

The South Asia Veterinary Education Network (SAVE-Network)

Chittagong Declaration

We, delegates of the “Workshop on Veterinary Education in South Asia: New Approaches to Teaching and Learning for Evolving Scenario”, including Deans and teachers of the Veterinary Schools from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka together with Royal Veterinary College, London, University of Liverpool, UK and University of Copenhagen, Denmark, agree on the creation of the South Asia Veterinary Education Network (SAVE-Network) to enhance the quality of the student learning experience on veterinary courses across the South Asia region.

Its aim will be, through its activities, to develop in South Asia veterinary students who possess on graduation the necessary knowledge and capability:

- to meet the current requirements and expectations of a range of relevant stakeholders in the fields of veterinary and animal science practice and research
- to respond effectively to the demands of the future.

In carrying out their work, all institutions associated with the SAVE-Network will be regarded as equal partners; with developments promoted through active sharing of issues, ideas and practices.

The SAVE-Network will specifically target the building up of dynamic relationships that:

- enable members to learn from each other as well as the development of a shared repertoire of curriculum resources
- promote shared thinking and doing based on the exchange of visions, experiences, documentation, research and technical cooperation on veterinary education at regional level
- contribute to attain an effective community of practice focus on fostering veterinary educational capacity building.

Delegates concur with the proposal that any institution and individual that is involved with veterinary education in South Asia can become a member of the SAVE-Network and in its initial organizational framework the SAVE-Network will have following elements:

- It will consist of a regional coordinating team made up of the Deans of the member institutes and one Coordinator

- The coordinating team will be responsible for the management of the Network and will follow up the activities agreed upon among the members. Professor Nitish C Debnath of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University will act as the first coordinator of the SAVE-Network.
- Professor Brian Aldridge from RVC and Mr. Ian Taylor from the University of Liverpool will remain associated with SAVE –Network as Honorary Members.

The above declaration also calls upon the Governments and University Grants Commissions of South Asian Countries, the international donor community, national and international non-governmental organizations to recognize and support the SAVE-Network initiative unanimously approved by the delegates participating in the “Workshop on Veterinary Education in South Asia: New Approaches to Teaching and Learning for Evolving Scenario” held at Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong, Bangladesh, 21-22 September 2010.