Researchers and lecturers from Hanoi School of Public Health, Thai Binh Medical College; leaders of Tien Hai People’s Committee, Tien Hai Fatherland Front, and 6 Commune Public Health Associations participated in the meeting.

At the meeting, Prof. Le Vu Anh – President of VPHA emphasized the roles of the Senior Public Health Volunteers (SPHVs) and the interaction between SPHVs and other stakeholders; rights, responsibilities and supporting activities for SPHVs of these stakeholders during the implementation of the program.

All participants agreed that there should be a commitment to participate voluntarily in the program; proactive development of specific operational plans with involvement of all stakeholders; and a suitable working mechanism for the sustainability of the program.

All of these documents would be elaborated and agreed upon in the next workshop to be organized in Tien Hai district with participation of all stakeholders.

On April 11, 2014, Prof. Le Vu Anh (the third on the first row from the right) – President of Vietnam Public Health Association (VPHA) attended the annual Asia-Pacific regional meeting of the World Federation Public Health Associations (WFPHA) held in Seoul, Korea.
The 5th Asia – Pacific Conference on Public Health: VIETNAM SHARED THE ACTIVE AGEING APPROACH

On April 10 – 11, a delegation from VPHA led by President Le Vu Anh participated in the 5th APCPH organized in Seoul, Korea. The conference, with the theme “Health Asia - Multidisciplinary Approaches to Emerging Challenges” has attracted nearly 700 delegates who are experts, researchers, students from many countries in the Asia – Pacific region.

At the conference, participants discussed public health issues including 6 main areas covering 15 academic topics: Changing Climate in One Health; Partnership and Collaboration for Comprehensive Health Promotion in Community; Longevity in Asia: Social and Economic Implications; Living Environments and Metabolic Syndrome; Food Safety and Health; and Natural Disaster; Environmental Impacts and Public Health in Asia.

In the plenary session, Prof. Le Vu Anh - President of the VPHA presented a speech entitled “Active Ageing - A new approach in Viet Nam” to share ideas about developing a health promotion program for the elderly in such a country with particular Oriental culture as Viet Nam. Concurrently, in the session of “Partnership and Collaboration for Comprehensive Health Promotion in Community”, the VPHA’s staff also shared the results of a pilot model which evaluated Senior Public Health Volunteers’ participation in the community-based health risk reduction intervention program.

In the afternoon of April 11, the Seoul Declaration summarizing achieved results of two-day conference and commitments of coordinated actions about emerging public health issues were pronounced together at the closing ceremony by representatives of Public Health Associations in the region. After that, a representative of the host country - Korea handed over the Conference flag to a representative of Thailand - the host of the 6th APCPH.

Besides activities of the Conference, in the afternoon of April 11, VPHA representative attended the annual regional meeting of member countries of the WFPHA with delegates coming from Public Health Associations of Australia, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, China, and Mongolia. At the meeting, Mr. James Chauvin - President of WFPHA congratulated Korea Public Health Association for hosting a successful conference. In addition, Mr. James Chauvin proposed enhancement of Public Health Association network’s connection in the region, especially in South-East Asia where there is still an absence of Public Health Associations of Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines. Representatives of each country took turn to introduce their public health activities and existing issues in order to discuss and give direction on supportive cooperation with an aim of promoting the role of PHA members in Asia-Pacific region in particular and WFPHA in general.

The 5th APCPH provided an opportunity for VPHA to exchange and share experience and create networks with colleagues working in the field of public health in the region.

In Brief

On April 8, 2014, VPHA representatives attended a meeting at Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH) to share experience about raising tobacco taxation. Experts from HSPH and Dr. Brian J Parker from LSU Health Sciences Center, Louisiana, USA also participated in the meeting. Dr. Parker shared lessons learned about increasing tobacco taxation as well as the implementation of smoke-free environment, tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship (TAPS) bans in the US.

Vietnam Global Health True Leaders is the regional leadership training program for young professionals to develop future leaders’ potentials. This program conducted between 25-29 April, 2014 in Ninh Binh, Viet Nam. It consists of a series of trainings in global health, leadership, and interpersonal skills by the international trainers. By the end of the training, all participants are expected to implement their skills and knowledge through various field activities and observation. The site visit carried out in Hoang Tay commune, Ha Nam province where Ecohealth related problem exists and needs to be solved. The course is a joint effort of the HSPH, the Universitas Indonesia, and the VPHA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Organizing a workshop on “Making plan to sustain the health promotion program for the Elderly in Tien Hai, Thai Binh”.
- Conducting marches in response to the National No Tobacco Week and the World No Tobacco Day in Thai Binh and Khanh Hoa province.
- Working with experts to discuss a plan on establishing a network of activists in sociology.

Participants are encouraged to work in team to practice the leadership skills.

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