



Meeting Report
AAVS Virtual Meeting on Veterinary Education in the time of COVID-19
26 January 2021
Zoom

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1. Background

The purpose of AAVS is to advance the education, research and public services in veterinary sciences (from AAVS bylaws). To do so, the association is tasked to facilitate exchange of educational and scientific information. To date, such exchanges were mainly conducted during annual AAVS meetings. However, the 19th meeting of the AAVS, which was scheduled to take place in July 2020 in Indonesia, was postponed due to the pandemic of COVID-19. As an alternative platform, a virtual meeting was proposed by the AAVS Executive Committee Members.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many aspects of our lives, including education. Many universities around the world have introduced online learning. Yet, there are many limitations of online lessons, including teaching practical skills, which are important veterinary competencies. Further, negative impacts of the pandemic on students outside classroom

such as psychological and financial status have been reported. “Veterinary Education in the time of COVID-19” was selected as the theme of the first virtual meeting so that AAVS members could learn from each other’s experiences and discuss potential solutions to minimize the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on veterinary education.

2. Meeting summary

The meeting was joined by 93 participants representing 32 AAVS Member institutions from 11 countries as well as participants from the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific.

The meeting was conducted according to the meeting agenda (**Annex 1**). The presentations are available on the [meeting page on the AAVS website](#).

Agenda item 1: Welcome remarks

Dr. Hori, the President of AAVS, welcomed and thanked attendees for joining the meeting. He explained that in the meeting, six members from different countries will present their Covid-19 preventive measures, problems, and plans for future education. Dr. Hori also expressed his hope to discuss what AAVS could do for the practice of veterinary education in the COVID-19 situation.

Photos of participants were captured (**Annex 2**).

Agenda item 2: Brief report of the AAVS Executive Committee Meeting

The Secretary General, Dr. Takeshi Haga, gave a report on the highlights from the Extraordinary AAVS Executive Committee Meeting, held on 23rd October 2020. He also provided other updates on the operations of the AAVS.

Agenda item 3: Findings from the pre-meeting questionnaire

The key findings from the pre-meeting questionnaire were presented by Ms. Marina Fujii, a 5th year veterinary student at the University of Tokyo, who is doing an internship with the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific supporting the AAVS Office. The script that accompanies the presentation is in **Annex 3**.

Agenda items 4 and 6: Reports from AAVS Members

Six AAVS Members, selected from AAVS Executive Committee Members, delivered presentations on their experiences of delivering veterinary education during Covid-19

pandemic. They were asked to speak on the following aspects:

- Brief overview of Covid-19 situation in the country
- How the institution has adapted delivery of didactic course – challenges and solutions
- How the institution has adapted practical training – challenges and solutions
- Challenges and solutions outside classrooms (e.g., student and faculty safety and health, internships)

Veterinary education in UTokyo in the COVID-19 situation	Dr. Taisuke Horimoto (University of Tokyo, Japan)	PDF
Veterinary Education of SNU in the era of COVID-19	Dr. Je Yoel Cho (Seoul National University, Korea)	PDF
Veterinary education in Taiwan during COVID-19 pandemic	Dr. Fang-Chia Chang (National Taiwan University, Taiwan)	PDF
New Normal of Veterinary Education of FVM UGM	Dr. Agung Budiyo (Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia)	PDF
COVID-19 AND VETERINARY EDUCATION IN THAILAND	Dr. Khongsak Thiangtum (Kasetsart University, Thailand)	PDF
Veterinary Education in Pakistan during COVID-19 Pandemic	Dr. Hafsa Zaneb (University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore, Pakistan)	PDF

Agenda item 7: Facilitated discussion

The discussion was facilitated by Dr. Hori. Each discussion topic was selected from the question section in the Pre-meeting Questionnaire. Further, questions were asked using zoom chat box. The participants expressed their opinions either by speaking or posting on chat box.

Topic 1. The possibility of sharing educational materials with other AAVS members and the establishment of working group for this task

- Every university has to have materials already, but whether to share or not to should be optional.
- On sharing the materials, we should be careful not to infringe copyright.
- The office in Tokyo can be a hub and make a list of demanded or available lectures/materials.
- There will be language issues for recorded videos.
- Not only veterinary subjects but also soft skills development should be included in the sharing.
- Regarding the set-up of working group, Dr. Hori stated that he would think about that and he would welcome any suggestions from the members by e-mail.

Topic 2. The possibility of exchanging lecturers among AAVS member institutions

- We should start from making a list of topics where speakers are needed.

Topic 3. How to conduct good remote examination?

- No direct response was provided.
- It was noted that AAVS should collect information on the Information Technology level of AAVS member institutes.

Topic 4. How to resume face-to-face trainings while ensuring the safety of both hosts and students?

- Can we require students to take vaccination prior to the practical courses? →depending on the covid19/ local situation
- Different countries/institutions have difference policies for financial support for student vaccination/ testing.

Topic 5. How to make up for the missed practical trainings?

- Make the most of online modules.
- Gadjah Mada University used “eLok” in which students were put into small groups each consisting of only 5-6 students and an assistant. Since this practical course was interactive, the students could feel offline.
- Seoul National University used online educational tool “Vet Girl” (<https://vetgirlontherun.com/>). It offers a wide variety of veterinary educational videos plus attached examination at the end of the video. Students can watch videos and get certification by scoring over 80%, and SNU gives a credit for submission of 5 certification printout.
- We can follow up by continuing education after graduation.
- Seoul National University prepared a room with clinical educational dummies. Students can

make an appointment and come to the room to practice freely.

Topic 6. Evaluation and monitoring of students on online lectures

-Seoul National University conducted exam using zoom. Each student was given different question set and was monitored by handphone to prevent cheating.

-Kasetsart University also intended to monitor students on examination, but gave up because they couldn't offer the device for all students.

-There is a need to establish a computer-based test at university level.

Agenda item 8: Upcoming AAVS Activities and Opportunities

Dr. Haga announced upcoming AAVS activities and opportunities such as launch of AAVS newsletter and the next AAVS Meeting along with a request to complete a post-meeting questionnaire.

Dr. Widagdo Nugroho from Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia, described the deadlines for paper submission for ICAVESS to be organized 28-29 March 2021.

Finally, Dr. Hiroyuki Nakayama, the president of the AAVS Japan, announced the winners of 2020 Kei-ichiro Maeda Memorial Ise Award and application information for the 2021 award.

Agenda item 10: Closing remarks

Dr. Abdul Rahman Omar, the AAVS Vice President, gave concluding remarks, stating that the whole meeting was very successful and appreciated the speakers. Dr. Omar said he realized the importance of online lectures, which bring the creativity of lecturers to develop good training modules. He also addressed that keeping the mental health is a common problem students are facing. He expressed his appreciation for each speaker and AAVS office for the smooth and successful meeting.

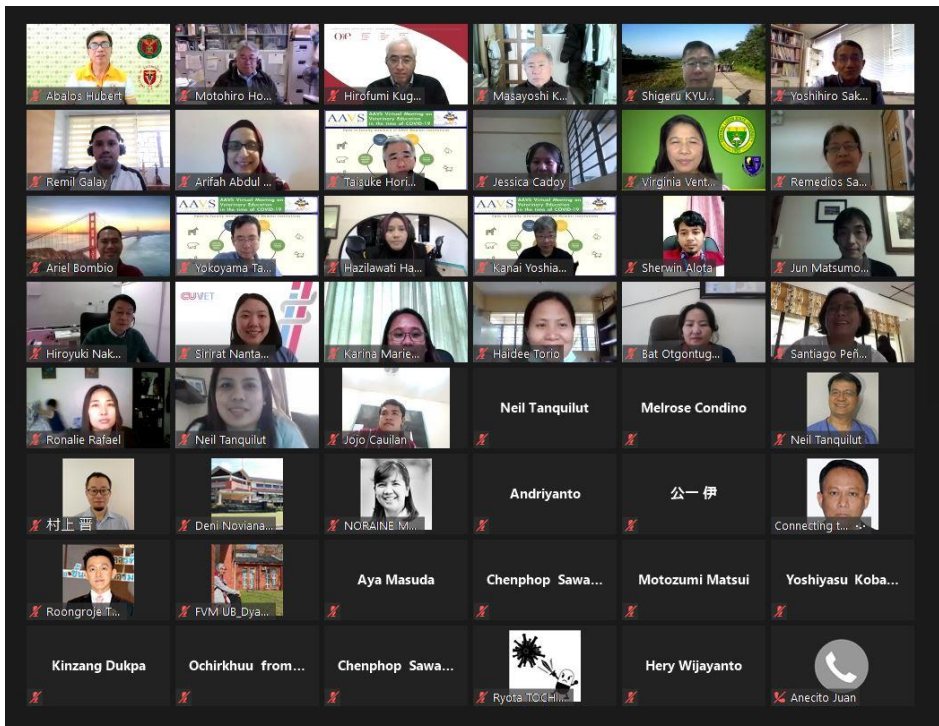
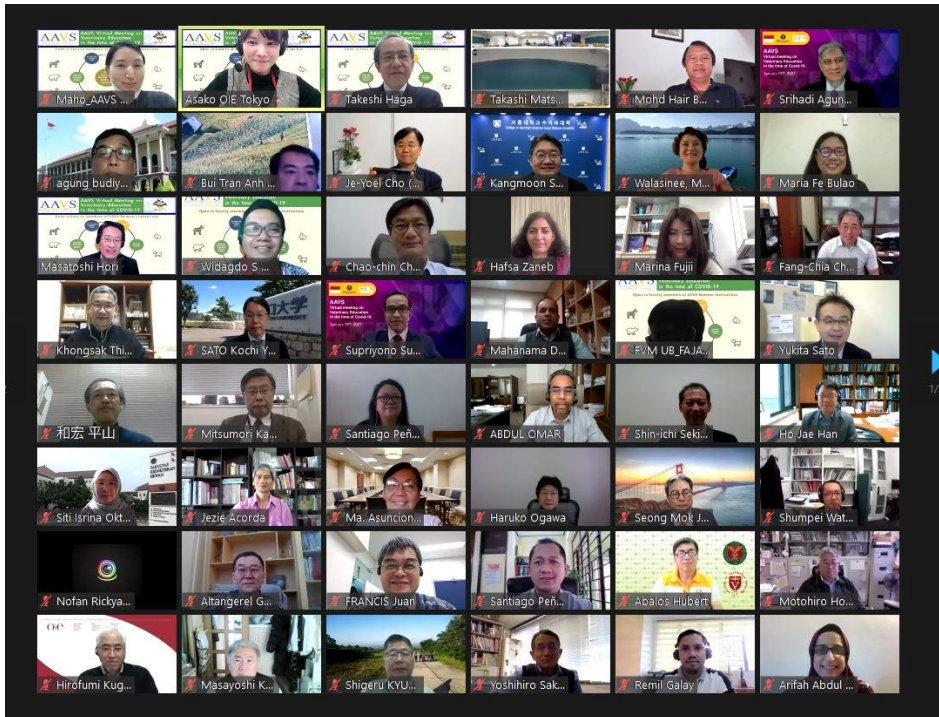
Acknowledgement

AAVS would like to thank all the speakers of the meeting as well as the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific for providing technical support.

Annex 1. Meeting Agenda

	Meeting Moderator: Dr. Haga	Speaker	Approximate time (Japan time)
	Zoom opens		14:45
1	Welcome remarks	Dr. Masatoshi Hori, AAVS President	15:00-15:05
2	Brief report of AAVS Executive Committee Meeting	Dr. Takeshi Haga, AAVS Secretary General	15:05-15:10
3	Findings from the pre-meeting questionnaire	AAVS Office	15:10-15:15
4	Report from Members (Part 1)		15:15-15:50
	Japan (University of Tokyo)	Dr. Taisuke Horimoto	
	Korea (National Seoul University)	Dr. Jeyoel Cho	
	Taiwan (National Taiwan University)	Dr. Fang-Chia Chang	
	Q&A		
5	Break (5min)		15:50-15:55
6	Report from Members (Part 2)		15:55-16:30
	Indonesia (Universitas Gadjah Mada)	Dr. Agung Budiyanto	
	Thailand (Kasetsart University)	Dr. Kongsak Thiangtum	
	Pakistan (University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore)	Dr. Hafsa Zaneb	
	Q&A		
7	Facilitated discussion	All, facilitated by Dr. Hori	16:30-16:50
8	Upcoming AAVS Activities and Opportunities	Dr. Haga	16:50-16:55
9	Closing remarks	Dr. Abdul Rahman Omar, AAVS Vice President	16:55-17:00

Annex 2. Meeting participants photo



Annex 3. Summary of findings from the pre-meeting questionnaire

We asked the questions about education under COVID-19 Pandemic. 26 institutes from 11 countries answered.

15 out of 26 institutions are delivering didactic courses fully online. 9 answered they are teaching both physically and online. It is of note that among those who chose “both virtually and physically”, many mentioned that the lecture part is given online, thus, we can consider that most of AAVS members have adopted online lectures. A member reported that building online modules are quite challenging due to the limited resources and poor internet connection. Another member states that all lectures should be done online according to the university’s policy.

As for practical training, 13 answered they use blended methods. 7 members virtually conduct practical training, while 5 do physically. Those institutes who hold at least physical practice partially mentioned that they are doing so with infection preventive measures such as reducing the number of participants by half, or implementing PCR tests prior to the training. Some members described that they cannot have face-to-face trainings because the university or the government bans such activities. A member provides students with video recordings produced in laboratories or the clinic to cover the trainings.

The third question asked about Off-campus Internships. 12 said they are not facilitating internships or internships are cancelled. 7 accommodate the internships physically, while 5 facilitate blended internship programs. Similar to the practical trainings, internships involving physical contacts are done under infection preventive measures. Here again, some members cannot facilitate the internships due to the restriction by their universities or the government. We asked if there were any positive changes that COVID-19 pandemic brought about. Many members stated that asynchronous educational materials, which can be used repeatedly were accumulated in the period. Also, many felt that the change enhanced our information/software literacy. Furthermore, there was a comment mentioning that it has become cheaper and easier to invite foreign lecturers to give lectures online.

In addition, we asked about major challenges AAVS members are/were facing. Quite a few stated that the internet connection are not good enough to deliver online lectures. With students coming from different areas with different internet stability, some institutes gave up delivering synchronous lectures. Another common challenge was clinical or laboratory skill development. Many members worry that the prolonged online education can impair the students’ quality as veterinarians.

Lastly, questions from AAVS members were collected. One of the most frequently asked question was “Can we share educational resources such as teaching materials or lectures?”

There were other questions like “how to do a good remote exam?”, “How can we resume face-to-face trainings while keeping safety of students and hosts? ”, “How can we make up for the missed practical/laboratory trainings?”, and “How can we properly evaluate or monitor students while they are taking online lectures?” Those questions were discussed later in the meeting.