



World Organisation
for Animal Health

SKETCHING CHANGE

TALES FROM VETERINARIANS ACROSS ASIA-PACIFIC



My team and I interacted with farmers.
A few women in veils participated
actively, asking questions and learning.

DANGAR DOCTOR: A VET'S JOURNEY



Scan the QR code to access the comic stories in this publication in digital format, and to read several others.

© WOA, 2026

Some rights reserved. This work is made available under a CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO licence.



This publication was possible thanks to the support of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Note: Designations, statements and opinions in the material do not imply any official position of WOA or partner organisations, and responsibility for interpretation lies solely with the reader.

ABOUT THIS VOLUME

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) is committed to strengthening gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) within the veterinary sector. Our recent work in Asia and the Pacific has shown that, while there is a growing number of qualified women and diverse professionals in the sector, many still face barriers shaped by longstanding norms, insufficient adjustments and unequal opportunities.

As noted in regional studies conducted by WOAH in Asia-Pacific, gender stereotypes influence perceptions within the veterinary sector, and the absence of reasonable accommodations reinforces the exclusion of persons with disabilities. These findings highlight the need for continued awareness and action across institutions, training systems, and professional communities.

To foster this change, WOAH has expanded its GEDSI initiatives, including awareness raising events and partnerships with veterinary associations and networks in Asia and the Pacific region, in particular the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA), the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS) and the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA). The Comics Competition Promoting GEDSI in the Veterinary Sector, organised between December 2025 and January 2026, invited veterinary students and professionals to reflect creatively on what an inclusive profession looks like.

The competition aimed to celebrate storytelling, artistic talent, veterinary commitment and GEDSI values, and to inspire dialogue through accessible and engaging narratives. Among the winning submissions, the comic presented here captures the imagination, concerns, and aspirations of veterinarians in different parts of the Asia and the Pacific region. The story reminds us that inclusion is not only a policy goal—it is a shared cultural commitment that strengthens the profession and the communities it serves. While we could not award all participants with prizes, we appreciated all entries and will be sharing additional comic stories of note on our website (see QR code on the cover inner page).

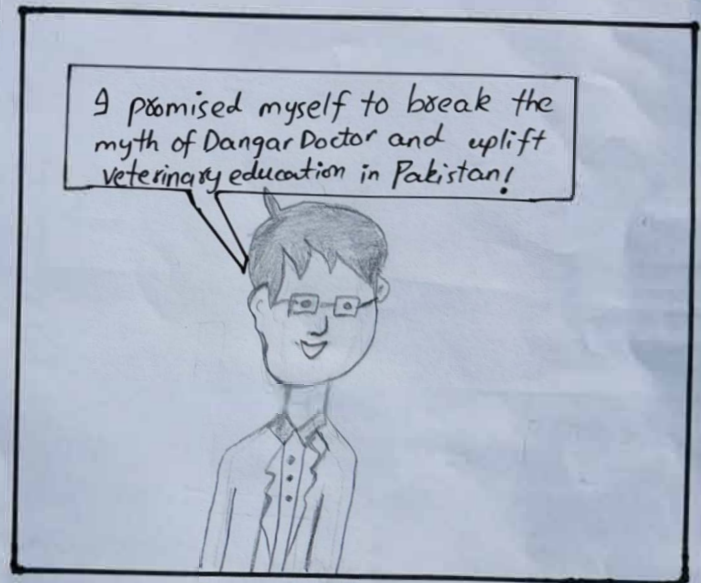
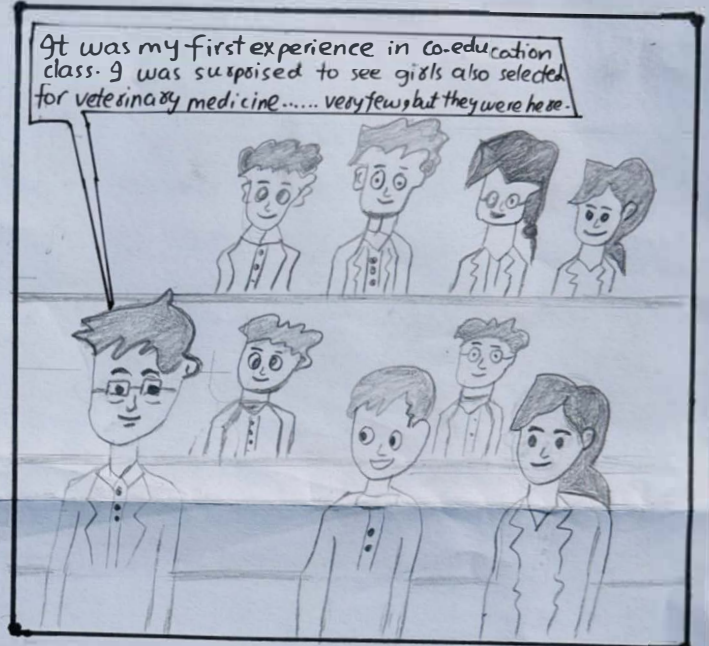
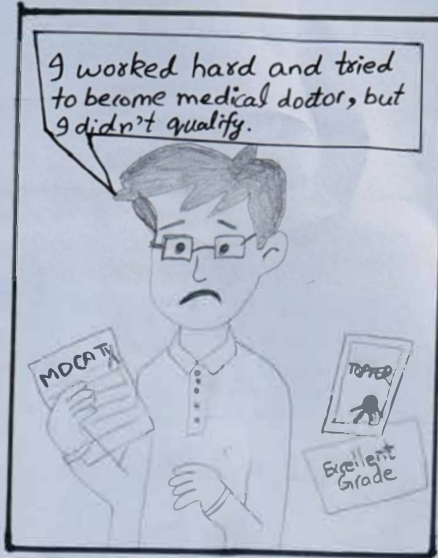
We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the winners of this competition, and thank all participants for adding their voices to this important conversation. This comic enriches WOAH's ongoing efforts to promote a veterinary sector where everyone can thrive, advancing our mission to improve animal health and welfare globally and ensure a better future for all.



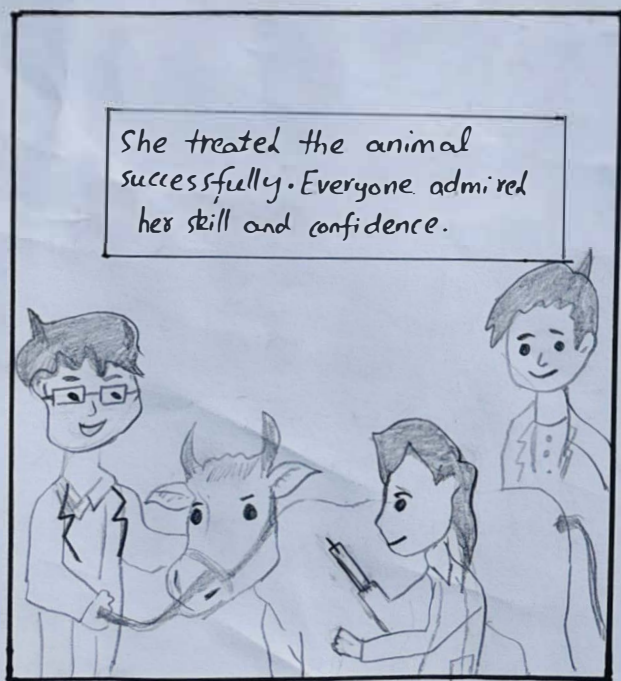
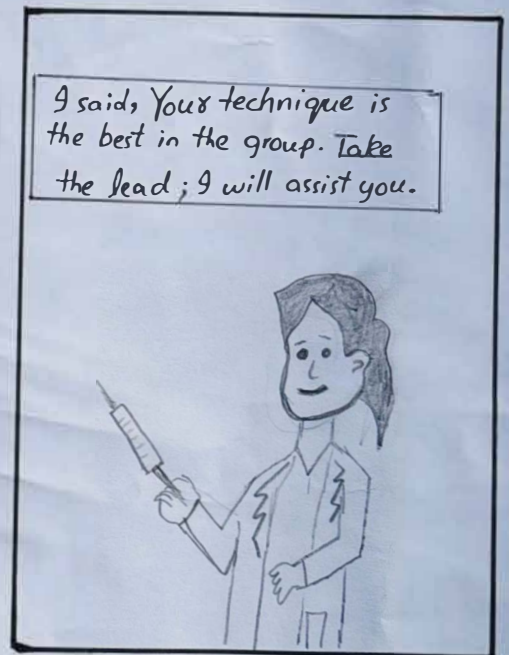
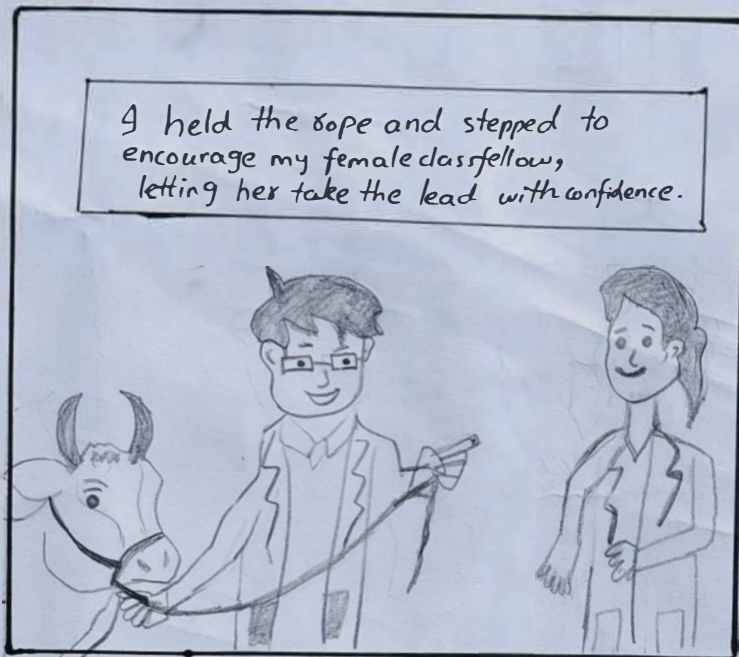
Dr Tomoko Ishibashi
WOAH Regional
Representative for Asia and
the Pacific



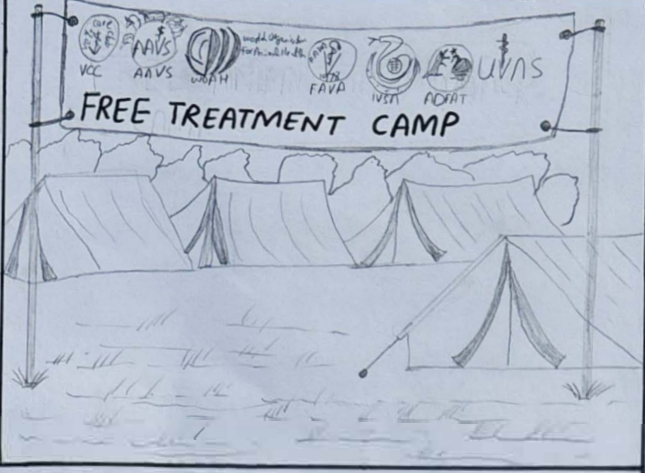
Dr Naree Ketusing
WOAH Sub-Regional
Representative for South-East Asia



* Dangar Doctor means Animal doctor, a slang term used in Pakistan for veterinarians.



With the vets care club (a non-profit), we organized a free treatment camp in a rural village.



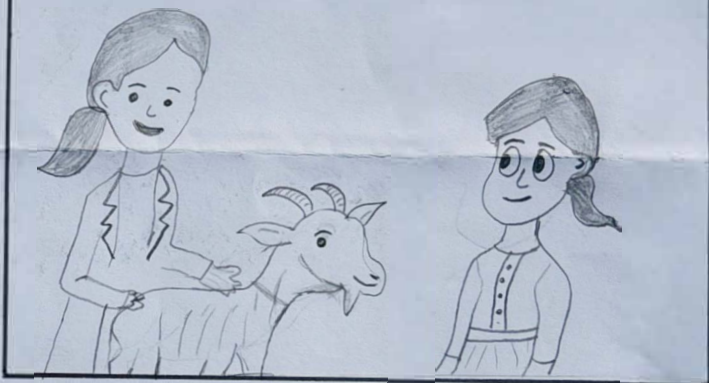
My team and I interacted with farmers. A few women in veils participated actively, asking questions and learning.



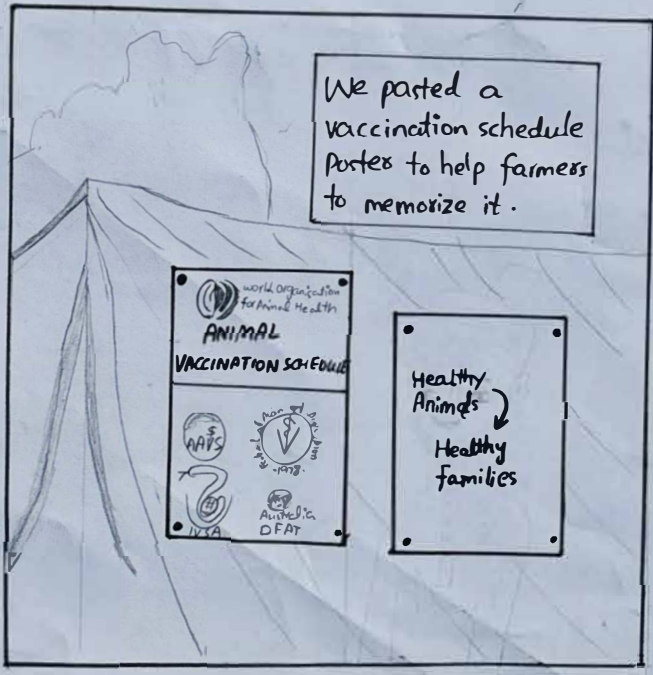
I examined a goat of a female farmer and discussed local disease issues with her.



A female fellow also checked the goat, while a young girl watched, inspired to become a future vet.



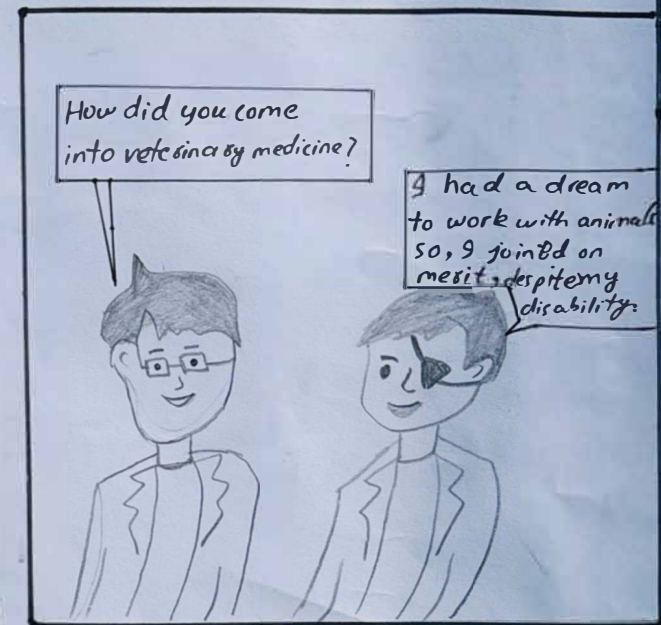
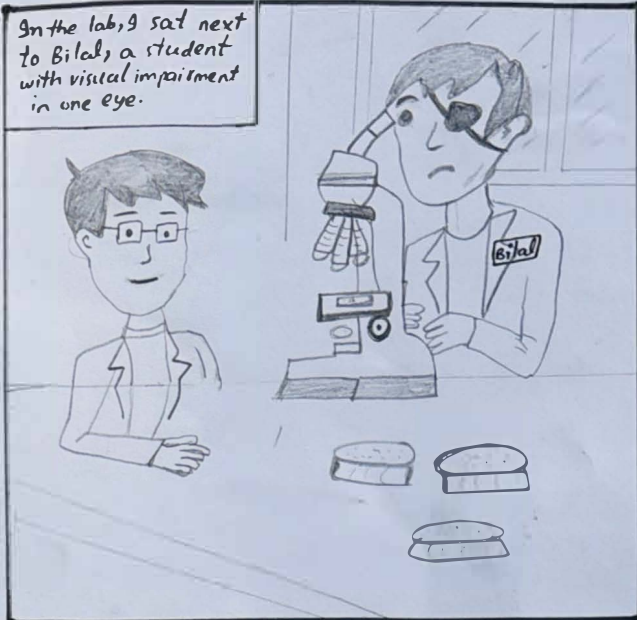
We pasted a vaccination schedule poster to help farmers to memorize it.



Social Inclusion means bringing science to all. We are not just treating animals; we protect the livelihoods.

Thank you for coming and helping our animals.





I was selected as a cultural ambassador of Pakistan in the USA. The first in my family to travel abroad.

GLOBAL UGRAD PAKISTAN

I became secretary of International student club, interacting with students from different countries.

I presented a talk about Pakistan to international students, sharing our culture.

Cultural Presentation

- Festivals
- Food
- Art
- Language
- Monuments

About Pakistan Cultural Presentation

- National
- Currency
- Dress
- Sports
- Food
- Animal

I discussed ONE HEALTH topic with my US classmates and realized veterinary medicine connects the world.

Human Health

Environmental Health

Animal Health

Back home, I gave awareness about Rabies in schools, teaching children how ONE HEALTH protects animals and people.

World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

FAO

AVS USA

UVNS

ZERO RABIES CAMPAIGN

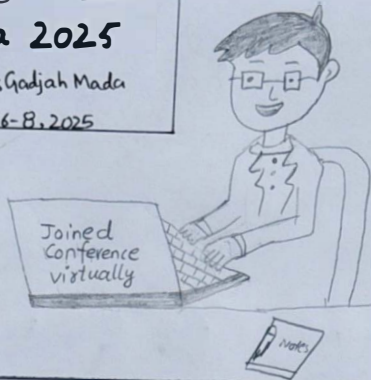
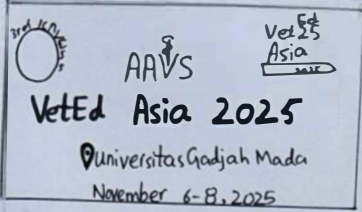
Rabies? *
Transmission? *
Post-Bite? *
Safety measures? *
Symptoms in Human? *

Signs? *
Prevention? *
Vaccination? *
Symptoms in animals? *
Your Role? *

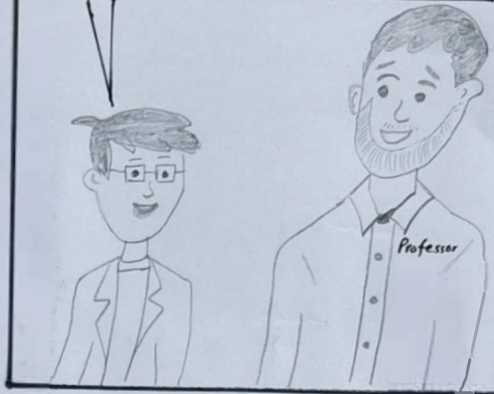
I led the 'Zero Rabies Campaign' with vet care club, reaching thousands, a nationwide impact.

43,500+ social media engagement

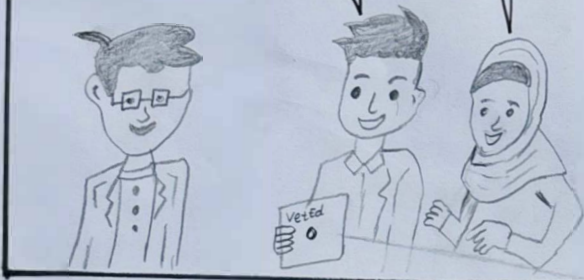
I presented my first abstract and poster on veterinary education at VetEd 25 virtually.



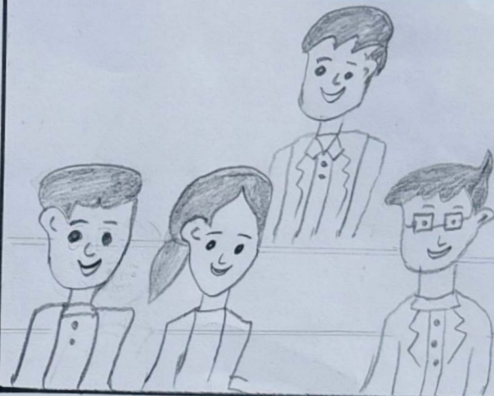
Thank you, Professor! You guided me to highlight this important topic that how students choose veterinary medicine in Pakistan.



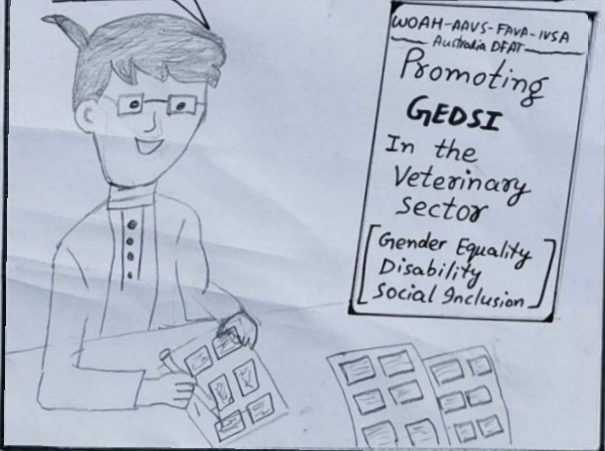
Juniors: We read your abstract, "Is Veterinary Education a Prime Career choice in Pakistan?". This inspired us a lot! Thank you!



Classfellows: After reading your findings, we feel proud to be future veterinarians.



Now, completing this comic for GEDSI competition to promote Gender equality, Disability and social Inclusion in veterinary medicine.



I am no longer just a student who failed MDCAT. I am a proud veterinarian and a hope for everyone. That was my journey.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mehran Khaliq

My name is Mehran Khaliq, and I am a final-year veterinary medicine student at the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan. As a Global UGRAD Scholar in the USA, I represented Pakistan as a cultural ambassador, served as Secretary of the International Student Club, and received leadership recognition from the U.S. Department of State. I also completed the Virtual International Student Exchange (VISE) program with Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia. Through the Vets Care Club, a nonprofit organization serving animals for over two decades, I led awareness and treatment camps in underserved communities. My goal is to uplift the veterinary profession in Pakistan.

Comic description

This comic depicts the original journey of a veterinary student in Pakistan whose parents migrated from a village to the city for his education 20 years ago. He studied hard from childhood but was unable to qualify for the Medical Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) to become a medical doctor. He later secured admission in a veterinary university. It was his first experience in a co-educational learning environment, where he noticed that females were also becoming veterinarians, which was uncommon in his culture.

He faced skepticism from relatives regarding his choice to become an animal doctor. This motivated him to excel in his field and break the myth of the “Dangar Doctor” (a slang term in his culture for veterinarians). During a typical clinical rotation, he supported female classmates to take the lead and recognized that equality begins with support, opportunity, and encouragement. Over time, he became confident enough to take initiatives, leading treatment camps in rural areas. He and his team, including female veterinarians, successfully examined and treated animals.

During one camp, a young girl was inspired to become a veterinarian by seeing female veterinarians. He then displayed a vaccination poster representing WOAAH, FAVA, AAVS, IVSA, and Australia DFAT, conveying the message that through social inclusion, we should contribute to protecting livelihoods. He also assisted a student with a visual impairment in one eye who was struggling with microscopic sample identification. He supported and encouraged him, showing that disability does not mean inability.

His professor admired his efforts, emphasizing the importance of supporting students with disabilities in the veterinary profession. Later, the veterinary student was selected for an exchange program in the USA, where he represented his country through leadership, cultural presentations, and discussions on One Health with U.S. classmates. Upon returning, he voluntarily led the Zero Rabies Pakistan Initiative, conducted in-person sessions at different schools, and created a campaign that had a national impact with over 43,000 social engagements, promoting One Health and the veterinary profession.




He also participated in a Veterinary Education Conference, presenting his first abstract and poster virtually, and expressed gratitude to his professor for guidance. His juniors and classmates felt motivated and encouraged by his contributions to veterinary education. Through this GEDSI comic, he promotes Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion in the veterinary sector. Ultimately, he reflects on all the events of his studies with a smile, realizing that he is no longer just a student who failed a medical admission test. He is now a proud veterinarian and a source of hope for others.

World Organisation for Animal Health

Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific
Food Science Building 5F
The University of Tokyo
1-1-1 Yayoi, Bunkyo-ku
Tokyo 113-0032
Japan

World Organisation for Animal Health

Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia
c/o Department of Livestock Development
69/1 Phaya Thai Road
Ratchathewi 10400 Bangkok
Thailand

 WOAHAAsiaPacific  @WOAH_Asia  WorldAnimalHealth

Visit us: woah.org | rr-asia.woah.org

