

CONTENTS

1	VIET NAM SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZED THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ZOO NOTIC DISEASES ACTION PACKAGE (ZDAP) OF THE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA (GHSA)
3	STRENGTHENING NATIONAL EFFORTS IN COMBATING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN VIET NAM
4	INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE SOUTHERN VIET NAM PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER IN THE PASTEUR INSTITUTE, HO CHI MINH CITY
5	NEWS IN BRIEF
6	VIET NAM RESPONDS TO WORLD RABIES DAY 2017
7	RELEVANT LEGAL DOCUMENTS
8	ONE HEALTH EVENTS
	ONE HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

VIET NAM SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZED THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ZOO NOTIC DISEASES ACTION PACKAGE (ZDAP) OF THE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA (GHSA)

From 29-30 August 2017, the 3rd International Conference on the zoonotic diseases prevention and control took place in Da Nang, Viet Nam, chaired by Viet Nam, Indonesia and Senegal. The Conference focused on strengthening cooperation and sharing effective approaches to zoonotic diseases such as Avian Influenza and Ebola, Rabies, etc.

Building on previous Conferences in Ha Noi, Viet Nam (2015) and Jakarta, Indonesia (2016), the 3rd Conference aimed at reviewing the progress of the action plan over the past two years, and identifying lessons and next steps to strengthen and coordinate prevention, surveillance, and response capacities to minimise the spill over and transmission of zoonotic diseases from animals (both domestic and wild) to human. A new coordination mechanism for countries and organizations participating in this initiative was also introduced.

(see next page)

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL EFFORTS IN COMBATING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN VIET NAM

The discovery of antibiotics from the beginning of the 1940s was a great turning point in the medical history of humankind. Antibiotics have saved millions of people from dying of infections. However, natural selection process of bacteria as well as the inappropriate use of antibiotics in the human health sector and the agriculture sector are among the causes of increased antibiotic resistance of pathogenic bacteria. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has great impact on the economy and general development of the society, not only in Viet Nam but also all over the world, especially in this era of globalization.

According to a recent report, by 2050, an estimated 10 million people will die every year due to AMR unless a global response to the problem is mounted¹. Recognizing the importance of the issue, in order to cope with accelerating antimicrobial resistance, on 21 June 2013, Minister of Health issued Decision No. 2174 /QĐ-BYT

on the approval of the National Action Plan (NAP) on antimicrobial resistance for the period 2013-2020. Subsequently, on 24 June 2015, the Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), international organizations and development partners in Viet Nam signed an Aide Memoire to combat antimicrobial resistance.

After four years of the National Action Plan and two years of the Aide Memoire implementation, on 21 September 2017, in Ha Noi, MOH in collaboration with MARD, MOIT and MONRE organized a workshop to review the implementation of phase 1 of the NAP on Antimicrobial Resistance. Dr Kidong Park, World Health Organization Representative in Viet Nam, expressed high appreciation for Viet Nam's efforts and contribution to the battle against AMR worldwide. Viet Nam is one of the first six countries

(see page 3)

¹Will 10 Million People Die a Year due to Antimicrobial Resistance by 2050?; Marlieke E. A. de Kraker, Andrew J. Stewardson, and Stephan Harbarth



Participants in the 3rd International ZDAP Conference which was held in Da Nang, Viet Nam from 29-30 August 2017 (Source: OHP Secretariat)

Viet Nam was represented at the Conference by Vice Minister Nguyen Thanh Long of the Ministry of Health and Vice Minister Vu Van Tam of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Conference co-chairs included Dr Fuadi Darwis, Senior Advisor of the Advisory Board, National Disaster Management Authority of the Government of Indonesia, and Dr Papa Serigne Seck, Technical Advisor of the Prime Minister of Senegal in charge of Animal Health, Livestock and Fisheries. Around 170 delegates attended, including 117 participants from 16 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America and 49 participants from 16 international and domestic organizations. Technical advice to the meeting was provided by international organizations including the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organization for Animal Health, and other development partners.

With the theme of **“Strengthening Cooperation and Sharing Effective Approaches,”** nine sessions were convened during the two-day event, resulting in important outcomes as well as proposed follow-up activities in the upcoming time, as follows:

- Endorsement of the updated **ZDAP Strategic Plan (2015-2019)** as an important document setting out baseline information, gaps and challenges, expected activities, achievements and plans at global, regional and country levels in achieving the ZDAP five-year goal, objectives and desired impacts.
- Endorsement of the **ZDAP Coordination Mechanism** as a practical and effective approach to strengthening ZDAP coordination, building on the achievements to date.

- A recommendation that the leading and contributing countries, contributing organizations and key partners should move ahead to ensure the implementation of the **ZDAP Coordination Mechanism**, including: Applying the rotating model of chairing amongst the leading countries; Maintaining the contact list of ZDAP focal points; Leading countries should identify the timing for their regular working groups; Organizing regular tele/videoconferences of ZDAP leading and contributing countries, contributing organizations and partners; Further documenting best practices/models and sharing these within the ZDAP network; Organizing the next annual ZDAP Conference (Senegal 2018).
- To build on the successive conferences, implementation of the **ZDAP coordination mechanism** and the **ZDAP Strategic Plan**, ZDAP countries, organizations and partners should pay attention to planning and follow up activities, for example: Documenting and sharing their models; Ensuring their ZDAP focal point contacts are updated; Ensuring their participation in tele/videoconferences; Travel arrangements to participate in key events such as the GHS High-Level Meeting in October 2017 and the next ZDAP Conference in Senegal (in the role of the new ZDAP leading country) in 2018.

The positive results of the 3rd International ZDAP Conference and the strong commitment of ZDAP leading and contributing countries in strengthening collaboration in zoonotic diseases prevention and control provide a good example to other Action Packages of the GHS, creating more opportunities for countries to implement this important Agenda. Information about the event could be found at: <https://www.ghsagenda.org/>. ■

in the Asia Pacific region to develop and implement a National Action Plan on AMR.

At present, the four ministries (MOH, MARD, MOIT and MONRE) together with development partners are reviewing, supplementing and finalizing the National Action Plan on AMR from now to 2020 to be compatible with the practical situation and guiding documents of the Prime Minister. At the same time, this approach also needs to be reflected in the annual programs and plans of each Ministry and Department at central and local levels.

The National Hospital of Tropical Diseases and the Ho Chi Minh City Department of Health have demonstrated the great efforts from the human health sector to combat AMR, especially with the application of information technology in the control of antibiotics prescription and purchase, despite limited financial and human resources. With the attention and direction of the Government, the active involvement of relevant ministries and organizations, as well as active participation of the community, the AMR situation in Viet Nam is expected to record positive results in the upcoming time and to achieve the targets of the National Action Plan.



Joint efforts of human health and animal health sectors in fighting against AMR.

Minister Nguyen Thi Kim Tien of MOH speaking at the workshop to review the implementation of Phase 1 of the NAP on AMR – Ha Noi, 21/9/2017 (Source: MOH)



Vice Minister Vu Van Tam of MARD gave speech at the Launching Meeting for the NAP for the reduction of antimicrobial use and management of antimicrobial use (AMU) and control of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in livestock production and aquaculture (2017 – 2020) - Ha Noi, 2/8/2017 (Source: MARD)

Highlighted activities in the fight against AMR in Viet Nam

- Viet Nam has strongly responded to the World Health Organization's call warning of "No action today, no remedy tomorrow" in 2011 and is one of the first six countries in the Asia Pacific region to develop a National Action Plan on Antibiotic Resistance, 2013-2020.
- Establishment of a National Steering Committee on AMR for the period 2013-2020 (Decision No. 879/QD-BYT dated 13/3/2014 and Decision No. 5888/QD-BYT dated 10/10/2016).
- Establishment of nine Sub-Committees on AMR for the period 2013-2020 (Decision No. 2888/QD-BYT dated 05/8/2014).
- Establishment and regulation of the roles and duties of the surveillance network for microbial-resistant bacteria in medical facilities (Decision No. 6211/QD-BYT dated 17/10/2016).
- Establishment of the National AMR Surveillance Unit under the Department of Medical Services Administration (Decision No. 3391/QD-BYT dated 14/8/2015).
- Development and issuance of legal documents and training materials to improve awareness of health officials in microbiology and management of antibiotic use.
- Promoting communication activities for raising awareness of the community and health officials about antibiotics and AMR; Launching and signing the commitment on responsible use of antibiotics and organizing the annual AMR week every November.
- Endorsement of the Viet Nam One Health Strategic Plan for Zoonotic Diseases, 2016 – 2020, in which AMR is one of the focus areas.
- Developing and promulgating the National Action Plan for the reduction of antimicrobial use and management of antibiotic use and control of antibiotic resistance in livestock production and aquaculture (2017 – 2020) (Decision No. 2625/QD-BNN-TY dated 21/6/2017) ■

INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE SOUTHERN VIET NAM PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER IN THE PASTEUR INSTITUTE, HO CHI MINH CITY



Inauguration Ceremony of the Southern Viet Nam Public Health Emergency Operations Center, Pasteur Institute, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam (Source: MOH)

In order to actively and effectively respond to public health events, especially dangerous and emerging diseases, in 2014 the Ministry of Health of Viet Nam committed to participate in the Global Health Security Agenda (GHS), including active contribution to the development and completion of Emergency Operations Centres (EOC).

On 23 August 2017, the Southern EOC Office of Viet Nam was inaugurated at the Pasteur Institute, Ho Chi Minh City. The Ceremony was attended by the Minister Nguyen Thi Kim Tien and Vice Minister of Health Nguyen Thanh Long of the Ministry of Health of Viet Nam, Mr Ted Osius, Ambassador of the United States to Viet Nam, Mr Thomas Price, US Department of Health and Human Services, and leaders of agencies under the Ministry of Health, representatives of international organizations such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations

Children's Fund (UNICEF), and many other national and international media agencies.

Speaking at the Ceremony, Minister Nguyen Thi Kim Tien stated that, in the context of globalization, epidemics and public health problems are threats not only to Viet Nam but also to the whole world. Diseases can be transmitted across borders and can rapidly spread within hours or several days across continents. The establishment and operation of EOCs is one of Viet Nam's concrete actions showing its commitment to the GHS.

It also demonstrates the effective support of the U.S. Government through the U.S. CDC and other international organizations for disease prevention and control activities in Viet Nam.

The inauguration of the northern EOC in the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in 2016 and the southern EOC at the Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City in 2017 are important milestones in the roadmap for the establishment and operation of the EOC system in Viet Nam. They will support quick public health information gathering from various sources, information analysis and sharing for timely and effective planning to respond to public health emergencies in the area. The Minister believes that, with the support of the US Government and international organizations, EOCs in the Central region, the Central Highlands, and other key provinces and cities of Viet Nam, will be further established and operated, creating a complete EOC network that will enable Viet Nam to actively and promptly respond to public health events./.

On 21 August 2017, Decision No. 3796/QĐ-BYT on the establishment of the **Viet Nam Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC)** was issued by the Minister of Health. The PHEOC belongs to Ministry of Health's Steering Committee for Disease Prevention and Control, which was established under Decision No. 1424/QĐ-BYT dated 02/5/2013 and consolidated under Decision No. 3299/QĐ-BYT dated 06/9/2013 by the Minister of Health. The standing PHEOC is located at the General Department of Preventive Medicine of the Ministry of Health. Four regional standing offices will be located at the National Institute for Hygiene and Epidemiology, the Tay Nguyen Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, and the Pasteur Institutes in Nha Trang City and Ho Chi Minh City. It is expected that the next two EOCs will be established in the Central region and the Central Highlands in 2018 ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dengue is a global public health problem and is considered by the World Health Organization (WHO) to be one of the most important vector-borne diseases.

The disease circulates in more than 100 countries with hundreds of millions of cases annually. In Viet Nam, dengue is also a very serious public health problem. In 2017, dengue outbreaks have occurred in many provinces and cities, lasting for several months with a higher total number of cases compared to the previous year. Dengue is transmitted through the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which is circulating in almost every province or city in Viet Nam. Currently, the prevention of the epidemic is very difficult because there is no vaccine as well as no specific medical treatment. The main prevention measure is mosquito control. In order to contribute more effectively to the prevention of mosquitoes, many different measures are being studied and evaluated. One of the promising measures has been piloted on Tri Nguyen Island, Nha Trang City, Khanh Hoa Province, through breeding local mosquitoes with the Wolbachia bacteria, and then releasing them into the environment. This method is expected to have great potential for long-term control of dengue fever and Zika. The results obtained after trials in other countries indicate that this is a safe method. Wolbachia-carrying mosquitoes do not cause any problems to human health or the ecological environment. Detailed information about the method is available at: <http://loaitrusotxuathuyet.vn> ■

Within the framework of the Antibiotic Awareness Week (AAW) 2017, the Asia and Pacific (RAP) Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is holding a Photos Essay Contest for the first time in Asia. The theme will be good animal husbandry practices to strengthen the prevention and control of infections. With the message **“Better livestock - No fear of contamination,”** the Photo Essay Contest aims to raise awareness of antibiotic resistance (AMR) and the risks from AMR, and to promote good practices in animal husbandry and aquaculture. Photo stories must highlight how good agricultural practices have contributed to reducing the risks of AMR. The AAW is co-organized by FAO, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO). A regional event will be conducted by RAP/FAO in Bangkok from 13 to 19 November 2017. National-level winners will be exhibited at the regional office. The contest begins at 12:00 am Bangkok time (Indochina) on September 4, 2017 and ends at 12:00 am on October 13, 2017. More information is available at: <http://bit.ly/2wN5oz3> ■

On 24-25 September 2017, the Annual Meeting 2017 of the Viet Nam One Health University Network (VOHUN) was organized in Vung Tau city by the VOHUN National Coordination Office, with the the chairmanship of Dr Trinh Dinh Thau, Chairperson of the Network, and the attendance of representatives from 18 University/Faculty members. The aim of this meeting is to: (i) Summarise and assess the successes and shortcomings in the network’s activities in year 3, (ii) Discuss the implementation of activities for year 4 of the Network, taking into consideration all lessons learnt, and (iii) Agree on the detailed workplan for year 4 as well as the workplan for the upcoming 5 years. In particularly, the attendance of three new member universities as observers, namely Tra Vinh University, Vinh Long University of Technical Education, and Buon Me Thuot University, was warmly welcomed. Representatives from these three universities joined the planning session for the fourth year, in order to enhance their involvement as well as connection with other members of the network ■

VIET NAM RESPONDS TO WORLD RABIES DAY 2017

World Rabies Day is celebrated annually on September 28. On World Rabies Day 2017, the United Nations announced a global initiative to end deaths from dog-transmitted rabies by 2030. The plan “Zero by 30” centres on a One Health approach, addressing the disease in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner while highlighting the important role veterinary, health and educational services play in rabies prevention and control.²



Viet Nam’s World Rabies Day celebration in Bac Giang City – 27 September 2017 (Source: OHP Secretariat)

In Viet Nam, on 27 September 2017, in response to World Rabies Day, Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO) and other One Health partners committed to work together toward “Rabies: Zero by 2030”. Both the animal health and human health sectors stand united to promote rabies elimination to policy makers, animal health and public health professionals, dog owners and the general public.

So far this year, 57 people in 29 provinces and cities have died of rabies. This is equal to the number of human deaths in only 22 provinces in mid-September last year. The Viet Nam government is now facing



Veterinarian and dog owner collaborate on dog vaccination - Viet Nam’s World Rabies Day celebration in Bac Giang city – 27 September 2017 (Source: OHP Secretariat)

the challenge of rabies spreading to more provinces nationwide.

Dr Pham Van Dong, Director of Department of Animal Health and Dr Tran Dac Phu, Director of General Department of Preventive Medicine stated that “Rabies elimination in humans by 2030 is feasible if at least 70% of all dogs are vaccinated and people who get bitten seek urgent vaccine and medical attention. We would like to urge local authorities at all levels to work closely with the public health and the animal health sectors, to provide your stronger leadership and sufficient resources to control rabies.”

“In order to achieve zero human rabies by 2030, the Government of Viet Nam needs to take stronger action, especially in dog population management, dog vaccination coverage and timely provision of treatment for bite victims. FAO and WHO commit to provide our technical assistance to support MARD and MOH,” FAO Representative to Viet Nam, Mr JongHa Bae, and WHO Representative to Viet Nam, Dr Kidong Park, jointly affirmed.

Worldwide rabies causes an estimated 59,000 deaths every year. These deaths could be prevented through three key measures, including vaccinating dogs, avoiding dog bites, and seeking medical care from an authorised professional after getting bitten by a dog. There is no cure for rabies once symptoms develop, and rabies victims invariably suffer a slow, painful death. However, swiftly provided post-bite treatment can help avoid deaths and human suffering ■

(Reference: FAO)

² <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57762#.WdIZCI-CzDd>

RELEVANT LEGAL DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE

Directive No. 31/CT-TTg dated 06 July 2017 by the Prime Minister on strengthening urgent measures for rabies prevention and control.

Decree No. 90/2017/ND-CP dated 31 July 2017 by the Prime Minister on sanctioning administrative violations in animal health sector.

Official Telegraph No. 1106/CD-TTg dated 27 July 2017 by the Prime Minister on enhancing prevention and control activities for dengue fever.

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MARD

Decision No. 2625/QD-BNN-TY dated 21 June 2017 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on issuing the National Action Plan for the management of antibiotic use and control of antibiotic resistance in livestock production and aquaculture (2017 – 2020)

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MOH

Official Letter No. 4746/BYT-DP dated 22 August 2017 from the Ministry of Health to Chairpersons of People's Committees of central provinces and cities on completing and maintaining collaborator groups for dengue fever prevention and control.

Official Letter No. 4758 and 4759 dated 22 August 2017 by the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Education and Training on strengthening coordination on combating dengue fever.

Official Letter No. 4825/BYT-KH-TC dated 25 August 2017 by the Ministry of Health to Ministries, ministerial-level agencies, governmental agencies and People's Committees of provinces and central cities on ensuring the fund for the prevention and control of dengue fever and allowance for epidemic prevention activities.

Official Letter No. 4911/BYT-DP dated 30 August 2017 by the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on strengthening coordination in combating dengue fever.

Urgent Official Letter No. 1062/DP-DT dated 6 September 2017 by the General Department of Preventive Medicine to Directors of Departments of Health at provincial and city levels on strengthening avian influenza prevention and control activities.

Decision No. 3796/QD-BYT dated 21 August 2017 of the Minister of Health on the establishment of the Public Health Emergency Operations Center of Viet Nam

ONE HEALTH EVENTS

October 2017

One Health Communication Network (OHCN) quarterly meeting

OHCN members
12/10/2017; Ha Noi

Developing Master's curriculum (public health) veterinary medicine

One Health Workforce
10/2017

02 meetings of the National Steering Committee on public health laboratories

WHO, GDPM, 4 Ris
10/2017; Ha Noi

Viet Nam - Cambodia cross border meeting

FAO, DAH
2-3 October 2017; Siem Reap, Cambodia

Coordinated Surveillance (LISN) quarterly meeting

WHO, NIHE and Pasteur Institute in HCMC and EPT-2
10/2017; Quang Ninh and Dong Thap

A meeting for the finalization of Decree No. 103/2010/ND-CP

WHO, GDPM
10/2017; Ho Chi Minh City

LISN data analysis workshop

FAO
20/10/2017; Ho Chi Minh City

<p>GHSA Ministerial Meeting GHSA 25-27/10/2017; Kampala, Uganda</p>
<p>November 2017</p>
<p>Workshop “Sharing experience in Intersectoral coordination in Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance and Response in Viet Nam” NIHE, National Hospital for Tropical Diseases 31/10-1/11/2017, Ha Noi</p>
<p>World One Health Day 3/11/2017</p>
<p>AMR Awareness Week FAO 13-19/11/2017; Ha Noi</p>
<p>LISN national information sharing workshop FAO 22/11/2017; Ha Noi</p>
<p>6th anniversary of VOHUN VOHUN 25/11/2017; Ha Noi</p>
<p>December 2017</p>
<p>One Health Communication Network (OHCN) quarterly meeting OHCN members 12/2017; Ha Noi</p>
<p>5th International One Health Congress 22-25/6/2018; Saskatoon, Canada</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ONE HEALTH PUBLICATIONS</p>
<p>Antibiotic sales in rural and urban pharmacies in northern Viet Nam: an observational study. Nga D.T.T, Chuc NTK, Hoa N.P, et al. BMC Pharmacology & Toxicology. 2014; 15:6. DOI: 10.1186/2050-6511-15-6. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24555709</p>
<p>Point-of-care C-reactive protein testing to reduce inappropriate use of antibiotics for non-severe acute respiratory infections in Vietnamese primary health care: a randomised controlled trial. Do NTT, Ta NTD, Tran NTH, et al. The Lancet Global Health. 2016; 4(9):e633-e641. DOI: 10.1016/S2214-109X(16)30142-5. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27495137</p>
<p>Will 10 Million People Die a Year due to Antimicrobial Resistance by 2050? De Kraker MEA, Stewardson AJ, Harbarth S. PLoS Medicine. 2016; 13(11):e1002184. DOI:10.1371/journal.pmed.1002184. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5127510/</p>
<p>Prevalence of Selected Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Agents in Dogs and Cats on the Pine Ridge Reservation A. Valeria Scorza and Michael R. Lappin Vet. Sci. 2017, 4(3), 43; DOI: 10.3390/vetsci4030043 http://www.mdpi.com/2306-7381/4/3/43</p>
<p>Foodborne Disease and the Need for Greater Foodborne Disease Surveillance in the Caribbean Brendan Lee Vet. Sci. 2017, 4(3), 40; DOI: 10.3390/vetsci4030040 http://www.mdpi.com/2306-7381/4/3/40</p>
<p>A Comparison of Three Holistic Approaches to Health: One Health, EcoHealth, and Planetary Health Henrik Lerner and Charlotte Berg Front. Vet. Sci., 29 September 2017 https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2017.00163 https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2017.00163/full</p>