

## The Epidemiological Research Training Course VI-1: Executive summary

There is a growing need of basic training in practical survey methods among medical doctors in Vietnam. We executed the sixth research-training course jointly organized by the Department of Public Health of Fukushima Medical University and the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Ho Chi Minh City. The training course was held at University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Ho Chi Minh City, August 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

The primary objective of this course was to enable participants to understand epidemiological data, to design and conduct epidemiological studies. Most lectures were given in English with translation into Vietnamese. Course materials developed by course instructors were distributed on the first day of the course. A total of 17 instructors including guest lectures and assistants from Vietnam (Drs. Vinh, Tu Van, Nam, Trung, Thang, Khoa, Tinh, Tuan, Linh), the United States (Ms. Schoon) and Japan (Drs. Koriyama, Yokokawa, Suzuki, Goto, Ito, Furukawa, and Kuroda) actively worked as a team.



The core curriculum consisted of three components: lectures, mini-lectures, and group work. During the morning classes (9:00-11:30), participants learned basic epidemiology and biostatistics, such as major study designs, biases, and confounders. The afternoon classes (13:00-16:00) were dedicated to advanced mini-lectures and group work. Both Vietnamese and Japanese instructors guided each group. Throughout the course, 108 participants completed the course and 10 research projects were planned.

**JICA Partnership Program**  
**“Building evidence-based health and clinical services in southern Vietnam**  
**through university & medical association partnership”**

<b>Research topics</b>	<b>Instructors</b>
1. Impact of frailty on post operative complication in elderly patients	Ngoc, Kuroda
2. Association of sleep apnea with malocclusion and palate shape among Vietnamese adults	Trung
3. Association between depression and blood sugar control among elderly patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus	Khue, Nam, Thang, Yokokawa, Ito, Suzuki
4. Evaluation of the quality of life by SF-36 score in elderly patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus	Khue, Nam, Thang, Yokokawa, Ito, Suzuki
5. Clinical, para-clinical and related risk factors characteristics in diabetic inpatients with nephropathy complications in Bachmai hospital	Trung, Yokokawa
6. Factors associated with delay in hospital visit among patients with breast cancer in Vietnam	Tu Van, Koriyama
7. Relation between bone turnover markers and bone mineral density in men over 50 years old	Ngoc, Koriyama
8. Prevalence and correlates of zinc deficiency in among Vietnamese reproductive women	Vinh, Goto
9. Parenting support program among Vietnamese mothers	Tu Van, Goto, Suzuki
10. Blood donation interval for paid palate donors: Comparing 2 and 3 weeks	Khoa, Goto, Schoon



**JICA Partnership Program**  
**“Building evidence-based health and clinical services in southern Vietnam  
through university & medical association partnership”**

---

In a summary meeting, we discussed good points and needs for improvements. Dr. Linh from Hanoi School of Public Health suggested that he observed a good combination of practical teaching and enthusiastic participants, while more time of group work was needed. We agreed that the open seminar by guest lecturers (Ms. Schoon from Oregon State University, Dr. Tuan from RTCCD and Dr. Linh) provided a great opportunity for participants to link evidence with health policy.



In addition, we visited three hospitals, including an university hospital and general hospitals in the city and Dong Nai province. Our aims were to improve understanding of Vietnamese medical setting and explore needs for research training. Dr. Suzuki's meetings with RTCCD, Hanoi School of Public Health, Vietnam Medical Association and JICA in Hanoi strengthened our partnerships with various organizations.



Yujiro Kuroda

Project assistant, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, Fukushima Medical University School of Medicine



**JICA Partnership Program**  
**“Building evidence-based health and clinical services in southern Vietnam  
through university & medical association partnership”**

---

**Thank you, all participants, organizers and instructors!**



Acknowledgement: This was JICA Partnership Program "Building evidence-based health and clinical services in southern Vietnam through university & medical association partnership". The course was supported in part by Ho Chi Minh City Medical Association's Continuous Medical Education partnership grant with Novartis Vietnam, which was initiated by one of past graduates of the course.