

The AVSBN Virtual Workshop on VEE Accreditation Standards

2nd, 7th and 9th December 2020

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Participants of the AVSBN Virtual Workshop on VEE Accreditation Standards

Noted that:

1. Accreditation of Veterinary Education Establishments (VEEs) is required to assure that they can deliver curricula that will equip graduating veterinarians with the competencies needed to perform entry-level national veterinary service tasks. This will provide confidence to the national public and global community.
2. The Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) plays an important role in the quality of veterinary education. While the higher education authority is efficient in evaluation of university processes, the VSB is rather more efficient in evaluation of veterinary sciences.
3. The OIE Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) Twinning Programme between the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc. (AVBC) and the Veterinary Council of Thailand (VCT) included a workshop on the Roles of VSB on Veterinary Paraprofessionals (VPPs) in ASEAN and two workshops on the Accreditation of Veterinary Schools in Thailand. The outcomes of these workshop are that: VPPs are categorised into nine categories for registration with the VCT, VPP training programmes must be accredited by the VCT, and that VCT standards for accreditation of Thai veterinary schools have been revised to strengthen the process and quality of accreditation to align with global best practice.
4. Mutual recognition of qualifications is key to the free flow of veterinary professionals between ASEAN Member States (AMS) and VSBs are the 'gatekeepers' of the recognition of qualifications.

5. The ASEAN Veterinary Statutory Body Network (AVSBN) has been recognised as a partner to support the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) in exchanging and sharing information, knowledge and experiences related to policies, authorities, and functions of national VSBs. Meanwhile, the AVSBN is processing to be recognised as an entity associated with ASEAN, as an official network.
6. The draft ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Veterinary Practitioner has been being developed by the AVSBN to facilitate mobility of veterinarians based in AMS.
7. The South East Asia Veterinary School Association (SEAVSA) is planning to conduct curriculum mapping and gap analysis among its VEE members.
8. VEE accreditation includes assessment of inputs, outcomes, and educational processes (curriculum). It can be based on single common or progressive standards.
9. VEE accreditation provides for continuous improvement in veterinary education.
10. VEE accreditation benefits VEEs in terms of human and financial resources, teaching and research facilities as well as external recognition.
11. VEE accreditation standards need to be established in a way that an irreducible minimum standard (i.e. OIE Day 1 Competencies), and the minimum standards for ASEAN and national needs of AMS are all met.
12. VEE accreditation standards should enable evaluating VEEs at different stages of development and accommodating varied national needs (i.e. species, production system). Accreditation standards should ensure that evaluations are 'fit for purpose' of end users.

13. The OIE Day 1 Competencies and Veterinary Education Core Curriculum provide the catalyst for upgrading veterinary training and address a key capacity building need of the country.
14. An evaluation tool for OIE Day 1 Graduating Veterinarian Competencies was developed under the OIE Veterinary Education Twinning Programme between the Ohio State University (OSU), USA and the University of Gondar (UoG), Ethiopia for identifying potential gaps in the veterinary curriculum.
15. Development of progressive VEE accreditation is rewarding and enabling success in veterinary education.
16. The equivalent level of VEEs depends on the quality of accreditation standard and the quality of assessment process.

Recommendations:

1. The AVSBN could be considered as an evaluation body similarly to the AVBC to evaluate on behalf of national VSBs regarding accreditation of national VEEs, specialist registration and qualifying examinations for foreign graduates.
2. Curriculum and VEE must meet national standards to be eligible for AVSBN recognition.
3. ASEAN veterinary mobility should be tied to VEE accreditation and the accreditation needs to be managed and harmonised across AMS to facilitate regional mobility.
4. ASEAN VEE accreditation standards should be established to support improvements in ASEAN veterinary services, enhance the health of animals and the public, protect the safety of food, and promote mobility and trade.

5. The OIE Day 1 Competencies should be considered as a minimum standard for Pan-ASEAN VEE accreditation.
6. Assessment of teaching and support staff, teaching facilities, curriculum, and animal and clinical resources is needed for evaluation of the OIE Day 1 Competencies delivered by a VEE.
7. VEE accreditation standards that exceed the OIE Day 1 Competencies should be considered as the basis for the regional mobility of veterinarians.
8. The new VCT accreditation standards for VEEs in Thailand could be considered as a model for VEE accreditation in other AMS.
9. Well established VEEs should act as mentors for those that are developing.
10. The AVBC could work alongside the AVSBN to develop accreditation standards to acknowledge the attainments of developed VEEs and stimulate the progression of less developed VEEs. The developed ASEAN VEEs and Australasian VEEs could partner in “tripartite” twinning programmes with less developed VEEs.
11. ASEAN accreditation should require all VEE programs meet the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRf) minimum standards, underpin the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for regional mobility of veterinarians.
12. VEEs should undertake a self-evaluation of the level of proficiency of their veterinary graduates. The OIE Day 1 Competencies can be assessed using the OSU/UoG Evaluation Tool. A template for broader self-evaluation should be developed through the AVSBN.
13. ASEAN VEE accreditation should audit the VEE self-evaluation and make decisions based on evidence gathered during site visits.
14. ASEAN accredited VEE should report at an appropriate interval on outcomes and progress to maintain accreditation.

15. ASEAN VEE accreditation should engage with and aspire to recognition by global veterinary accreditation organisations.
16. The AVSBN should work closely with the SEAVSA and AQRF for the development of the ASEAN VEE Accreditation Body.

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