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### VIET NAM AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCH THE VIET NAM ONE HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FOR ZOOSES (OHP)

On March 1, 2016, the launching meeting and signing ceremony for the Partnership Framework of the Viet Nam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses (OHP) was successfully organized in Hanoi. The meeting was co-chaired by the Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Vice Minister of Health, the UN Resident Coordinator and the United States Ambassador to Viet Nam, with the participation of 27 signatories and around one hundred representatives from national and international agencies.



*Representatives of signatory organizations to the Partnership Framework of the Viet Nam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses (Source: OHP)*

The Partnership is a new initiative of the Government of Viet Nam to combat health risks posed by diseases transmitted to humans from animals. Representing the Government, Vice Minister Vu Van Tam of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said at the Launching Ceremony: "The new Partnership will organize an Annual One Health Forum and other opportunities for national and international partners to share results and lessons from their work, to provide recommendations on One Health policy, strategy and research projects in Viet Nam, to enhance international cooperation for effective coordination and mobilization of funds, and to

*(see next page)*

facilitate and promote engagement of Viet Nam in regional and global One Health efforts.” A Partnership office based at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will provide a focal point for these activities.

Since the start of the new millennium, Viet Nam has experienced serious human health and economic impacts from infectious diseases that transmitted from animals to humans, including SARS and avian influenza. The new Partnership builds on and expands existing national efforts and international cooperation to address human and animal disease risks with a strategy that encompasses all aspects

of human, animal, and environmental health systems.

The new Partnership will support Viet Nam as one of two lead countries for the Zoonotic Diseases Action Package (ZDAP), which is one of 11 key areas of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHS), a global effort with the engagement of over 40 countries to protect the world from infectious disease threats.

The launch of the new Partnership has drawn attention from a wide range of partners as well as from media agencies. The signed Framework with signatures of 27 signatories is now available at: <http://onehealth.org.vn/document> ■

## INITIATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VIET NAM INTEGRATED NATIONAL ONE HEALTH PLAN, 2016–2020

Following its successful launch at the beginning of March 2016, one of the key initial activities of the Viet Nam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses Secretariat is to support consultations with national and international partners to provide inputs to the development of a multi-sector **Viet Nam Integrated One Health Action Plan for the period 2016-2020**. This plan will follow on from and build on the **National Integrated Operational Program on Avian Influenza, Pandemic**

**Preparedness and Emerging Infectious Diseases (AIPED), 2011-2015**. It is expected to set out the overall framework for strengthening One Health in Viet Nam during this period, incorporating relevant top-line milestones from related national and international efforts in Viet Nam.

The consultation and drafting process will be led by the Government, with support on consultations and drafting from a consultant team (specialized in Animal and Human Health) mobilized by the One Health Partnership Secretariat Office with support from the USAID-funded project “Strengthening the Capacity for the Implementation of One Health in Viet Nam” (SCOH). It will take place from March to June, 2016.



*Mr. Vu Van Minh – Director of the Viet Nam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses (OHP) Secretariat Office provided opening remarks at the meeting (Source: OHP)*

As one of the key activities of this important mission, a **“Consultation meeting on the development of Viet Nam Integrated National One Health Plan, 2016 – 2020”** was held with the participation of more than 40 representatives coming from related national and international agencies. The purpose of the meeting was for the consultant team to present preliminary results after a consultation process with key stakeholders as well as to discuss further ideas, brainstorming and inputs or the development of the Plan. An initial Draft of the Plan will be circulated shortly and will undergo several rounds of consultation before being submitted to the Government for approval. ■

## STRENGTHENING CROSS-SECTORAL COORDINATION ON INFLUENZA AND RESPIRATORY PATHOGEN SURVEILLANCE IN VIET NAM

Over many years, the Government of Viet Nam has developed and sustained various infectious disease surveillance and early warning activities in human and animal populations, supported by domestic and international partners. These activities form a key component of national efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to new or potential pandemic influenza viruses and other emerging zoonotic diseases. The Government has taken a key role in the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), including as a lead country on the Zoonotic Diseases Action Package (ZDAP).



*Dr. Dennis Carroll - USAID presented the Enhancing and Expanding Coordinated Longitudinal Surveillance for Influenza/Respiratory Pathogens (Source: OHP)*

In order to discuss the coordination, strengthening and scope of sentinel surveillance at one or more selected sites in Viet Nam, the General Department of Preventive Medicine (GDPM) of the Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with the Department of Animal Health (DAH) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), with the coordination support from the Viet Nam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses Secretariat Office, organised a technical meeting of representatives of national and international agencies on **“Coordinated Influenza and Respiratory Pathogen Surveillance”** in Hanoi on January 25, 2016. Results from the presentations and discussion sessions at

the meeting provide a proof of concept for better linking human, animal, and wildlife surveillance for influenza and other respiratory pathogens, and for considering interventions to disrupt amplification and spread of important respiratory pathogens.

The meeting covered four main themes, as follows:

- Surveillance Systems and Results in Viet Nam
- More Detailed Characteristics of Influenza Viruses
- Value Chains, Interfaces and Transmission Risks
- Enhancing and Expanding Coordinated Surveillance

At the closing session, Dr Dang Quang Tan, the Deputy Director-General of GDPM, affirmed the importance of strengthening surveillance and cross-sectoral information sharing. He noted that the number of pathogens selected for aligned surveillance efforts should be feasible, taking into account laboratory capacity and locations, sampling and testing protocols, and materials. Quang Ninh or Lang Son in the north, and Dong Thap or Can Tho in the south, might be appropriate sites, pending further consideration on criteria, budgets, and plans.

Mdm. Nguyen Thu Thuy, Deputy Director-General of DAH, confirmed that basic agreement had been reached, however further detailed discussions were needed.

She noted that all sectors had prioritised influenza. She clarified DAH’s role, highlighting Circular 16 on collaboration between the animal health and human health sectors on zoonoses as a reference for information sharing. She noted an upcoming agriculture sector surveillance conference, and recommended a preparation meeting of all sectors prior to this for detailed discussions to reach agreement on the design, selection of pathogens, and related protocols, taking a step-by-step approach to promoting One Health surveillance.

Report on this surveillance meeting could be found at OHP website: <http://onehealth.org.vn/documents> ■

## VIET NAM AND CHINA AIM FOR SAFER TRADE IN ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Infectious agents do not respect country boundaries, especially viruses that easily adapt to their surrounding environments and sometimes gain the ability to cause severe diseases in animals and humans. For these reasons, it is critical for neighboring countries such as Viet Nam and China to collaborate closely for effective prevention and control of potential transboundary and emerging animal diseases.

As Viet Nam and China share a long border, unofficial livestock trade is driven by market demand for animal protein. Both countries agreed to facilitate safer trade of poultry and cloven hoof animals in order to minimize the introduction and spread of priority diseases including Foot and Mouth Disease and Avian Influenza.

“This cross-border meeting is a first and important step in evaluating the feasibility

of safer trade between Viet Nam and China. Over the past two days, we witnessed Viet Nam and China’s strong willingness and interest to keep both countries safer from transboundary and emerging infectious diseases. We hope this cross-border meeting will serve as a milestone for effective disease control in the

region and enhance public health security,” stated Dr. Scott Newman, the Senior Technical Coordinator of FAO ECTAD Viet Nam.

The meeting, facilitated by Dr. Wantanee Kalpravidh from the FAO ECTAD Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, concluded with development of a roadmap and timeline for results-based collaboration to enable safer trade in animals and animal products. The meeting also agreed to establish a technical working group to review and suggest necessary modifications to import and export requirements, to conduct a feasibility study and to organize a stakeholder consultation before the end of 2016. The next meeting is planned to be organized in China in the first quarter of 2017. ■

(FAO VN)



*Expression of high agreement on strengthening the collaboration between Viet Nam and China towards safer trade of animals and animal products across the border (Source: FAO VN)*

The fourth Viet Nam-China Bilateral Meeting on collaboration to address transboundary animal diseases took place in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, with technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization’s Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (FAO ECTAD) and financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Thirty-four representatives from Viet Nam and China gathered in Ha Noi on 26 – 27 January 2016 to share information about disease outbreaks and trade requirements, animal and zoonotic diseases surveillance results, and value chain studies on both sides of the border, and to develop a road map for to establishing safer trade in animals and animal products between the two countries.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**According to a report dated 04 April 2016, a 5-year-old boy tested positive for Ebola in Liberia, West Africa** just a week after his mother died of the virus. Ebola virus has re-occurred in the country after Liberia was declared free of Ebola transmission some months ago. On 29 March, WHO Director-General Margaret Chan emphasized the need for heightened vigilance and for improving surveillance and response capacities to address the disease when it flares-up. According to UN statistics, Ebola virus disease has infected more than 28,500 people and killed more than 11,300 since the outbreak in December 2013. ■

**On 29 March 2016, the Viet Nam Government issued Resolution No. 22/NQ-CP by the Prime Minister on signing of the Agreement on Establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ).** In the context of an increasing number of emerging diseases, it is extremely urgent to promote regional and international cooperation for the prevention of and response to diseases. By signing this Agreement, Viet Nam once again reaffirmed its commitment in emerging diseases prevention and its role as an active country within the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA). Accordingly, the Minister of MARD will sign the ACCAHZ Agreement on behalf of the Government of Viet Nam and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) will complete the necessary procedures as prescribed. ■

**The Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** launched its new website for Viet Nam at [http://www.fao.org/in-action/ectad-Viet\\_Nam/en/](http://www.fao.org/in-action/ectad-Viet_Nam/en/). The site will act as an animal health information platform to offer Transboundary Animal Disease information and ECTAD updates to all visitors. The main content of the website include: (i) Stories from the field, (ii) Update on the disease situation within Viet Nam and Southeast Asia region (iii) Technical documents and media publications and (iv) Upcoming events and activities of FAO ECTAD Viet Nam. It is considered as a useful information source for the One Health communication community. ■

### On-going efforts of Viet Nam in the management of antibiotics and banned substances use in livestock

In 2016, one of the key issues that MARD is focusing on is to better manage the use of banned substances and antibiotics in livestock. Accordingly, Viet Nam is aiming at reduction and appropriate use, and stopping excessive use or use of banned, expired and low-quality antibiotics in the upcoming time.

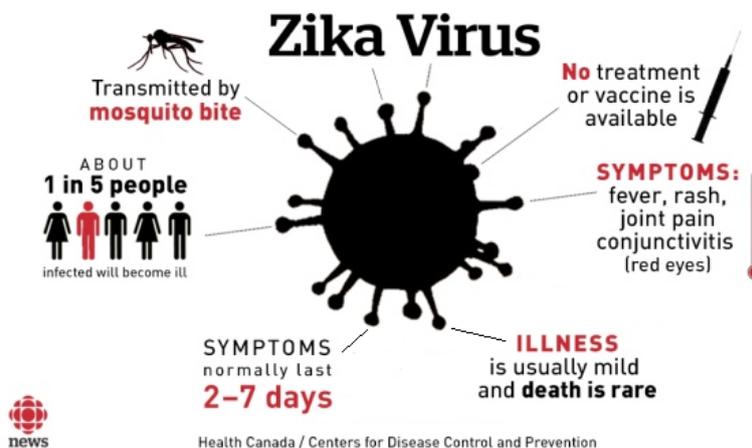
Besides tightening the management and accelerating the implementation of the regulations on inspection, monitoring and handling the violations of the use of banned substances in livestock, MARD has conducted many practical activities such as the agriculture forum with the theme on **"Solution to the management of banned substances and overuse of antibiotics in livestock in the Northern region"** held on 05 April 2016 in Hanoi, with the participation of more than 100 farmers and provincial leaders.

Contributing to these overall national efforts, the Viet Nam One Health Partnership Secretariat Office commissioned the **"Study on Investigating the Use of Antibiotics in Livestock Production within Viet Nam"** within the scope of the project **"Strengthening capacity for the implementation of One Health in Viet Nam"** (SCOH) funded by USAID. This study was completed at the beginning of 2016. The overall objective of the study was to provide policy makers and experts in related fields in Viet Nam with suitable information and recommendations related to knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) of pig farmers in Viet Nam about the use of antibiotics in livestock production activities, in order to contribute towards better food safety in Viet Nam. Based on the study findings and analysis, a series of specific recommended changes have been identified to improve poultry production chains, focused on semi-industrial and small-scale slaughterhouses, retail markets and households. The study authors also highlighted the need for further studies on antibiotic resistance of Salmonella strains along the poultry value chain in Viet Nam.

It is known that in the upcoming time, MARD and MOH in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Security will work more closely in order to strengthen the cooperation between the three ministries, for a better control of banned substances in the livestock production sector. ■

## SITUATION UPDATE ON ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE IN VIET NAM AND PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted by the same Aedes mosquitoes that can spread Dengue and Yellow Fever. It is not only transmitted to people via mosquitos, but also can be transmitted from mother to child, through blood and through sexual activity (in rare cases). This virus has spread rapidly and has now been recorded in 31 countries around the world.



Currently, no treatment or vaccine for Zika virus is available. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that around 80% of people infected with Zika virus could recover by themselves. Zika virus disease is less serious than Dengue and there have been no recorded deaths related to Zika infection yet. However, this disease has a potential impact in relation to women who are pregnant or could become pregnant because it can affect the developing brain of the fetus in case the mother is infected.

In response to concern over the spread of the disease, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has recently taken strong measures through issuing a Decision, Directive and Official Telegraph on Zika virus monitoring, prevention and response. Accordingly, guidelines on diagnosis and treatment have been issued to all health facilities. Medicines, chemicals and other facilities for the laboratory have also been provided.

MOH as well as WHO have provided recommendations for prevention of Zika virus, especially in relation to women who are pregnant or could become pregnant. Specifically, all health facilities have been requested by the Council of Medical Professionals to ensure safe blood transfusion for pregnant women, especially in the first 3 months of pregnancy, to prevent infection by Zika virus.

Viet Nam has recorded the first 2 cases of Zika virus infection in Ho Chi Minh city and Khanh Hoa province. MOH announced that the number of recorded cases due to Zika virus infection may continue to increase in the upcoming period, due to travel between countries and regions. Therefore, it is crucial to take more practical measures to prevent and control the disease, especially get rid of mosquitoes and their larvae, in order to avoid the disease spreading to the community. ■



*Zika prevention – recommended by World Health Organization (Source: WHO)*

## RELEVANT LEGAL DOCUMENTS

### DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICE

Decision No. 02/2016/QĐ-TTg dated 28/01/2016 by the Prime Minister issuing the regulation on the conditions of infectious diseases announcement

Resolution No. 22/NQ-CP dated 29/3/2016 by the Prime Minister on signing of the Agreement on Establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ)

### DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MARD

Official Telegraph No. 678/QĐ-BNN-CN dated 22/1/2016 01 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development in province/cities on enhancing the management of banned substances in livestock

Directive No. 685/CT-BNN-TY dated 25/01/2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development requesting the Heads of People's Committees in provinces/cities on strengthening the prevention and control of animal diseases before and after Lunar New Year 2016

Official Letter No. 929/BNN-CN on 03/02/2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to the Ministry of Health on unifying certain regulations on antibiotics and Beta-agonist substances in food

Circular No. 01/2016/TT-BNN dated 15/2/2016 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on amending and supplementing some articles of Circular No. 57/2012/TT-BNN dated 07/11/2012 regulating the inspection, surveillance and handling the violations of banned substances belong to Beta-agonist group in livestock

Decision No. 476/QĐ-BNN-TY dated 17/02/2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on approving the "National Program on Prevention and Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) for the period 2016-2020"

Decision No. 629/QĐ-BNN-QLCL dated 02/3/2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on issuing the Action Plan for a year focusing on Food Safety in Agricultural sector

Announcement No. 1962/TB-BNN-VP dated 11/3/2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the conclusions of the Minister Cao Duc Phat at the conference on deploying the peak period for food safety in Agricultural sector in 2015

### DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MOH

Official Telegraph No. 77-CĐ/BYT dated 30/1/2016 by the Ministry of Health requesting the Heads of People's Committees in provinces/cities on strengthening the prevention and response to Zika virus disease

Decision No. 363/QĐ-BYT dated 02/02/2016 by the Ministry of Health on the issuing of "Guidelines for monitoring, prevention and response to Zika virus disease"

Decision No. 460/QĐ-BYT dated 05/02/2016 by the Ministry of Health on the issuance of "Action Plan for prevention and response to Zika virus diseases in Viet Nam"

Decision No. 827 /QĐ-BYT dated 11/3/2016 by the Ministry of Health on the issuance of Plan for prevention of infectious diseases in 2016

Directive No. 05/CT-BYT 16/3/2016 by the Ministry of Health to Departments of Health in provinces/cities on organizing a campaign to get rid of mosquitoes and larvae, and implementing the prevention and response to Zika virus disease and dengue.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### April 2016

#### **Workshop on the Development of the Viet Nam National Plan for Rabies elimination and control**

GDPM

#### **National Scientific Conference on "Public Health in Viet Nam: Current status and future prospects" – Session on One Health and Ecohealth**

VOHUN

25/4

#### **GHSA Mid-Year Review**

GDPM & DAH, Hai Phong City

26-27/4

#### **Workshop on reviewing One Health Curriculum of Universities in Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho and Tay Nguyen**

VOHUN

28 – 29/4

## May 2016

### Global leaders Conference on One Health and Antimicrobial Resistance

London, UK

12/5/2016

### Training course on EVALUATION of Health Surveillance Systems

CIRAD

4-5/5/2016

### Workshop on the main findings of reports and legal documents review on disease management and prevention towards lower risk to humans, livestock and wildlife

DLP

HCM city

## June 2016

### Training courses on livestock for the staffs of the Departments of Animal Health and the Departments of Livestock Production in 3 regions

DLP

April - June/2016

## November 2016

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Conference on One Health of the World Medical Association and the World Veterinary Association

10-11/11/2016, Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan

<http://www.worldvet.org/>

## December 2016

### One Health – EcoHealth 2016

4-7/12/2016, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Australia

<http://oheh2016.org/>

## ONE HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

### Genomics, animal models, and emerging diseases: Relevance to One Health and food security. J.C. Harding.

Genome. December 2015. 58(12):499-502. <http://www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/pdf/10.1139/gen-2015-0148>

### Joint China-US call for employing a transdisciplinary approach to emerging infectious diseases. J.A.

Mazet, Q. Wei, G. Zhao, D.A. Cummings, J.S. Desmond, J. Rosenthal, et al. Ecohealth. December 2015.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10393-015-1060-1>

### One health, multiple challenges: The inter-species transmission of influenza A virus.

K. Short, M. Richard, J. Verhagen, D. van Riel, E. Schrauwen, J. van den Brand, B. Mänz, R. Bodewes, S. Herfst. One Health. December 2015. 1:1-13. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352771415000026>

### One Health and EcoHealth: the same wine in different bottles?

François Roger, Alexandre Caron, Serge Morand, Miguel Pedrono, Michel de Garine-Wichatitsky, Veronique Chevalier, Annelise Tran, Nicolas Gaidet, Muriel Figuié, Marie-Noël de Visscher, and Aurélie Binot

Infection Ecology and Epidemiology 2016, 6: 30978

<http://www.infectionecologyandepidemiology.net/index.php/iee/article/view/30978>

### Animal Health Human Health One Health: The Life and Legacy of Dr. James H. Steele Paperback

by Craig Nash Carter (Author), Cynthia Gregg Hoobler (Assistant)

December 11, 2015

[http://www.amazon.com/Animal-Health-Human-One-Legacy/dp/1511558016/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?ie=UTF8&qid=1450278980&sr=8-5&keywords=james+h+steele](http://www.amazon.com/Animal-Health-Human-One-Legacy/dp/1511558016/ref=sr_1_5?ie=UTF8&qid=1450278980&sr=8-5&keywords=james+h+steele)

### Veterinary Medicine and Science

Sumon Ghosh, Sukanta Chowdhury, Najmul Haider, Rajub K. Bhowmik, Md. S. Rana, Aung S. Prue Marma, Muhammad B. Hossain, Nitish C. Debnath and Be-Nazir Ahmed

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