

MyONE HEALTH Newsletter

Bi-annual newsletter by MyOHUN emphasizing the connection between human, animals, and ecosystem health

2023
ISSUE 15





More info on page 14



More info on page 11



More info on page 9

Disclaimer: This newsletter is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of MyOHUN and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

In-Situ One Health Problem-Based Learning on Animal, Wildlife, and Ecosystem Health



The In-Situ One Health Problem-Based Learning on Animal, Wildlife, and Ecosystem Health was held from 8 to 12 June 2023 at Kompleks Belia Dan Sukan (KBS) in Kuching, Sarawak. Project Leader, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hasliza Abu Hassim and her team engaged with thirty-nine multi-university undergraduate students from Medical, Veterinary, Environmental, and Biomedical Sciences.

Students experienced a wonderful learning experience combining active discussions and field trips to Semenggoh dan Matang Wildlife Centre. With the One Health holistic approach and real-life setting to heighten learning experiences, students were given a chance to apply their classroom theories to address complex real-world health challenges through the five-day program.

One Health Field Epidemiology Training (OH-FETP)



Conducted for the sixth year running, the One Health Field Epidemiology Training Program was held at Promenade Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah from 11 until 16 June 2023. Led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yap Wei Boon, fifty-two participants from diverse health sectors, ministries, agencies, and universities, went through a series of interactive activities including didactic lectures, group activities, tabletop

simulation, and a field visit with the goal of equipping young professionals, particularly field epidemiologists with One Health competencies for effective response to emerging health threats. Lok Kawi Wildlife Park was selected for the field visit as it reflects wildlife interacting with humans within the environment—a perfect setting to spark conversations and discussions on disease determinants and One Health.

One Health Young Leaders and Communicators (OHYLC)



The One Health Young Leaders and Communicators program, led by Dr. Ahmad Filza Ismail, explored the wonders of Borneo Island in Sabah between 14 to 18 June 2023 at The Palace Hotel, Kota Kinabalu.

Fifty undergraduate medical, health sciences, veterinary, environmental, social sciences, and engineering students from various universities participated in this introductory level program to inculcate the

essential One Health competencies through fun and active group activities, discussions, role-play and the "Egg Drop" challenge.

Besides that, a field visit to Lok Kawi Wildlife Park offered a perfect setting for the future workforce to visualize the interdependency among wildlife, humans and the environment in attaining One Health.

Malaysia Youth One Health Workshop (MYOHW)



*A*ssoc. Prof. Dr. Sharifah Norkhadijah Syed Ismail led the Malaysia Youth One Health Workshop (MYOHW) program from 26 to 29 July 2023 at De'Baron Resort in Langkawi.

This program follows the successful Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) students' innovation competition in Year 3, where more than eighty ingenious prototypes were invented. In Year 4, the focus shifted to train further TVET teachers and lecturers on One Health

concept, with the hope of stimulating their innovative minds to incorporate the concept into their daily teaching and ultimately into the TVET curriculum.

During the four-day event, interactive talks and group activities on One Health and innovations were conducted, including an excursion to Kilim Geoforest Park, providing an exciting and valuable observational experience for participants to delve into and discuss further on One Health.

Tabletop Simulation Exercise for Postgraduate Students



Hosted at the Bangi Resort Hotel, Selangor, the Tabletop Simulation Exercise for Postgraduate Students was held from 6 until 9 August 2023, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Azimatun Noor Aizuddin.

The program not only engaged participants with in-depth group discussions in simulated outbreak scenarios, but the forty-four participants got the opportunity to interact with expert facilitators and speakers

on One Health-related topics, and the core competencies involve multidisciplinary collaboration in zoonotic disease outbreak management.

The program included a field visit to the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services (MAQIS) at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

World Zoonoses Day - Leptospirosis Prevention with Community



Leptospirosis Prevention with the Community was celebrated to commemorate World Zoonoses Day on 26 August 2023, in Pasar Awam Banting, Selangor. The event highlights the need for education and awareness about proper food waste disposal, to prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases.

Locals, students and preschool children were welcomed with various activities such as booths exhibition, colouring competition,

rubbish-collection competition, and various physical games, to raise awareness about infectious diseases.

Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Langat (MPKL) distributed fifty rat traps to the sellers at Pasar Awam Banting as a significant action to combat leptospirosis. This initiative is designed to reduce the rat population in the area, as rats are known carriers of the bacteria responsible for leptospirosis, thus lowering the risk of disease transmission.

One Health Community Education on Malaria Knowlesi



7wenty students and five facilitators of multidisciplinary backgrounds took part in the One Health Community Education on *Malaria Knowlesi* at Kampung Orang Asli Abu, Cameron Highland, from 24 to 27 August 2023.

This 4-day program includes lectures on zoonotic malaria, the environment and the risk of zoonotic infection, focusing on *Malaria Knowlesi* to the marginalized community, which was then developed into a health education module and creatively communicated to the Orang Asli, including

the children from an indigenous school. The knowledge shared on malaria, its risks, and preventive measures was warmly received by the indigenous community and expressed their appreciation and interest in similar programs in the future.

The program ended with a visit to the vector control unit in Cameron Highlands to give students the opportunity to observe the Malaria Control Programs conducted by the Ministry of Health.

STOP Rabies Campaign



Boehringer Ingelheim Malaysia has launched the Angels Initiative and Stop Rabies Campaign in collaboration with Chevron, SEAOHUN, MyOHUN, UPM, Rhone Ma and various local stakeholders, including the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak (DVSS).

Twenty-four undergraduate students from veterinary and human medicine courses took part in this initiative to raise awareness about rabies, offering health education and services.

The program began with a rabies awareness school program on 18 August at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Kota Samarahan, educating students about rabies, dog bite management, and prevention. The next day, on 19 August, a vaccination drive was held at Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (C) Chung Hua in the Serian District, the area where Sarawak's first rabies case was reported in 2017. The aim was to provide free rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats in the district.

World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) 2023



On 18 November 2023, the World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) 2023 was celebrated at the IOI Grand Exhibition & Convention Centre, IOI City Mall, Putrajaya, officiated by the Health Minister Dr. Zaliha Mustafa. MyOHUN and many other departments and agencies took part in the exhibition which attracted many public visitors.

MyOHUN booth offered interactive engagements as they could see real-life bacterial cultures, interactive games and a One Health model illustrating the harmonious connection between humans, animals, and the environment. Our team had a great time showcasing MyOHUN's success stories, as the longest-serving national platform for building One Health capacity in the country.

IIUM ONE HEALTH STUDENT CLUB



Emerging Zoonotic *Knowlesi* Malaria: Field Sampling and In-Situ PBL for Future One Health Workforce



A comprehensive educational program with hands-on experience and in-depth learning on *Plasmodium knowlesi* was organized by IIUM One Health Student Club from 19 to 21 May 2023. Mentored by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Arifin Kaderi, twenty-eight students took part in the in-situ PBL based on the In-Situ PBL guidelines published by MyOHUN.

With support from the Kelantan State Health Department, the students were able

to experience first-hand mosquito sampling at Kampung Beris Kubor Besar, Bachok. About thirty vials of stage 1 and 2 larval *Anopheles* mosquitoes were successfully collected from the sampling.

While in the village, the students had the opportunity to interact with officers and villagers to better understand the epidemiology of *Plasmodium knowlesi* and the challenges faced by the local communities.

USM ONE HEALTH STUDENT CLUB



One Health Malaria Awareness with Indigenous People in Kampung Sungai Rual

On 3 July 2023, thirty-five medical students took the initiative to spread awareness of malaria to the Orang Asli residing at Kampung Sungai Rual, Jeli, Kelantan, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Aziah Daud.

With the goal of increasing their education, attitude, and practices towards malaria, the students developed handcrafted models, pamphlets, and information boards for the

education exhibition. Simultaneously, a coloring competition on the theme of malaria was organized for the school children. Twenty-five lucky attendees were chosen randomly to receive mosquito bed netting as part of the program initiative.

It is with high hopes that this type of activity will continue, covering other infectious diseases for marginalized Orang Asli in other parts of the country.

UMK ONE HEALTH STUDENT CLUB



Community Awareness on Cat Scratch Disease: Small Scratch Bold Effect



Following the increasing number of pet owners, knowledge concerning the possible zoonotic disease carried by cats is a must. On 24 June 2023, UMK One Health Student Club hosted a 'Community Awareness program on Cat Scratch Disease (CSD): Small Scratch Bold Effect' in the Dewan Agong Tuanku Canselor, Kampus Bachok, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK).

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Choong Siew Shean and Dr. Murshidah Mohd Asri educated attendees on the basic knowledge that pet

owners and the public must know about cat scratch disease. Besides that, an easy-to-understand animation was shown to attendees as a take-home message.

The highlight of the program was the 'Cat Caka-Run' Explorace, involving more than fifty attendees who joined together with the students in a fun team building that required them to finish their CSD mission in seven stations. The program received positive feedback and appreciated the knowledge gained and initiatives to improve community health.

UKM ONE HEALTH STUDENT CLUB



Outreach to Orang Asli: Becoming Agent of Change

UKM Outreach to Orang Asli program entitled 'Becoming Agents of Change' was held from 23 until 25 June 2023, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Azimatun Noor Aizuddin at Pos Lenjang, Kuala Lipis, Pahang.

This volunteerism program requires these medical students to practice their skills learned in class by observing the life, environment, and culture of the Orang Asli, which highlight the doctors' responsibility to

view a patient's health by looking at their surroundings and psychological well-being, understanding that these factors significantly influence a patient's overall health.

By allowing these students to study and comprehend prevalent zoonotic illnesses and preventive strategies, the program aspires to empower them with practical insights for potential health challenges.

UPM ONE HEALTH STUDENT CLUB



Walk on the Wild Side

One Health Student Club UPM successfully organized three consecutive programs to engage students of various backgrounds - veterinary, biomedicine, medicine, and environmental health - in ecosystem conservation and biodiversity.

Episode 1 was held on 27 May 2023 in Kota Damansara Community Forest to educate participants on the importance of urban forests and the role of environmental health specialists in the One Health approach. The second episode was held on 24 June 2023 at Semenyih Eco Venture Village, focused on developing leadership

and communication skills through team-building activities for students from various backgrounds. The program's last episode was hosted at Elmina Rainforest Knowledge Centre on 25 June 2023. The program involved tree planting, identifying endangered mammal species, and emphasizing biodiversity conservation.

These activities encompassed informative talks with conservation professionals, forest rejuvenation efforts, and experiences in the jungle to create awareness and contribute to the importance of preserving ecosystems for future generations.

BOOSTER FUND



Community Medicine

Dr. Edre Mohammad Aidid
International Islamic University
Malaysia (IIUM)

With support from the Pahang State Health Department and Jerantut District Health Office, sixty-four medical students visited Pos Kuching, Ulu Tembeling, Pahang, on 11 to 12 May and 6 to 7 July 2023.

Implemented based on the One Health module developed, this program focuses on outbreak investigation through field experiential learning. The program aims to educate the Orang Asli about infectious diseases and the best preventive measures

suited to them, the students creatively design activities to empower the orang asli for disease prevention, such as hand washing demonstrations, mini health games, and also animal replicas in demonstrating rabies and malaria.

Through this program, students not only improved their communication skills but also learned to be more aware of the danger of infectious diseases to human health.

BOOSTER FUND



The Community Health Engagement and Programme Evaluation (CHEAP) conducted by fourth-year medical students and lecturers from Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) was held from 1 July until 31 August 2023. This program was implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) and Jabatan Kemajuan Orang Asli (JAKOA).

Health education materials were developed to be culturally acceptable and appropriate for the rural areas communities to improve their health literacy on leptospirosis. Besides that, Train-the-Trainer (ToT) sessions on leptospirosis were organized for Sekolah Kebangsaan Kuala Tahan teachers.

Community Health Engagement and Project (CHEAP)

Dr. Mohd Hafiz Jaafar
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)

This program is one among many initiatives to create awareness for marginalized people, as it is imperative to educate the population to minimize disease infections and learn the appropriate action to be taken in the event of an outbreak.



Enhancing One Health Competencies through a Transformative Field Exercise on Risk Assessment Related to Melioidosis via Community Based One Health Education Program in Sabah

Dr. Zulhairul Naim Sidek Ahmad
Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS)

From 19 to 22 May 2023, seventeen postgraduate students were selected to participate in this study, conducted by the Rural Medical Education Centre (RMEC) and The Rural Medicine Research Laboratory, UMS, in collaboration with the Kudat District Health Office, Kudat Veterinary Department and Kudat Wildlife Department.

Primarily focused on melioidosis, the program dives into the field experience in Kudat, Sabah, through several activities aimed at equipping students with the skills needed to address complex health challenges using the One Health approach, with the help from lecturers.

BOOSTER FUND



Safe Food Today for a Healthy Tomorrow

Dr. Shalinawati Ramli
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)

The "Safe Food Today for a Healthy Tomorrow" program was held from 18 until 20 August 2023, involving thirty-eight third-year medical students and lecturers from Public Health and Clinical Microbiology.

Aimed to improve public well-being by promoting good health practices, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) collaborated with the Kelantan State Health Department, the Ministry of Health, and the local authorities, distributed flyers with food

safety info, set up booths, and organized activities such as quizzes to connect with the community and make healthier choices, as well as hand-washing demonstrations.

Questionnaires were also distributed to consumers and food vendors on food safety knowledge, attitudes and practices to gather the information to underpin the need for food safety among consumers and vendors.

Zoonoses and Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness among Wildlife Workers and Farmers

Assoc. Prof. Dr Choong Siew Shean
Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK)



From February 2023 to July 2023, veterinary students from UMK went through several activities related to wildlife management as part of their course. With the goal of creating awareness of the zoonoses and AMR, the students visited Pusat Pemulihan Orang Kurang Upaya (PROKA), Bachok Kelantan, where they interacted with disabled wildlife personnel and farmers.

As we progress in animal-human health interconnection, the disabled community is

often overlooked, thus, educating them on the potential zoonotic transmission from wildlife species is imperative. Though communicating the content and activities during the program proved to be challenging, the students had more opportunities to brush up their skills to creatively share their knowledge with the farmers.

The program seeks to improve educational materials to suit a broader audience, not only wildlife workers and farmers but also zookeepers and pet owners.

BOOSTER FUND



Rabies Simulation Assessment Day

Dr. Syamira Syazuana Zaini
Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)

Sixty-six final-year veterinary medicine students at UPM participated in Rabies Simulation Assessment Day. The program set up three stations - communication skills, donning and doffing, and rabies knowledge - which students needed to complete.

The students expressed confidence in handling future outbreaks of viruses such

as rabies and their ability to communicate and work with a team. They also efficiently demonstrated using the PPE, which can be useful when handling highly infectious viruses.

The program proceeded and concluded according to schedule and was smooth sailing with the help of other lecturers and staff.

SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES PROGRAM



On 28th February 2023, a meeting took place at Le Meridien Putrajaya between representatives from MyOHUN and the Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) of the United States Department of Defense (DOD). This collaboration marked a pivotal moment in enhancing biosecurity and global cooperation, contributing to a safer and more secure future through seminars, workshops and activities in Malaysia.

MyOHUN-VOHUN Biorisk Management Trainer Development workshop was hosted from 12 to 16 June 2023 in Park Royal Hotel, Pulau Pinang. Twenty-three Malaysian and Vietnamese participants from diverse backgrounds, including microbiology, biosafety, and biomedical science, attended this workshop to explore the latest trends and techniques in biorisk management, making this workshop a valuable learning experience for all.



On 6 and 7 August 2023, the Biorisk Management Curriculum Modules Roadshow was organized for the first time in Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA). The program was attended by twenty-seven participants from diverse backgrounds, such as Microbiology, Medical Sciences, Laboratory Management, Environmental Management, and more. The program focused on laboratory management and safety, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and biological waste disposal.



The Biosafety Risk Assessment Workshop was held at Courtyard by Marriott in Melaka from 14 to 18 August 2023, featuring twenty-five participants from diverse professional backgrounds, including research management, quality and strategy management, risk management, occupational safety and health, food microbiology analysis, and more. The workshop was an immersive experience filled with engaging talks and activities focused on biosafety and risk evaluation.



GRATITUDE AND NEW BEGINNINGS

Farewell to Departing Staff



Nur Elyana Ab Rahman
Finance Executive



Azman Kamarudin
Administration Executive

We express sincere gratitude for your exceptional work in administration and finance at MyOHUN. Your dedication and positive attitude have significantly contributed to the smooth operation of our entire company. Your leadership and hard work in maintaining a seamless workflow have been instrumental in our success. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to MyOHUN. Best of luck in all your future endeavors!

Welcoming new team members!



Dr. Mohammad Farhan Rusli
Deputy Coordinator



Adam Baharin
Finance Executive

National Coordinating Office (NCO)
Malaysia One Health University Network (MyOHUN)
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Universiti Putra Malaysia
43400 Serdang, Selangor
Malaysia

+603 - 9769 3476/77/78



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SEA OHUN
Southeast Asia One Health
University Network