

Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS):

Networking to improve veterinary education outcomes - By-Laws of Network, benefits to members and activities.



Virtual Meeting of the VEE and VSB Focals: Towards Establishing a South Asia VEE and VSB Networks

Prof Anil Pushpakumara, Sri Lanka

South Asia Representative

About AAVS

The **Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS)** is an international organization for veterinary educational institutions in Asia that was established in 2001.

- **Mission**

Our mission is to contribute excellence in veterinary sciences by upholding animal health and welfare and safeguarding human health by promoting best practices in veterinary education, research, and profession in Asia.

- **Vision**

AAVS is recognized as a valued partner and global leader in advancing veterinary science.

The University of Tokyo (Japan) maintains the registered office of AAVS, “**AAVS Office**”

Membership: Educational institutions (universities, faculties, colleges, departments, etc.) of veterinary medicine in Asian countries

Over 50 Members from 16 countries in East Asia, South-East Asia, and South Asia sub-regions (<http://www.aavs.jpn.org/about/aavs-members/>)

AAVS Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026

Strategic Goals

1 Enhancing Veterinary Education

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

2 Promoting Training and Development Programs

- 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

3 Strengthening One Health Concept

- 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

4 Enhancing Operational and Partnerships

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

Officers and Executive Committee Members (since 2021 General Assembly)

Position	Term* (Years)	From	To**	Institution
President	2	Sept 24	2025	Seol National University, R.O Korea
Past President	2	Sept 24	2025	Universiti Putra Malaysia
Vice President	2	Sept 24	2023	Central Luzon State University, Philippines
Representative from East Asia	2	June 19	2025	National Taiwan University, Taiwan
Representative from South Asia	2	June 19	2024	University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
Representative from Southeast Asia	2	June 19	2024	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
EC Member 1	2	June 19	2024	Kasetsart University, Thailand
EC Member 2	2	June 19	2025	Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Bangladesh
Treasurer	5	June 19	2025	Dr. Takiguchi, Hokkaido University
Secretary General	3	June 19	2026	Dr. Matsuwaki, University of Tokyo, Japan

Activities

- Annual meeting of Deans (2001-)
- Working groups on Veterinary Education Research (VER) and Veterinary Education Enhancement (VEE) (2022-)
- Scientific award for young researchers and students (2019-)
- AAVS Newsletter (2021-)
- Regular online meetings/symposia (2021-)
- Collaboration with other organisations e.g., Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA) – MoU signed in 2023, South East Asia Veterinary School Association (SEAVSA), AAVMC Council on International Veterinary Medical Education (CIVME)

Working Groups

- **Veterinary Education Research (VER)**
Chair: Prof. Nayana Wijewardena, Sri Lanka
 - *Webinar for faculty members*
 - *CPD seminars for WG members*
 - *Joint research projects*
 - *Journal Club*

- **Veterinary Education Enhancement (VEE)**
Chair: Prof. Noraine Medina, Philippines
Co-chair: Prof. Bi-ling Su, Chinese Taipei
 - *Webinars for faculty members*
 - *FAVA-AAVS Joint Education Committee on veterinary education in Asia*

Problem-based Learning

2nd CPD Session
AAVS – Veterinary Education
Research Working Group

M. Lalanthi De Silva BVSc (Sri Lanka), PG Cert Vet Ed (UK), FHEA (UK)
Lecturer (Probationary)
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science
University of Peradeniya
Sri Lanka



Qualities and competencies to be developed through
undergraduate veterinary education



By the Joint Education Committee of FAVA-AAVS

AAVS Virtual Meetings and Symposia



Themes covered since 2021

- Veterinary Education under COVID-19 situation
- Veterinary Education in Asia: collaboration with International Organisations
- Accreditation of Vet Schools in Asia
- Veterinary Education Research
- DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) in Veterinary Education
- Supporting Scholarship and Innovation in Veterinary Medical Education” with Dr Regina Schoenfeld-Tacher, Editor in Chief, Journal of Veterinary Medical Education (JVME)

Some were organized in collaboration with Member Institutions

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) IN VETERINARY EDUCATION:

importance and potential way forward for Asia

ZOOM WEBINAR



**Standing at the Intersection of Veterinary
Medicine & Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Dr Lisa M. Greenhill

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges



**Experience sharing: DEIB initiative at
UVAS Lahore Pakistan**

Prof. Hafsa Zaneb

University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences

**Importance of developing cultural
competency in veterinary education**

Prof. Lubna Nasir

University of Glasgow, Scotland



**Experience sharing: DEI @ Jockey Club
College of Veterinary Medicine
And Life Sciences (JCC)**

Dr Alan McElligott

City University of Hong Kong



**Initiatives related to Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion (DEI) of AAVS Member Institutions**

Dr Mark Jaypee C. Gonzales

Central Bicol State University of Agriculture, Philippines



Moderated by: *Prof. Pan-Dong Ryu*
Seoul National University, RO Korea

Virtual CPD Sessions

- Introduction to Quantitative and Qualitative Research Paradigms in Educational Research, 2023
- Problem Based Learning, 2023
- Teaching of Clinical Skills, 2023
- Embracing Research on Day-1 Competencies to Enhance Veterinary Education, 2024
- The use of AI and digital technologies to enhance the learning of Gen Z veterinary students, 2024

BYLAWS OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY SCHOOLS (AAVS)

<https://aavs.jpn.org/about/bylaws/>

- **Article I - Name and Location**

- **Section 1: Name**

- . The organization is called the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools, abbreviated as AAVS.

- **Section 2: Location**

- . AAVS Office is located at the University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan.
- . Registered under the Japanese Act on General Incorporated Associations and General Incorporated Foundations.

BYLAWS OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY SCHOOLS (AAVS)

- **Article II - Objectives**

- **Section 1: Purpose**

- Advance education, research, and public service in veterinary medicine and sciences.
- The purpose is exclusively educational and scientific, non-political.

- **Section 2: Activities**

1. Organizing symposiums.
2. Commending performance of young teaching staff, students, and researchers.
3. Exchanging educational and scientific information.
4. Other necessary activities to achieve the purpose.

BYLAWS OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY SCHOOLS (AAVS)

- **Article III - Membership**
- **Section 1: Regular Members**
 - Educational institutions of veterinary medicine in Asian countries, recognized by the relevant national authority.
- **Section 2: Membership Application**
 - Submitted by the Head of the Veterinary Institution, endorsed by at least two Member Institutions, and approved by the Executive Committee
- **Section 3: Membership Year**
 - From January 1 to December 31.
- **Section 4: Membership Fee**
 - Annual fee: US\$ 100 for Regular Members.
- **Section 5: Associate and Supporting Members**
 - Associate Members: US\$ 200.
 - Supporting Members: US\$ 500.
 - Can attend Assembly meetings as observers.
- **Section 6: Membership Cessation**
 - By written resignation or non-payment of fees for three consecutive years.

BYLAWS OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY SCHOOLS (AAVS)

- **Article IV - Representatives**
- **Section 1: Representative Submission**
 - Each Member Institution submits the name of its Representative to the Secretary General (Head of Institution or his/her nominee).
- **Section 2: Voting Rights**
 - Each Member Institution has a single vote.
- **Section 3: Proxy Voting**
 - Representatives may authorize another Representative to cast their vote

BYLAWS OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY SCHOOLS (AAVS)

- **Article V - Assembly**
- **Section 1: Governing Body**
 - The Assembly supervises, directs, and controls the affairs of the Association.
- **Section 2: Assembly Members**
 - Representatives of Member Institutions or their designees.
- **Section 3: Meeting Quorum**
 - More than 50% of members represented in person or by proxy
- **Section 4: Presiding Officer**
 - The President or, in their absence, the Vice President.
- **Section 5: Meeting Frequency**
 - One annual meeting; special meetings by resolution of the Executive Committee.

BYLAWS OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY SCHOOLS (AAVS)

- **Article VI - Executive Committee**
- **Section 1: Composition**
 - 9 to 11 members: President, Vice President, immediate Past-President, Secretary General, Treasurer, and approximately 5 Representatives.
- **Section 2: Meetings**
 - Held before the annual Assembly meeting and other times as needed.
- **Section 3: Authority**
 - Manages the property and affairs of the Association between Assembly meetings.
- **Section 4: Observers**

BYLAWS OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY SCHOOLS (AAVS)

- **Article VII - Officers**
- **Section 1: Election of President and Vice President**
 - Elected by the Assembly from among the Representatives.
 - Terms: 2 years, no consecutive terms.
- **Section 2: Secretary General**
 - Nominated by the Executive Committee, approved by the Assembly.
 - Term: 3 years, re-election possible once.
- **Section 3: Treasurer**
 - Nominated by the Executive Committee, approved by the Assembly.
 - Term: 5 years, no re-election.
 - Responsible for all financial matters.

BYLAWS OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY SCHOOLS (AAVS)

- **Article VIII - Miscellaneous Provisions**
- **Section 1: Ad Hoc Committees**
 - Formed as needed to handle education, research, and academic collaboration.
- **Section 2: Resources**
 - Consist of membership fees, contributions of Member Institutions, and donations
- **Article IX - Amendments**
- **Proposal and Adoption**
 - Any Representative or committee may propose amendments.
 - Distributed by the Secretary General before the Assembly meeting.
 - Adopted if approved by at least two-thirds of present Member Institutions.

SOUTH ASIA

- Afghanistan (10%)
- Bangladesh (2%)
- Bhutan (12.6%)
- India (4.5%)
- Maldives (1.4%)
- Nepal (11.5%)
- Pakistan (14%)
- Sri Lanka (1.0%)



Contribution of Veterinary Professionals in SA

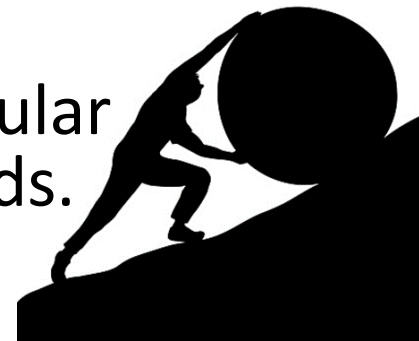
- Animal Health Management and Treatment – Livestock, Pets, and Wildlife
- Animal husbandry - Nutrition, Breeding, Disease Prevention, and control
- Public Health – Food safety and quality
- Zoonotic Disease Control – Rabies, Brucellosis, TB, Anthrax, HPAI etc.
- Wildlife Conservation – Conservation, rehabilitation, rescue and disease management
- Research and Education – R and D and training of future Vets
- Animal welfare and regulatory work – Development of AW and health policies
- One Health Initiatives
- Capacity Building -
- Disaster Response – Floods, droughts, earthquakes etc.



Active member countries	University
Bangladesh	Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University
Pakistan	University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore
Sri Lanka	University of Peradeniya

Challenges Faced by VEE in SA

- **Limited Resources:** This includes inadequate funding, infrastructure, and human resources, often resulting in a brain drain.
- **Insufficient Clinical Exposure:** Students may not receive enough practical clinical training during their education.
- **High Student-to-Faculty Ratio:** The ratio of students to faculty members is often too high, affecting individualized attention and mentorship.
- **Lack of Intra-country Consortium among Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE):** Except for Bangladesh's National Veterinary Education Consortium (NVDC), there is a lack of collaborative networks among VEE within the country.
- **Inadequate Faculty Training Mechanisms:** Not all VEE have regular mechanisms for training faculty in effective pedagogical methods.



Challenges Faced by VEE in SA

- **Absence of International Accreditation Mechanisms:** There is a lack of structured processes for obtaining international accreditation.
- **Limited Continuing Education Opportunities:** Graduates and professionals face limited options for continuing their education and skill development.
- **Limited Research Opportunities:** VEE often lack the resources and infrastructure required for conducting meaningful research.
- **Public Perception and Awareness:** Public awareness of the veterinary field's importance and scope may be lacking.
- **Language and Cultural Barriers:** Language and cultural differences can pose challenges in education and practice within the veterinary field



WAY FORWARD

- Utilization of WOAHA guidelines pertaining to veterinary education
- Creation of a standardized core curriculum for the region
- Frequent faculty training in pedagogical methods
- Documentation and sharing of best practices among Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE)
- Regular review of study programs by accreditation bodies
- Regulation of private veterinary schools and colleges
- Implementation of faculty and student exchange programs
- Provision of ample opportunities for Continuing Education (CE) for Veterinary Professionals
- Engagement of overseas-based alumni in teaching and learning processes
- Development of a regional ranking and networking system for VEE
- Establishment of the South Asian Veterinary Board Council (SAVBC)



AAVS website:

<http://www.aavs.jpn.org>

Contact Information of AAVS Office* in Tokyo, Japan:

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*Supported by the WOAHP Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Thank you 😊

Summary of
Veterinary
Education
Establishments
IN SA

Country	# VEE	VSBS	VCE	VW	Professional Bodies
Afghanistan	08	VSBS is not in operation yet	No formal mechanism	VS, VPP and CAHW	AVA
Bangladesh	16 (13)	BVC	BVC facilitate the VCE	VS and VPP	BVA, NVDC, CEVET and BCVS,
Bhutan	01	NO	Not existing	VS and VPP	?
India	54	VCI (MSVE)	Yes	VS VPP	IVA, IAAVAR
Maldives	-	-	-	Foreign qualified VS	-
Nepal	4	NVC (NLEV)	Yes	VS and VPP	NVA, VPAN
Pakistan	20 (15)	PVMC	Yes	VS and VPP	PVMA, PVA
Sri Lanka	01	VCSL	Yes (ICEAPH)	VS and LDI	SLVA, SLCVS