

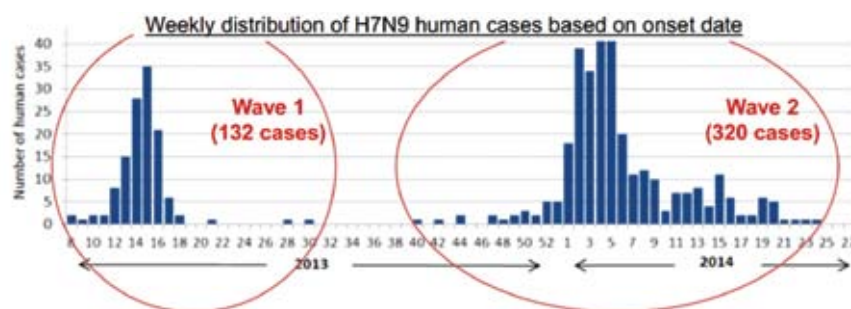
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TECHNICAL REVIEW ON H7N9 PREPAREDNESS IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUB-REGION

On 25-26 August 2014, a meeting on the Technical Review on H7N9 Preparedness in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region was organized in Bangkok, Thailand. Participants at the meeting included government officials from the animal health sector and the human health sector in Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam; representatives from the Veterinary Bureau in China; and representatives from FAO, WHO, OIE and USAID at country, regional and headquarters levels.

The novel H7N9 virus was first detected in China in humans in March 2013. No cases have yet been detected in Viet Nam in either human or avian populations.



Seasonal patterns in humans? (Source: WHO)

In the meeting, the participants shared experiences on surveillance and risk assessment in relation to H7N9 influenza. Country representatives provided updates on the situation and national activities on H7N9 preparedness and emergency response planning in their respective countries. WHO and FAO also provided an update on the progress of the H7N9 joint risk assessment, based on an animal health, human health and value chain approach. Following consultation with national committees and all related partners, this method is expected to be further developed for application at the country level. Operational challenges in relation to implementation of H7N9 activities at the country level were also discussed in order to improve preparedness for the next influenza season. ■

VIET NAM APPLIES STRICT MEASURES FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DANGEROUS AND EMERGING DISEASES

On 22 August 2014, the Ministry of Health (MOH) organized a teleconference of the National Steering Committee for Prevention and Control of Dangerous and Emerging Diseases in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city. The Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. Nguyen Thanh Long, chaired the meeting.

In the meeting, Dr. Tran Dac Phu, Director-General of the General Department of Preventive Medicine (GDPM), provided an update on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and related measures taken in Viet Nam. He stated that the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa is becoming complicated and difficult to control, with an increasing numbers of infected cases and fatalities.



(Meeting hall at MOH)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has requested the Vietnamese Embassies in infected countries to maintain regular contact representatives of Vietnamese citizens there. These Embassies need to provide information on the prevention and control of Ebola, and to support Vietnamese citizen in preventing the disease.

It was confirmed that no Ebola case has been detected in Viet Nam at present. However, the supervision of people coming from infected countries is undertaken strictly. All people entering Viet Nam from infected areas are classified according to their destination or place of residence and sent to the local Centre for Preventive Medicine for health monitoring. Currently, the Health sector has put in place different methods to maintain contact with these passengers, such as via telephone, email, website and contact with police in order to locate the passengers' locations, meet with them and provide advice.

After the updates and reports of Committee members, Deputy Minister Nguyen Thanh Long requested the related agencies to ensure effective implementation of the medical declaration of passengers coming from the infected areas; to continue close supervision of those

passengers; to regularly coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center at the Ministry of Health in order to receive updated outbreak information from WHO and CDC and to make this information available online on the websites of GDPM, MOH and via other media; and to provide a hotline number for active prevention of Ebola.

In order to prevent the Ebola virus disease, the GDPM has advised people to conduct following measures:

- Practice careful personal hygiene, washing hands frequently with soap and antiseptic.
- Avoid direct contact with the blood, body fluids and belongings of infected people and animals or the items that may have been in contact with the blood, body fluids and belongings of infected people and animals.
- Avoid unnecessary travel to countries where the virus has been found, including the West African countries of Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. If travel must be undertaken, travelers should check the information on Ebola at the destination in order to prevent themselves from becoming infected.
- Avoid direct contact with infected people; if contact is necessary, a medical mask and proper personal protection should be worn and distance maintained when having contact.
- Those who have returned from West African countries should monitor their health for 21 days and seek medical care immediately if they develop symptoms of Ebola, including fever, fatigue, severe headache, sore throat, diarrhea or vomiting, or if they have close contact with any person who has these symptoms.
- Regularly updated information on prevention and control of the Ebola virus disease is available on the websites of MOH: <http://moh.gov.vn>, GDPM: <http://vncdc.gov.vn/> and other official websites. ■

ACTION PLAN FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME CORONA VIRUS (MERS-COV) IN VIET NAM

On 3 June 2014, the Ministry of Health took the preemptive step of issuing Decision No. 1944/QĐ-BYT on the Action plan for prevention and control of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in Viet Nam.

MERS-CoV is a viral respiratory illness that is caused by a novel corona virus first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012. As of early September 2014, MERS-CoV has been reported in 22 countries.

MERS-CoV is a zoonotic virus that is likely to have spread from animals to humans. In humans, the virus

can spread from ill people to others, mostly through close contact. Most people who have been confirmed to have MERS-CoV infection have developed severe acute respiratory illness, with symptoms including fever, cough and severe pneumonia that can quickly lead to acute respiratory failure. In addition, some ill people may have symptoms such as diarrhea. This disease can cause organ failure, especially kidney failure, leading to a high risk of mortality.

The Action plan provides an update on the MERS-CoV disease situation in the world and in Viet Nam in particular. As of early September, Viet Nam has not



Suggested transmission mechanism of MERS-CoV from animal hosts to humans

recorded any case of MERS-CoV. Nevertheless, regarding the circumstances and epidemiological characteristics of the disease, there is a risk that it could be transmitted into Viet Nam, potentially resulting in a large outbreak in the community if preventive measure are not implemented actively. Thus, a plan to prevent and control the epidemic is essential.

The general objective of the Action plan is early detection of any MERS-CoV cases and a timely response in order to prevent the disease from spreading and to minimize the mortality risk.

The specific objectives developed according to different disease scenarios include:

- **Scenario 1:** No MERS-CoV cases detected in Viet Nam
Early detection of any initial cases reaching Viet Nam or emerging in the community, in order to apply strict response measures, avoiding transmission in the community and to medical staff.

- **Scenario 2:** Detection of MERS-CoV cases in Viet Nam

To contain and handle disease outbreaks in a timely and strict manner in order to minimize transmission in the community.

- **Scenario 3:** A widespread outbreak in the community.

To quickly respond by containing and handling disease outbreaks in a strict and timely manner in order to minimize disease transmission in the community.

The Ministry of Health identifies the main activities to be carried out based on the different scenarios, related to direction and supervision, prevention and control, treatment, communications, logistics and international cooperation activities. In addition, instruction on countermeasures for each scenario are provided.

In the first place, when no MERS-CoV case has been reported, the MoH will concentrate its resources on strengthening supervision over acute respiratory infections of unknown cause and other suspected cases at all medical centers. In addition, MOH also suggests several technical measures as follows:

- Medical declarations will be required at international border gates, taking into account the situation in Viet Nam and in accordance with international practices;
- Guidelines on surveillance and prevention of MERS-CoV will be regularly updated; epidemiological investigations will be conducted to identify sources of exposure and transmission in order to plan and undertake appropriate prevention measures;
- Individual protective measures will be implemented for health workers in medical centers in order to avoid transmission of infection from patients.
- The operations of mobile teams to fight the epidemic in the local health units will be consolidated and strengthened;
- Communication campaigns will advocate people to implement preventive measures for MERS-CoV;
- Working groups will be established to examine preparedness for disease prevention at the local level before, during and after the outbreak.
- A reserve fund, chemicals, medicines and medical equipment for timely implementation of countermeasures to the epidemic at the local level will be put in place; and
- Diagnostic capacity will be strengthened. ■

DEVELOPING A NATIONAL VETERINARY LAW

The national Veterinary Ordinance was approved by the National Assembly Standing Committee on 29 April 2004 and took effect from 01 October 2004. The Veterinary Ordinance has provided an important legal basis for the prevention and control of animal diseases and epidemics, for animal quarantine and slaughtering and for state control of veterinary medicines and veterinary jobs. However, after 10 years of implementation, some shortcomings in the Ordinance have been revealed regarding its practical application and long-term vision. Therefore, the members of the

National Assembly Standing Committee have agreed that it is necessary to develop and establish a Veterinary Law.

The draft Veterinary law includes 7 Chapters and 124 Articles. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) takes the main responsibility and cooperates with related ministries and agencies in the development of the Law.

Notable points in the draft Veterinary Law from a One Health perspective include:



A meeting to discuss the draft Veterinary Law

- The concept of veterinary public health is incorporated, noting the potential impacts of animals and animal health on both human health and environmental health and focusing strongly on the need for effective prevention activities;
- The scope of the Veterinary Law includes wildlife as well as livestock, marine animals and other species;
- The roles and responsibilities in relation to animal health of other sectors, including human health, industry and trade, science and technology, natural resources and environment and others, are defined; and

- The basic framework for the establishment of disease control coordination mechanisms is set out, emphasizing the protection of human health in the case of zoonotic diseases and providing for chairing at the appropriate level, up to the level of the Prime Minister, depending on the nature of the disease outbreak.

Current progress of the Law development

From 10-14 July 2014, the delegation of the National Assembly's Committee on Science, Technology and Environment examined the actual enforcement of the veterinary legislation in Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa.

On 1 August 2014, the Standing Committee on Science, Technology and Environment of the National Assembly organized a consultation workshop on Veterinary Law project in Hanoi in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

It is expected that the draft Veterinary Law will have a preliminary examination by the Committee on Science, Technology and Environment of the National Assembly in early August 2014. The Standing Committee of the National Assembly will provide comments and suggestions on 30 August 2014 before submitting the draft Law to the National Assembly for consultation. ■

ONE HEALTH COMMUNICATION NETWORK (OHCN) MEETING, HANOI

On 18 September 2014, the quarterly meeting of the OHCN brought together 24 participants from 12 national and international organizations to share updates on ongoing and planned activities and to discuss key issues related to One Health communications in Viet Nam.

The meeting was organized under the framework of the Partnership on Avian and Human Influenza (PAHI), and chaired by Mdm. Ha Thuy Hanh, Deputy Director of the National Agricultural Extension Centre (NAEC) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development together with Mdm. Pham Thanh Binh of the Communications Subcommittee of the Steering Committee on Dangerous and Emerging Diseases of the Ministry of Health. The chair and co-chair provided presentations at the meeting addressed communications for active prevention and control of dangerous and emerging diseases in the health sector, and of zoonotic diseases in the agriculture sector. Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Tien of the Department of Animal Health provided additional comments in relation to zoonotic diseases in animals.

Other participants then provided updates on their ongoing and planned activities and results, including FAO, WHO, the Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN), the Vietnam University of Agriculture (VNUA), the USAID-funded EPT-PREVENT program implemented by FHI-360, the Vietnam Farmers' Union and CIRAD.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) presented



*Participants discussing One Health communications
 (Photo: Dinh Duc Hiep/MARD)*

the ongoing results of the USAID-funded EPT-PREDICT program, which is investigating diseases of pandemic potential at the human-wildlife interface in Viet Nam. The Center for Public Health and Ecosystem Research (CENPHER) introduced their activities and presented lessons learned from the 5th Biennial Conference of the International Association for Ecology and Health (IAEH) in Canada on 11-15 August 2014, with the theme "connections for health, ecosystems and society".

The next quarterly meeting of the OHCN is expected to take place in November. Network organizers are also discussing the proposal of a field visit to view One Health communications activities in a rural location. ■

THE VIETNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE (VNUA) ESTABLISHED

On 25 June 2014, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) organized a ceremony to announce the Prime Minister's Decision on the establishment of the Vietnam National University of Agriculture.

The participants included the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Cao Duc Phat, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Education and Training and the lecturers from the university.

The VNUA was formerly known as the University of Agriculture and Forestry, then as the Hanoi University of Agriculture. During its nearly 60 years of operation and development, the university has trained approximately 80,000 Bachelors, 5,000 Masters and 500 Doctorates in research, training and the application of science and technology in agriculture.

According to the Prime Minister's Decision, the VNUA was established on the basis of restructuring the Hanoi Agricultural University. The VNUA is a public university under MARD. It has legal status, its own stamp, and a separate bank account.

At the ceremony, Dr. Cao Duc Phat acknowledged the



Vietnam National University of Agriculture

contribution of the lecturers in developing agriculture and the rural areas of Vietnam and affirmed the important role of the VNUA in creating a cohesive connection between human resources and strategies, development plans and restructuring of the agricultural and rural development sector in the coming period.

According to the Decision of the MARD Minister, Professor. Dr. Emeritus Teacher Tran Duc Vien was appointed as Director of the VNUA. ■

CENPHER MARKS FIVE YEARS OF COOPERATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND ECOSYSTEMS RESEARCH

The Center for Public Health and Ecosystem Research (CENPHER) is a research center belonging to the Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH). The precursor of CENPHER was a post-doctoral research project on environmental sanitation and health issues as part of the Swiss National Centers of Competence in Research North-South (NCCR North-South) program at HSPH. Three years the research group was formed, CENPHER was founded by HSPH on 1 June 2012 as a research centre affiliated to the school. The objective of CENPHER is to conduct and strengthen interdisciplinary research capacity at HSPH.

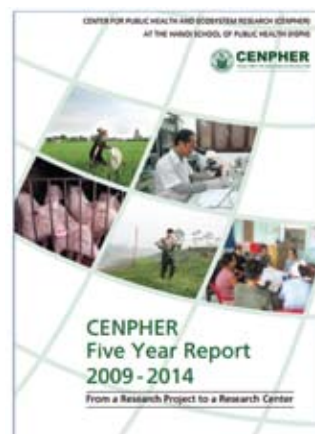
CENPHER's mission for the period of 2012-2020 is to study the impact of environmental, ecological, cultural, socio-economic and demographic factors on health and well being, using the integrative approaches of Ecohealth and One Health in Southeast Asia and similarly in Africa.

The main activities of CENPHER include conducting research and training, and providing services. Research



Asso. Prof. Dr Bui Thi Thu Ha, Dean of Hanoi School of Public Health, at the launching ceremony

activities focus on links between health and agriculture, infectious and zoonotic diseases, chemical pollution, food safety and nutrition. The main themes for this research are Integrative health research: Ecohealth and One Health (InRe); Food Safety (FS) and Risk Analysis; and Health Risk and Health Impact Assessment (HRIA). In relation to training, CENPHER supervises BSc, MSc and PhD students at HSPH and at other universities within and outside Viet Nam. CENPHER staff teach regular courses at HSPH and other universities in the region. CENPHER also offers short courses on Ecohealth, One Health, Risk Assessment, Integrative Training and Environmental Sanitation and Health. In addition, CENPHER provides consultancy services, which consist of research, training and evaluation work related to CENPHER's core competencies.



On 8 August 2014, CENPHER launched its "CENPHER 5 Year Report 2009-2014: From a Research Project to a Research Center". This report provides a summary of activities conducted over the past five years.

"The creation and development of CENPHER reflect not only the result of a

North-South partnership in research and public health action, but also how it is possible to jointly tackle the great issues in national public health and global health. Effective health development is most effective when shared and compared across cultures and health and social and ecological systems. It is this process of mutual learning for change that will reveal the key determinants that will lead to new evidence and innovative solutions to improve health and well-being," said Prof. Marcel Tanner, Director of Swiss Tropical and Public Health (Swiss TPH)—one of the long time and key partners of CENPHER—in the report. ■

Link to download the electronic version of the report:
<http://cenpher.hsph.edu.vn/english/news/cenpher-five-year-report-2009-%E2%80%93-2014-research-project-research-center>

The Center for Public Health and Ecosystem Research (CENPHER) is located at the Hanoi School of Public Health, 138 Giang Vo, Ba Dinh, Hanoi, Viet Nam.

T: (+84) 4.62733162, F: (+84) 4.62733172,

Email: cenpher@hsph.edu.vn

W: <http://cenpher.hsph.edu.vn/>

ONE HEALTH FORUM KOREA 2014

From 9-11 July 2014, a One Health Forum was held at the Seoul National University, South Korea. The Conference was co-organized by the Institute of International Health of Michigan State University, the Veterinary College of Seoul National University and the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools.

The Conference focused on three main themes related to the current status of the One Health Initiative, including collaborative research, incorporating One Health into veterinary curricula, and sharing educational

resources with other veterinary schools. The principle aims were to promote global networking in One Health with particular emphasis on Asian countries, and to expand strategies for interdisciplinary collaborations and communications in all aspects related to human, animal and environmental health threats.

The Conference had 233 participants from 13 countries and 61 institutions, including 32 veterinary schools. Dr. Walter Amman, Chairman of the Global Risk Forum (GRF) One Health Forum and Dr. Reza Nassiri, Director of the Institute of International Health, were the keynote speakers of the meeting.

The Vietnamese delegation joining the meeting included Dr. Trinh Dinh Thau of the Viet Nam National University of Agriculture; Dr. Pham Duc Phuc of the Hanoi School of Public Health, and Ms. Dao Thu Trang from PAHI Secretariat. ■

Roundtable discussion at the Conference



DR. MICHAEL O'LEARY - USAID/VIET NAM'S NEW SENIOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES ADVISOR

In July 2014, Dr. Michael O'Leary was appointed as the new Senior Infectious Diseases Advisor with the Office of Health at USAID/Viet Nam.

Dr. O'Leary completed his medical and public health studies at the University of Minnesota (MD) and the University of Hawaii (internal medicine residency and MPH). He has also participated in a 2-year Epidemic Intelligence Service training program in epidemiology offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. O'Leary has worked on public health issues in more than 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific with both WHO and the US Public Health Service over a period of 28 years. Most recently, he served as WHO Representative in China (2009-2013) and Cambodia (2005-2009).

Commenting on the new position in Viet Nam, Dr.

O'Leary stated that he and his wife are very happy to have the opportunity to live in Hanoi and to join the strong USAID team in Viet Nam.

Dr. O'Leary is positive about the potential for One Health

collaboration in Viet Nam, noting that the concept and framework of One Health are remarkably developed compared to many other countries. He is pleased to see a strong One Health network in Viet Nam, with a range of partners working with and through the PAHI Partnership and establishing solid working relationships with each other. ■



RELEVANT LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Official Telegraph No. 1932/CD-Ttg issued on 09/08/2014 by the Prime Minister on the prevention and control of the Ebola virus disease

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MARD

Official Letter No. 114/CN-GSN issued on 27/02/2014 by Department of Livestock Production providing guidance on safe poultry breeding and consumption and influenza prevention

Circular No. 21/2014/TT-BNNPTNT dated 26/06/2014 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development providing guidance on disasters and dangerous diseases, based on Decision No. 142/2009/QĐ-TTg issued on 31/12/2009 and Decision No. 49/2012/QĐ-TTg issued on 08/11/2012 by the Prime Minister

Official Telegraph No. 6259/CD-BNN-TY issued on 14/08/2014 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on intensification of avian influenza prevention measures

Official Telegraph No. 7115/CD-BNN-TY issued on 04/09/2014 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on strengthening emergency measures on prevention and control of avian influenza A (H5N6) and other types of avian influenza virus

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MOH

Official Letter No. 2794/BYT-DP issued on 16/05/2014 by the Ministry of Health on strengthening MERS-CoV prevention and control

Decision No. 1944/QĐ-BYT issued on 03/06/2014 by the Ministry of Health on the Action plan for prevention and control of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in Viet Nam

Decision No. 2002/QĐ-BYT issued on 06/06/2014 by the Ministry of Health on provision of guidelines for surveillance and prevention of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

Decision No. 2914/QĐ-BYT issued on 06/08/2014 by the Ministry of Health on provision of guidelines for surveillance and prevention of Ebola virus disease

Official Letter No. 5210/BYT-DP issued on 06/08/2014 from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on collaboration to prevent and control the Ebola virus disease

Official Letter No. 5211/BYT-DP issued on 06/08/2014 by the Ministry of Health on collaboration to monitor and apply medical declarations at international border gates

Decision No. 2968/QĐ-BYT issued on 08/08/2014 by the Ministry of Health on provision of guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of the Ebola virus disease

Decision No. 3265/QĐ-BYT issued on 27/08/2014 by the Ministry of Health on the consolidation of the Steering Committee for prevention and control of diseases

Official Telegraph No. 942/CD-DP issued on 04/09/2014 by General Department of Preventive Medicine on intensification of active prevention and control of the influenza A(H5N6) transmission from poultry to humans

ONE HEALTH EVENTS

September 2014

Asean Health Ministers meeting: Better Health for the ASEAN Community beyond 2015

Hanoi, September 15-19, 2014

The Global Health Security Agenda

Washington DC, September 26, 2014

Ceremony of the World Rabies Day in Viet Nam

Tentatively: Hoa Binh, 27/09/2014

World Rabies Day

WHO, September 28, 2014

October 2014

European - Southeast-Asian Experts "One Health in Action" workshop: From One Health Theory to Reality: Practical challenges, impact of One Health initiatives and gaps in research

Hanoi, Viet Nam from 13 to 15 October 2014

7th Asia Meeting on Zoo and Wildlife Medicine/Conservation: "One Health in Asia Pacific"

Asia Society for Zoo and Wildlife Medicine (ASZWM). Tam Dao National Park, Viet Nam, 14-17 October, 2014

3rd Global Risk Forum One Health Summit

Davos, Switzerland, October 5-8, 2014

<http://onehealth.grforum.org/home/>

Meeting of GDPM, DAH, other related Departments of MARD and MOH and International organizations on the Coordination mechanism of the Health and Agricultural sectors in disease prevention and control

Tentatively: Hanoi, 10/2014

November 2014

International Symposium for One Health Research

Guangzhou, Guangdong, China November 22-23, 2014

Abstract deadline: October 20, 2014

<http://onehealth.csp.escience.cn/dct/page/1>

Training on Field Epidemiology with the One Health model for preventive medicine and animal health staff

Tentatively: Nha Trang, 11/2014

March 2015

3rd International One Health Congress

Amsterdam, March 15-18

RECENT ONE HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

Một sức khỏe trong y học dự phòng và y tế công cộng: Sách dành cho sinh viên hệ bác sĩ Y học dự phòng (One Health in preventive medicine and public health: a textbook for preventive medicine students). Trường Đại học Y Hà Nội.

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Successful vaccines for naturally occurring protozoal diseases of animals should guide human vaccine research. A review of protozoal vaccines and their designs. MCALLISTER, M. M. Parasitology. April 2014. 141(05), 624-640.

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Making One Health a reality – crossing bureaucratic boundaries. C. Rubin, B. Dunham, J. Sleeman. Microbiology Spectrum. January 2014. 2(1):OH-0016-2012. doi:10.1128/microbiolspec.OH-0016-2012

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Room 301 Bld. A8, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - No. 10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Ba Dinh, Hanoi

Tel: (84-4) 37711 356/357 ❖ Fax: (84-4) 37711 362 ❖ Email: pahi.secretariat@gmail.com ❖ Website: <http://www.onehealth.org.vn>