



Deutscher Tropentag, October 8-10, 2003, Göttingen

“Technological and Institutional Innovations
for Sustainable Rural Development”

The Master of Science Sandwich Programme of International Animal Health

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Abstract

The Department of International Animal Health of the Freie Universität Berlin establishes a new Master Course concept: Three courses address modern areas of veterinary medicine (epidemiology, veterinary public health, food chain management), aim at specific target regions and are jointly executed with partner universities and veterinary institutions in the regions.

The M. Sc.-VPH Course for the Southeast Asian Region will be launched with the beginning of the Academic Year 2003/2004 (October 2003) together by the partner universities Chiang Mai University (CMU) in Thailand and the Freie Universität Berlin (FUB); the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna / Austria with its Institute of Meat Hygiene, Meat Technology and Food Science is the third and junior partner within the EU ASIA LINK Programme (providing substantial financial co-funding). Young and mid-career veterinarians and other professionals (natural, agricultural, medical sciences) from the Southeast Asian region with a background in and training needs for zoonoses control and food safety are the target group addressed by the M. Sc. programme. The course concept of a “twinning” or “sandwich” -programme is based on bundling of training institutions in Thailand and the countries in the region (South-South collaboration) under the leadership of CMU and in strong collaboration with the Northern partners FUB (South-North collaboration). The M. Sc. programme uses a modular curriculum structure to allow for state-of-the-art teaching of a particular topic as a combination of classroom knowledge transfer (lectures, group work, seminars, PC labs) linked to practical laboratory experiences (bench work) within a defined and uninterrupted time period at a particular partner institution.

The three Master Courses form the foundation for the establishment of the International Graduate School at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of FUB; expansion from the M. Sc. level to a led Ph. D. programme is to be achieved latest by 2007.

Keywords: International animal health, joint degree programme , M.Sc. programme, Southeast Asia, Thailand, veterinary public health