

Promoting evidence-based patients-centered health services in southern Vietnam

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【Background】

This research capacity building initiative for physicians started as a university-level collaborative project in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) in 2004. Over time, it expanded internationally with support of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and domestically so as to cover the southern regions of Vietnam.

【Objective】

We present the achievements during the past decade.

【Methods】

We reviewed the project management, teaching content and participant evaluation results by using both quantitative and qualitative data.

	Courses I - IV	Course V (Three-series)	Course VI - (Two-series)
Time	2004 – 2009	2010-2012	2013-present
Grant	Gov. research grants	JICA	JICA + local company
Accreditation	University	University + City	University + City + Ministry (text)
Target	Physicians at university	Physicians in the city	Physicians in the South of VN
Lecturers	JP	JP + VN + Third country	JP + VN + Third country

Figure 1. Project scale-up achievement

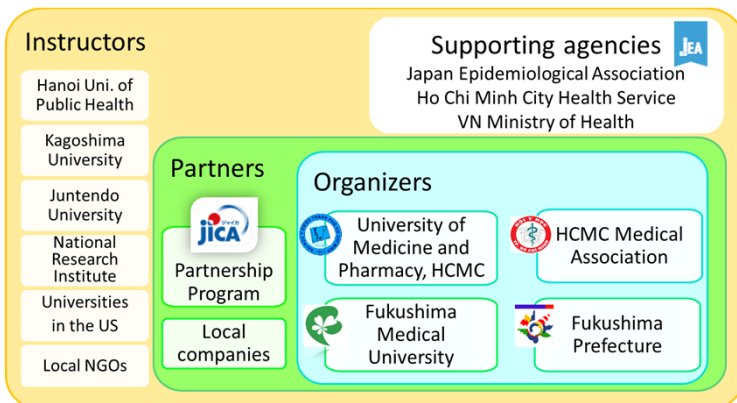


Figure 2. Project organization

Participant interviews in 2019 found two shared issues.

1. Social changes in Vietnam and their long-term effects on medicine and health
2. Needs to improve medical research skills and clinical practice (e.g. epidemiological and doctor-patient communication skills)

【Conclusion】

This project presents a sustainable model of research capacity building. It meets the evolving needs of local public health and changing definition of “health”.

【Results】

The teaching method combined traditional lecture and activity learning approach. The teaching content included epidemiology, biostatistics, and various up-to-date topics. The courses VII and VIII included qualitative research aiming to promote comprehensive care of patients. The course textbook was endorsed by Vietnam Ministry of Health and later digitalized.

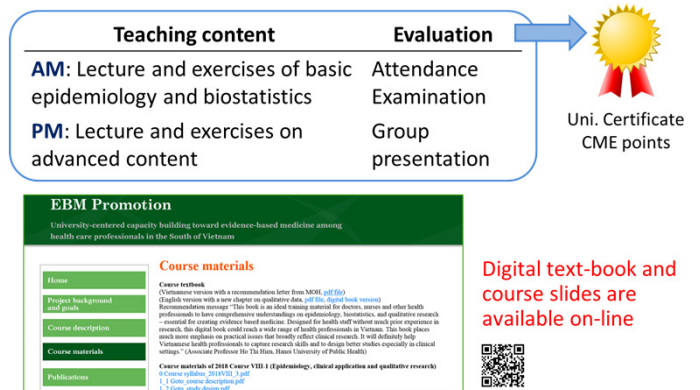


Figure 3. Teaching content and materials

Thirteen courses were organized in HCMC since 2004, and a total of 790 graduated: Courses I-IV 128, V 262, VI 203, VII 129, and VIII 68. In the cycle of project management, the participant evaluation result was reviewed and reflected in the next course, which was selected as JICA's model initiative. From 2018, the course expanded to An Giang province, 124 participated in two courses, and this outreach was awarded from the local people's committee.

Course evaluation (% of superior; 4 & 5 of 5-level scale)	I-IV N=139	V N=171	VI N=154	VII N=46	VIII N=87
Usefulness of training	96%	90%	92%	76%	84%
Selection of topics	87%	80%	77%	63%	70%
Course materials	90%	82%	83%	78%	85%

Table 1. Course evaluation of the courses in HCMC