

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

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### **Abstract**

**Background:** In Vietnam, continuing medical education is increasingly focused on evidence-based medicine. This project was conducted in collaboration with Fukushima Prefecture, Fukushima Medical University, Ho Chi Minh City University of Medicine and Pharmacy, and Ho Chi Minh City Medical Association with support from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency since 2010. In Phase I, this capacity-building initiative was increased in scale from the university- to city-level. In Phase II, it was further expanded into the southern regions of Vietnam.

**Objective:** We present the outcomes of the second course in Phase II that was focused on data analysis.

**Methods:** The management of this project was reviewed and participant evaluation was conducted by triangulating quantitative and qualitative data.

**Results:** A total of 99 physicians completed the course and 4 research projects were implemented. We documented the participants' positive reaction to the course (91% agreed that the course was useful), and their perceived increase in biostatistics knowledge and confidence in data analysis. The project succeeded in developing an open-access course textbook that was endorsed by the Vietnamese Ministry of Health, securing additional local funding, performing outreach to participants in Southern provinces, and expanding faculty network. Recommendations for subsequent training include wider publicity of the course offering, responding to different participants' needs, and strategically expanding the scope of the project.

**Discussion:** This study presents updates from a model of health research capacity-building that was being scaled-up in a transnational context.