

AAVS



POST

The latest news & updates from the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools



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Greetings From Editorial Board

Dear AAVS members,

Greetings from Tokyo! This summer, we experienced record-breaking heat, with average temperatures rising over 2°C above normal, and many days exceeding 35°C. However, in the past few weeks, the weather has cooled noticeably, and crisp air now signals the arrival of autumn. And just like the season, the newest edition of the AAVS POST has arrived.

This year, we have three Big **NEWS from AAVS Office.**

1. **NEW Members**

AAVS welcomed two universities as new members. College of Veterinary Medicine, Cagayan State University, and Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, fifteenth university from the Philippines and the first university from India, respectively. Currently, we have 58 members from 17 countries ([AAVS Members](#)). AAVS is growing! Two recommendation letters by AAVS members with a proposal document is required to join AAVS.

2. **NEW Working Group**

AAVS originally had two working groups: the Veterinary Education Enhancement (VEE) and the Veterinary Education Research (VER) Working Group. They are actively providing the members with many attractive webinars. This year, Working Group for Animal Welfare Education, chaired by Dr. Yi-Chun Lin from National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan, has been established. Please read the article introducing this new working group on the next page written by Dr. Lin.

3. **NEW Logo**

AAVS is organizing the symposiums and webinars to promote the Veterinary Education in Asia. We named this project as “**VetEd Asia**”. For the further development of this activity, we produced new logos as in the last page. We look forward to your participation in VetEd Asia 2025 next month!

23rd and 24th Annual meeting will be held in Yogyakarta and Tokyo, respectively.

The 23rd Annual meeting: You still have a chance to join us! Register [NOW](#) for the virtual attendance. Guide book is available [here](#).

The 24th Annual meeting: will be co-organized with [World Veterinary Association Congress 2026, Tokyo](#). Details will be announced from the AAVS Office. **SAVE THE DATE, April 21-24, 2026**

AAVS POST is always open for the contributions from AAVS members.

Please contact us: newsletter@aavs.jpn.org

Ryota Tochintai, Wataru Sekine, Kei Hatamoto, and Takashi Matsuwaki, The University of Tokyo
Maho Urabe, WOAHA Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Report on AAVS Activities

Advancing Animal Welfare Education in Asia: Survey Findings and Collaborative Next Steps – Launch of a new working group

Yi-Chun Lin, National Chung Hsing University

In late 2024 and early 2025, the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS), in collaboration with the **Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Advisory Group (RAWS AG)** and the **WOAH Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (WOAH RRAP)**, conducted a regional survey to better understand the status of animal welfare education in veterinary institutions across Asia. A total of 34 institutions from 15 countries participated.

Survey Highlights

The majority of surveyed institutions offer dedicated animal welfare courses, typically taught in the early years of veterinary programs. These courses commonly cover ethical concepts, welfare assessment, and relevant legislation. However, practical components—such as hands-on training and applied case discussions—are often limited.

Key challenges identified include:

- Lack of practical opportunities for students
- Limited institutional support and funding
- Gaps between animal welfare theory and clinical application

Despite these constraints, there is widespread interest in improving animal welfare teaching and supporting instructor development. The copy of the presentation is available from the [Members' platform on AAVS website](#).

Working Group Formation and Initial Priorities

In response to these findings, AAVS established the **Animal Welfare Education Working Group**, chaired by Dr. Yi-Chun Lin (National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan). The group held its first meeting in July 2025, bringing together veterinary educators and animal welfare experts from across the region to explore collaborative efforts in advancing animal welfare education.

The following members were in attendance:

- **Dr. Yi-Chun Lin** – National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan
- **Dr. Yuki Otani** – Hokkaido University, Japan
- **Dr. Alan McElligott** – City University of Hong Kong
- **Dr. Leila Flores** – University of the Philippines Los Baños
- **Dr. Carolyn Guy** – RAWS Advisory Group, WOAH Collaborating Centre
- **Dr. Takashi Matsuwaki** – AAVS Secretary General
- **Dr. Maho Urabe** – WOAH, Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

The working group agreed to focus first on:

- **Organizing regional webinars** for veterinary educators on key animal welfare topics
- **Compiling shared teaching resources**, such as syllabi, case studies, and digital materials, through a centralized online folder

The group is currently planning to hold its **first regional webinar in December 2025**, with further details to be announced closer to the time.

As members continue to engage and become more familiar with one another's areas of expertise, the group aims to:

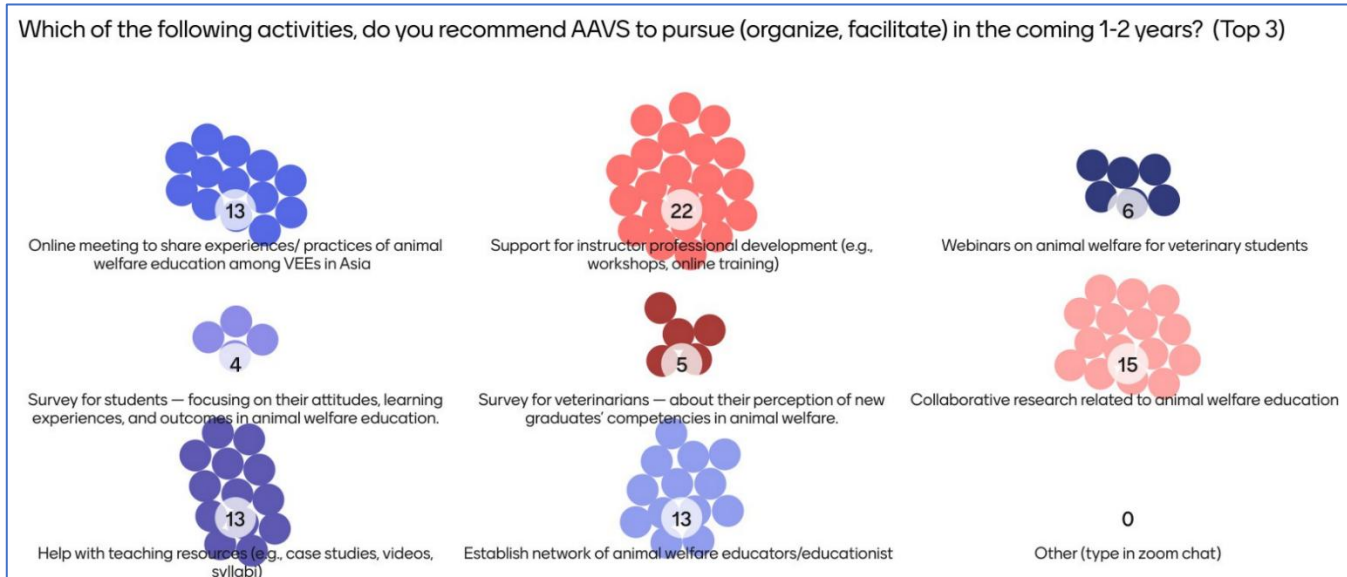
- Exploring collaborative research on animal welfare
- Facilitating experience-sharing among veterinary schools across the region

Special attention will be given to the diverse cultural and religious contexts in Asia, especially in how animal welfare is presented and discussed in the classroom. This initiative reflects a growing regional commitment to advancing animal welfare education, ensuring that future veterinarians are well-equipped to promote humane and science-based practices in their respective countries.

If you are interested in joining the working group to receive relevant updates or contribute to its activities, please complete [this online form](#) by 30 November 2025.

For any questions, feel free to contact Dr. Yi-Chun Lin at ycl2019@nchu.edu.tw or reach out to the **AAVS Secretariat**.

New members are warmly welcomed!



Virtual Meeting: Animal welfare education – survey response and next steps (2 May, 2025), Menti poll results

Report from Member

Launch of the South Asia Veterinary Education Establishments (VEEs) and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSBs) Network

Report from University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Background

Considering that veterinary education plays a key role in effectively and efficiently delivering veterinary services to its Members, WOAHA has initiated strategies and programmes to enhance veterinary education outcomes. WOAHA developed [recommendations and guidelines](#) on “WOAHA (then-OIE) Competencies of ‘Day 1 Graduates’”, “Veterinary Education Core Curriculum”, and active programmes including “Veterinary Education Twinning” programmes.

Various workshops and consultations were held at regional, sub-regional and national levels to strengthen veterinary education and workforce development. One identified activity is to strengthen networks of VEEs and VSBs in a given region. With support from WOAHA, a network of VEEs in Asia (Asian Association of Veterinary Schools, or AAVS) has become an active platform for information and resource sharing for member VEEs in Asia. A strong network among VEEs and VSBs already exists in ASEAN (the South-East Asia Veterinary School Association, or SEAVSA, and the ASEAN VSB network, or AVSBN), which have provided good opportunities for participants to share information and move towards standardisation of VEE accreditation in South-East Asia.

However, such a network in South Asia does not yet exist. Efforts were made to establish such a VEE and VSB network in the sub-region since 2021, starting with a virtual workshop for VEEs in India in June 2021 and a virtual workshop for VEEs and VSBs in South Asia and Iran, in April 2022. The last meeting produced the recommendation that a standing platform for a sub-regional network of VEEs and VSBs in South Asia be established.

Establishment of a network of VEEs and VSBs for South Asia

Following 2022 virtual workshop recommendations, WOAHA delegates nominated a focal point/representative for VEEs and VSBs from respective Members. A virtual meeting among the nominated focal points/representatives was held in June 2024, where a draft TOR was discussed along with a way forward for the establishment of a proposed South Asia VEE & VSB (SAVEE & VSB) Network.

In September 2024, a virtual call among interim Working Group members identified in the June 2024 meeting, including Prof Vikas Pathak as lead country focal/representative and Prof. Dr. Masood Rabbani and Prof. P.G Anil Pushpakumara as the two co-lead country focals/representatives, identified the implementation of activities until the Network is formally launched. During this meeting, key activities were discussed to progress towards the network’s formal launch, and an implementation plan was drafted.

To take the process forward, [a sub-regional workshop for VEEs and VSBs for South Asia was held from 11-13 June 2025](#) in collaboration with Sri Lanka as host country. Its main agenda was to formally launch the proposed network. AAVS President introduced AAVS during the pre-workshop and encouraged more South Asian VEEs to join AAVS.

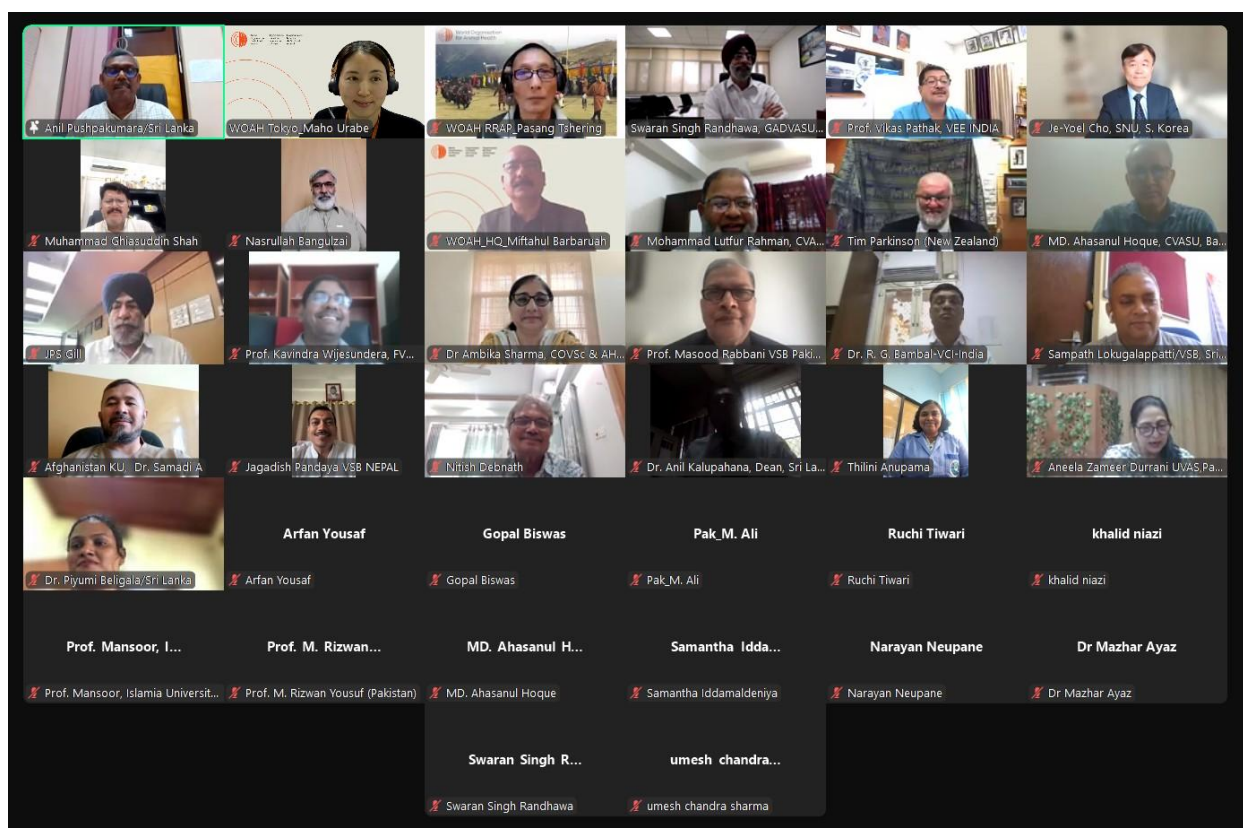
Workshop Objectives

- Highlight how sharing of best practices, international collaboration and the VEE/VSB Networks may benefit South Asia VEEs and VSBs.
- Discuss how to expand the impact of VEE twinning projects.
- Raise awareness on the important roles VEEs and VSBs play in veterinary workforce development and veterinary service delivery.
- Formal launch of the Network with agreed TORs, operational plan and work plan.

Preworkshop (Virtual)

- Date: 3 June 2025
- Agenda and Presentations: [PDF \(with linked presentations\)](#)
- Resources:

[Rapid desk review of veterinary education and related regulatory scenario with additional reference to situation of veterinary workforce in South Asia Sub-region and Iran \(2022\)](#)



Workshop

- Date: 11 – 13 June 2025
- Venue: Kandy, Sri Lanka / Virtual (Hybrid)
- Participation: By invitation
- Agenda and Presentations: [PDF \(linked with presentations\)](#)
- Resources: [SAVEE & VSB Network Work Plan \(July 2025 – June 2027\)](#)



Report from Members

Fostering Future Leaders in One Health: Short-Term Internship Program for University of the Philippines Students at the University of Tokyo

Ryota Tochinal and Shin-ichi Sekizawa, The University of Tokyo
Rodel Jonathan Vitor II and Malem Flores, University of the Philippines Manila

An internship was conducted as part of an international short-term program under the academic exchange agreement between the University of the Philippines and the University of Tokyo. Five undergraduate students from the Department of Biology at the University of the Philippines Manila participated in a short-term study program at the Laboratory of Veterinary Pathophysiology and Animal Health, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo, from June 16 to July 8, 2025, where they engaged in basic veterinary medicine research.

We would like to express our gratitude to Associate Professor Shigeru Kakuta and graduate student Jonna Rose C. Maniwang of the Laboratory of Biomedical Sciences, The University of Tokyo for their cooperation in this program.

Here are participation reports from the students.

• John Philippe Macasieb BORDEY



From the moment I first learned of the chance to be an intern at the University of Tokyo's Laboratory of Veterinary Pathophysiology and Animal Health, I knew that it would be more than just a subject requirement; it was the opportunity to transcend the familiar walls of my home university and immerse myself in a world-class research environment. As a biology undergraduate passionate about biomedical science, I arrived eager to refine my technical skills, deepen my theoretical knowledge, and forge connections with peers and mentors from across the globe.

During the course of three weeks, I immersed myself in carefully structured laboratory experiments that bridged ethical theory and hands-on practice. We began with a comprehensive overview of ethical guidelines and institutional policies on animal work, laying the groundwork for the experiments that followed. From there, I moved seamlessly to more advanced techniques, including both catheter-based and cuff-based methods for monitoring essential hemodynamic parameters, immunohistochemical staining, PCR-based genotyping, and the application of flow cytometry to profile various cell types.

In addition to the knowledge and technical skills I gained, equally invaluable were the

relationships I formed with mentors and colleagues from diverse backgrounds. Working closely with the laboratory mentors, Associate Professor Shin-ichi Sekizawa and Assistant Professor Ryota Tochinai, along with undergraduate and doctoral students from the laboratory, I learned not only to navigate complex protocols, but to also appreciate the nuanced reasoning that underpins every experimental decision. Their generosity in sharing their acquired knowledge over the years, the patience they showed when explaining advanced concepts, and the warmth they extended outside the lab all fostered an environment where I felt both challenged and supported. Lastly, all of this would not have been possible if it not for Dr. Rodel Jonathan Vitor II; his mentorship and unwavering encouragement were instrumental in turning this once-distant dream into a reality. I will forever cherish the wisdom, friendships, and unforgettable breakthroughs that have shaped me as a person and biologist, and I will carry these with me as I positively leap into future challenges with gratitude and unwavering passion.

• **Karyl Benette Dizon FORTU**



I am Karyl Fortu, a BS Biology student at the University of the Philippines Manila (UPM). Our mentor, Prof. Rodel Jonathan S. Vitor II, graduated from the Department of Veterinary Pathophysiology and Animal Health, The University of Tokyo, in 2023, and recommended we approach Associate Professor Shin-ichi Sekizawa and Assistant Professor Ryota Tochinai regarding an internship opportunity at their laboratory. Prof. Vitor spoke very highly of the Senseis and their work, and we knew this opportunity would be indispensable to us undergraduate students planning to enter fields such as animal biology, medicine, and more.

Through this internship, I intended to maximize my learning opportunities and gain comprehensive, hands-on exposure to biomedical research. I went into this with goals I wanted to accomplish, specifically: acquiring practical skills in animal handling in a research setting; learning to design and implement well-controlled scientific experiments; honing the ability to analyze and interpret results critically; and, most importantly for me, familiarizing myself with high-tech laboratory methodologies such as immunohistochemistry, confocal microscopy, and more. I knew these procedures were incredibly difficult, some impossible, to acquire access and guidance to in the Philippines due to underfunded institutions. Additionally, one of my essential goals in pursuing this internship abroad was to gain international exposure. By working alongside foreign researchers and experts with diverse academic backgrounds, I hoped to prime myself for the different environment a global scientific community would bring.

The laboratory trained us interns in experimental design, data analysis, animal handling, and ethical conduct in research using animal models. They employed a hands-on, peer-led

model of instruction. We were given several experiments to conduct per week, typically spanning one to two days each. These served as practice sessions and were taught directly by the student researchers whose main projects the experiments were based on. For instance, one of our mentors guided us through her experiment on immunohistochemistry (IHC), where we assessed neuronal expression of the c-Fos protein. Similarly, another instructed us on his study comparing rat glucose and ketone levels. This structure not only offered us practical experience but also immersed us in the ongoing research being conducted in the lab.

It was daunting to constantly be around such accomplished researchers, even if most were students like us. Along with the honor and gratitude, there is also an immense pressure that comes with being an international student because I was no longer only representing myself, but something much larger. I felt guilty whenever I made a mistake in the laboratory, believing that this would reflect poorly on my ability, my university, and my country. Thankfully, everyone was incredibly supportive and forgiving, calmly guiding us each step of the way and troubleshooting when we made errors. Ultimately, our host institution's objectives were demonstrated not only through the rigorous scientific work conducted, but also through the way this work was shared with us interns: with generosity and patience.

Beyond the excitement of working in a foreign country, surrounded by cutting-edge technology and the prestige of UTokyo, I'd say the most meaningful part of the experience was the people. Many might assume that the language barrier would be too hard to overcome, but that notion was quickly disproven. The students and professors were not only helpful mentors, but also became our beloved friends. They would kindly invite us to eat with them in the cafeteria when our break times aligned, and we would swap stories about our respective cultures, traditions, and daily lives. Even during the quiet lulls in experiments, we talked, laughed, and learned more about them—their aspirations, favorite shows, and the little things that made them who they are. That's why, for our farewell party, we gave each lab member a personalized gift: one received a figure from their favorite anime, another got a plushie of their favorite Pokémon, and more. These small gestures reflected the genuine connections we had formed and would deeply miss.

After the formalities of welcome parties, campus tours, and animal ethics training, we began our internship with an intense but memorable experiment: invasive femoral artery and vein catheterization for blood pressure measurement, followed by PCR for genotyping Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) model rats. We then presented our findings to the laboratory—an experience that, while nerve-racking, allowed us to showcase the training and critical thinking we brought from UPM. In the following days, we learned to perform immunohistochemistry and use confocal microscopy to visualize c-Fos expression in the rat medulla oblongata. We also conducted several sub-experiments, including tail-cuff blood pressure, SpO₂ analysis, and hematocrit measurement, as part of a larger study on vincristine-induced cardiotoxicity and hematotoxicity. We were responsible for interpreting the results, a

challenging but rewarding task that pushed us to apply everything we learned.

We continued with a dietary study on blood glucose and ketone levels in Wistar-Imamichi and DMD model rats, followed by our final experiment: flow cytometry, at the Laboratory of Biomedical Sciences, under the guidance of a fellow Filipino researcher. Her presence was both refreshing and comforting; it felt like a small piece of home within such a prestigious institution. Seeing someone from back home thriving in this environment gave me hope—and a vision—that I, too, could one day follow a similar path. To close the internship, we presented the last set of experiments in a presentation covering four studies. Our mentors once again gave us comments and asked us questions, but applauded our growth since the first report. It was a bittersweet conclusion to a fulfilling experience, and a culmination of the skills and knowledge we acquired.

Despite the steep learning curve, each activity built my confidence in handling procedures, analyzing data, and thinking critically. This internship was a transformative experience that deepened my passion for science, challenged my limits, and expanded my understanding of what it means to work in a research community. I left Japan not only with sharpened technical skills, but with greater clarity of purpose. I want to express my sincerest gratitude to Prof. Rodel Jonathan Vitor II for opening this door for us, and to Sekizawa-sensei and Tochinai-sensei for generously welcoming us into their laboratory and guiding us with patience and trust. I would also like to thank the rest of the laboratory staff for their mentorship, laughter, and kindness, as well as my fellow interns, whom I trained and lived with through every triumph and mistake.

• John Andre Tiauzon FORTEZA



Securing an opportunity to pursue an internship abroad, particularly beyond the borders of the Philippines, once seemed like a distant and unattainable aspiration. However, this experience has become a defining milestone in my undergraduate journey as a biology student, significantly shaping both my academic growth and professional aspirations. I was fortunate enough to be accepted as an intern at the Laboratory of Veterinary Pathophysiology and Animal Health at the prestigious University of Tokyo, an institution known for its excellence in scientific innovation and biomedical research. This internship offered far more than technical training; it served as a transformative encounter that expanded my intellectual horizons and strengthened my resolve to pursue a career in research or the medical sciences. Immersed in a rigorous academic environment, I was exposed to the demanding yet rewarding culture of scientific inquiry that the University of Tokyo upholds.

The experience not only honed my practical skills but also challenged me to think critically and adapt swiftly in a high-level research setting. During my time at the laboratory, I participated

in a variety of experimental procedures that deepened my appreciation for the complexity and precision of biomedical research. These included monitoring blood glucose and ketone levels, as well as both invasive and non-invasive blood pressure measurement techniques, hematocrit assessments, immunohistochemistry, PCR-based genotyping, and SpO2 analysis. Each task required not only technical proficiency but also a foundational understanding of physiological mechanisms, thereby linking theory with practice in real-time. Beyond the laboratory, the experience enabled me to engage with international mentors and peers, fostering a more profound sense of scientific curiosity and cultural awareness. This opportunity reinforced my belief in the value of interdisciplinary collaboration and global scientific dialogue. As I return to my academic commitments in the Philippines, I do so with renewed passion, a clearer vision of my future, and a profound gratitude for the chance to learn, grow, and contribute within a world-class research institution. I am forever grateful for the immeasurable guidance and wisdom that Associate Professor Shin-ichi Sekizawa, Assistant Professor Ryota Tochinali, and the students of the laboratory have provided.

• **Princess Amorlie Dantes SALAZAR**



I am incredibly grateful and proud to have completed my internship at the Laboratory of Veterinary Pathophysiology and Animal Health at the University of Tokyo. Without the steadfast assistance of my family, mentor, and other people who supported me along the way, the internship would never have been possible. This experience has exceeded anything I had imagined, turning what once seemed a pipe dream into an inspiring reality. There was a point where I even thought that the opportunity was too good to be true, and numerous times I had even considered applying to different institutions as backup. The process also took quite long, having to handle our visas and official application. When we eventually got the email approving us to proceed with our internship, I was both excited and humbled by the opportunity to study at such a distinguished university. I was prepared to take on every challenge and lesson that awaited us.

Our first few days in the university left me awestruck. The materials in the lab were definitely different from my home university. Before we started performing any experiments, we were first given a lecture and post-test on the regulations on conducting experiments at the University of Tokyo. For the next three weeks, we were given the chance to partake in various ongoing research conducted by the students and were introduced to a wide range of laboratory procedures using animal models.

Most of the experiments that we performed involved Sprague Dawley rats, though sometimes we used specific strains as required by different experiments. We were trained in invasive blood pressure measurements via catheterization of the femoral vein and artery, as

well as non-invasive measurements using the tail-cuff method. We also performed PCR-based genotyping with wild-type and Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) rat models, conducted immunohistochemistry to study c-fos expression in different regions of the rat brain using confocal microscopy, and compared the effects of different diets on blood glucose and ketone levels in Wistar-Kimura and DMD rats. Our supervising professor also demonstrated to us how to perform intravenous vincristine for SpO₂ analysis and hematocrit assessment in vincristine-treated rats. Lastly, we were taught how to conduct flow cytometry to identify, count, and characterize different cell populations. After completing these experiments, we had the opportunity to present our results and learnings, allowing us to receive constructive feedback from students and professors alike in the form of praise for our data collection or constructive criticism for improvement.

This internship marked the first time I worked with animal models and conducted wet lab experiments independently. The experience truly tested my moral and emotional resolve in animal testing, as well as my ability to collaborate and communicate within a multicultural, multidisciplinary research environment. Despite these challenges, I can confidently say that my laboratory skills as a student researcher have greatly improved, and I am well-prepared to apply what I've learned from the University of Tokyo when I undertake my undergraduate thesis. The hands-on experience has also broadened my understanding and motivated me to pursue advancements in cardiology and patient care in my future studies. I am deeply grateful to my professor, Dr. Rodel Jonathan Vitor II, for making this opportunity a reality. Had I not believed in him, I wouldn't have enjoyed this remarkable experience. I would also like to extend my thanks to Associate Professor Shin-ichi Sekizawa and Assistant Professor Ryota Tochinnai. It has been an honor and a privilege to learn under your supervision all throughout the program. Lastly, I would also like to thank the students in the lab—Suzu-san, Hasebe-san, Negoro-san, Cong-san, Nagashima-san, Eiraku-san, Matsuda-san, and Jonna-san—for generously sharing their time and expertise in guiding us through every experiment.

• **Martin Kienne Villanueva CORPES**



It has been a huge honor and privilege to have conducted my internship at the Laboratory of Veterinary Pathophysiology and Animal Health at the Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences of The University of Tokyo. For over three weeks, we conducted a wide range of experiments that we could only have dreamed of performing back at our home university. The program started with a lecture on the ethical aspects of animal research and experimentation, which provided us with the foundational knowledge necessary for the activities lined up for us. Throughout the internship, we primarily worked with rats, performing blood pressure measurement (both invasive and non-

invasive methods), PCR-based genotyping, SpO2 analysis, hematocrit measurement, immunohistochemistry, and blood glucose and ketone level measurement. It has been a meaningful experience learning about animal experimentation protocols and laboratory techniques for analyzing biological models, which I look forward to applying in my undergraduate thesis, as well as in my future career, whether that is in research or medicine. But more than these things, this opportunity would not have made such a profound impact on me without the connections I built with the students of the laboratory under the supervision of Associate Professor Shin-ichi Sekizawa and Assistant Professor Ryota Tochintai. I am glad to have provided new insights on their respective research projects and am cheering them on in their future endeavors.



Report from Member

ROLE OF VETERINARY PROFESSION IN THE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Aneela Zameer Durrani, Muhammad Aftab and Sadia Sanaullah,
University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore

Veterinary Profession plays a key role in disaster preparedness and response all around the world. The University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS), Lahore, indicated the criticality of veterinary education to prepare for and respond to the 2022 flood disaster in Pakistan. Given the massive devastation affecting thousands of livestock-dependent families, UVAS initiated a huge-scale Flood Relief and Assistance Campaign, blending academic expertise, community outreach, and tangible veterinary services. Having raised more than PKR 30 million in local and international funds, UVAS has assisted more than 2,600 affected families and provided emergency veterinary aid to upwards of 26,000 animals, vaccinated over 9,800 animals, and distributed essential items such as feed, food rations for humans, and shelter-building materials for humans and animals.



These efforts stand as a partnership between faculty, students, and alumni, suggesting the ability of the university to translate veterinary science into lifesaving programs for the community.

Moving beyond immediate relief, UVAS was instrumental in the resuscitation of the fragile economic system of the affected livestock farmers. A structured program for identifying and providing aid to the worst affected individuals was put in place, giving them pregnant heifers, goats, and sheep, with follow-up and advisory services from veterinarians. The intervention thus provided a means for livelihood restoration, and it improved nutrition, income stability, and psychological well-being of the recipient families.



Environmental concern geared towards a more sustainable disaster preparedness made it necessary for UVAS to offer a formal one-credit hour postgraduate course in Livestock Emergency and Disaster Management. The course prepares the students for animal rescue, disease control, emergency nutrition, public health, and risk reduction strategies; thereby technically equipping the veterinarians for the leadership of crisis situations.

UVAS and its integrated model connecting veterinary education to field-based disaster response received national acclaim, including an award from the Prime Minister for Flood Heroes and the second-best ranking out of 50 universities in terms of humanitarian contributions. This case illustrates how veterinary institutes can link the discrepancy between education and practice to form a strategic backbone for national disaster resilience, rural recovery, and sustainable development.



Report from Members

THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM Embedding the 3Rs in Research Education and Practice from Classroom to Laboratory

Julia Chu-Ning Hsu, National Chung Hsing University
Ryota Tochinali, The University of Tokyo

To advance the 3Rs principle in research and education, the Ministry of Education in Taiwan launched the “Animal Experimentation Alternatives Technology Talent Cultivation Program for Colleges and Universities.” The initiative aims to strengthen the responsible use of experimental animals by integrating ethics with science through a structured curriculum that spans from early education to university. This approach fosters scientific literacy, ethical responsibility, and technical competence, while simultaneously reducing animal use through digital tools such as three-dimensional models, virtual reality, and augmented reality. In line with both national and international standards, the program establishes a multi-tiered framework that promotes scientific excellence and humane research in Taiwan.

National Chung Hsing University serves as the central institute for teaching and promoting this program, playing a pivotal role in its implementation. The university provides a wide range of courses covering animal research, ethics, and data analysis, supported by faculty members, international scholars, and industry professionals. Together, they offer comprehensive theoretical and practical training. Research training integrates laboratory animal studies with molecular assays and physiological monitoring, making use of advanced sensors and imaging techniques to ensure stress-free observation, safeguard animal welfare, and enhance data reliability. In addition, the university emphasizes international exchange and forward-looking biomedical strategies. For example, a recent summer symposium, themed “Next-Gen Biomedical Strategies: From Molecular Insights to Preclinical Innovations,” brought together Asian scholars to share experiences and educational methods, thereby reinforcing the program’s global perspective.



Figure 1. Dr. Ter-Hsin Chen (center), Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, representing National Chung Hsing University, together with Dr. Wen-Ying Chen (second from right), Chair of the Department of Veterinary Medicine, welcoming distinguished overseas experts.

During this symposium, scholars from several Japanese universities presented innovative research methods and applications. Dr. Keisuke Oguma from Nihon University introduced a luciferase- and bioluminescence-based methodology applied to coronavirus-induced cell fusion experiments. This technique enables real-time observation of cellular responses to viral infection, providing precise data while demonstrating the potential of non-invasive and alternative technologies for virology research and drug screening. Complementing this, Dr. Hiroshi Koie, also from Nihon University, discussed the unique physiological characteristics of dolphins, highlighting their distinctive cardiovascular adaptations. The marked morphological differences between dolphin hearts and those of other mammals present a valuable reference model for cardiovascular research and sparked in-depth discussion on comparative anatomy and physiology. Such cross-species insights expand the scope of animal physiological studies and underscore the importance of recognizing species differences and ethical considerations in experimental design.

A further notable contribution came from Dr. Ryota Tochintai of The University of Tokyo, who showcased new wearable technology for monitoring physiological parameters in rats, including heart rate, activity, respiratory rate, body temperature, and peripheral capillary oxygen saturation. This technology makes it possible to collect continuous, accurate data without disturbing natural behavior. As a result, it represents a significant advance in preclinical safety assessment and drug toxicity testing. Importantly, it also aligns closely with the 3Rs principles by reducing animal suffering while improving data reliability and reproducibility. This presentation generated considerable interest among the teachers in attendance.



Figure 2. Dr. Jacky Peng-Wen Chan, Deputy Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, leading faculty discussions with overseas experts following the symposium.

Overall, the symposium highlighted how innovative technologies are reshaping life sciences and animal research while reinforcing the practical application of the 3Rs in experimental design. By promoting responsible and humane use of animals, and by integrating education, research, and welfare through curriculum design and international collaboration, National Chung Hsing University has established a strong foundation for training the next generation of professionals in advanced biomedical research.

Report on the AAVS Webinars

CPD Seminar: Paw-ver Up!- How Games Are Transforming Veterinary Education (9 May, 2025)

[Flyer](#) / presentation copy available from the [Members' platform](#)

The flyer is for a CPD seminar titled "Paw-ver UP : How Games Are Transforming Veterinary Education". It features a blue background with white polka dots and a large white starburst containing a QR code. The AAVS logo is in the top left corner. The text on the flyer includes the title, a subtitle "Ready to transform your veterinary teaching and training? Join us and Paw-ver Up your practice and teaching!", a photo of the speaker Manraj Singh Cheema, DAHP, BSc, PhD, and his affiliation with the Department of Biomedical Science, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia. The date and time are listed as 9 May 2025, 5-6 PM Japan Standard Time. At the bottom, there is a "Register Now!" button with a URL and contact information for the AAVS secretary.

Paw-ver UP :
How Games Are Transforming Veterinary Education
Ready to transform your veterinary teaching and training?
Join us and Paw-ver Up your practice and teaching!

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Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
Universiti Putra Malaysia

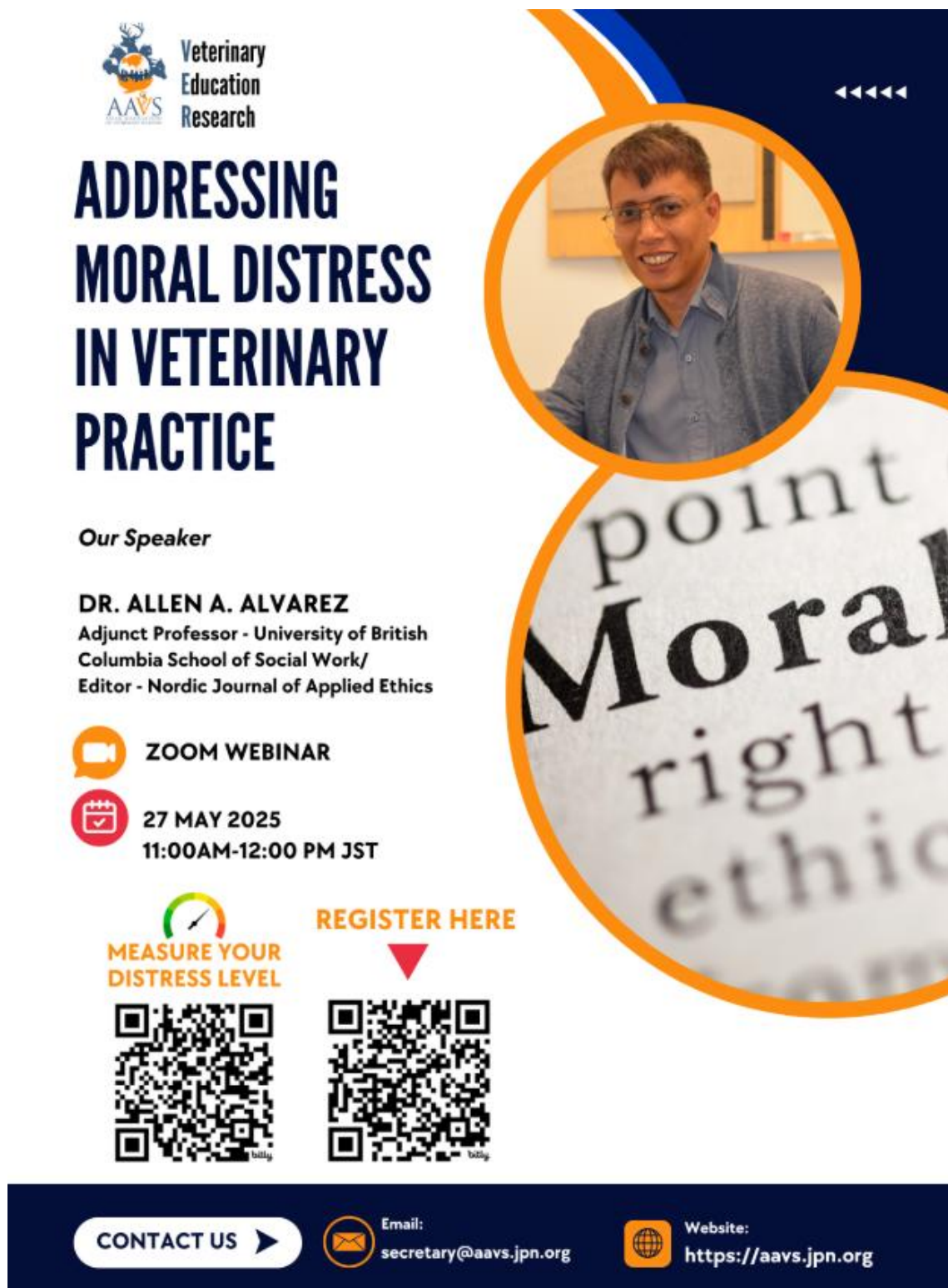
9 May 2025
5-6 PM Japan Standard Time

Register Now!
<https://u-tokyo-ac-jp.zoom.us/joining/register/bQDYSIz7Tw-F7brnsBEtbQ#/registration>

CONTACT US
secretary@aavs.jp
<http://aavs.jp>

CPD Workshop: Addressing Moral Distress in Veterinary Practice (27 May, 2025)

[Flyer](#) / presentation copy available from the [Members' platform](#)



The flyer features a dark blue background with orange and white circular accents. On the right, a circular inset shows a portrait of Dr. Allen A. Alvarez, a man with glasses and a blue shirt. Below the title, a large circular graphic contains the text 'point Moral right ethic'.

 **Veterinary
Education
Research**

ADDRESSING MORAL DISTRESS IN VETERINARY PRACTICE

Our Speaker

DR. ALLEN A. ALVAREZ
Adjunct Professor - University of British
Columbia School of Social Work/
Editor - Nordic Journal of Applied Ethics

 **ZOOM WEBINAR**

 **27 MAY 2025**
11:00AM-12:00 PM JST

 **MEASURE YOUR
DISTRESS LEVEL**

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AAVS Webinar: Veterinary Forensics: Principles, Practices, and Perspectives (6 August, 2025)

[Abstract](#)



**VETERINARY FORENSICS
: PRINCIPLES, PRACTICES,
AND PERSPECTIVES**

The presentation will provide an overview of the field, covering fundamental principles, real-world applications, and future directions.

Dr WEI-HSIANG HUANG
Associate Professor
Graduate Institute of Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology
/ Department of Veterinary Medicine
School of Veterinary Medicine
National Taiwan University

Register now!



<https://u-tokyo-ac-jp.zoom.us/joining/register/7CkinqVu5w0fWichcFFJrQ>

**6 August 3-4PM Taiwan/Philippines
4-5PM Tokyo**

CONTACT
US secretary@aavs.jpn.org
<http://aavs.jpn.org>

Resources from WOA

World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) free resources on animal health and antimicrobial resistance

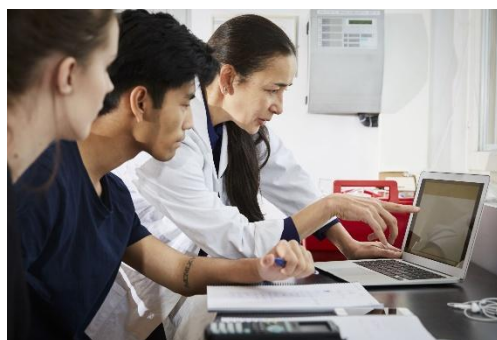
Basilio I. Valdehuesa,
Regional Communication Officer
Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific
World Organisation for Animal Health

As the global authority on animal health, the [World Organisation for Animal Health \(WOAH\)](#), hosts freely accessible resources for veterinarians and other animal health workers in the region, and beyond.

For the Asia Pacific, a [regional resources and publications](#) site hosts posters, flyers, infographics, videos, guides, reports and many more, on topics ranging from One Health (including [antimicrobial resistance / AMR](#)), to veterinary education, animal diseases and animal welfare. Many are translated into regional languages.

WOAH's regional website also has an [Events](#) section informing on coming activities, and summarising past workshops, often with summary reports, recordings, and presentations. These represent valuable training resources for animal health workers in crucial areas such as:

- risk and crisis communication
- gender and veterinary services
- disease status and response (highly pathogenic avian influenza, rabies, foot and mouth disease, African swine fever, etc.)
- the state of veterinary services in the region



WOAH also hosts free global resources for animal health workers:

- [Documentary resources](#) – portal dedicated to the sharing of scientific and technical knowledge in the field of global animal health, and a WOA archive
- [Publications](#) – including periodicals, international standards, world conference proceedings, and publications covering the full spectrum of animal health issues

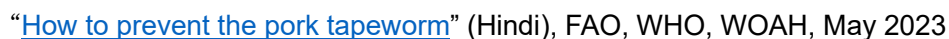
In addition to these publications, to support veterinary education and raise awareness among students and professionals, WOA has developed a series of free e-learning modules focused on responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in animals.

- Basics of AMR and its impact on animal and public health
- Principles of responsible antimicrobial use in terrestrial and aquatic animals
- Implementation of antimicrobial stewardship at the veterinary practice level

Participants who complete each module will receive a certificate of completion, which can be used as proof of continuing education or professional development.

Start learning today and join the global effort to contain AMR!

To learn about new resources, campaigns, and initiatives as they happen, follow us on one of our social media platforms: *Regional*: [X](#), *Global*: [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#)



In summary - WOA's animal health library resources:

Asia and the Pacific

[Resources and publications](#)

[Events](#)

Global

[Training modules on AMR](#)

[Documentary resources](#)

[Publications](#)

“[Mosquitoes and dengue](#)” (Mandarin), part of an “Enjoy Nature Safely” series on zoonoses and transboundary animal disease transmission, supported by FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOA, March 2025



Quadripartite webinar for International Day for Biological Diversity 2025

WOAH_Lesa Thompson

Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action

AT #1 One Health Governance and Capacity Building

AT #2 Emerging, epidemic and pandemic

AT #3 Endemic zoonoses and vector-borne diseases

AT #4 Food Safety

AT #5 Antimicrobial Resistance

AT #6 Environment and Climate Change

Still from the Quadripartite (FAO, UNEP, WHO, WOA) webinar on the International Day for Biological Diversity, “[Integrating Biodiversity and Health: Insights from the IPBES Nexus Assessment and One Health Approaches in Asia and the Pacific](#)”, May 2025

Upcoming Event

The [23rd Annual Meeting of AAVS](#) will be hosted by Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia, which will be held in conjunction with [the 3rd International Conference on Advanced Veterinary Science and Technologies for Sustainable Development \(ICAVESS 2025\)](#) from November 6 to 8, 2025 in a hybrid format.



JOIN US !

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AAVS

Please visit AAVS website (<https://aavs.jpn.org/>)

FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON NEWSLETTER

Please contact us via Newsletter@aavs.jpn.org