Highlights of research partnership between HSPH and Swiss institutions: institutional capacity development

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Visit of Dr. Mauro Dell'Ambrogio, State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation of Switzerland to Hanoi School of Public Health
Hanoi, June 12, 2014
Outline

• Context of Vietnamese Science and research needs at universities

• Building a research unit at university – CENPHER at Hanoi School of Public Health

• Partnership and ways forwards
Vietnam: 750 million $/year, 2% state expenses for research (90% infrastructure, 10% operational cost)
25 Nov 2012
Switzerland in 2009: ca. 26,000 papers

Tuan V. Nguyen (2014)

Source: State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation of Switzerland
Research at university: challenges vs. opportunities

- Teaching-based university vs. Research based university

- Research centers within universities: Independence $\bowtie$ Independence status

- Sustainability of research centers:
  Project $\rightarrow$ Center $\rightarrow$ Project finished $\rightarrow$ Sleeping center

- How to find a new model of research centers at university: excellence, sustainability, impact
- Public University
- Founded in 2001 from Health management school of MoH
- 6 Faculties (department, centers, labo, Chililab...)
- 150 staff (~ 100 faculty)
National Centres for Competence of Research North-South
www.nccr-north-south.unibe.ch 2001-2013

7 Swiss Institutions: NRM, Conflict, Governance, Sanitation, Livelihood, Health, Urban planning together with their South partners
Funded by Swiss National Science Foundation and Swiss Development Cooperation
Introduction

• 1.2007: Postdoc research at Swiss Tropical Institute (now Swiss TPH), Basel

• 9.2009: “landing” at HSPH: Environmental health research group, Hanoi

• 6.2012: institutionalization of Center for Public Health and Ecosystem Research (CENPHER) at HSPH with Swiss TPH - Sandec/Eawag “leading house”
Mission and activities

• Study the impact of development factors on health and well-being

• Focus on the link between health and agriculture, infectious and zoonotic diseases, chemical pollution, food safety and nutrition

• Research at different levels of organization and from lab to the field

• **Main themes of research, training and services**
  – Integrative research: EcoHealth and One Health
  – Food Safety
  – Health Impact Assessment

*Source: CENPHER strategic plan 2012-2017*
1. Integrative research: EcoHealth and One Health

**Ongoing projects:**

1. **Environmental sanitation and health:** balancing between health risk, livelihood opportunities and environmental impacts

2. **Ecohealth Field Building Leadership Initiative (FBLI):** Advancing Ecohealth in Southeast Asia: Agricultural intensification and Health

3. **Human-Animal-Environment transmission:** zoonoses
National and regional coordination

• Vietnam OneHealth University Network (VOHUN)

• EcoHealth Building Initiative in SE Asia (FBLI)
2. Food Safety

- Main issues: microbial contamination, pesticide use, antibiotic residues, growth promoter, and toxins and how to use a risk-based approach to food safety management in the developing world.

Ongoing projects: **RISK BASED-APPROACH**

1. **PigRISK** “Reducing disease risks and improving food safety in smallholder pig value chains in Vietnam”
2. **FOOD-RISK** “Strengthening Risk Assessment Capacities in Food Safety”
3. **Risk assessment task force for food safety**
4. **Dioxin and food**
5. **Chemical contamination of drinking water (Arsenic)**
3. Health Impact Assessment

- SEA – hotspot for infrastructure development projects (dam construction, mining industry, …)
- Urbanisation, climate change, agriculture, waste management
- Clear need for Health Impact Assessment in the region

Ongoing and prospective projects:

1. WASTE: resource, recovery, reuse
2. Air pollution and health (risk assessment)
3. Building up capacity and expertise on HIA for the region
Outputs/Outcomes

- International papers: 15
- National papers: 16
- Policy: 3

Books: 3
- Risk assessment
- WATSAN and Health glossary

Special editions: 2
- Sanitation and Health
- Risk assessment and health
Training

- Supervising under-graduate, MSc and PhD students in public Health and related fields.
- Developing, organizing and teaching short courses related to public health and ecosystem.
  - Curriculum Development: Risk assessment related to water, sanitation and food in Vietnam (NCCR North-South)
  - Manual for microbial risk assessment for food safety (VFA – WHO)
  - Microbial risk analysis in food safety in Vietnam (WHO)
  - One Health, Ecohealth short/elective course
  - Risk analysis for One Health (UMN)
  - Risk assessment for food safety in informal market (RGU and ILRI)
Knowledge translations

Outputs/Outcomes

Policy briefs:
- Policy briefs
- Research briefs
- Newsletters
Partnership, mutual learning, and development
Capacity Building: Individuals and Institutions

FROM a project...

Projects build a unit

A single project drives a group

...TO a research center

...to a project research unit...

A strategic plan / pipeline builds and sustains a center
- Research
- Training
- Services
...

Adapted from Tanner (2012)
Embassy and Swiss TPH visit 2012

Cám ơn Danke, Merci...
Thank you

Madame Christine Motyl in the field