

Australian Alumni Grants Fund (AAGF) Project



Research and practice on climate change, air pollution and health impacts: from scientific evidence to policy development

Alumni grantees

- **To Gia Kien:** PhD - Curtin University; Vice Dean of Faculty - Faculty of Public Health Ho Chi Minh City - University of Medicine and Pharmacy
- **Le Huynh Thi Cam Hong:** Master - Queensland University of Technology; PhD Candidate - Faculty of Medicine - The University of Queensland

Implementation period

2018 - 2019



Issue

Air pollution is considered to be a significant cause of health problems in Vietnam. Despite the large amount of research in this field, policy makers are not informed of the findings and implications of this research.

Action

A workshop and training on “Research and Practice in Climate Change, Air Pollution and Health Impacts” was held to address this issue. The Vietnam Climate Change and Air Pollution Research Network (VCAN) was established following the workshop to promote knowledge and information exchange between Vietnamese and international experts.

Achievements

1. Nearly 300 health and environmental experts, policy makers, researchers and students from Australia, China and Vietnam participated in collectively developing potential solutions to the problem of air pollution in Vietnam.
2. Following the workshop, the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City approved VND 250 million in funding to support VCAN's research on the health impacts of air pollution.
3. Collaborative research projects on health and the environment have been initiated by workshop participants, including lecturers from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City, Queensland University and Griffith University.
4. Links between the media and NGOs working on health and environmental issues were established at the workshop. This collaboration is expected to improve messaging to the public on the health impacts of air pollution.
5. Approximately 100 students from universities in Ho Chi Minh City were provided with the opportunity to learn more about environmental health science.



Support from the AAGF has helped Australian alumni from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City to connect with many Australian professors and researchers. These linkages enable them to make greater contributions after returning to Vietnam. I highly appreciate this relationship and I hope that there will be more collaborative activities with Australia.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tran Diep Tuan -
President of University of Medicine
and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City