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STRENGTHENING ONE HEALTH COOPERATION IN LINE WITH THE NATIONAL ONE HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN (OHSP), 2016-2020

Building on the results of two previous integrated operational national programs—the Integrated Operational Program for Avian and Human Influenza (OPI, 2006-2010) and the Viet Nam Integrated National Operational Program on Avian influenza, Pandemic preparedness and Emerging infectious Diseases (AIPED, 2011-2015)—the Viet Nam One Health Strategic Plan for Zoonotic Diseases (OHSP), 2016-2020 was developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Ministry of Health (MOH), members of the Viet Nam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses (OHP), and other related national and international agencies and organizations. It was officially approved by MARD according to Decision No. 5273/QD-BNN-HTQT dated 19 December 2016.

(see next page)

CONTINUED INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS TO THE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA AND ONE HEALTH APPROACH

On 31 May 2017, during an official visit to the United States of America, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam had a discussion with the President Donald J. Trump of the United States of America at the White House to chart an agenda for United States-Viet Nam relations, building on the positive momentum of the Comprehensive Partnership between the two countries.

The two countries pledged to continue to work together to address global challenges, including environmental protection, **global health security**, and trafficking in persons and wildlife. The United States expressed support for Viet Nam in its development of a national reference laboratory to enhance Viet Nam's ability to



The meeting between the Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and President Donald J. Trump during the official visit to the United States in May 2017. (Source: dantri.com.vn)

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The OHSP sets out a 5-year plan for the continued development of Viet Nam’s One Health capacities for reducing the health and other impacts of zoonotic diseases. The emphasis is on further development of core One Health competencies and attention to nationally-defined priority areas and diseases, with the following three objectives: (i) Strengthening One Health capacity for the prevention and control of all zoonotic diseases; (ii) Enhancing preparedness for a human emergency of animal origin; and (iii) Applying One Health principles to limit the public health impact of current priority zoonotic diseases.

In order to introduce the objectives and key contents of the OHSP and to promote One Health implementation in Viet Nam, a Meeting on “Strengthening One Health cooperation in Viet Nam in line with the National One Health Strategic



Participants in the Meeting on “Strengthening One Health cooperation in Viet Nam in line with the National One Health Strategic Plan (OHSP), 2016-2020” on 12 July 2017 in Ha Noi (Source: OHP Secretariat)

Plan (OHSP), 2016-2020” was held on 12 July 2017 in Ha Noi, co-chaired by Vice Minister Vu Van Tam of MARD together with Vice Minister Nguyen Thanh Long of MOH, Mr. Michael Greene, Mission Director for Viet Nam of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Ms. Akiko Fujii, Acting Country Director of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Participating in the Conference, representatives of national partners including the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment and international partners such as USAID, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), international banks including the World Bank, and the Asian

Development Bank, multilateral partners including the United Nations agencies and the Delegation of the European Union to Viet Nam, bilateral partners including the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the British Embassy in Ha Noi, other research institutes and Non-Governmental Organizations including ILRI, OUCRU, VOHUN, CIRAD, WCS, and the USAID/EPT-2 Preparedness and Response (P&R) project, had a chance to share previous and on-going coordinated One Health activities, as well as future plans, projects and programs, and expectations on collaboration with the Government of Viet Nam. This has demonstrated the strong commitment of national and international partners in preventing and

responding to emerging infectious diseases at the human-animal-environment interface.

Providing remarks at the meeting, MARD Vice Minister Vu Van Tam expressed his appreciation for the contributions and support from international organizations and donors over the past decade and recognised the positive results achieved by

One Health cooperation activities in Viet Nam. Vice Minister Vu Van Tam expressed his strong expectation that—building on successes over the past ten years—the OHSP will be implemented effectively to reduce the health and other impacts of zoonotic diseases in Viet Nam, contributing to overall national, regional and global efforts ■

detect emerging disease threats in the region. The two countries also affirmed their strong support for the **Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)** to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats.

Another momentous event was the G20 Summit 2017 that was held in Hamburg, Germany on 7-8 July 2017, with the declaration of “Shaping an Interconnected World.” In the Summit’s Session on health issues, the importance of international cooperation in response to epidemics was emphasised by G20 countries. Particularly, the role of the United Nations and the World Health Organization in prediction, prevention and control of diseases, especially transboundary diseases, was highlighted. What is more, the application of a **One Health** approach was noted, and a call for more efforts to combat antimicrobial

resistance (AMR) by controlling the use of antibiotics in humans, plants and animals was also issued by the G20 countries. Before that, notable issues such as global health crisis management, strengthening health and antimicrobial resistance systems, as well as joint commitment and action towards healthier future were also mentioned in the **Berlin Declaration**, which was adopted in the G20 Health Ministers Meeting to be organised from 19-20 May, 2017.

To conclude, these activities provide a good signal, demonstrating an increased high-level concern and firm commitment to international cooperation in implementing Global Health Security Agenda and applying One Health approach in emerging infectious diseases prevention and control ■

THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ZOOONOTIC DISEASES ACTION PACKAGE (ZDAP 2017) IN DA NANG, VIET NAM

The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) is a partnership of over 50 nations, international organizations, and non-governmental stakeholders building the capacity of the participating countries to help create a world safe and secure from infectious disease threats and to elevate global health security as a national and global priority. In 11 GHSA Action Packages, the Zoonotic Diseases Action Package (ZDAP) has the purpose of strengthening the capacities of the GHSA participating countries in order to detect, prevent, and respond to global public health threats arising mainly from zoonotic diseases that could cause an outbreak, pandemic or Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

Indonesia, Viet Nam and Senegal, as the current lead countries for ZDAP, have agreed on the organization of a series of successive annual meetings, bringing together lead and contributing countries and other key related stakeholders and interested partners. Building on the success of the first meeting took place in Ha Noi in August 2015 and the second meeting took

place in Jakarta in August 2016, the 3rd Coordination Conference for the Zoonotic Diseases Action Package (3rd International ZDAP Conference) will be organised in Viet Nam with following objectives:

- (i) **To strengthen cooperation and share best practices and key actions** among GHSA participating countries in implementing the Zoonotic Disease Action Package (ZDAP), and
- (ii) **To review progress made, lesson learned** including best practices and develop way forward to strengthen and integrate prevention, surveillance, laboratory, and response capacities to minimise the spill over and transmission of zoonotic diseases between animal (domestic and wild) and human populations.

It is proposed that the Conference will have participations from ZDAP lead and contributing countries, ASEAN+3, selected SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) & SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community) countries; the

current and upcoming Chairs of the GHSA Steering Group; GHSA contributing Organizations including WHO, FAO, OIE; GHSA Partners: multilateral and bilateral donors, international technical and research

organizations, non-governmental organizations; ASEAN, SAARC, SPC Secretariats. Observers from related national, regional and provincial organizations of Viet Nam will also join the event.



The 3rd International Conference for ZDAP on the GHSA website (Source: ghsagenda.org)

The 3rd ZDAP Conference is tentatively organized in **Da Nang, Viet Nam from 29-30 August 2017**. Key outcomes of the Conference will be important inputs for the GHSA Ministerial meeting in Kampala, Uganda on 25-27 October 2017 ■

REPORT ON THE JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS (JEE) OF VIET NAM TO BE RELEASED BY WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

In 2016, the Ministry of Health (MOH) of Viet Nam in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and related ministerial/sectorial agencies undertook a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) related to the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005). The main objectives of the JEE were to evaluate Viet Nam's capacities in relation to the 19 technical areas of the JEE, in order to inform a multi-year national action plan using the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED III) as a framework. The JEE report findings were drafted and finalised by the WHO Evaluation Team, taking into account comments from the Ministry

of Health and other related agencies.

The main findings of the JEE Report of Viet Nam, to be released in May 2017, will show that significant progress has been made in Viet Nam in meeting the IHR (2005) core capacity requirements. Viet Nam's capacities, as guided by the IHR JEE tool, were predominantly categorised as having 'developed capacity' for 52% of items, followed by 'limited capacity' on 31% of items and 'demonstrated capacity' on 17% of items. Viet Nam's outstanding capacities in relation to the IHR (2005) were on the technical areas of coordination, communication and advocacy; zoonotic diseases; real-time surveillance; and immunization.

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Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia joint simulation exercise on surveillance and response to cross-border avian influenza. On 10-11 May 2017, three countries sharing the same border namely Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia jointly organised a simulation exercise workshop on cross-border avian influenza surveillance and response. Representing at the workshop were leaders and focal officials in charge of disease prevention and control from relevant departments of the ministries of health and agriculture of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. This table-top simulation exercise workshop on avian influenza surveillance and response provided a great opportunity for border provinces of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia to evaluate the real situation and examine the information sharing mechanisms of communicable diseases between countries. Based on that, activities were identified that could be jointly undertaken to respond to avian influenza in border provinces when outbreaks occur. The three countries conducted a two-day simulation with specific scenarios addressing a context where avian influenza occurs and spreads across the border. Dr Dang Quang Tan, Deputy Director General of the General Department of Preventive Medicine (GDPM), Ministry of Health of Viet Nam highly appreciated the participation of delegates from the three countries as well as the support from international organizations. In the coming time, based on the positive results of this workshop, Viet Nam will continue to strengthen its cooperation with Laos and Cambodia on cross-border activities as well as promoting specific simulation exercises at provincial and district levels (*Information from the General Department of Preventive Medicine of the Ministry of Health of Viet Nam*) ■

Findings on transformation from low to high pathogenicity of Influenza A (H7N9) in China. Influenza A(H7N9) was first reported in China in March 2013, with five subsequent waves of outbreaks. Recent outbreaks have tended to be widely spread in some Chinese southern and southeast provinces in China, including outbreaks recorded in two provinces bordering Viet Nam, namely Yunnan and Guangxi. According to reports of WHO and FAO, the transformation of influenza A(H7N9) from low to high pathogenic was found while analysing influenza virus genes in human as well as in poultry. High pathogenic genes were found in 2 patients infected by influenza A(H7N9) virus (in Guangdong province) and one patient infected by influenza A(H7N9) virus (in Taiwan) (according to WHO's announcement dated 25 February 2017). According to FAO, high pathogenic influenza was recorded in 41 samples in poultry and environment (including 30 chicken, 1 duck and 10 environment samples). The samples were collected from 23 live poultry markets and 3 farms in Guangdong, Fujian, Guangxi and Henan provinces. Findings of the research illustrated that high pathogenic avian influenza A (H7N9) viruses may kill 100% of infected chickens (in laboratory tests) and could be transmitted 100-1,000 times faster than low pathogenic viruses. This consecutive change is a natural feature of influenza virus due to recombinant processes. Currently, there is no evidence that the transformation in influenza A(H7N9) could be easily spread from human to human. Also, there have not been any recommendations from WHO on clinical management changes of influenza A (H7N9) infections in human. In the complex situation of influenza A(H7N9) virus in China as well as the transformation of the virus, a number of Official Telegraphs and Official Letters have been issued by the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on strengthening surveillance, early detection, training on outbreak testing and handling, inspection of disease prevention implementation at local level (*Information from the General Department of Preventive Medicine of MOH, Viet Nam*) ■

Workshop on Implementation of the National Program for Rabies Control and Elimination, 2017-2021. On 18 April 2017, a workshop on the implementation of the National Program for Rabies Control and Elimination, 2017-2021 was held by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) in collaboration with the People's Committee of Thai Nguyen province. Vice Minister Vu Van Tam of MARD and Mr. Doan Van Tuan, Vice Chairman of Thai Nguyen People's Committee, co-chaired the workshop. In his opening speech, Vice Minister Vu Van Tam emphasised the role of Viet Nam as a pioneer country in the region to implement rabies prevention activities, especially the commitment to the "ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy." The objectives of this workshop were to provide an update on the rabies situation, to discuss measures for rabies prevention and control, and to strengthen collaboration with localities on the implementation of the National Program for Rabies Control and Elimination in the upcoming period (*Information from the Department of Animal Health of MARD, Viet Nam*) ■

Workshop on dissemination and implementation of the Veterinary Law.

In order to disseminate veterinary legal documents issued by the Government of Viet Nam and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), two workshops on the dissemination of the Veterinary Law and related legal documents were organised in Ha Noi and Quy Nhon City on 18 and 21 July 2017 respectively. The workshops were held by the Department of Animal Health in collaboration with the OHP Secretariat. Legal documents that were circulated included Circular No. 07/2016/TT-BNNPTNT dated 31 May 2016 by MARD on the prevention and response to zoonotic diseases in terrestrial animals; Decree No. 35/2016 /ND-CP dated 15 May 2016 by the Government promulgating the regulations on detailing some articles in the Veterinary Law; Circular No. 14/2016/TT-BNNPTNT dated 02 June 2016 by MARD issuing the regulations on zoonotic disease-safe areas and locations; Circular No. 25/2016/TT-BNNPTNT dated 30 June 2016 by the MARD issuing the regulations on quarantine of aquatic animals and animal products; Circular No. 26/2016/TT-BNNPTNT dated 30 June 2016 by the Minister of MARD on providing for the quarantine of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products. In the two workshops, there was full participation of technical officials from Sub-Departments of Animal Health and leaders from Animal Health centres at district level of 47 cities/provinces in the country ■

Viet Nam's strengths are demonstrated via the level of understanding of the IHR (2005) in general and the IHR (2005) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in particular, as well as the strong political commitment and determination on improvement and cooperation at all levels of government. This commitment is reflected in the legislative and regulatory frameworks that exist in the country from central to local levels. Areas that still to be further improved include documentation of plans and procedures, strengthening multi-sectoral collaboration, standardised competencies for staff in the public health sector, and sustainable investments for health security.

Based on the findings, a number of overarching recommendations were suggested including: the development of a multi-year national action plan; Legal mandates, authorities and responsibilities of the actors for health security should be reviewed and clarified accordingly; Multi-sectoral and multifunctional coordination and information sharing need to be improved through formal and informal information systems, in order to guide risk assessments used for decision-making and for IHR (2005) implementation. Besides, a national strategy is needed to develop workforce and promote investment for a sustainable system for health security.

Other Asian countries who completed a JEE in



2016 include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan. * Viet Nam's scores on each specific area are available at: <https://extranet.who.int/spp/jeeta/viet-nam/>.

*(Source: <https://www.ghsagenda.org/docs/defaultsource/default-document-library/2-1-update-from-who.pdf?sfvrsn=4>)

THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM IN PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

On 25 April 2017, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) Vu Van Tam had a meeting with Dr Dennis Carroll, Director of the Emerging Threats program (EPT) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on the occasion of Dr Carroll's official visit to Viet Nam. A number of key issues in relation to the cooperation partnership between MARD and USAID were discussed in the meeting.

Dr Dennis Carroll emphasised the long-term

cooperation between USAID and MARD, which is demonstrated through the Global Health Security Agenda, the EPT-2 program, One Health activities and the work of the Viet Nam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses (OHP) – an agency acting as a channel between ministries, as well as between the Government and international donors and other partners. Dr Carroll stated that USAID highly appreciates Viet Nam's success in launching the OHP in March 2016 as well as the development and

approval of the National One Health Strategic Plan (OHSP), 2016-2020 in December 2016. The EPT-2 implementation progress was also recognised and USAID’s support in the fourth year will continue to be maintained.

On behalf of MARD, Vice Minister Vu Van Tam stated that Viet Nam recognises the challenge of emerging public health threats, including threats emanating from livestock and wild animals, which account for many of the new diseases effecting human health, people’s livelihoods and macro-economic development in recent years. Viet Nam is strongly committed to continuing its response to these issues, and MARD is working closely with MOH, other national agencies, and international partners as part of national, regional and global efforts. Viet Nam highly appreciates USAID’s long-term assistance

on avian influenza, zoonoses, emerging pandemic threats and global health security over many years, and is strongly committed to the continuation of this partnership. The support for EPT-2 is in line with MARD’s priorities and has brought positive results. Viet Nam also strongly appreciates the collaboration and support from USAID’s partners such as FAO, WCS, P&R and especially the OHP Secretariat.

In conclusion, the two parties committed to continuously strengthen the collaboration and work closely together to undertake proposed activities. It is also expected that the 3rd International Conference on the Zoonotic Diseases Action Package (ZDAP) under the Global Health Security Agenda will be successfully organised (co-chaired by MOH and MARD), in collaboration with the other two ZDAP lead countries namely Indonesia and Senegal ■

RELEVANT LEGAL DOCUMENTS
DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE
Decree No. 39/2017/ND-CP dated 4 April 2017 by the Prime Minister on the management of livestock and aquaculture feeds.
Official Telegraph No. 1106/CD-TTg dated 27 July 2017 by the Prime Minister on enhancing dengue fever prevention activities.
DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MARD
Circular No. 13/2017/TT-BNNPTNT dated 20 June 2017 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) on promulgating the national technical standards in animal health sector.
DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MOH
Decision No. 1482/QD-BYT dated 18 April 2017 by the Minister of Health on the approval of “Guidance for influenza A (H7N9) surveillance and prevention”.
Decision No. 3091/QD-BYT dated 3 July 2017 by the Minister of Health guiding key sentinel surveillance of dengue fever, diseases caused by Zika virus and Chikungunya viruses.
ONE HEALTH EVENTS
August 2017
Launching Meeting for the National Action Plan for the Reduction of Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance in Livestock Production and Aquaculture FAO, DAH 2/8/2017; Ha Noi
Sample collection in wildlife WCS, RAH06, Dong Nai FPD+DAH August 2017; Dong Nai province
Field training on One Health for human health and animal health officers VOHUN August 2017; Hue and Ho Chi Minh city
The 3rd International Conference for the Zoonotic Diseases Action Package (ZDAP) 29-30/8/2017; Da Nang, Viet Nam

Stakeholder consultation workshop for draft revision of the Decree No. 103/2010/ND-CP on guidance on the Law on Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases regarding border health quarantine

WHO, GDPM
 August 2017; Ho Chi Minh City

September 2017

Cross-border Workshops (Viet Nam – Laos and Viet Nam - Cambodia)

FAO, DAH
 12-13/9/2017; Ninh Binh province, Viet Nam
 22/9/2017; Siem Reap, Cambodia

World Rabies Day

28/9/2017

ONE HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

The science behind One Health: at the interface of humans, animals, and the environment

Michael P. Murtaugh, Clifford J. Steer, Srinand Sreevatsan, Ned Patterson, Shaun Kennedy, P. Sriramarao
 Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, Volume 1395, May 2017; Pages 12–32; DOI: 10.1111/nyas.13355
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/nyas.13355/full>

Roadmap to a One Health agenda 2030

Queenan, K., Garnier, J., Nielsen, L. R., Buttigieg, S., Meneghi, D. de, Holmberg, M., Zinsstag, J., Rüegg, S., Häslér, B., Kock, R.
 CABI Wallingford UK; 24 May 2017; DOI: 10.1079/PAVSNR201712014
<http://www.cabi.org/cabreviews/FullTextPDF/2017/20173134856.pdf>

One Health in food safety and security education: Subject matter outline for a curricular framework

John A. Angelos, Amanda L. Arens, Heather A. Johnson, Jessica L. Cadriel, Bennie I. Osburn
 One Health, Volume 3, June 2017, Pages 56-65
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.onehlt.2017.04.001>

Antibiotic Resistance in an Indian Rural Community: A ‘One-Health’ Observational Study on Commensal Coliform from Humans, Animals, and Water

Manju Raj Purohit, Salesch Chandran, Harshada Shah, Vishal Diwan, Ashok J. Tamhankar and Cecilia Stålsby Lundborg
 Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2017, 14(4), 386; doi:10.3390/ijerph14040386
<http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/14/4/386>

Incorporating One Health into medical education

Peter M. Rabinowitz, Barbara J. Natterson-Horowitz, Laura H. Kahn, Richard Kock and Marguerite Pappaioanou
 BMC Medical Education
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-017-0883-6>

European Union places One Health on the top: Doctors, Dentists and Veterinarians welcome the new European One Health action plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/pr_2nd_action_plan_final.pdf

The Awareness of the International Veterinary Profession of Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine and Preferred Methods of Training

Selene J. Huntley, Rachel S. Dean and Marnie L. Brennan
 Vet. Sci. 2017, 4(1), 15; doi:10.3390/vetsci4010015
http://www.mdpi.com/search?q=&journal=vetsci&sort=pubdate&page_count=50

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