

CONTENTS

1	THE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA (GHS) TO CONTINUE THROUGH 2024
3	ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ADOPT A ONE HEALTH APPROACH TO TACKLE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
4	NEWS IN BRIEF
5	THE VIET NAM ONE HEALTH UNIVERSITY NETWORK (VOHUN) CELEBRATES ITS SIXTH ANNIVERSARY
6	PREPARING FOR VIET NAM'S ANNUAL ONE HEALTH FORUM – THE FIRST "RESEARCH-TO-POLICY" WORKSHOP HELD IN HANOI
7	RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTER-MINISTERIAL CIRCULAR NO. 16 ON ZOO NOTIC DISEASES PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN SOME PROVINCES
8	RELEVANT LEGAL DOCUMENTS
	ONE HEALTH EVENTS
	RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN ONE HEALTH

THE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA (GHS) TO CONTINUE THROUGH 2024

Despite resource limitations, Uganda has been one of the most active and successful countries implementing the Global Health Security Agenda (GHS) in Africa since the program was launched in 2014. For this reason, Uganda was chosen to be the host country for the 4th GHS High-Level Ministerial Meeting, held in the capital, Kampala, from 25-27 October 2017 with the theme "Health Security for All: Engaging Communities, Non-Governmental Actors, and the Private Sector."

The Conference consisted of five Plenary sessions on GHS processes and financing beyond 2018, six in-depth Breakout sessions, and a one-day site visit. The conference set out detailed objectives, including to:

- Build country **ownership**, strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration, and promote integration of health security into routine national, subnational and community programs.
- Encourage national governments to develop or **broaden frameworks** to engage communities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, development partners and other agencies in GHS.
- Share **good practices** for enhancing and sustaining GHS programs at national, subnational, and community levels.

(see next page)

ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ADOPT A ONE HEALTH APPROACH TO TACKLE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the serious global challenges, with an alarming increase in the rates of drug-resistant infections observed across different regions and countries, resulting from the inappropriate use of antibiotics in the health, animal husbandry and agriculture sectors.

In 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that without the effective and prompt joint cooperation of governments and leaders worldwide, the world could face an era where drug-resistant infections overtake cancer as the leading cause of human suffering and death by 2050. This would also have a huge impact on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related to global welfare and health.

Recognizing the seriousness of antimicrobial resistance, the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have developed a joint commitment based on a consultation process among stakeholders and at a number of successive health summits. The result of these efforts was reflected in the "31st ASEAN Summit and related Summits" held in Manila, the Philippines, last November. At the Summit, ASEAN countries' leaders agreed to adopt a **One Health** approach to respond to urgent issues on antimicrobial resistance, in order to ensure a holistic, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach to solve this issue at national and regional levels.

The Minister of Health of the Philippines, who took the leading role in the adoption process of the

(see page 2-3)



Figure 1: The 4th GHSA High-Level Ministerial Meeting took place in Kampala, Uganda from 25-27 October 2017 (Source: afro.who.int/news)

A Joint Declaration by Ministers and Heads of Delegations was issued after the two-day conference, commending Participating Countries and Partners for achieving significant advances in developing sustained country-level health security capacity since the launch of the GHSA in 2014, and highlighting the role that the GHSA has played in spurring joint and multi-sector actions. On that basis, the Declaration expressed a commitment to continue the global health security activities and support for extending the program until 2024 to accelerate the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005). Furthermore, to ensure a clear and common understanding of a joint way forward on the initiative, the GHSA Steering Committee, in consultation with all interested Participating Countries, advisors, and affiliated organizations, is developing a detailed proposal describing the scope of work, specific aims, and working methods for the next phase of the initiative. This proposal is expected to be presented at the next GHSA high-level meeting, to be held in 2018 in Indonesia.

Within the framework of the Meeting, Viet Nam, Indonesia and Senegal, as the three current leading countries of the Zoonotic Disease Action Package (ZDAP), jointly organized a Side Meeting with the

objectives of reviewing ZDAP achievements to date as well as identifying the way to cooperate in the upcoming time. Some of the main outputs of the meeting include: (i) Encouraging the involvement of Lead Countries of other Action Packages for information sharing and collaboration strengthening; (ii) Recognizing that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and zoonotic diseases are inter-related, it is proposed to promote the inclusion of AMR issues in the ZDAP Strategic Plan; (iii) Viet Nam to hand-over the chairing role of the leading countries to Senegal for the next 12 months, including hosting of the 4th ZDAP Conference in 2018 by Senegal. As of now, Viet Nam has completed the hand-over process to the Government of Senegal.

At this event, the ZDAP was recognized as one of the most effective and successful Packages out of the eleven Action Packages of the GHSA, taking into consideration the remarkable success of the 3rd International ZDAP Conference hosted by the Government of Viet Nam in August 2017 in Da Nang, Viet Nam. Noting the Kampala Declaration, the extension of the GHSA to 2024 is a great opportunity for Viet Nam to continue its co-leading role, contributing to joint efforts for a world safe and secure from global health threats posed by infectious diseases ■

declaration, considered the signing of this document to be a historic achievement that will contribute to the 10-member ASEAN's vision of a healthy, sustainable and productive region resistant to emerging health threats and with universal access to health care.

Alongside the political commitment to combat

antimicrobial resistance of the heads of ASEAN member-states, the declaration adopted on 13 November 2017 in time for the celebration of the 31st ASEAN Summit marks a significant milestone. The ASEAN member states also agreed to align their respective antimicrobial resistance initiatives and

foster an environment that will enable sharing of best practices across countries.

Among the highlighted activities on this issue, the 3rd Global Antibiotic Awareness Week, which took place from 13-19 November 2017, called for stronger action from all sectors to stop the misuse and overuse of antibiotics in order to combat resistance. In Viet Nam, in response to this event, the Antibiotic Awareness

Week Launching event was organized in Vinh Phuc province on 13 November 2017, with the cooperation of the National Steering Committee for Antibiotic Resistance, the Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). This event, aimed at raising awareness about antibiotic resistance and the responsible use of antibiotics, recognized the strong commitment of the local community (Figure 3-4) ■



Figure 2: The 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits on 13 November 2017 (Source: news.abs-cbn.com)



Figure 3-4: Antibiotic Awareness Week activities organized on 13 November 2017 in Vinh Phuc province, Viet Nam (Source: FAO)

NEWS IN BRIEF

On 19 October 2017, a study showing that **influenza A(H7N9) is both transmissible and lethal in animals** was published by **Professor Yoshihiro Kawaoka from Tokyo University and other colleagues**. This resulted from characterizing a sample of H7N9 virus isolated from a patient who had died of influenza A(H7N9) in early 2017. According to the initial research findings, the gene that is transmissible and lethal in ferrets (a pinpoint animal for human infections) was detected. It is found that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H7N9 strains replicated efficiently in mice, ferrets, and/or nonhuman primates. All viruses transmitted among ferrets via respiratory droplets, and the neuraminidase-sensitive variant killed several of the infected and exposed animals. It happens to both the first infected animal and in other healthy animals that have close contact with the infected animals. This is the first case of HPAI A strains transmission among ferrets causing deaths. These results suggest that the highly pathogenic H7N9 virus has pandemic potential and should be closely monitored. Up to now, there is no case of influenza A(H7N9) to be detected in animals and humans in Viet Nam. Ministry of Health will continue to work closely with Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with experts from WHO, FAO, to strictly monitor the situation of influenza A(H7N9) for timely implementation of disease prevention and control (Via the General Department of Preventive Medicine/MOH) ■

On 26-27 September 2017, a closing workshop of the project **"Studies about influenza at the animal-human interface and other zoonotic diseases in Viet Nam, 2012-2017"** was held by the Department of Animal Health (DAH) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Da Nang. The project, which was implemented from October 2012 to September 2017, has brought about positive effects within the animal health sector in Viet Nam, especially in zoonotic diseases prevention and control. Some outcomes that can be listed include: **(1)** Over 1,500 trained veterinarians and health workers from central and local agencies; **(2)** Significant improvement in epidemiological capacity and

laboratory equipment serving for avian influenza and rabies in the central and local veterinary agencies; **(3)** Successful implementation of influenza surveillance studies in humans, pigs (at slaughterhouses), and in pigs and poultry (in households, livestock farms and poultry markets) at key areas of breeding and high risk of influenza and rabies; **(4)** Support for the participation in training programs, national and international conferences and workshops on avian influenza and rabies in Viet Nam and other countries; **(5)** Effective cooperation that in turns leads to the signing of a long term Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DAH and US CDC; **(6)** Support for government agencies and enterprises in site visits and study tours for learning new technologies and techniques for MARD's current high priority vaccination program for livestock in Viet Nam. Taking into account DAH's proposal, these significant achievements together with effective project implementation during 2012-2017 are a good basis for US CDC to continue the support for a new phase (October 2017 - September 2022) with the following main activities: **(i)** Active monitoring of influenza and rabies; **(ii)** Basic and advanced training to build capacity in epidemiology and laboratory for influenza and rabies; and **(iii)** Research and production of commercial vaccines to prevent serious infectious diseases (Via DAH/MARD) ■

The **6th meeting of the Food Safety Working Group (FSWG)** was organized on 25 October 2017, with the participation of MARD agencies, development partners and other national and international partners. The 6th meeting of FSWG focused on the implementation of the *National Action Plan (NAP) for management of antibiotic use and control of antibiotic resistance in livestock production and aquaculture, 2017-2020*, encouraging the involvement of enterprises and other stakeholders in the reduction of antibiotic usage in order to combat antimicrobial resistance. The main proposed recommendations of the groups are: identifying gaps in the awareness of all stakeholders for appropriate communication and interventions, aiming at comprehensive actions from all targeted groups; and providing more detailed guidance to farmers. Key outcomes that were achieved after the meeting include: (i) Increased participation of private sector in the FSWG,

(ii) Enterprises are encouraged to better investment in products that could also support to address antimicrobial resistance in fisheries and livestock, for example providing alternative measures for antibiotics in animal feeds, (iii) Consumers and social civil organizations should be more effectively involved in the implementation of the NAP, and (iv) More evidence is needed for prohibition of antibiotics use by producers. The next group meeting is planned to be organized in January 2018 ■

On the occasion of celebrating 10 years of cooperation between the National Institute of Veterinary Research (NIVR), the Hanoi University of Public Health (HUPH) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), a meeting was organized on 19 October 2017 to review joint projects and research activities on One Health and EcoHealth, with the participation of representatives from the three agencies and related partners. The key question to address is how to better communicate research findings to policy makers and strengthen close and effective collaboration in future projects. Mr. Nguyen Viet Hung, East and Southeast Asia Coordinator of ILRI stated that the tri-partite One Health research includes assessment and intervention in the areas of i) Food safety, ii) Zoonoses, and iii) the Environment. By summarizing research findings and collaboration throughout the past 10 years, opportunities will be created for better information sharing and policy advocacy for One Health research ■

THE VIET NAM ONE HEALTH UNIVERSITY NETWORK (VOHUN) CELEBRATES ITS SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

The Viet Nam One Health University Network (VOHUN) was established in 2011 with the support of USAID through the RESPOND project. The second phase of the project, entitled One Health Workforce (OHW), has been implemented with the objective of developing a One Health approach through training and research activities in universities. It also aims to build a generation of medical and veterinary staff with adequate knowledge and practical skills in the prevention of human and animal transmission. Over the past 6 years, the Network has gained many proud achievements in the training and development of human resources, including:

- Using 07 One Health core competencies and 08 technical modules to develop a number of One Health training programs (independent or integrated).
- Developing case studies to be used for teaching and training.
- Providing lecturers and students with opportunities to attend international exchange programs on One Health profession and core competencies in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.
- Training 200 lecturers (122 human health lecturers and 78 animal health lecturers) and 100 staff (50 health staff and 50 animal health staff) on One Health.
- Establishing 12 One Health Student Clubs with 777 students in the two sectors.

In recognition of the members who contributed to the establishment of the Network and the sixth anniversary of its founding, the VOHUN National Coordinating Office in collaboration with Hanoi university of Public Health organized the “VOHUN Sixth Anniversary and One Health Competition,” with the participation of lecturers and students from member Universities of the Network and partners’ representatives. The event occurred in a warm and joyful atmosphere. It can be seen that VOHUN’s notable achievements during the previous period will continuously generate its motivation to gain new successes in One Health workforce development, contributing to the joint One Health efforts of the country ■



Figure 5-6: VOHUN’s Sixth Anniversary and One Health competition (Source: VOHUN National Coordinating Office)

PREPARING FOR VIET NAM'S ANNUAL ONE HEALTH FORUM – THE FIRST “RESEARCH-TO-POLICY” WORKSHOP HELD IN HANOI

Within the cooperation framework of One Health Partnership (OHP) between the Government of Viet Nam and national and international partners, the Annual One Health Forum is an important international event, bringing together policy makers, donors and representatives of 27 OHP members. In order to accumulate solid and convincing research evidence for effective policy advocacy at the Annual One Health Forums, a series of One Health Partnership “Research-to-Policy” workshops will be organized every six months. The first workshop was conducted in Hanoi on 12 December 2017, with the following objectives: (i) Strengthening collaboration, networking and information sharing about One Health research activities; and (ii) Integrating research results and recommendations that can be presented to policy makers and discussed at the Annual One Health Forum.

The workshop was chaired by Mr. Tran Kim Long, Director-General of the International Cooperation Department (ICD), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) cum Director of the ‘Strengthening capacity for the implementation of One Health in Viet Nam - Phase 2’ (SCO2) project, supported by USAID and UNDP. Giving remarks at the workshop, Mr. Long said: “While the Research to Policy Meetings are a new initiative of the Partnership, they build on a strong foundation of policy dialogue between national and international partners in Viet Nam through the One Health Partnership,



Figure 7: Mr. Tran Kim Long, Director General of ICD, MARD cum Director of the SCO2 project gave speech at the 1st “Research-to-Policy” Workshop (Source: OHP Secretariat)

and the previous PAHI partnership. Since 2006, many different partnership meetings have been organized, providing an effective bridge between the Government of Viet Nam and international partners to discuss policy and technical issues, bringing together different sectors and related stakeholders. The six-monthly Research to Policy Meetings are expected to become a backbone for the annual One Health Forum, providing clear and convincing evidence on One Health policy issues.” The One Health Partnership Secretariat has already identified around 100 completed, ongoing and planned One Health researches/studies in Viet Nam. It is expected that following the first “Research-to-Policy” Workshop, the Annual One Health Forum meeting will be organized in the first quarter of 2018 ■

RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTER-MINISTERIAL CIRCULAR NO. 16 ON ZOOBOTIC DISEASES PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN SOME PROVINCES

In 2013, the Inter-Ministerial Circular No. 16/2013/TTLT-BYT-BNN&PTNT on “Guidelines for coordinated prevention and control of zoonotic diseases” was issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Ministry of Health (MOH), providing detailed instruction on strengthening coordination between the human health and animal health sectors on periodic reporting, regular surveillance, investigation and response to outbreaks, as well as communication, training and scientific research on zoonotic diseases prevention and control.

To report the results of a project on strengthening the implementation of the Joint Circular 16 between the human health and animal health sectors in 4 provinces, namely Ha Giang, Thanh Hoa, Quang Nam and Binh Dinh, and to give recommendations for the way forward, a meeting was held on 22 November 2017 at the General Department of Preventive Medicine (GDPM) with the participation of leaders and

representatives from GDPM, the Department of Animal Health (DAH), the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the One Health Partnership Secretariat, and the USAID-funded Preparedness & Response (P&R) project.

The implementation results in four provinces demonstrate that Circular No. 16 is not only a guiding document for the two sectors to actively collaborate in prevention and control of zoonotic diseases, but is also a basis for developing inter-sectoral documents at all levels, supporting managers to direct disease prevention and control activities in an appropriate manner. Nevertheless, a number of difficulties and limitations remain, including: a lack of regular funding for inter-sectoral collaboration activities; a shortage of regular monitoring support from higher levels; insufficient human resources in both sectors, especially in the animal health sector at the local

level; limited allowances/incentives, leading to low motivation; inadequate working facilities that do not meet the requirements, particularly at the commune level and in the animal health sector; the limited capacity of staff at the commune level (for example, on information and technology, surveillance, reporting, and outbreak handling techniques); and unequal attention to zoonotic diseases.

In this context, several comments and recommendations were given in order to more effectively implement the Circular in the upcoming time, including:

- Developing an annual joint plan and budget for inter-sectoral collaboration, for approval by the Provincial People's Committee. It is also recommended to plan the monitoring and supervision of the implementing of Circular No. 16 at all levels.
- It is crucial to disseminate Circular No. 16 to the lower levels, and to develop and issue detailed and

feasible guidelines for the implementation of the Circular.

- Investment plans on human resources, facilities, remuneration and capacity building for staff at all levels are required.
- The application of report forms under Circular No.54 (for the human health sector) on inter-sectoral information sharing is also under consideration. In addition, it is recommended to utilize available disease response teams in each sector instead of inter-sectoral teams (given that agreement between the two sectoral teams will be ensured during planning, implementing and reporting processes).

These results were shared at the first OHP "Research-to-Policy" workshop for further discussion on measures to address burning issues, aiming at an effective implementation of the Circular in the time to come ■

RELEVANT LEGAL DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MARD

Official Letter No. 9167/BNN-TY dated 01 November 2017 by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on making the plan and allocating budget for zoonotic diseases prevention and control in 2018;

Circular No. 20/2017/TT-BNNPTNT dated 10 November 2017 by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on promulgating guidelines for the implementation of Decree No. 39/2017/ND-CP by the Government on managing livestock and aquaculture feeds.

DOCUMENT ISSUED BY MOH

Decision No. 1482/QD-BYT dated 18 April 2017 by the Minister of Health on approving "Guidelines on monitoring and prevention of influenza A(H7N9)";

Decision No. 4448/QD-BYT dated 3 October 2017 by the Minister of Health on issuing the "Plan to implement the project on strengthening control over medicine prescription and the sale of prescription medicines for the period 2017-2020" under Decision No. 4041/QD-BYT dated 7 September 2017 by the Minister of Health;

Decision No. 4607/QD-BYT dated 11 October 2017 by the Minister of Health on issuing the "Integrated event-based surveillance Plan for Dengue fever, disease caused by Zika and Chikungunya viruses in Viet Nam for the period of 2017-2020";

Decision No. 5083/QD-BYT dated 09 November 2017 by the Minister of Health on issuing "Technical guidelines on thermal fog spray for the prevention and control of Dengue fever and Zika virus disease";

Official Letter No. 1745/KCB-DD dated 29 November 2017 by the Medical Services Administration of the Ministry of Health to Heads of Departments of Health and Leaders of Health Department in all sectors, and Directors of Hospitals and Research Institutes under the Ministry of Health on strengthening infection control in hospitals.

ONE HEALTH EVENTS

January 2018

Training on surveillance and response to influenza (H7N9) including inter-sectoral collaboration between the animal health and human health sectors

USCDC, NIHE
January 2018; 6 border provinces and Bac Giang province

PREDICT-2 All Country Meeting

WCS
09-11/01/2018, Brussels

Technical planning workshop - SafePORK project

ILRI
17/01/2018; Hanoi

Metropolitan mosquitoes team project start-up meeting

ILRI
23/01/2018; Hanoi

Gender training - SafePORK project

ILRI, VNUA
25-26/01/2018; Hanoi

February 2018
02 workshops in northern and southern provinces to develop a OH Communication Strategy for Zoonotic diseases OHP, NAEC February 2018
Implementing surveillance on avian influenza in live poultry markets in 10 provinces USCDC, DAH February 2018
March 2018
Annual One Health Forum Viet Nam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses March 2018; Ha Noi (tentatively)
One Health Communication Network (OHCN) quarterly meeting – Quarterly 1/2018 OHCN members March 2018; Hoa Binh/ Vinh Phuc province (tentatively)
LISN National Data Sharing Meeting WCS March 2018 (tentatively)
5th International One Health Congress 22-25 June 2018; Saskatoon, Canada
RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN ONE HEALTH
Mingling of human and veterinary strains of Staphylococcus aureus: An emerging issue in health-care systems. Sara Giordana Rimoldi, Annamaria Di Gregorio, Vittorio Sala, Eleonora De Faveri, Cristina Pagani, Pietro Olivieri, Claudio Savi, Anna Lisa Ridolfo, Antona Carlo and Maria Rita Gismondo; International Journal of One Health, 3: 77-82; Available online: 28 November 2017. http://www.onehealthjournal.org/Vol.3/12.pdf
An investigation into aflatoxin M1 in slaughtered fattening pigs and awareness of aflatoxins in Vietnam Hu Suk Lee, Lindahl, J., Hung Nguyen-Viet, Nguyen Viet Khong, Vuong Bui Nghia, Huyen Nguyen Xuan and Grace; D. BMC Veterinary Research 13: 363; Available online: 28 November 2017. https://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12917-017-1297-8
Prevention, detection, and response to anthrax outbreak in Northern Tanzania using a One Health approach: A case study of Selela ward in Monduli district. Elibariki R. Mwakapeje, Justine A. Assenga, John S. Kunda, Ernest E. Mjingo, Zachariah E. Makondo, Hezron E. Nonga, Robinson H. Mdegela and Eystein Skjerve; International Journal of One Health, 3: 66-76; Available online: 4 November 2017. http://www.onehealthjournal.org/Vol.3/11.pdf
Human Brucella melitensis infections in southern Vietnam Campbell JI, Lan NPH, Phuong PM, Chau LB, Trung Pham Duc, Guzmán-Verri C, Ruiz-Villalobos N, Minh TPT, Muñoz Álvaro PM, Moreno E, Thwaites GE, Rabaa MA, Chau NVV, Baker S; Clin Microbiol Infect. 2017 Nov; 23(11):788-790. doi: 10.1016/j.cmi.2017.06.028. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28669842
Exposure risk factors for Talaromyces marneffeii infection in Vietnam Andrew H Limper, Antoine Adenis, Thuy Le, Thomas S Harrison www.thelancet/infection; Published online July 31, 2017 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(17)30303-1
A Highly Pathogenic Avian H7N9 Influenza Virus Isolated from A Human Is Lethal in Some Ferrets Infected via Respiratory Droplets Yoshihiro Kawaoka et al; Cell Host & Microbe. November 2017 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chom.2017.09.008