

The Epidemiological Research Training Course V-3: Short report

The Epidemiological Research Training Course V-3 was held at University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Ho Chi Minh City (UMP), Vietnam, July 29- August 1, 2012. The objectives of this final session of the course V were to reinforce epidemiology and biostatistics basic knowledge and to provide technical competencies required for scientific publication and presentation. This training course was co-organized with Department of Public Health, Fukushima Medical University School of Medicine (FMU), and sponsored by JICA partnership Program, and received supports from Ho Chi Minh City Medical Association, Ho Chi Minh City Health Service, Japan Epidemiological Association, and Fukushima prefecture. We registered about seventy participants including those from different provinces. We were honored by the presence of 4 main instructors from Japan [Drs. Chihaya Koriyama (Kagoshima University), Yuriko Suzuki (National Institute of Mental Health), Hirohide Yokokawa (Juntendo University) and Aya Goto (FMU)] to teach scientific writing, and 1 from Vietnam (Dr. Nguyen Quang Vinh, Nguyen Tri Phuong Hospital) with two assistant instructors [(Drs. Tran The Trung (UMP) and Vo Tuan Khoa (115 People's Hospital))] to review epidemiology and biostatistics. I myself gave a lecture on presentation skills. In addition to instructors, two special guest speakers from Japan joined the team, Prof. Seiji Yasumura (Chair of the Department of Public Health, FMU) and Mr. Hideyuki Fukushima (Chief of International Affairs Division, Fukushima Prefectural Office). Mr. Fukushima presented about the evidence and policy of the post-disaster situation in Fukushima, followed by Prof. Yasumura who focused on the Fukushima Health Management Survey. Since this was the last fiscal year of this three-year JICA project, we invited Dr. Le Thi Quynh Nga (Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Abt Associate Inc.) from Hanoi to be in charge of the overall project evaluation and Dr. Yumiko Kanari (Director, Minami Aizu Prefectural Health Center) to give advice on further expansion of the project. Dr. Tomoko Suzuki (Assistant Professor, FMU) assisted project activities of this big group meticulously as a project manager.

The Training Course V-3 started on July 29 (Sun) and ended on August 1 (Wed). Every day we had 2 classes: morning and afternoon classes. During the morning class (9:00- 11:30), participants attended lectures. The afternoon class (13:00- 16:00) has been dedicated to advanced mini-lectures and group works. Each group was guided by one Vietnamese assistant instructor and supervised by one Japanese instructor. At the end, each group made presentation of their abstracts which have been subject to constructive comments and suggestions from both attendants and supervisors.

We should mention that not only the first day was completely managed by the Vietnamese instructors, but also they had organized two 6-month courses on epidemiology and biostatistics on their own just before the course V-3, under the leadership of Dr. Nguyen Quang Vinh. This is a great achievement we all should be proud of.



Opening speech by
Prof. Khue with Dr. Vinh



Lecture by A/Prof. Koriyama



Lecture by A/Prof. Yokokawa



Lecture by Dr. Suzuki



Lecture by Dr. Vinh



Lecture by A/Prof. Ngoma



Lecture by Mr. Fukushima



Lecture by Prof. Yasumura



Group work session



Abstract presentation session
by participants

The Closing Ceremony started by certificates conferment by Prof. Yasumura. Prof. Tran Diep Tuan (Deputy Rector, UMP) and Prof. Nguyen Thy Khue (Vice Chair, Ho Chi Minh City Medical Association) made constructive and encouraging comments about the training course. Mr. Ishida Yukio, the JICA representative in Ho Chi Minh City, closed the ceremony by thanking and encouraging both instructors and participants for their outstanding achievements. At the end of the ceremony, Prof. Vo Tan Son, the Rector of the UMP, despite his busy schedule, paid a short visit to thank both course organizers and participants and also took part in the photographic session.



Certificates Conferment by Prof. Yasumura



Concluding remarks by Mr. Ishida Yukio (JICA/Ho Chi Minh City)



Deputy Rector (Prof. Diep Tuan) with Prof. Yasumura



Rector's short visit (Prof. Son)



Certified participant and A/Prof. Goto



Final photographic session

While the “teaching team” carried out the course, the “visit team” headed by Prof. Thy Khue and Prof. Yasumura visited Ho Chi Minh City Medical Association, Nguyen Tri Phuong Hospital and JICA Liaison Office in Ho Chi Minh City to report project achievements, hear their opinions on the current project and ideas for expansion, and provide information about Fukushima. The team was warmly welcomed and keenly encouraged to continue the training project.



Visit at HCMC Medical Association



Meeting with Hospital Director of
Nguyen Tri Phuong Hospital

The day after completing the training course at UMP, the Japanese team as well as three of our Vietnamese colleagues travelled to Hanoi and this travel served two purposes. The first was a visit and meeting at JICA main office on August 2 to report about the courses. Mr. Akira Shimizu (Senior Representative), Ms. Chu Xuan Hoa (Senior Program Officer) and Mr. Koji Takauchi (NGO-JICA Japan Desk Coordinator) welcomed our team. The meeting started with a presentation of the courses overview and achievements by the project manager, Dr. Goto, followed by constructive exchange of views between the course organizers led by Prof. Yasumura and the JICA officers, mainly regarding the future expansion of the course. The second was a visit at Hanoi School of Public Health on August 3, during which a fruitful exchange took place. The school representatives (Prof. Bui Thi Thu Ha, Vice Dean and Prof. Le Cu Linh, Head of Demography Dept.) expressed their willingness to support the training course and formulated some recommendations that will be further discussed. We also had the opportunity to visit the Vietnam Public Health Association (VPHA) and we were warmly welcomed by a dynamic team of public health professionals who provided us with an overview of their community activities, especially regarding reduction of Dioxin exposure through food.



Meeting at JICA office/HANOI



Visit at JICA office/HANOI



Visit at Hanoi School of Public health



Visit at Vietnam Public Health Association

As always, working atmosphere was very welcoming thanks to our Vietnamese colleagues who worked tirelessly to make our stay the most comfortable possible. We are also indebted to course organizers, project managers, and sponsors who provide all their supports needed for the success of the present course and look forward to the future expansion of this project.

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