

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BY AND AMONG THE
Fukushima Medical University School of Medicine, Department of Public Health and
Fukushima Prefectural Office in Japan
AND
University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Ho Chi Minh City,
and Ho Chi Minh City Medical Association
ON
Japanese Technical Cooperation
UNDER
JICA Partnership Program
FOR THE
“Building evidence-based health and clinical services in southern Vietnam through
university & medical association partnership”

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is executed by and among the Fukushima Medical University School of Medicine, Department of Public Health and Fukushima Prefectural Office in Japan, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Ho Chi Minh City, and Ho Chi Minh City Medical Association in Vietnam, hereafter referred to individually as an “Organization” and collectively as the “Organizations.”

This MOU does not create any legally binding rights or obligations between the Organizations. The purpose of the agreement is to express the Organizations’ good faith and intentions to facilitate planning and implementation of specified project activities.

I. Project Type

JICA Partnership Program in collaboration with the Prefecture of Fukushima

II. Title of the Project

Building evidence-based health and clinical services in southern Vietnam through university & medical association partnership

III. Project Implementing Duration

December 2013 – March 2016

IV. Project Background

Despite worldwide promotion of evidence-based decision making at all levels of the health system, strengthening research capacity in developing regions remains one of the world’s unmet challenges. The Vietnam’s national health plan towards 2015 lists ten key tasks, including the development of health human resources (upgrading training and promoting research) and improvement of health information system (strengthening data collection and analysis skills). Given the necessity of research

capacity development, Ho Chi Minh City University of Medicine and Pharmacy and Department of Public Health, Fukushima Medical University, started an intensive epidemiology training course in 2004. Following successful implementation of four courses as university-certified post-graduation training, the project obtained financial support in executing three courses from the JICA Partnership Program in 2010-2012 and accreditations from the Ho Chi Minh City Medical Association and Japan Epidemiological Association. In this second phase of the project, we aim to further upgrade the course with technical support from the Hanoi School of Public Health and the Harvard School of Public Health. The aims of this upgrade are to;

1. Improve course management
2. Outreach to the wider regions in the South of Vietnam
3. Improve teaching skills of local instructors, and
4. Better connect research and health services.

V. Project Purposes

The Organizations will work together to act toward the project purpose during the project duration, and ultimately to achieve the overall goal.

1. Overall Goal: To promote “evidence-based” public health and medical services for health promotion and social revitalization in the South of Vietnam.
2. Project Purpose: To improve medical professionals’ knowledge and skills to provide evidence-based services and to scientifically evaluate needs of service users in the South of Vietnam.

VI. Target Area

Ho Chi Minh City and surrounding regions in the South of Vietnam
(We will actively recruit participants from Dong Nai and An Giang provinces.)

VII. Target Group

Health professionals (mainly physicians) from the Organizations in Vietnam, their affiliated hospitals, and other teaching and tertiary hospitals in the South of Vietnam.

VIII. Expected Outcomes and Inputs

1. Publication of a textbook
2. Recruitment of participants from wider regions in the South of Vietnam
3. Improvement in teaching skills of local organizers and instructors
4. Building of course participants’ confidence in applying learnt epidemiology and biostatistics knowledge and skills
5. Increase in young health professionals/researchers’ (both Vietnamese and Japanese) understanding of Evidence-based Medicine (EBM) and international collaboration
6. Provision of scientific evidence that can directly link to improving clinical services
7. Promotion of information provision regarding the importance of EBM and project achievements
8. Provision of evidence regarding effectiveness of training

IX. Main Project Activities

1. Publishing a course textbook and upgrading of training scheme
A team of authors and editors has been constructed in the previous phase, consisting of staff from the Organizations in Japan and other specialized institutes including Kagoshima University and the National Institute of Mental Health. This team will complete the textbook writing, and consult with the Hanoi School of Public Health regarding improving the content and obtaining accreditation from a selected government agency.
2. Dispatching Japanese experts to Vietnam
A team of instructors has been constructed in the previous phase, from staff of the Organizations in Japan and other specialized institutes including Kagoshima University and the National Institute of Mental Health. The team will plan, execute and evaluate training (Courses VI 1 and 2), which consists of lectures and practicum (including on-line support), in partnership with local organizers and instructors from the Organizations in Vietnam.
3. Receiving trainees from Vietnam
Trainees will be received from the Organizations in Vietnam by Fukushima Medical University for the Training-of-Trainers (TOT) III, in which they will join roundtable discussions, take lectures and receive hands on training.
4. Exchanging of young Vietnamese and Japanese health professionals/researchers
Young Vietnamese health professionals/researchers will be included in the trainee team of TOT III and young Japanese health professionals/researchers will be dispatched with Japanese instructors in Courses V 1 and 2.

X. Roles of Each Organization in Japan and Vietnam

1. Fukushima Medical University School of Medicine, Department of Public Health
 - i. Overall planning and management of the project and its activities
 - ii. Acting as the communication-hub between the Organizations in the two countries and other related institutes
2. Fukushima Prefectural Office
 - i. Providing technical support for the overall project management
 - ii. Providing health policy advice on applying project achievements in local health services and on networking among the Organizations and related institutes
 - iii. Providing technical support for information dissemination in Japan
3. University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Ho Chi Minh City
 - i. Selection and dispatching of trainees to the TOT III
 - ii. Selection and sending of trainees to the Courses VI 1 and 2
 - iii. Management and teaching of the Course VI 1 and 2 under official approval of the university rector
 - iv. Conducting training evaluation
 - v. Providing official support to the Courses VI 1 and 2, by accrediting the training as a part of the city's Continuing Medical Education.
 - vi. Information provision regarding project activities and evidence-based medicine through the university website

4. Ho Chi Minh City Medical Association

- i. Obtain permission from the city Health Service to execute project activities.
- ii. Dispatching trainees to the TOT III
- iii. Selection and sending of trainees to the Courses VI 1 and 2
- iv. Providing official support to the Courses VI 1 and 2, by accrediting the training as a part of the city's Continuing Medical Education.
- v. Information provision regarding project activities and evidence-based medicine through the medical association website and journal

XI. Term, termination and modifications

1. This MOU is deemed effective on the date of the last Organization to sign.
2. This MOU remains in effect for 36 months starting from December 2013.
3. This MOU may be modified only upon the mutual written consent of all Organizations.
4. Any Organization to this MOU may terminate its participation by written notice at any time, with or without cause, and without incurring any liabilities or obligations. Such written notice shall be given by the terminating Organization to the other Organizations at least one month prior to the date of actual termination.

XII. Contacts

Notices or communications pursuant to this MOU shall be sent in writing to the following Japanese and Vietnamese managers.

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