

## **Evaluation of Epidemiological Research Training Online Course IX**

The Epidemiology Research Training Course IX was carried out as a full online course between 7th and 10th, January 2021. With the course theme “Communicating scientific evidence with a holistic view of lives”, lectures on multivariable analysis, systematic analysis, health literacy, and anthropology were delivered. Interactive communication between instructors and participants was facilitated through a chat function and a daily feedback form. We celebrated the 10th Anniversary as the JICA Partnership Project.

There were 75 registrants, 30 among them participated 3 days or more, and 27 completed the final examination. The majority was junior physicians. Twenty-six participants responded to the end-course evaluation survey. Results are explained below.

### **1. Past self-achievements**

Ninety-two had used scientific data to improve clinical practice, and the same proportion had applied comprehensive care in their practice (including both “yes” and “perhaps”). However, only 35% had published or presented their work.

### **2. Course evaluation survey in HCMC**

Duration of working in medicine was 5 years or less for 73%. Sixty-five percent of participants were first time attendants. Most agreed that the course was useful (“Good” and “Very good” 96%), and all showed an interest in attending a future course (including “Yes” 96% and “Maybe” 4%).

|                          |           | N (%) (Total N=26) |        |         |         |         |                |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|
|                          |           | 1                  | 2      | 3       | 4       | 5       |                |
| Usefulness of the course | Very poor | -                  | -      | 2 (4)   | 13 (50) | 12 (46) | Very good      |
| Overall level            | Very easy | -                  | -      | 16 (62) | 9 (35)  | 1 (4)   | Very difficult |
| Selection of topics      | Very poor | -                  | -      | 4 (15)  | 13 (50) | 9 (35)  | Very good      |
| Usefulness of exercises  | Very poor | -                  | -      | 4 (15)  | 17 (65) | 5 (19)  | Very good      |
| Usefulness of materials  | Very poor | -                  | -      | -       | 14 (54) | 12 (46) | Very good      |
| Course duration          | Too short | -                  | 3 (12) | 23 (88) | -       | -       | Too long       |

### 3. Self-evaluation of achievements

Over 75% answered that their understanding of two target topics and confidence in understanding scientific evidence increased. However, only half agreed that their confidence in conducting research increased since the study designing was only briefly reviewed in this course.

|                                   |                   | N (%) (Total N=26) |       |         |         |         |                |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|
|                                   |                   | 1                  | 2     | 3       | 4       | 5       |                |
| Understanding increased           | Strongly disagree |                    |       |         |         |         | Strongly agree |
| Anthropology                      |                   | -                  | 1 (4) | 5 (19)  | 8 (31)  | 12 (46) |                |
| Health literacy                   |                   | -                  | -     | 4 (15)  | 13 (50) | 9 (34)  |                |
| Confidence increased              | Strongly disagree |                    |       |         |         |         | Strongly agree |
| Understanding scientific evidence |                   | -                  | -     | 6 (23)  | 14 (54) | 6 (23)  |                |
| Conducting research               |                   | -                  | -     | 13 (50) | 9 (35)  | 4 (15)  |                |

### 4. Free written opinions for future courses

Teaching methods

- *Try to represent all topics in English so that all members from other countries can understand.*
- *I hope to get the handout before each lesson for more discussion.*
- *Schedule time from 9am to 11am is better. Recording of talks, if possible, should be done and posted on web so participants are able to listen again sometime in the future.*
- *Thank you very much, I got a lot of information from this course. I hope that in the future this course will still use zoom media so that international students can take this course, and I hope that one of the topics of this course is qualitative studies.*
- *Giving a few homework*
- *Thank you for your effort in organizing the course online despite difficulties we have been facing during this pandemic. In terms of suggestions for future courses, I would love to have more exercises or small group discussion to practice health literacy skills.*
- *I wish to have the specific examples of the knowledge in the course, like we can analysis the real studies to clarify what we had learned.*
- *Each research test should be split smaller, and more examples*
- *It is very helpful to have such online training, I would learn more if we have some research abstracts for discussion in a specific topic, in the future even from among the participants who will be pre evaluated. Thank you.*
- *With difficult topics like multivariable analysis, the course went too fast, so I think it should slow down at some times.*
- *I thought I needed to spend more time on preparation and review.*

### Suggested topics

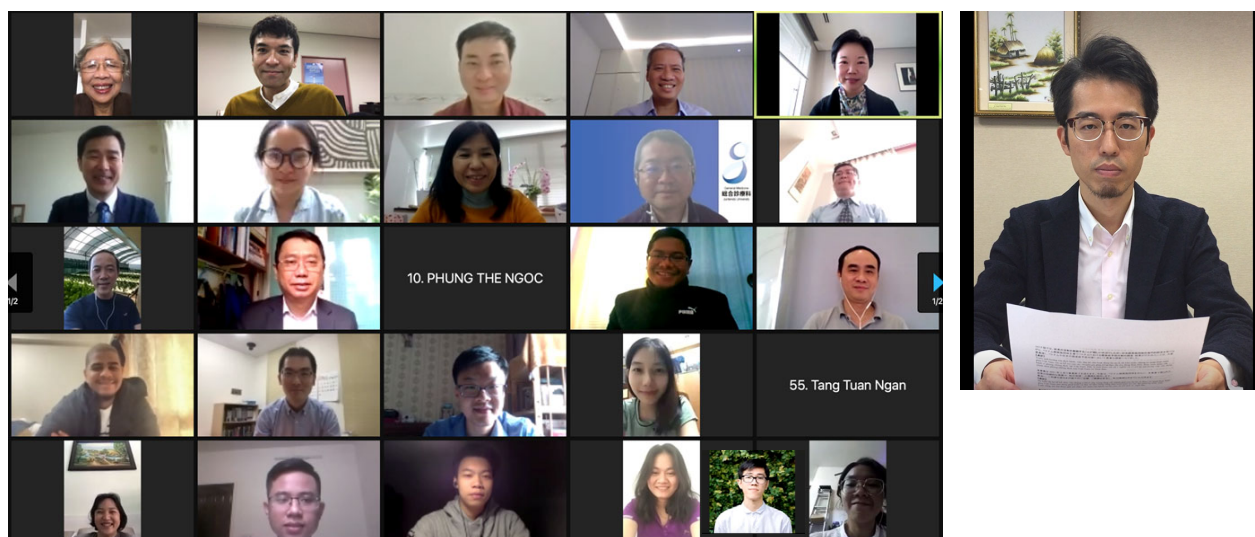
- *How to publish my research article on the international journal.*
- *In future course, I would like to practice more in qualitative research by learning a lot of example from the published article (reading and analysis). Besides, please help us go thoroughly in detail about using common tests in statistic and applying in some popular program (stata, spss,...)*

### Complements

- *I just want to give a huge thanks to all presenters.*
- *The presentation of Prof. Koriyama and Mr. Koyama impressed me a lot. I hope to attend your course again soon.*
- *Such a happy things that there will be a book published so that people can have a good foundation in epidemiology and biostatistics.*

### 5. 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for future expansion

On the last day, we celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our training course as the JICA Partnership Project. The anniversary speech by Mr. Yoshinori Mori of the JICA Hanoi office was followed by speeches by organizers, instructors, and a representative participant. We promised to upgrade and continue our training by focusing on the leadership training.



## 参加した本学の学生・院生の感想

疫学の分析についてだけでなく、ヘルスリテラシーや人類学などの幅広い分野の知識に触れることができ、大変興味深かったです。2日間のみの参加でしたが、学ぶことが多くあり、今後の自身の研究や活動に活かしていきたいと思います。

医学部4年 木下瑠菜

今回の研修会で私は初めて日本以外の疫学調査に触れることができました。また、英語以外の言語も触れる機会となりとなりとても貴重な経験となりました。疫学研究は国をまたいで行われる研究領域であり、また様々な領域で展開されているものなのだと感じました。大学の講義で触れる疫学について、まだ一面的な見方しかできていないとも感じ、今後多くの知見を蓄えていきたいと考えます。

看護学部2年 齊藤紗也華

ベトナムの先生方と意見交換ができるたいへん貴重な機会でした。英語を母国語としていない国どうしで英語を使って意見交換をすることはお互いに理解し合おうという丁寧な姿勢がみられ、学やすい環境と感じました。疫学や生物統計学、人類学などを英語で学びたいと思っていた僕にはまたとない機会となりました。

医学研究科院生 吉田一隆

※共同実施している鹿児島大学から参加した留学生の感想です。

### **Comments for JICA course from Kagoshima University Participants**

1. Salim Anwar Ahmed

Hello,

The JICA online course was a good approach to meet with instructors, seniors, and colleagues in these unprecedented times.

The presentations and topics were outstanding, relevant, and mind-opening. I benefitted from the topics, conversations, discussions, and all the material shared with us for reference and self-study. The moderation of the course was perfect, very interactive, and gave us a chance to share our ideas.

I would suggest more online courses with the participation of more students (selected by instructors) by presenting some of their findings, how they performed their analysis, and any challenges they faced and provide room for questions, discussion, and ideas from other participants. Otherwise, it was perfect. I would like to express my appreciation to all the supervisors and organizers for preparing such an event. It was an honor to participate.

Thank you,

Anwar.

2. Anonymous

I learned a lot. However, I didn't understand Vietnamese, so I think it would be better to have all presentations in English next time. Thank you very much.

3. Saekhol Bakri

The JICA is an excellent course. I took a lot of information and refreshed my knowledge. The course topic is good. Time management is good (neither too long nor too short) and on time. Even though some speakers gave material in Vietnamese, the PowerPoint displayed was in English, and sometimes Prof. Aya Goto explained in the chat room to minimize the information gap from the subject provided, he even added a lot of information related to the material (Thank you very much, Prof. Aya Goto). However, I think it would be much better if there was an evaluation question at the end of the day, this question is to make sure that we can understand the subject (for example the exercise made by Prof Koriyama).

I would like to express my appreciation to all of the speakers and committee for preparing this event. It was such an honor to participate in this event. In the future, I hope that I can participate again in another event and I would like to suggest some subjects related to qualitative research.

Thank you very much in advance.

4. Fredy mardiantoro

This is indeed a very good course for me. This epidemiology research training course gives me a basic knowledge of practical survey methods, especially in clinical practice. Easy to follow, very organized, and engaging.