

Vietnam Field Work August 2nd~4th Global Health Group Report

Four international course students, (Mr. Ido, Mr. Nakano, Mr. Mizuta, and Miss Yamaguchi) conducted fieldwork in Hanoi, Vietnam from August 2nd to 4th.

Day 1 (Visiting WHO & a lecture at the Vietnam chapter of Tropical Disease laboratory)

Dr. Kato and Dr. Takeuchi who are working for WHO (World Health Organization) in Vietnam, and Dr. Kobayashi who is receiving training as an intern for two months explained the purpose, roles and activities of WHO. In this lecture, we were impressed by the story that Dr. Urubani discovered SARS early in 2003 and treated patients devotedly. He strove to stop the spread of SARS throughout Vietnam, but he also contracted SARS and sadly died from it. We were shocked to know the fact that people working for WHO work at the risk of their lives.

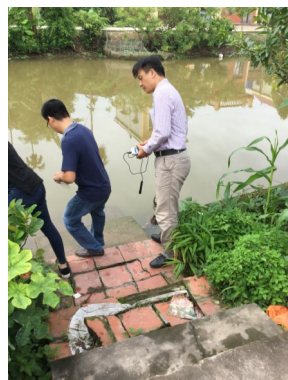
In the afternoon, Dr. Hasebe (head of the Vietnam chapter of Tropical Disease laboratory) lectured to us about infections such as dengue. In the lecture, we were surprised by the fact that they could only eradicate only small pox.



Day 2 (Visiting Nam Dinh farming village & Preparation for mosquito experiments)

In the morning we went to Nam Dinh farming village along with Dr. Takemura (Tropical Disease laboratory) to extract cholera germs by choosing cholera that was hanging off and sticking to shrimp shells. We were told the river water is used as an application. Halfway through picking, we visited a local hospital. It seems that it could have provided treatment because the department of internal medicine had four beds and vaccines delivered. However, it couldn't provide treatment in terms of surgery, so it could not perform operations. Also, there were places that were not sanitary such as restrooms. In addition we visited a market and saw the situation where meat products were sold outdoors. We could feel an experience of real local life.

In the afternoon, we prepared for mosquito experiments with Dr. Tsunoda. We were told the leaves picked in Nam Dinh village had an effect that repels mosquitoes. We didn't put anything in the first three devices, and then we put leaves in the other devices. We then left them overnight.



Day 3 (Experiments on mosquitoes - Tropical Medical Care laboratory)

In the morning, we did an experiment about leaves which were hand-picked by Assistant Professor Tsunoda in the village of Nam Dinh. The results are as follows. We couldn't find a definitive effect because we only got certain types of leaves that had certain types of mosquitoes included them. After that, Assistant Professor Tsunoda showed us the mosquitoes that were bred in a tropical medical laboratory and told us how to distinguish male and female. And Mr. Kadoda gave a lecture to us about newly introduced species.

In the afternoon, Professor Hasebe gave us a lecture about virus carrying animals. We were surprised by the viruses mediated in bats. At the end of training we made a presentation in English for teachers and Vietnamese graduate students about what we did during field work. It was a wonderful three days.

