

## **Virtual Workshop on the Way Forward of VEEs and VSBs in South-East Asia**

27 February - 1 March 2023

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Participants of the Virtual Workshop on the Way Forward of VEEs and VSBs in South-East Asia

#### **Noted that:**

1. Veterinary education establishments (VEEs) and veterinary statutory bodies (VSBs) play crucial roles in developing the national and regional veterinary workforce effectively.
2. Standardisation of VEE accreditation in South-East Asia will raise educational standards of VEEs throughout ASEAN, improving the quality of National Veterinary Services activities and being commensurate with international standards.
3. The ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) is a tool for enabling comparisons of qualification levels across ASEAN Member States (AMS) to support the recognition of their National Qualifications Framework (NQF) or national qualification systems. It complements and supports the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) aimed to facilitate the mobility of professionals within ASEAN.
4. The MRA on Veterinary Practitioners with the underpinning of South-East Asia veterinary school accreditation standards would facilitate the pan-ASEAN mobility of the veterinary workforce.
5. The South-East Asia veterinary school accreditation standards were drafted comprising eleven standards on (1) Institution; (2) Finance; (3) Admissions; (4) Learning resources and student support; (5) Curriculum; (6) Assessment and progression; (7) Teaching facilities; (8) Animal resources; (9) Faculty and support staff; (10) Research and Continuing and Higher Degree Education; and (11) Quality Assurance and Outcomes Assessment. The standards will be finalised within March 2023.
6. The progressive VEE accreditation standards for strengthening VEEs which have different levels of advancement were also drafted comprising

four levels - Level 1: WOAHA Day One Competencies; Level 2: Developing VEE; Level 3: Recognised VEE; and Level 4: Established VEE. The standards will be finalised within March 2023.

7. Much progress has been made on the VEE Curriculum Assessment in South-East Asia under the AID-1C (Assessment and Implementation of WOAHA Day One Competencies) Project of Ohio State University (OSU). The project significantly supports the VEE accreditation standards on Curriculum.
8. The South-East Asia Veterinary School Accreditation Body will be established to accredit VEEs of the AMS according to the South-East Asia veterinary school accreditation standards.
9. The WOAHA guidelines recommend including veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) in veterinary practice legislation. The WOAHA has a sample Veterinary Practice Act for Member Countries to consult as a reference when drafting veterinary practice legislation.
10. Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Singapore, and Vietnam have been progressing in the VSB establishment. Malaysia and the Philippines have been preparing for their VSB to regulate VPPs. Myanmar and Thailand have their VPPs regulated by their VSB.
11. Indonesia requested the assistance of AVSBN and WOAHA for the VSB establishment.
12. A goal of the ASEAN Veterinary Statutory Body Network (AVSBN) Strategic Plan (2023-2015) is to become an entity associated with ASEAN so that the AVSBN implantation will be recognised by ASEAN.
13. The AVSBN has already prepared the final draft of MRA on Veterinary Practitioners for presentation to the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL) Meeting, 2023 for recognition and further processing.
14. Systematic workforce assessments can identify gaps in the numbers and categories of personnel required in the country and serve as the basis for rational workforce planning and development.
15. Effective communication between employers, educators and regulators is essential for building an appropriate and effective veterinary workforce. The VSB can and should play a key role in facilitating effective

communication through appropriate committees with appropriate representation, e.g. education, and workforce planning.

**Recommended that:**

1. The model of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc. (AVBC) should be used in establishing the South-East Asia Veterinary School Accreditation Body for accrediting VEEs of AMS. This could allow for the operationalisation of the MRA without the need to change the base Veterinarians Act in each AMS.
2. The South-East Asia veterinary school accreditation standards and the progressive VEE accreditation standards should be distributed to all VEEs/faculty members in each AMS to compare the domestic standards with the South-East Asia standards and identify gaps.
3. The South-East Asia Veterinary School Association (SEAVSA) should organise a meeting/seminar to elaborate on the details of individual accreditation standards. The domestic training/workshop to raise awareness and understanding of the standards should also be carried out by the Ad hoc group members of respective countries who participated in the standard drafting.
4. The WOAH Day One Competencies should be included in every VEE curriculum.
5. Assessment of the VEE curriculum against the WOAH Day One Competencies should be conducted and the curriculum revision should be performed if any gaps are found. The OSU, Hub VEEs of the AID-1C project and WOAH should support the curriculum assessment.
6. The AVSBN and SEAVSA should support the domestic VEEs to be accredited according to South-East Asia standards.
7. Partnership with other VEEs to share teaching facilities and exchange faculty staff would be a means for a VEE to achieve the South-East Asia veterinary school accreditation standards.
8. To effectively implement the AVSBN strategy (2023 – 2025), the VSB/VSB equivalent authority of the AMS should agree and ratify the strategy and support the application of AVSBN to be an entity associated with ASEAN.

9. The VSB/VSB equivalent authority of each AMS should nominate contact person(s) to collaborate with the AVSBN on its activities, i.e. communication and dissemination of information from the AVSBN to the relevant stakeholders in their country, sharing VSB experiences and best practices in their country with other AMS, providing an update on the VSB establishment and sharing the developed guidelines, etc.
10. The national VSB standards should be harmonized to support the forthcoming MRA and the mobility of veterinary practitioners.
11. The AMS representatives in the ASWGL Meeting should strongly support the implementation of the AVSBN strategy.
12. Contribution of VEEs and VSB/VSB equivalent authority to the effective national veterinary workforce should be conducted by:
  - updating workforce skills and competencies to build public confidence and attract people to the workforce of industry and supply chain as well as improving the public image of the veterinary sector;
  - harmonising standards of each VEE to the South-East Asia veterinary school accreditation standards such as Day One Competencies and performing curriculum review to meet the workforce requirement;
  - ensuring that the standards of VSB are implemented, particularly the continuing education of veterinarians and VPPs;
  - strengthening the enabling environment for VPPs to be cooperated to work at professional standards; and
  - participating in the national veterinary workforce assessment and planning.

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