Reviewer's report

Title: Antibiotic use and resistance in emerging economies: a situation analysis for Viet Nam

Version: 2 Date: 2 September 2013

Reviewer: Michael Borg

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   Yes – developing a review of a complex issue such as antibiotic resistance within a developing country is a process fraught with difficulty. The authors have achieved a remarkable result nevertheless.

3. Are the data sound?
   Considering the paucity of data on the subject that is so characteristic of developing countries, the quality of data presented is very good.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Yes

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   Yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Yes

9. Is the writing acceptable?
   Yes

I found this manuscript to be exceedingly well written and provides an excellent overview of the challenges facing Vietnam as it tries to grapple with the challenge of AMR. From personal experiences, I believe that the issues described by the
authors are very similar to those in other emerging economies worldwide. For this reason this paper has interest beyond readers in Vietnam.

The paper itself is well balanced. As the authors highlight, it is unrealistic to undertake a systematic review in limited resource countries; nevertheless they have managed to produce a factual account of the challenges as well as potential avenues to address them.

I have just two suggestions for revision:

1. In the section on Infection Control, the authors highlight the challenges with poor handwashing facilities yet make no mention about availability of alcohol hand rub, especially using the in-house WHO formulation. Considering the WHO initiatives in recent years, I believe it is essential to highlight this in the situation analysis.

2. No mention could be found about any educational initiatives to the public. The authors quote an adult literacy rate of 92% which would therefore offer possibilities of educating the consumers, especially when over the counter use is so high.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests