), (2) Zoological Park Association (ZPO) of Thailand, and (3) Mahidol University, Faculty of Veterinary Science. The meeting was supported by the USAID/RESPOND.

At the networking forum, Dr. Pham Duc Phuc on behalf of SEAOHUN and VOHUN members was presented an overview of SEAOHUN and VOHUN activities, in particular the capacity building and training of wildlife health professionals. We also discussed the current status of wildlife health resources, including wildlife health policy and activities, identified the wildlife challenges, wildlife health training needs, resources and opportunities, government-university partnerships for wildlife health capacity building, and building national and regional wildlife health capacity.

