



## *VPP Training in Malaysia : Where we are now...*

---

*Yong-Meng, GOH*

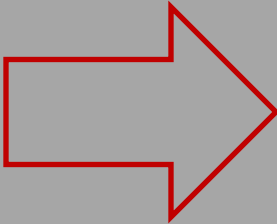
*Chair, QAC Committee,  
Malaysian Veterinary Council*

*Email : [ymgoh@upm.edu.my](mailto:ymgoh@upm.edu.my) / [gohyongmeng@gmail.com](mailto:gohyongmeng@gmail.com)*



## *VPP Training in Malaysia : Where we are now...*

---



*Professor **Ts Dr** GOH Yong Meng  
Chair, QAC Committee,  
Malaysian Veterinary Council*

*Email : [ymgoh@upm.edu.my](mailto:ymgoh@upm.edu.my) / [gohyongmeng@gmail.com](mailto:gohyongmeng@gmail.com)*

*Why **Ts** ? I'm worlds away from being a "saint" (St),  
obviously, "Ts" in Malaysia stands for .....*

*More on that later...*

# MAJLIS VETERINAR MALAYSIA MALAYSIAN VETERINARY COUNCIL



## VPP Education landscape in Malaysia



**Public  
Universities &  
Institutions (20)**



**Private Universities  
& Institutions  
(including foreign  
university branch  
campuses) (>510)**

**Government-  
mandated  
Training Institutes  
at various  
Ministries**

Ministry of  
Agriculture & FI,  
Ministry of Health



Institut Veterinar Malaysia

**Pool of  
VPP  
Workforce**



**Other education  
providers [NGO &  
Community Driven  
Initiatives]**

**Technical &  
Vocational Education  
(TVET) Providers  
(>123)**

Animal & Plant  
Agrotechnology,  
Aquaculture ,  
Food  
security/safety  
sector

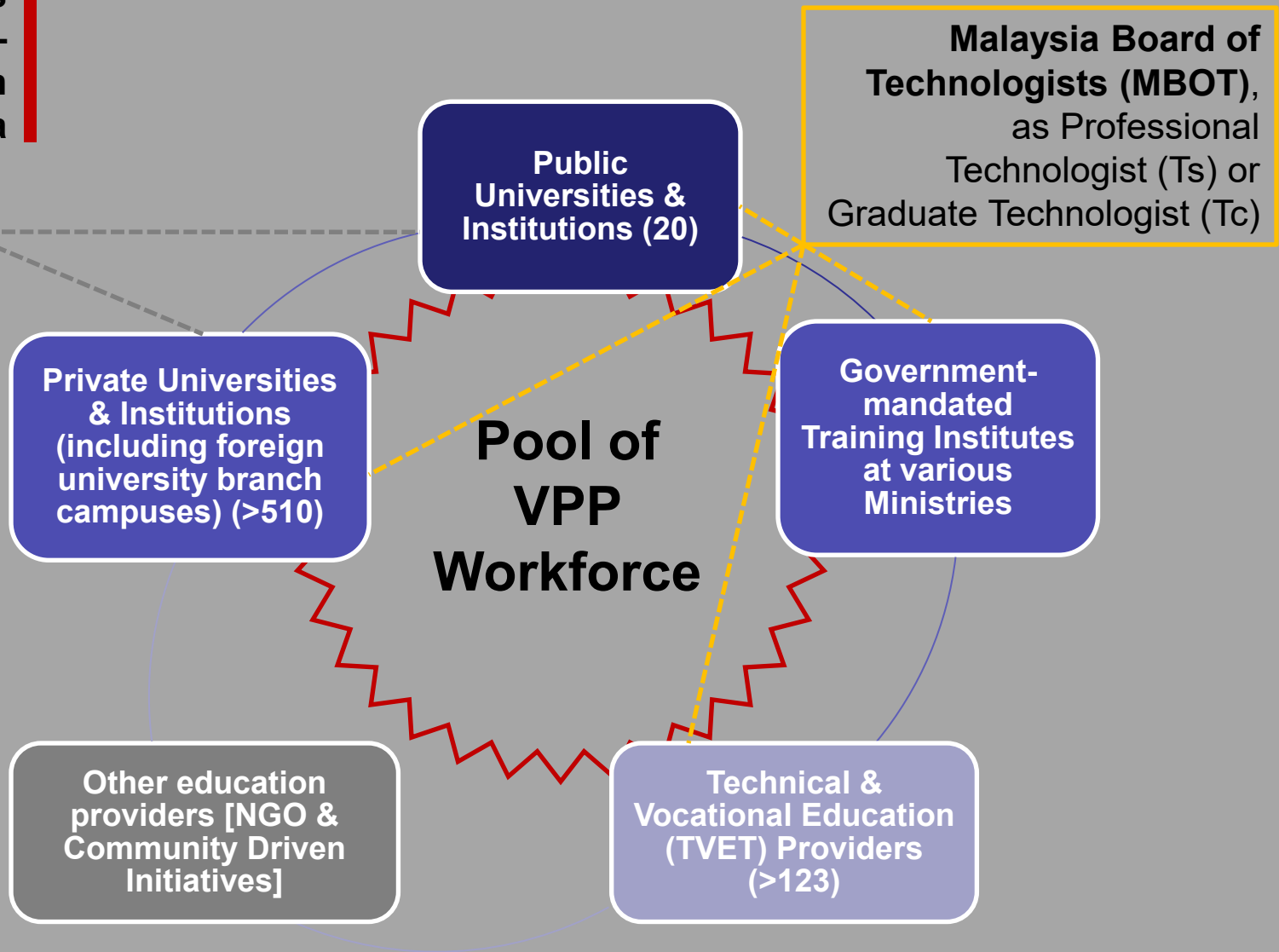


# MAJLIS VETERINAR MALAYSIA MALAYSIAN VETERINARY COUNCIL



## Recognitions available for para-professionals in Malaysia

23 non-VPP professions are regulated by the Allied Health Professions Act 2018





Gaps  
&  
Issues

23 non-VPP  
professions  
are  
regulated by  
the Allied  
Health  
Professions  
Act 2018

Only restricted to VPP's  
working in laboratory animal  
science & care,  
occupational health related  
to medical sciences etc.

Issue #1 : Not common to  
all VPP activities



Malaysia Board of  
Technologists (MBOT),  
through the Technologists  
& Technicians Act 2015



Aims :

“...to increase the pool of skilled workforce required to attain a high income economy, and to protect public safety and health....”

Issue #2 : Not specific to VPP activities, but rather to safeguard **ALL** Malaysia's skilled and semi-skilled workforce for economic reasons



VPP : Regulatory  
& training needs  
in Malaysia

VPPs should be able to function in a supporting role,  
as **CLOSE** as **POSSIBLE** to a veterinarian,  
while remaining **FAR ENOUGH** to be differentiated from the roles and  
responsibilities of a veterinarian in veterinary services.

Issue #1 : Not common to  
all VPP activities

Issue #2 : Not specific to VPP activities, but  
rather to safeguard **ALL** Malaysia's skilled and  
semi-skilled workforce for economic reasons



VPP : Regulatory  
& training needs  
in Malaysia

VPPs should be able to function in a supporting role,  
as **CLOSE** as **POSSIBLE** to a veterinarian,  
while remaining **FAR ENOUGH** to be differentiated from the roles and  
responsibilities of a veterinarian in veterinary services.

1

I. Regulated under a single law, but by a different  
statutory body (or council) from the veterinarians

- Allowing the **VPPs to be linked to the national VSB, while defining the supporting roles** of the VPPs, vis-à-vis veterinarians  
*e.g. VPPs and Vets in diagnostic services know the proper specimen handling, processing and interpretation, but it is the Vets who signed off with the final diagnosis when dealing with the patients.*
- Through **listing of specific degrees / professions be regulated** in the upcoming Veterinary Practice Bill – an approach taken by the AHP Act 2018 in Malaysia, to link VPP to VSB



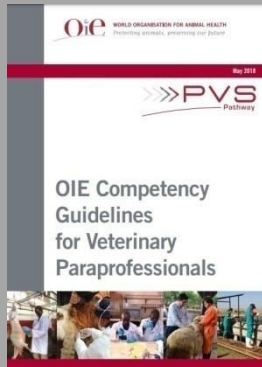
VPP : Regulatory  
& training needs  
in Malaysia

VPPs should be able to function in a supporting role,  
as **CLOSE** as **POSSIBLE** to a veterinarian,  
while remaining **FAR ENOUGH** to be differentiated from the roles and  
responsibilities of a veterinarian in veterinary services.

2

II. Regulatory and training needs defined by job  
function within a recognised workflow by the VSB

- The **OIE's 16 sphere of activities** and their competencies as a starting point. No differences in curriculum for private and public VPP sectors, determined by work flow, job functions and accountability.
- to **minimise overlap with veterinarians**, but **detailing the general areas recognised by existing laws** or acts. E.g. MBOT only recognise “agrotechnology”, but VPP-VSB’s could recognise “Animal Breeding & Genetics” & their specific training courses.







VPP : Regulatory  
& training needs  
in Malaysia

VPPs should be able to function in a supporting role,  
as **CLOSE** as **POSSIBLE** to a veterinarian,  
while remaining **FAR ENOUGH** to be **differentiated** from the roles and  
responsibilities of a veterinarian in veterinary services.

3

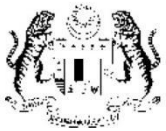
III. Training & activities for VPPs according  
to the provisions of existing acts and laws.

- Linking VPPs to the national VSB allow **VSB to have control over continuing education programmes and minimum training standards.**
- Certain activities in OIE's 16 sphere of activities to be adapted to Malaysian conditions. e.g. VPP's are not allowed to "practice veterinary medicine" as per Sections 2 and 23 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1974.



VPP : Regulatory  
& training needs  
in Malaysia

Legal definition of “practice of veterinary medicine” – to differentiate what Vets & VPP’s could and couldn’t do in activities & trainings.



LAWS OF MALAYSIA

REPRINT

Act 147

VETERINARY SURGEONS  
ACT 1974

“practice of veterinary medicine” means—

- (a) to diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve or prevent animal disease, deformity, defect, injury or other physical or mental conditions; including the prescription, administration or application of any drug, medicine, biologics, apparatus, anaesthetic or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique, and the use of any manual or mechanical procedure for artificial insemination, for testing for pregnancy, or for correcting sterility, or infertility, or to render advice or recommendation with regard to any of the above, or do any other act recognised to be a duty of a veterinary surgeon;
- (b) to represent, directly or indirectly, publicly or privately, an ability and willingness to do any act described in paragraph (a) above;
- (c) to use any title, words, abbreviation or letters in a manner or under circumstances which is likely to induce the belief that the person using them is a veterinary surgeon;



VPP : Regulatory  
& training needs  
in Malaysia



LAWS OF MALAYSIA

Act 728

MALAYSIAN QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION  
SERVICES ACT 2011

On another hand, the law also allow personnel other than veterinarians to execute select functions, e.g. inspection (of disease etc.), quarantine & enforcement under the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Act 2011. Clearly the VPP's personnel need have proper trainings as well.

Section 9 defines the responsibilities

9. The Director General shall have the following powers:

- (a) to quarantine and inspect any plant, animal, carcass, fish, agricultural produce, soil, microorganism, premises, conveyance or any other article at the entry points, quarantine stations and quarantine premises for the purpose of determining whether pest, disease or contaminant is present and to ensure compliance of any plant, animal, carcass, fish, agricultural produce, soil and microorganism with the import and export conditions as specified in the permit, licence or certificate issued under this Act;
- (b) to inspect food and enforce matters relating to food at the entry points in accordance with the Food Act 1983;
- (c) to impose and collect fees or any other charges the Director General thinks fit for the purpose of carrying out his functions under this Act;
- (d) to place any plant, animal, carcass, fish, agricultural produce, soil and microorganism under quarantine control at a quarantine station or quarantine premises for a period of time as the Director General may determine;
- (e) to register all importers, exporters and agents involved in the import and export of plants, animals, carcasses, fish, agricultural produce, soils and microorganisms;
- (f) to issue permits, licences and certificates for the purpose of the import and export of plants, animals, carcasses, fish, agricultural produce, soils and microorganisms;
- (g) to declare any premises as quarantine premises for the purpose of the quarantine and inspection of plants, animals, carcasses, fish, agricultural produce, soils and microorganisms;

➤ "... Inspect for diseases in animals"

➤ "...place under quarantine....."

➤ "...declare any premise to quarantine animals / fishes / plants..."



VPP : Regulatory  
& training needs  
in Malaysia

VPPs should be able to function in a supporting role,  
as **CLOSE** as **POSSIBLE** to a veterinarian,  
while remaining **FAR ENOUGH** to be differentiated from the roles and  
responsibilities of a veterinarian in veterinary services.

4

IV. Continuous and targeted funding for the overall animal  
health care sector – food security, public health etc.

- Roles and definition of the VPP's should be clear. Clear definition = targeted funding. Definition from OIE and Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) are very helpful.

<https://www.ava.com.au/policy-advocacy/policies/accreditation-and-employment-of-veterinarians/regulation-of-animal-health-service-providers/>

- Access to laboratory and facilities – especially when combating antimicrobial resistance, mandatory refreshers to ensure continued proficiency.



VPP : Regulatory  
& training needs  
in Malaysia

VPPs should be able to function in a supporting role,  
as **CLOSE** as **POSSIBLE** to a veterinarian,  
while remaining **FAR ENOUGH** to be differentiated from the roles and  
responsibilities of a veterinarian in veterinary services.

4

IV. Continuous and targeted funding for the overall animal  
health care sector – food security, public health etc.

- Regulation should accommodate **elements of recognition as an encouragement**. E.g. “Ts” (Professional technologist) & “Tc” (Graduate technologist) holders under the MBOT, has proper promotion & pay recognition in engineering & technical sector, BUT not in the agriculture sector.



VPP : Regulatory  
& training needs  
in Malaysia

VPPs should be able to function in a supporting role,  
as **CLOSE** as **POSSIBLE** to a veterinarian,  
while remaining **FAR ENOUGH** to be differentiated from the roles and  
responsibilities of a veterinarian in veterinary services.

4

IV. Continuous and targeted funding for the overall animal  
health care sector – food security, public health etc.

- Emphasis on “**field-based and practical-oriented applications**” in public institutes (as in DVS’ Institut Veterinar Malaysia), vs more balanced “**theoretical and skilled-based**” education in Malaysian Universities & Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL)’s.
- Inevitable as the Malaysian Qualifications Framework (MQF) has set the minimum credit / structural limit for each programme. MQF is analogous to the European QF that allow cross-border translation of initial qualification equivalency between countries.



## What is NEXT ?

1

- Getting the Veterinary Practice Bill (VPB) **passed as a law** – definition, spheres of activity, legal inclusion of VPP-related qualifications to be finalised.

2

- **Consolidation of all VPP curriculum development**, training programmes, Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) review and, Continuous Professional Development under the VPB → facilitates recognition - OIE standards as the “bedrock” reference.

3

- Demonstrate the relevance of VPP’s in food/national security, public health, livelihoods and existence of the nation to secure priority & **continuous funding**.

4

- attempt to **future proof VPP’s**, moving higher in the value chain with more **emphasis of expertise & professionalism**. Potential redundant job functions in light of technological, climate, global economic re-orientation etc.



**THANK YOU**