

Veterinary education in Asia, Far East and Oceania

Takeshi Haga

Department of Veterinary Medical Science, The University of Tokyo, Japan ahaga@mail.ecc.u-tokyo.ac.jp

The OIE list includes 151 Veterinary Educational Establishments (VEEs) in 32 Member Countries in Asia, the Far East and Oceania: 9 countries, namely Brunei, Timor-Leste, Micronesia, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Vanuatu, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Pakistan reported to have no VEE or provided no information to the OIE. Two countries (India, China) have more than 30 VEEs, and 3 countries (Japan, Indonesia, Korea) have 10 or more VEEs. Duration of the study in VEEs is 4-6 years, which may include pre-vet coursework.

A survey using a harmonized questionnaire on "Awareness of OIE Day 1 competencies" was conducted in 13 VEEs in the region. General findings include: 1) 91% of VEEs know "OIE Day 1 competencies," 2) 91% modified their curriculum to reflect OIE Day 1 competencies [including the answer such as "not directly, but the new curricula generally meets OIE Day 1 competencies"], 3) Challenges experienced in adapting "OIE Day 1 competencies" include "the limited manpower, budget and facilities", "difficulties in obtaining agreement from faculty members who do not want to change the current states".

Veterinary education in Asian countries differ depending on differences in the development of livestock industry as well as educational systems in this huge continent. While Oceania has its own accreditation standard for ensuring the quality of education, no such regional mechanism has yet developed. In order to enrich the curricula with such limitations, various activities are ongoing. 1) OIE VEE Twinning Projects in Thailand, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. 2) A similar bilateral cooperation in Mongolia as JICA project by Hokkaido University with the focus on strengthening the capacity for human resource development in the field of veterinary and animal husbandry. 3) Collaboration on veterinary education between VEEs under "The ASEAN International Mobility for Students" Programme. Under this programme, students' exchanges including credit transfer started in 2014 between VEEs in Thailand and Japan. 4) Internship program between VEEs in East Asia (Tokyo-Soul-Taiwan etc) for educational exposure of veterinary students within different cultural backgrounds.

These efforts for enhancing curricula and for understanding the diversity in the region need to be further promoted especially in the field of transboundary infectious diseases control, epidemiology and food safety.

Information communication technology can be utilized for effective education through digitalized material with sharing resources on websites, although supporting staffs are required for sustainable system.

Keywords: Day 1 competencies – Asia, Far East and Oceania – veterinary education – veterinary educational establishments