

# Seeding occupational therapy in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam

## -A collaborative approach of on-line education-

Yumiko Hayashi<sup>1</sup>, Yvonne Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Yda J. Smith<sup>3</sup>, Ann Maree Chapman<sup>4</sup>, Rumi Tanemura<sup>5</sup>, Mokoto Kono<sup>6</sup>, Hoang Hoa Hai<sup>7</sup>, MD

<sup>1</sup>HIMIP(healthcare consulting Co. Ltd), Vietnam \*in being processed

<sup>2</sup>University of Worcester, U.K.

<sup>3</sup>University of Utah, U.S.

<sup>4</sup>AVI(Australian Volunteers International), Vietnam

<sup>5</sup>Kobe University, Japan

<sup>6</sup>Kyorin University, Japan

<sup>7</sup>City International Hospital, Vietnam



## Introduction

The ASEAN Economic Community's goal of Regional Economic Integration in 2015 includes narrowing the gap between new members, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, and the remaining six countries. The international organizations such as OECD point out that the gap between Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV), and ASEAN-6 (the remaining countries) is widest in poverty and human resource development (OECD, 2013).

Meanwhile, the United Nations (UN) has pointed out: the pace of ageing in developing countries is more rapid than in developed, developing countries will have less time to adapt to the consequences of population ageing. **Vietnam, indeed, will face population ageing faster than Japan has faced, according to the World Population Prospects by UN.**

Regarding human resources in the healthcare industry, particularly rehabilitation professionals, **no educational programs in occupational therapy exist in CLMV**, whereas physiotherapy education has been provided by their respective human resources in all the ASEAN countries except Brunei.

The development of occupational therapy education in CLMV through a collaborative approach of on-line education would contribute to more equity in health in ASEAN countries.

## Project framework

### Business Partnership

- University in Vietnam
- Universities overseas

### Targeted students

- Appropriate English language proficiency
- Motivation to contribute to healthcare development in the region

### Curriculum

- Four-year undergraduate
- Delivered in English
- On-line lecture
- Face-to-face fieldwork supervision at hospitals in Vietnam

The project is in a standstill.

## Regulations of the Vietnamese Ministry of Education & Training (MoET)

"The university must employ at least 1 permanent lecturer holding a PhD and 3 others with a Master's degree in the field they are going to teach."

## Relevant education in Vietnam

PT: 5 existing (01 in Hai Duong, 01 in Da Nang, 02 in Ho Chi Minh & 01 in Can Tho) + 1 planned (Ha Noi)

\*2.5-year diploma & 4-year B.S., taught by Vietnamese faculty utilizing textbooks in Vietnamese

ST: 1 existing (Ho Chi Minh) + 1 planned (Ha Noi)

\*2-year diploma targeted Vietnamese B.S. holders, taught by the Australian ST utilizing textbooks in English



### Ha Noi Medical University (under the Rehabilitation Dept.)

- Under consideration to launch the first education of OT with 4-year B.S. taught in English collaborated with a university in Japan.
- Current issue → financial source to launch the OT education



### Da Nang Technical University of Medicine and Pharmacy

- In progress; An Australian occupational therapist has taken the role to expand OT components in the physiotherapy curriculum under the project by VNAH(Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped, U.S.) since 2013.
- Current issue → Occupational therapy human resources to create OT curriculum



### Ho Chi Minh City

- Under discussion to launch a private OT training program through a collaborative approach.
- Current issue → No universities in southern Vietnam are appropriate to launch OT education under the regulations of MoET of Vietnam.



## Relevant education in Myanmar

PT: 2 existing (Yangon & Mandalay)

\*4-year B.S. & 2-year MSc., taught by Burmese faculty utilizing textbooks in English(Physical Rehabilitation, 2001)



### University of Medical Technology in Mandalay

- The faculty of Physiotherapy Department has an interest in OT as they can accept the visiting lecturers from overseas in following regulation changes.
- An occupational therapist at a US university is ready to be involved with this university as a visiting lecturer.
- Current issue → Under careful consideration



### University of Medical Technology in Yangon

- 3 Burmese have been studying in a master's degree at a university in Japan under the scholarship by the Japanese university.
- Current issue → unsure whether the OT education will be planned to launch or not.

Any ideas, comments, collaboration and cooperation are highly welcome toward the development of occupational therapy education in CLMV.