



Thailand One Health
University Network (THOHUN)



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USAID
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ONE HEALTH WORKFORCE
PROJECT



Vol. 6, October 2015

Why is "One Health" important?

Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases continue to play as threats to public health, most of which are zoonotic. Some of these diseases even have the potential to cause pandemics and add further strain to global health spending. Changes in the environment, growing population, increasing food availability and demand, global trade, and travel patterns all contribute to increase risk of spreading pathogens around the world. The One Health



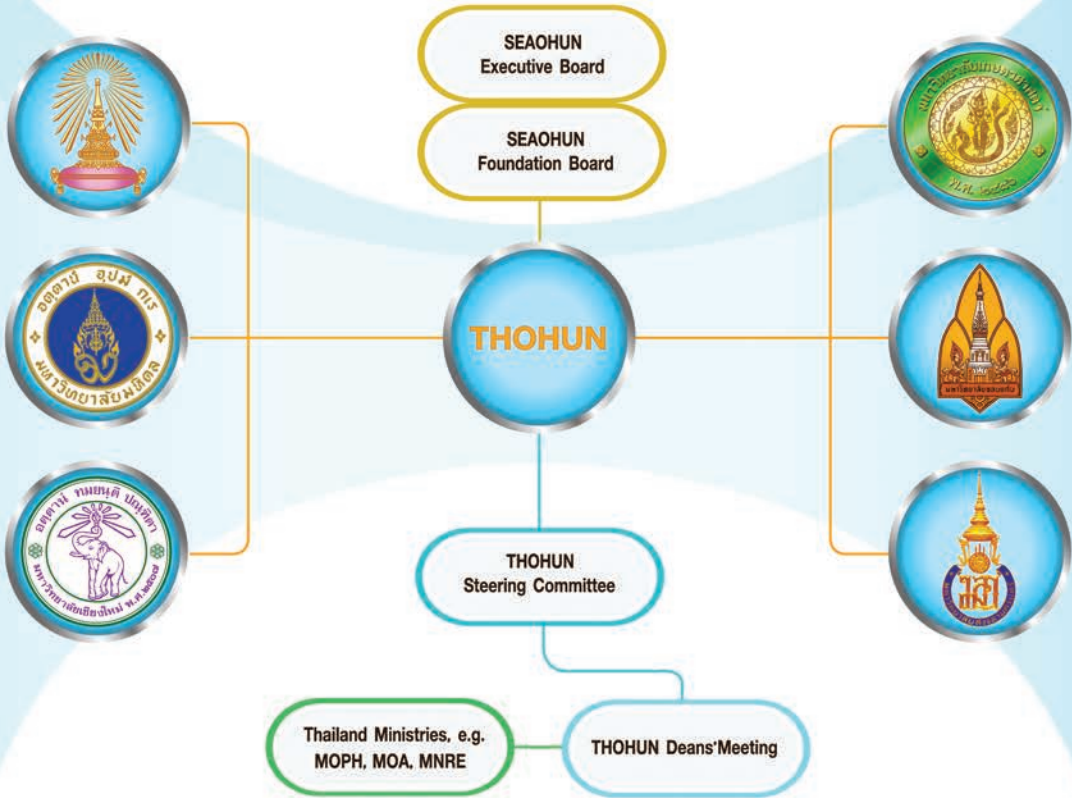
approach was conceived to formulate solutions prevent and mitigate disease outbreaks and complex social problems. Professionals from various sectors and disciplines actively collaborate to effectively prevent, respond, and control threats to human health, health of domestic and companion animals, wildlife as well as preserve environments in the forest, rural areas, and in human communities.

One Health University Network in Thailand

The Thailand One Health University Network (THOHUN) has been established since 2012 to advocate the One Health approach to help solve social and health issues in Thailand and the region by producing One Health-trained professionals through the generation of graduates that possess technical and soft skills needed call for collaborative work across disciplines. Through the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the network was formed by four faculties from THOHUN's two founding universities: Mahidol University and Chiang Mai University. In 2015, THOHUN has grown its membership to 32 faculties from 6 Thai universities namely, Mahidol University, Chiang Mai University, Kasetsart University, Chulalongkorn University, Prince Songkla University, Khon Kaen University. Thammasat University will be a part of THOHUN in Year 2016.



The THOHUN Steering Committee formulates policies, the network’s mission, direction, and prioritize network activities. THOHUN National Coordinating Office (THOHUN-NCO), located at Mahidol University, carries out the day to day coordination and management operations of the network. The THOHUN-NCO also serves as the communication center between Thai institutional members and other country networks of both the Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN) and One Health Central & East Africa (OHCEA). As key exertion mechanism of THOHUN, THOHUN-NCO has recently received a new funding from the One Health Workforce project (OHW) of USAID’s Emerging Pandemic Threats Program (EPT-2) through the University of Minnesota.



International and regional partners

The OHW project is funded by USAID, with the University of Minnesota serving as the lead university in collaboration with Tufts University. Other international partners include SEAOHUN, an organization which coordinates One Health activities in the region, and several country networks in Southeast Asia and Africa.



Preparation of the One Health Workforce (OHW)

Under the EPT-2, which will run between 2015 and 2019, THOHUN aims to prepare OHW which include current professionals (medical doctors, veterinarians, health workers, and local administration staff) and future workforce (undergraduate and graduate students in the fields of medicine, veterinarian science, public health, environments, and social sciences). Planned activities include the design of curriculum and workforce development programs, improvements, and testing of the curriculum --- all aimed to equip the new generation of One Health professionals with the skills and core competencies to facilitate active collaboration from multiple disciplines to tackle complex health problems.



Thailand's OHW needs

At a recent THOHUN workshop, a survey was conducted to collect data from government staff (from various ministries), ranging from policy makers to Public Health workers to veterinarians at the Department of Livestock and others from the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant. The survey revealed gaps and needs for technical and soft skills of existing Thai workforce. For technical skills, the current Thai workforce needs include epidemiology, informatics, risk assessment, communication, and ecosystems health. For soft skills, the needs include collaboration and partnership, planning and management as well as specific behaviors such as good human relation, ethics, responsibility, diligence, tenacity, and curiosity. Many of these soft skills are already aligned with seven of Thailand's One Health Core Competencies

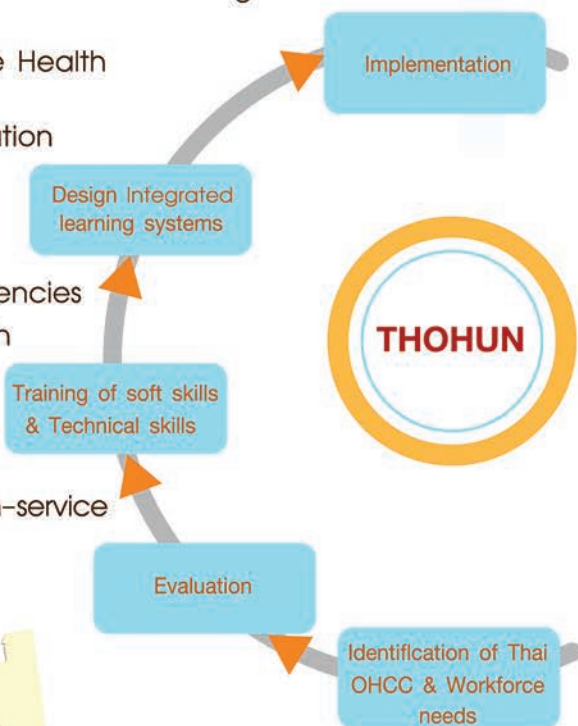


THOHUN Strategies and Direction for OHW development

With the known qualification needs of the Thai workforce, objectives of OHW project, and new regional strategies THOHUN has recently revised its (draft) Strategies for 2015–2019 as follows:

- 1) Develop strength and sustainability of THOHUN
- 2) Promote production of workforce and strengthen their One Health Core Competencies
- 3) Build knowledge from research work and manage One Health knowledge
- 4) Drive the society using the One Health approach
- 5) Promote international collaboration on One Health
- 6) Build up One Health culture

With One Health Core Competencies for Thailand determined along with workforce needs, THOHUN's future action plans will focus mainly on curriculum development and course delivery to university students and in-service training for current workforce.



For more information, please visit THOHUN's website. If you would like to participate in our activities, please contact our faculty liaisons or member universities. Please note that faculty members from other Southeast Asian countries and Bangladesh may also apply for international workshops organized by THOHUN.

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