

# SHORT SEMINAR

## PATHOGENS CAUSING REPRODUCTIVE FAILURE IN CATTLE AND BUFFALO IN LAOS

Luisa will present on the serum analysis from cattle and buffalo owned by Lao smallholder farmers for pathogens causing reproductive failure. This is essential to understanding possible disease causes of reproductive inefficiency, which is problematic in smallholder production. Up to 90% of livestock in Laos are produced by smallholders in mixed-farming systems. Farmers devote majority of family labour to rice cultivation and rear 5-10 cattle or buffalo to store wealth in cashless rural economies. Reproductive efficiency is currently constrained with the native Laotian cattle and water buffalo having average intercalving intervals of 14-16 months and 19-26 months respectively, with a calf mortality of 37.3% collectively. Beef consumption within the Laos population is projected to increase rapidly in the coming decades. Baseline data and investigations are needed to prevent disease transmission; and to improve reproductive efficiency in bovines.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Luisa Olmo is a University of Sydney graduate of a Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience with Honours. Her honours research included the assessment of interventions to improve the reproductive efficiency of the bovines in Cambodia. Her current PhD candidature extends the research scope to include neighboring Laos and their larger proportion of buffalo. She lived in Laos for 9 months to learn Laotian. Her experience included interviewing farmers in the countryside; navigating through serum banks; and working with government staff to deliver knowledge building workshops.

Luisa is part of the Mekong Livestock Research team (<https://mekonglivestock.wordpress.com/>) from the University of Sydney.

### BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Centre for Applied One Health Research and Policy Advice at the Department of Infectious Diseases and Public Health, College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences, City University of Hong Kong



**College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences**  
in collaboration with Cornell University



**Date:**

**12 April 2018,  
Thursday**

**Time:**

**10.30 am – 11 am**

**Venue:**

**TYB Meeting Room 503,  
5/F, Block 2, To Yuen  
Building, City University  
of Hong Kong**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**ENQUIRIES**

Tel: (852) 3442 4952

Email: [fymkong@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:fymkong@cityu.edu.hk)