

The Epidemiological Research Training Course VII-1: Short activity report

With the addition of new speakers and content, the VII-1 Epidemiological Training Course successfully took place from 16-20 August 2016. Apart from content on epidemiology, study designs, and research methods, our guest speakers also delivered elective content like molecular biology, the well-being of health care professionals, and new publication platforms. We witnessed many new beginnings this year – the Vietnamese faculty spearheaded the first day of the course, our partnership expanded to include International University-National Vietnam University, and 11 new projects were launched for the academic year. These projects were also diverse in nature; while clinical studies dominated the research themes, a handful were related to health economics and medical education, which are indicative of the growing influence of the Training Course outside the traditional audience. Changing our pedagogy this year, we included less didactic teaching and sought to foster more interactive exercises. This proved to be a positive undertaking, as participants began to ask for even more in-class exercises and interactions. One of our long-term aims is to foster international collaborators and participants' familiarity in an English-speaking environment. Compared to previous trainings, more and more participants could communicate and discuss in English, and also showed confidence in presenting their research protocols in English. The organizing team also saw a decreased need to offer English-to-Vietnamese interpretations. In conclusion, the VII-1 installment of the Training Course is reflective of our long-term efforts, and we are confident that our partnership between Vietnam and Japan will scale to greater heights with additional support from JICA for the next 3 years.

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