

Summary of comments raised in plenary discussion

Q1: What is needed to improve quality of veterinary education in the Asian countries?

Hori: Asia is the key region for disease control, and the number of companion animals are increasing in many countries, so bringing up the level of veterinary education is very important, even though the situation varies among countries. In my opinion, establishment of accreditation is the final goal and there are things we need to do to build up to it. What are your opinions?

- The standards of existing accreditation systems are basically the same, so we should start from establishing an evaluation system for the minimum educational requirements.
- One method I use to evaluate our education is to ask whether the students can perform ovariohysterectomy on their own. I do this because the procedure contains all the basic skills including physical examination, blood tests, x-rays, anesthesia and surgery. In order to achieve this goal, I think guidelines are very important.
- We have no experience in getting accreditation, so we need a mentor if we were to gain accreditation from AVMA or EAEVE.
- Looking towards the final goal of establishing an accreditation system, I think we will start with making guidelines for educational and instrumental requirements.

Q2: How to achieve the above goal

- National accreditation bodies already have standards. I think working together with national bodies (that decide on curriculums) is a way to go. By doing this we can collect information to harmonize and establish common field between countries.
- I agree with that we need to have our own accreditation system in Asia. Steps to achieve this are: First, make a group of experts (which we already have from universities in Asia that were accredited by AVMA, EAEVE, and AVBC), second, make standards and guidelines, and lastly to apply them to all Asian schools.

Q3: What is AAVS's role?

- There is much variety in education style even inside Asia. I think it would be nice if we could work together, with AAVS in the lead, to identify the gap. FAVA is also willing to support this movement. We could start with evaluation of the minimum requirement and then ultimately aim to make a more complete system like the pre-existing accreditations.
- It is very important for us to build an Asian accreditation, because standards and situations are different from Australia or Europe – the issuers of the pre-existing accreditations. Asia is a big continent, so I think why not make an Asian accreditation now? We need to maintain close collaboration with FAVA and AAVS to achieve this little by little.
- We need a sustainable committee to lead the establishment of the accreditation system.