



POST

The latest news and updates from Asian Association of Veterinary Schools

Volume 3 | August 2022



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Prof. Dr Abdul Rahman Omar, the University of Putra Malaysia

AAVS Strategic Plan 2022-2026

I hope all AAVS members are keeping safe as we progress to the third quarter of 2022 as many countries have opened their borders. We launched our five years Strategic Plan (2022-2026) early this year with four strategic goals, including 1) Enhancing Veterinary Education, 2) Promoting Training and Development Programs, 3) Strengthening One Health Concept, and 4) Enhancing Operational and Partnerships. AAVS established two working groups working on two key components of veterinary education, Veterinary Education Enhancement (VEE) and Veterinary Education Research (VER). I am pleased to see progress in planning the activities, although most of our activities are conducted online by the working groups.

We conducted our very first webinar on Veterinary Educational Research (VER) by inviting experts from the United Kingdom. VER is a relatively new field but is rapidly growing and emerging as a discipline in its own right. The webinar was a huge success, and we are pleased to know that some of our members are already performing evidence-based teaching and assessment practice, although much of the information was not published. We notice the importance of strengthening the faculty development and training in VER since it helps develop the appropriate assessment tools for evaluating our veterinary teaching and learning process.

One fundamental approach to enhancing veterinary education is collaborating with other regional organizations that share a common interest in strengthening veterinary education in Asia. We are pleased with the formation of a joint education committee between AAVS and the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA). This joint committee will develop the core curriculum and self-assessment tool and standardize the Day-One Competency for Veterinary School in Asia. The development of standardized Day One Competencies will enhance the harmonization of veterinary professional curricula in Asia and also might be a good tool to emphasize the complex, multidisciplinary, and chain approached nature of veterinary education and profession. In line with our Strategic Plan, we hope AAVS can serve better the veterinary students in Asia by providing educational resources of regional interest on important topics related to transboundary diseases, zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance. We realize the strategic plan is very ambitious, but we are confident we can get it done if we work together collectively, capitalizing on our strengths and overcoming challenges and limitations.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

by Prof. Takeshi Haga, the University of Tokyo

The AAVS Post, an electronic newsletter for AAVS members, began in 2021 to provide AAVS members with various updates from the AAVS Secretariat and to serve as a platform for information sharing among members. It was published twice last year, and this is the second year and the third issue.

For more than 20 years since its establishment in 2001, AAVS has promoted friendship and information exchange among its member universities at its annual meetings. During this time, however, social situation related to veterinary profession in Asia have changed dramatically, and the AAVS has had to play a greater role. In 2016, the fourth OIE Global Congress on Veterinary Education was held in Bangkok, where the status of accreditation bodies in the region and in different countries was presented, showing that in Asia, there are variations. Around the same time, the AAVS conference also proposed accreditation body in Asia, and a policy to consolidate information on the website, which was launched in 2016, was put forward. Although an accreditation body for veterinary education in Asia is to be established in the future, progress has been slow.

In 2017, we strengthened our secretariat function, located at the University of Tokyo, by registering the legal establishment in Japan (AAVS Office), and the AAVS Office is now supported by the World Organization of Animal Health (WOAH/OIE) Asia and Pacific Regional Office. Due to the COIVD-19 pandemic, we have not been able to hold face-to-face meetings since 2020, but, on the other hand, online technology has enabled us to overcome the difficult times by holding frequent virtual events. In this vein, the need to recognize our common challenges in Asia and the need for a plan to overcome these challenges was discussed.

As stated in the President's message, the Strategic Plan (2022-2026) was developed in March this year; it addresses the issues of veterinary education and lifelong education as well as the training of veterinarians necessary. It also calls for the strengthening of veterinary training programs, the strengthening of the One Health Concept, and the promotion of partnerships with various stakeholders. To implement this plan, the AAVS has established and initiated two working groups on veterinary education; Veterinary Education Enhancement (VEE; chair: Prof Omar and co-chair Prof Chang), and Veterinary Education Research (VER; Chair: Prof Zaneb). A joint education committee with Federation of

Asian Veterinary Association (FAVA) has also been established, and kick-off meeting was held in July. In November, 21st FAVA Congress will be held in Fukuoka, Japan, where cooperation of AAVS with FAVA will be discussed in a session on veterinary education.

Asia is indeed a diverse region. Although the COIVD-19 pandemic dealt a heavy blow to international exchange, science and technology are bringing international exchange into a new stage towards the Post COVID-19 Era, such as the widely use of the online technology and the development of automatic translation capabilities. In order to overcome our challenges common to Asia through cooperation and harmony while respecting its diversity, I would like to ask for your continued cooperation and support in revitalizing the activities of the AAVS.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to the WOAH/OIE staffs for their support and to the WOAH/OIE fellows from AAVS member universities for their cooperation in publishing this newsletter.



AAVS Strategic Plan 2022-2026



- To improve the quality of veterinary education
- To promote the harmonization of veterinary education
- To collaborate with various stakeholders on regional veterinary program accreditation



- To promote collaboration in research, symposia, training and any other activities
- To promote staff and expert exchange and mobility
- To promote student exchange and mobility



- To strengthen education and training on One Health topics
- To advocate policy and activities on One Health
- To promote research and development of integrative approaches in addressing issues on One Health



- To effectively communicate with various stakeholders
- To increase visibility and linkages
- To promote partnerships with various stakeholders of mutual interest and benefit

The Launch of Two Working Groups

VETERINARY EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT (VEE)

- Chair: Prof Abdul R. Omar
- Co-chair: Prof Fang-Chia Chang

VETERINARY EDUCATION RESEARCH (VER)

• Chair: Prof Hafsa Zaneb

REPORT OF VER WEBINAR

VETERINARY EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH IN ASIA – POTENTIAL WAY FORWARD

A webinar organized by AAVS Working Group on Veterinary Education Research (VER-WG) - 31st of May 2022

by Dr. Yumiko SHIMIZU and Martina Marina

Welcome Remarks

Dr. Hafsa Zaneb from University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore Pakistan, the Chair of AAVS Working Group on Veterinary Education Research (VER-WG), extended her warm welcome to the participants and speakers. She mentioned that this is the first webinar from VER-WG and that the purpose of this webinar is to encourage countries from Asia to collaborate more in the field of veterinary educational research.

Dr. Abdul R. Omar, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Universiti Putra Malaysia and the President of AAVS, expressed his warm welcome to the webinar participants and speakers. He noted that the main objectives of this webinar are to impart awareness regarding the essentials of veterinary educational research and to support the AVVS member institutions in developing evidence-based educational policies and initiatives. He also mentioned that one of AAVS' strategic goal is to enhance the quality of veterinary education and to harmonise veterinary educational standards across Asia. He hoped that through veterinary education research, the AVVS can establish datasets to develop proper assessment tools for veterinary schools in Asia. Lastly, he appreciated the speakers for accepting the webinar invitation and expressed his hope that the participants will participate enthusiastically.

Veterinary Educational Research in Asia - The Way Forward (Prof. Ayona Silva-Fletcher from Royal Veterinary College University of London)

Summary of the presentation:

- 1. Veterinary education is an academic discipline, consisting of:
 - a. Branch of learning or scholarly instruction
 - b. Scholarly activities (publications/conferences, networks)
 - c. Research and knowledge generation

- 2. Veterinary educational research is challenging:
 - a. It falls in the social sciences domain
 - b.It is not necessarily built on hypothesis-driven research and the methodologies of social sciences are different from quantitative research what we are familiar with.
- 3. There are many peered reviewed journals in higher education and medical education. However, there are only few peered reviewed journals in veterinary education, and it takes at least one year to get published in JVME. It may be time to create a new publication on veterinary education for Asia.
- 4. Conclusions + final message:
 - a. Justify our teaching and assessment approaches
 - b. Provide the best learning experiences to our students
 - c. Prepare a generation of veterinarians with the skills to tackle problems of tomorrow to enhance care, welfare, food safety and well-being of humans, animals, and the planet.

"Be brave, take the challenge, and do educational research"

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do.

So throw off the bowlines,
Sail away from the safe harbor,
Catch the trade winds in your sails.

Explore, Dream and Discover.

Mark Twain

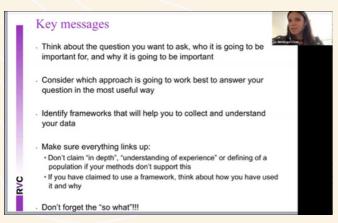
Qualitative research in action: what it can tell us and what it can't (Prof. Liz Armitage-Chan from Royal Veterinary College University of London)

1. Prof. Liz shared an example of research question: how are the engagement and learning outcomes of distance learning students who are in work affected by personal, social and course influences?

She talked about:

- a. The method
- b. Study design
- c. Interview questions (experiential, grounded in the theoretical framework)
- d. Data analysis process
- e. What they have achieved
- f. What they haven't achieved
- g."So what" are their findings valid, useful and transferable?

2. Key messages:



Status of initiatives related to Veterinary Educational Research in member institutions of AAVS (Prof Hafsa Zaneb from University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore Pakistan)

- 1. This presentation shared the result of a survey conducted about "Status of initiatives related to Veterinary Educational Research in member institutions of AAVS"
- 2.In total, there were 44 responses from 40 member institutions
- 3. Conclusion:
 - a. Some member institutions are already engaged with veterinary educational research
 - b.There are areas where member institutions can extend or seek support from each other such as
 - i. Faculty development
 - ii. Collaborative educational research
 - iii. Establishment of institutional support to promote educational research
- 4. This survey will help in future meeting to identify what needs to be done

Experience sharing by AAVS Members

- Veterinary Educational Research in NLU, Vietnam (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Le Quang Thong from Nong Lam University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam): Veterinary educational research in NLU, OIE project: "Veterinary Education Twinning Project" with Veterinary School of the University of Queensland, Australia, and ReVET project:"Reinforcement of Veterinary Studies in Asian Universities" between 4 veterinary schools in Europe and 10 faculty of veterinary medicine in Asia
- My Journey in Veterinary Educational Research (Assistant Prof. Dr. Rebecca Parkes from City University of Hong Kong): Current pending projects on a) Identifying and sharing innovations in clinical skills teaching globally developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, b) AR (Augmented Reality) in feline physical examination, c) PBL, and d) Clinical skills models development, and going forward.

Panel discussion

Summary of the panel discussion can be found here

Closing Remarks

Prof. Fang-Chia Chang, Dean of School of Veterinary Medicine of National Taiwan University and the Vice President of AAVS, gave the closing remarks for this webinar. He mentioned that the aim of this webinar is to initiate veterinary educational research among the AAVS institutions. He thanked all the speakers and participants. He believed that this webinar is just the beginning of the AAVS working group on Veterinary Education Research (VER-WG) and that the group will continue to enhance veterinary education quality and facilitate in collaboration among AAVS members. Lastly, he thanked everyone for joining and he wished everyone to be healthy through this Covid-19 pandemic.

^{*}Presentations and videos are available on the AAVS website (click here)

UPCOMING EVENTS



2ND ICAVESS

17-18 SEPTEMBER 2022

- AAVS Veterinary Education Session: 17 September, from 12:30-13:30 UTC+7 (Indonesia time)
- AAVS-WOAH-UGM Session on AMR and Food Safety: One Health education and the role of VEEs in Asia: 18 September, from 11:35-12:50 UTC+7 (Indonesia time)

2022 AAVS INTERSCHOOL LECTURE ROUND

20 SEPTEMBER 2022

Organized by: 2 nd ICAVESS Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Ind

- 1st Lecture: "Avian Influenza virus of pandemic concerns" (Prof. Dr. Abdul Rahman Omar, Universiti Putra Malaysia): 20 September, from 13:00-15:15 UTC+7 (Indonesia time), online by zoom
- *Details of the lecture round and call for lecturers will be announced from AAVS Office in September.



UPCOMING EVENTS

21ST FAVA CONGRESS

11-13 NOVEMBER 2022

• Veterinary Education Session: 13 November, from 13:00-15:10 UTC+9 (Japan time)





20TH AAVS ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

24 NOVEMBER 2022

• 20th AAVS Annual Assembly Meeting: 24 November, from 16:00-18:00 UTC+9 (Japan time)

THANK YOU FOR READING!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AVVS

Please visit AAVS Website (https://aavs.jpn.org/)

FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Please contact us via **AAVS website contact form** or **secretary@aavs.jpn.org**