

## The Epidemiological Research Training Course VI-2: Short activity report

There is a growing need of basic training in practical survey methods among medical doctors and university lecturers in Vietnam. We have organized the ninth research-training course (Course VI-2) jointly organized by the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Ho Chi Minh City (UMP) and the Department of Public Health of Fukushima Medical University. The training course was held at the UMP from August 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The primary objective of this course was to enable participants to understand epidemiological findings, to design and conduct epidemiological studies. In this course, we focused on data handling, data analysis, and publication skills. Most lectures were given in English with translation into Vietnamese. Course materials developed by course instructors were distributed on the first day of the course. There were 19 instructors including guest lectures and assistants from Vietnam, Singapore, and Japan actively worked as a team.

The core curriculum consists with three components: lecture, software exercises, and group works. During the morning class (9:00-11:30), participants attended lectures focuses on basic biostatistics including key concepts such as basic tests, data management, and controlling bias. The afternoon class (13:30-16:00) was dedicated to software exercises and group project discussions. Both Vietnamese and Japanese instructors guided 4 group projects (see table below) that were proposed in the previous course and successfully implemented in fields. The total number of registrants was 119 and that of graduates was 99 (83%), including 15 participants from outside Ho Chi Minh City.

Research topics	Instructors
Association between depression and blood sugar control among elderly patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus	Khue, Nam, Thang, Yokokawa, Ito, Lai
Evaluation of the quality of life by SF-36 score in elderly patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus	Khue, Nam, Thang, Yokokawa, Kuroda
Clinical and para-clinical characteristics of diabetic inpatients with nephropathy at Bachmai Hospital	Trung, Yokokawa
Blood donation interval for Vietnamese palate donors: Comparing 2, 3 and 4 weeks	Khoa, Aya

On the final day of the course, "Fukushima Open Seminar" was organized. Three lecturers presented about the current situation of Fukushima, overview of the Fukushima Health Management Survey, and working with evacuees' community.

After closing the course, we had a summary staff meeting to review and discuss good points and needs for improvements in the course. Mr. Alden Lai from Singapore, who is a project evaluator, facilitated the focus group discussion among both Japanese and Vietnamese lectures, and suggested that there were multiple behavior changes at individual (both participants and faculty) and organizational levels as a result of continuous efforts to run the training course for the last 15 years.

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Registration



Lecture



Group work



Examination

