

Update

TEACHING
DENTAL
PUBLIC
HEALTH IN
CAMBODIA
LAOS AND
VIETNAM

JANUARY
2009



Programs sponsored by The International College of Dentists USA Section since 1999

Vietnam: Third Diploma Course in Dental Public Health is completed

Twenty five students successfully completed the Diploma in Dental Public Health of the University of Health Sciences, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on December 12, 2009

At the end of the two year part-time course 25 dentists, working in the Dental Public Health Service in the South of Vietnam, successfully completed the Diploma Course in Dental Public Health. The course was taught mainly by volunteers recruited by Health Volunteers Overseas and the American Dental Association. It was made possible by the sponsorship of

the USA Section of the International College of Dentists.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, Dr Anh Lan, Vice-dean of the Faculty of Odonto-stomatology, underlined the importance of the Public Dental Services in Vietnam, particularly in the large rural areas and for disadvantaged populations. She congratulated the graduates on their outstanding performances throughout the course and encouraged them to continue to strive for higher standards of service to the community.

Dr Khanh, Vice-director of the National Odonto-stomatological Hospital, Ho Chi Minh City, paid tribute to the hard work of the students and their teachers in achieving such high standards in the final examinations.

Drs Hobdell and Beltran Aguilar also congratulated the students on the enormous efforts that they had made to attend the course and to complete the assignments that had been given throughout the course. Their achievements were seen as particularly noteworthy as they all had regular full-time jobs in the Public Dental Services.

Contents:

DPH in Laos	2
DPH in Cambodia	3
DPH Workshop in Vietnam	4

Vietnam DPH Course statistics

1999-2008



Course	Student enrollment	Number completing the course	Number completing a Higher degree
1	21	21	
2	18	18	8
3	26	25	12
Total	65	64	20



Dr Anh Lan, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Odontostomatology, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam addresses the students at the graduation

Laos Master's Course in Dental Public Health to begin shortly

Final approval for the commencement of the first ever Master's course to be taught in the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Health Sciences, Vientiane is eagerly awaited. The very detailed curriculum has been approved by the Faculty, the University, the Ministry of Health. The final decisions rest with the Ministry of Education and The Council of Ministers. Once all these bodies have approved the program the recruitment of students will commence. The possible starting date for the course is the end of March or the beginning of April 2009.

In the meantime major renovations of the old dental Department are underway. The renovations are a part of a major University buildings upgrading program. This will include the Medical School buildings and the Health Sciences Library.

So far the main lecture room facilities and the faculty offices in the Dental Department have been stripped. The uninhabitable basement has been cleaned and cleared of debris and a permanent pump installed to control the chronic flooding problem caused by the foundations extending below the water table.

A specific room has been identified as the Dental Public Health Room and it is being equipped and furnished with the assistance of funds from the USA Section of the International College of Dentists.

This first phase of the building's rehabilitation should be completed by the end of January.

In the final phase the clinical areas will be completely renovated, but this will not happen until later this year.

Dr. Nguyen Thi Thuy Phuong
General Hospital, Tien Giang province
Dr. Tran Van Thang
University of Health Sciences in Tay Nguyen, VN
Dr. Nguyen Thi Bich Van
Faculty of Odontostomatology, University of Health Sciences at HCMC, VN.
Dr. Pham Hong Tan
Department of dentistry, General Hospital in Vinh Thuan District, Kien Giang province

The graduating students:

Dr. Le Thi Loi
Faculty of Odontostomatology,
University of Can Tho
Dr. Nguyen Thi Lien Chi
CDC in DongThap
Dr. Pham Bich Hong
CDC in Binh Duong
Dr. Do Van Uoc
CDC in Ham Thuan Nam, Binh Thuan
Dr. Mai Thi Xuan Thien
Department of Dentistry, Khanh Hoa's
Hospital
Dr. Vo Thanh Quoi
CDC in Rach Gia
Dr. Nguyen Van Tri
Health center in Phu Qui Island, Binh
Thuan province
Dr. Ha Thi Kim Lien
National Hospital of Odontostomatology in HCMC, VN
Dr. Ngo Uyen Chau
Faculty of Odontostomatology,
University of Health Sciences at HCM,
VN.
Dr. Ton That Cac
Health center in Ba Ria, Vung Tau
Dr. Tran Thi Kim Cuong
Faculty of Odontostomatology,
University of Can Tho
Dr. Ngo Ngoc Minh
Center of Odontostomatology, Dong
Nai province
Dr. Ta To Tran
Faculty of Odontostomatology,
University of Health Sciences at
HCMC, VN.
Dr. Hong Phuong Thao
Faculty of Odontostomatology,
University of Health Sciences at
HCMC, VN.
Dr. Nguyen Thi Thu
Faculty of Odontostomatology,
University of Health Sciences at
HCMC, VN.
Dr. Nguyen Thi Thuy Lan
Faculty of Odontostomatology,
University of Health Sciences at
HCMC, VN.
Dr. Le Hong Ha
Hospital of Odontostomatology,
HCMC, VN
Dr. Vo Anh Dung
Hospital of Odontostomatology,
HCMC, VN
Dr. Tran Ngoc Minh Duyen
Hospital of Odontostomatology,
HCMC, VN
Dr. Pham Nghiem Chanh
Hospital of Odontostomatology,
HCMC, VN
Dr. Mai Hong Khanh
Faculty of Odontostomatology,
University of Can Tho

The Master's in Dental Public Health Course

1. Duration of course

Three years part-time divided into six semesters.

2. Degree

Master in Dental Public Health.
M.D.P.H.

3. Philosophy

Vision:

To improve the quality of dental public health services by upgrading the knowledge and skill competencies of central, provincial and district dental health managers in Dental Public Health, including also their Leadership skills.

Mission:

To provide comprehensive education as a foundation to address the problems of the dental public health system for the central level, district and provincial managers of the dental health services.

Goals:

To produce enough oral health managers so that all central level, provinces and at least 20 percent of districts have one qualified oral health manager, by the year 2020.

4. Course structure

- The first two-years of study will comprise 6 Blocks of teaching/ learning experience divided into 16 Course Units providing, in total, 52 credit hours including the research project in the 6th semester. The final year of study will be devoted to the development of a research project related to individual students learning needs and interests.



The renovations of the old Dental Department in Vientiane, Laos underway November 2008

Cambodia

Progress with the approval for the Master's in Dental Public Health course has been slower than originally anticipated because of some concerns over the sustainability of the course over the three year program. However a meeting between the Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, Dr Suon Phany, Professor Hobdell and the University Rector resolved the matter and a new Letter of Understanding with Health Volunteers Overseas incorporating the Master's program was signed. The program is therefore approved by the University as the first Master's course to be offered by the Faculty of Odonto-stomatology in Phnom Penh. Approval is now being obtained from the Ministry of Health and, like the Dental Public Health Master's program in Laos, it is hoped to commence teaching towards the end of March. Initially ten students will be selected

The dental education system in Cambodia is based on the French system. Students complete and initial degree, which awards them the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree. They are then permitted to practice dentistry in the normal way. If they then write a dissertation and successfully defend it they are then awarded a Doctorate in Dental Surgery or DDS.

Seven of the students who completed their Diploma in Dental Public Health in January 2008 are still working towards the completion of their final DDS degrees.



Dental Public Health Workshop - Da Nang December 15-16, 2008

Thirty former students, and some Faculty members from the dental school in Ho Chi Minh City, travelled to Da Nang to participate in a National Workshop on Dental Public Health in Vietnam. They joined delegates

from Indonesia, Thailand, Japan and many of the Provinces in both Northern and Southern parts of the country together with participants from and the Ministries of Health and Education in a wide ranging discussion of the

serious issues facing the Public Dental Services in Vietnam.

This workshop was made possible because of the generous sponsorship of Henry Schein

Critical Issues discussed

The major issues discussed where introduced by the international invited speakers: Dr Hobdell spoke about macro-economic policy, health and dental education and how dental public health needed central government support across a wide range of areas not normally associated with oral health.

Dr Songpaisan (Thailand) spoke about human resources for oral health; Dr Kawaguchi (Japan) spoke on issues related to health promotion issues, and Dr Adyatmaka



(Indonesia) followed the Japanese presentation with a report on oral health promotion in Indonesia.

These international

presentations were followed by a variety of impressive presentation from former students of the Diploma in Dental Public Health Course, including two groups who had just finished the course.

Each presentation was followed by a brief discussion and the main points were taken-up again on the second day.

On the second representatives from the Ministries of Education and Health spoke and there was a lot of discussion concerning the need for support and co-ordination from both Ministries.

Specific discussions included the school oral health program, which for many years has been supported by Colgate co-sponsors of the Workshop.

At the conclusion of the Workshop it was reported that much greater understanding between all parties involved in Dental Public Health had been achieved.

Highlights of the Workshop Program:

Oral Health Status in Vietnam

Dr Ngo Dong Khanh National Hospital of Odonto-Stomatology

Dental Care Habits of Adults in Ho Chi Minh City



Dr Ngo Thi My Hoa Hospital of District 5 Ho Chi Minh, and Dr Dr Ngo Dong Khanh National Hospital of Odonto-

Stomatology

School-based oral health care in rural Vietnam



Dr Le Thi Loi, Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Medicine &

Pharmacology Can Tho City.

Water Fluoridation in Ho Chi Minh City: current effectiveness and new challenges

Dr Hoang Trong Hung, Faculty of Dentistry Univ Medical Sciences, Ho Chi Minh City

Human resources for dentistry in Southern Part of Vietnam

Dr Nguyen Duc Hue & Dr Ngo Dong Khanh National Hospital of Odonto-Stomatology