

9-1-2011

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### Recommended Citation

Sailasuta, Achariya (2011) "World Veterinary Year 2011 250 Years Veterinary Education in the world," *The Thai Journal of Veterinary Medicine*: Vol. 41: Iss. 3, Article 1.

Available at: <https://digital.car.chula.ac.th/tjvm/vol41/iss3/1>

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## World Veterinary Year 2011 250 Years Veterinary Education in the world

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In 2011, all of the veterinary institutions and veterinarians join World Veterinary Year will organise in their own countries events on promoting the veterinary profession. This year, the veterinary institutions, each in its special field, will dedicate themselves to celebrating the birth of our profession. The World Veterinary Year's aim is to improve the public awareness that the veterinary profession has been serving humankind for 250 years;

*Veterinarians are not only animal doctors and animal welfare advocates; they are also key public health stakeholders because of their crucial role in: promoting food security by supervising animal production hygiene, controlling zoonoses, monitoring food quality and safety, biomedical research, protecting the environment and biodiversity. Thus, we are beginning in its commemoration, should mean a reason of satisfaction and pride for the "World Day of the Veterinarian" (www.vet2011.org).*

The world veterinary year 2011 has started the opening ceremony in 24<sup>th</sup> January, Versailles Paris, France, consecutively the World veterinary education conference in 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> May, Lyon, France and finally the closing ceremony in 10<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> October, Cape Town, South Africa. All the international organizations, the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and their Continental Groups as PANVET, FAVA, SAVA, FVE, as well as to the Academic Institutions of Professional Formation of Veterinarians and the International Organizations as OIE, OMS, FAO, OIRSA, etc. celebrate and promote this event together.

The veterinary education had been started by Claude Bourgelat, the man of science.

Claude Bourgelat was born in Lyon. In 1740, when he was 28 years old, he received his warrant as Grand Equerry of France and was the Director of the Lyon Academy of Horsemanship. In 1761, the government of Louis XV wished to promote the prevention of cattle disease, the protection of grazing land and the training of farmers. The King proposed that a veterinary school should be founded in Lyon, and that the director should be Bourgelat. Lyon was the first veterinary school in the world since 250 years ago (www.vet2011.org).



In Asia, the veterinary education has been firstly established since 1910. Currently in each country, there is at least one Veterinary School. There is an accreditation system of the veterinary school in some countries, such as Indonesia, Japan, Korea, and Thailand by the accreditation body in their countries. The agriculture related subjects such as Animal Science is taught in both Faculties of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences. Each year, about 10,000 graduates become newly veterinarians. The number of the veterinarians has been increasing year by year



which in accordance to changes in animal industry, especially the emergence of pet animal industry in the region.

As for the vision of Federation Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA), a representative of the Asian Veterinarians, which is recognized by the public as a unified professional association serving the veterinary needs of the region through the strength it provides to the veterinary profession. Thus, the mission is to enhance the quality of life of the people in the region through responsible animal care and welfare through unified professional associations. That achieves this through cooperation among the FAVA members promoting disease control, veterinary education, strengthening the regional network, and connecting to other worldwide veterinary networks in development of the veterinary profession.

FAVA emphasize the veterinary education in one health through the FAVA Strategy Plan, 2010-2015 in agreement to the 2011 World Veterinary Year (Sailasuta, 2011) as:

- To grow resources by increasing income to expand the number of member of veterinary associations and to provide opportunities for congresses and continuing education.
- To improve the status of veterinarians in all the members countries by, providing resources in media and advocacy to associations, by highlighting the one health role in particular the importance of the threat of emerging and re-emerging diseases and by establishing strong internal communication.
- To improve the animal welfare of all animals in the Asia Pacific region in many aspects such as helping to improve responses in emergencies and improving critical training for veterinary undergraduates and post graduate course for veterinarians.

The Veterinary profession, the Veterinary Sciences, and to begin the New Stage, projecting it in their necessary and fundamental objective: the "Integral Peccary Development and the Public Veterinary Health" are addressed in the 2011 World Veterinary Year (Herrera-Aldena, 2011)

Veterinarians should contribute to the production of foods of animal origin in quantity enough and good quality, with healthy, strong, vigorous animals, protecting them of the illnesses and assisting their health and well-being; equally we should assist the Public Veterinary Health for the Humanity's defense, when lavishing him healthy feeding and guaranteeing him their health, assisting their health when protecting it of the illnesses transmitted by the animals to the man and providing enjoys him, health and well-being. We should feel proud of the important contribution that our profession, the Veterinary Sciences, it offers to the Humanity, for our competent professional attitude and the dignity of our professional exercise, the Veterinary Sciences.

This would be a true homage to the 250 years of the birth of the Veterinary Profession and the commemoration of the "World Year of the Veterinary science" and of the "World Day of the Veterinarian" of this year 2011.

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