

## Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japan Epidemiological Association

### Capacity building toward evidence-based medicine among health care professionals in Ho Chi Minh City

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**Background:** In Vietnam, continuing medical education is increasingly attracting attention with a focus on evidence-based medicine. A Phase I project funded by JICA was initiated from FY 2010 to FY 2012 to scale-up a research capacity-building initiative from the university- to city-level that was targeted at physicians. This project was conducted in collaboration with Fukushima Prefecture, Fukushima Medical University, Ho Chi Minh City University of Medicine and Pharmacy, and the Vietnamese Medical Association. The Phase II of this JICA project has been launched, and will continue for another three years to expand it into the southern regions of Vietnam. **Objective:** Among two courses in the Phase II, we present the outcomes of the first course that is focused on research study designs, and plans for the second course focusing on data analysis. **Methods:** The management of this project was reviewed, and participant evaluation was conducted following the Kirkpatrick Model (KM). **Results:** A total of 108 physicians completed the course and 10 research projects were launched. We documented the participants' positive reaction to the courses (KM Level 1), and their perceived increase in knowledge and confidence in research skills (KM Level 2). The project succeeded in developing an open-access course textbook (<http://hcmc-fukushima-ebm.net/>), securing additional local funding, performing outreach to participants in Southern provinces, and expanding faculty network. Recommendations for subsequent training include the need for review of epidemiology and teaching research ethics, more hands-on practices, and continuous emphasis on the link between evidence and health policy. **Discussion:** This study presents updates from a model of health research capacity building that was being scaled-up in a transnational context. The KM Level 3 evaluation to assess application of learned knowledge in practices will be conducted in Phase II.

