



Phase I Evaluation Report

I'm a Scientist, Get me out of here!

Vietnam

4th – 13th May 2016

The screenshot shows the 'Chat với NHÀ KHOA HỌC' (Chat with Scientists) website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Nhà', 'Hồ sơ của tôi', and 'Nhà khoa học' tabs. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation, there's a grid of scientist profiles. Each profile includes a photo, name, and a short bio. The profiles shown are:

- Nhã Uyên Phan**: "Tôi và công việc", "Trạng thái: Chỉ còn gặp nhau vài 30 phút thôi, vài 30 phút thôi là xa nhau rồi...", "Đọc thêm về tôi".
- Lâm Tuấn Thanh**: "Tôi và công việc", "Trạng thái: Lên là lên là lên", "Đọc thêm về tôi".
- Nguyễn Minh Nguyệt**: "Tôi và công việc", "Trạng thái: Oh yeah!!! Sau một hồi nghỉ ngơi và quấy rầy anh Google, mình đã biết cách gắn emojis vào profile picture của mình rồi.", "Đọc thêm về tôi".
- Nguyễn Lê Việt Hùng**: "Tôi và công việc", "Trạng thái: Oh yeah!!! Sau một hồi nghỉ ngơi và quấy rầy anh Google, mình đã biết cách gắn emojis vào profile picture của mình rồi.", "Đọc thêm về tôi".
- Chung Thế Hào**: "Tôi và công việc", "Trạng thái: Sao không ai đặt câu hỏi cho mình vậy? Buồn quá đi thôi :(", "Đọc thêm về tôi".

At the bottom, there's a footer with links for 'FAQ', 'Quy định chung', 'Khả năng truy cập', 'Bảo mật', 'Nhà tài trợ', and 'Liên hệ'. It also mentions 'Đã được sản xuất và đăng ký bản quyền Gallomanor 2016' and 'Supported by wellcome trust oucru'.

1. Executive Summary

Here is a summary of our main findings after evaluating the first zone of I'm a Scientist, Get me out of here Vietnam, which ran from the 4th – 13th May 2016.

- **3 schools** took part in the themed Infectious Diseases Zone
- **5 scientists** were able to engage and connect with school students
- **191 students** logged into the zone, 95% actively took part in the event in either the ASK, CHAT or VOTE sections.
- **151 questions** were approved in the zone, with the scientists giving a total of **159 answers**
- **10,000,000 VND** was awarded as a schools engagement prize to the winning scientist to be spent on further science activities

2. I'm a Scientist Vietnam in numbers

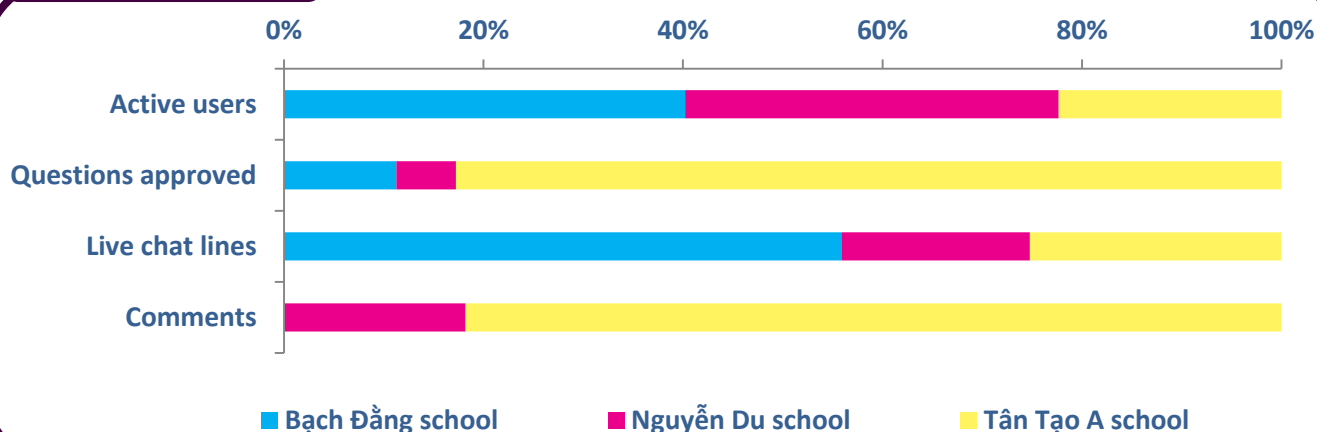
Figures from the Infectious Diseases Zone compared to the average of a UK Zone.

PAGE VIEWS	CHAT VỚI NHÀ KHOA HỌC 2016	IAS UK AVERAGE JUN'16
Total zone	17,577	21,638
ASK page	1,075	1,582
CHAT page	2,751	2,737
VOTE page	1,171	1,369

Three schools took part in the Infectious Diseases Zone and all were highly active, especially within live chats. In total 191 students logged in, of which 95% were active in either the ASK, CHAT or VOTE section. Interestingly, this is a higher percentage than the average number of active students in the UK events. There was also a high number of page views for each of the different sections in the zone, nearly as many as the average of the most recent I'm a Scientist UK event in June. 151 questions were approved in the zone, with scientists providing 159 answers.

	CHAT VỚI NHÀ KHOA HỌC 2016	IAS UK AVERAGE
Schools	3	10
Students logged in	191	364
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	95%	85%
Questions asked	246	704
Questions approved	151	303
Answers given	159	554
Comments	24	79
Votes	159	288
Live chats	18	15
Lines of live chat	4,997	5,049
Average lines per live chat	278	329

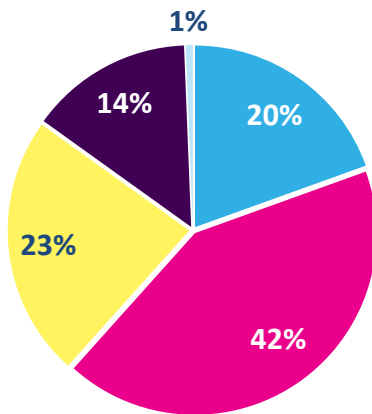
School activity



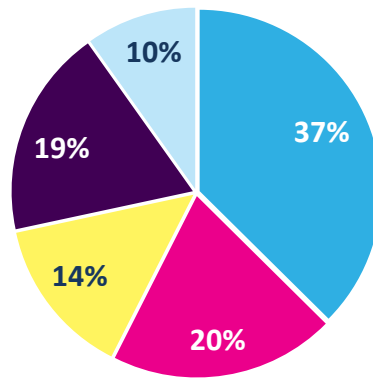
All of the scientists took an active role in the event, participating in both the ASK section and live chats. The most active scientist within the live chats was Chung Thế Hào, who ended up being the winner of the zone.

Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of Live Chat



	Scientist	Profile views
Winner	Chung Thế Hào	665
	Nguyễn Minh Nguyệt	667
	Nhã Uyên Phan	621
	Lâm Tuấn Thanh	590
	Nguyễn Lê Việt Hùng	415

3. Background

3.1. *I'm a Scientist, Get me out of here*

I'm a Scientist, Get me out of here (IAS) is an online event where secondary school students meet and interact with scientists. It's an X-Factor style competition between scientists, where the students are the judges. Over two weeks, students read the scientist profiles, ask questions, have live online text chats with the scientists, and vote for the winner, who receives a cash prize to be spent on science education in schools.



I'm a Scientist was conceived by Gallomanor Communications Ltd, and has been running in the UK since 2008. Because of its online nature, it can overcome geographical barriers and has run in many countries worldwide such as Ireland, Malaysia, the USA, Australia and Kenya.

Partnering with Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU), this project will research, translate, pilot, evaluate and roll out a version of the UK event for Vietnam and will also build capacity of OUCRU-schools engagement team so that IAS can be run autonomously in subsequent years.

3.2. *Narrative of IAS Vietnam*

In Vietnam, IAS ran through a collaboration of Gallomanor Communications, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit and Centre for Science and Technology Development of Youth Union, Ho Chi Minh City (TST) which is the government association representing school students interested in science and technology across the city. Through TST, the IAS project has potential to reach many school students in Ho Chi Minh City, for the improvement of science education.

Schools and scientists were selected by coordination of OUCRU and TST with the Centre for Science and Technology Development of Youth Union, Ho Chi Minh City (TST).

Schools

Secondary schools took part in the Infectious Diseases Zone, and were invited according to the following criteria:

- An interest in connecting school students and scientists
- An IT lab with good internet access
- Support for their IT and science teachers in delivering the project to their students
- They would allow filming of their classes for us to produce a video of the project



Scientists

Scientists were selected according to the following criteria:

- Vietnamese nationality
- Gender balance
- An interest in engaging school students with science
- Senior scientist or researcher, for example PhD students or Doctors
- No limit on the geographical location of the scientist
- Ability to take part in the event at least 3 days per week, for 1-2 hours a day
- Have ideas on science education for school students
- Commitment to spending the prize to promote science engagement in schools

Selection coordination

To publicise the event and help recruit schools and scientists, letters were sent about the project to schools in Ho Chi Minh city to give an introduction. Surveys were sent to schools to ask teachers their perceptions on connecting with scientists. There were also meetings and interviews held with teachers at schools and with scientists at OUCRU for their opinions how the event would be run. A project presentation giving an introduction to OUCRU's academic meeting was delivered by OUCRU engagement team.

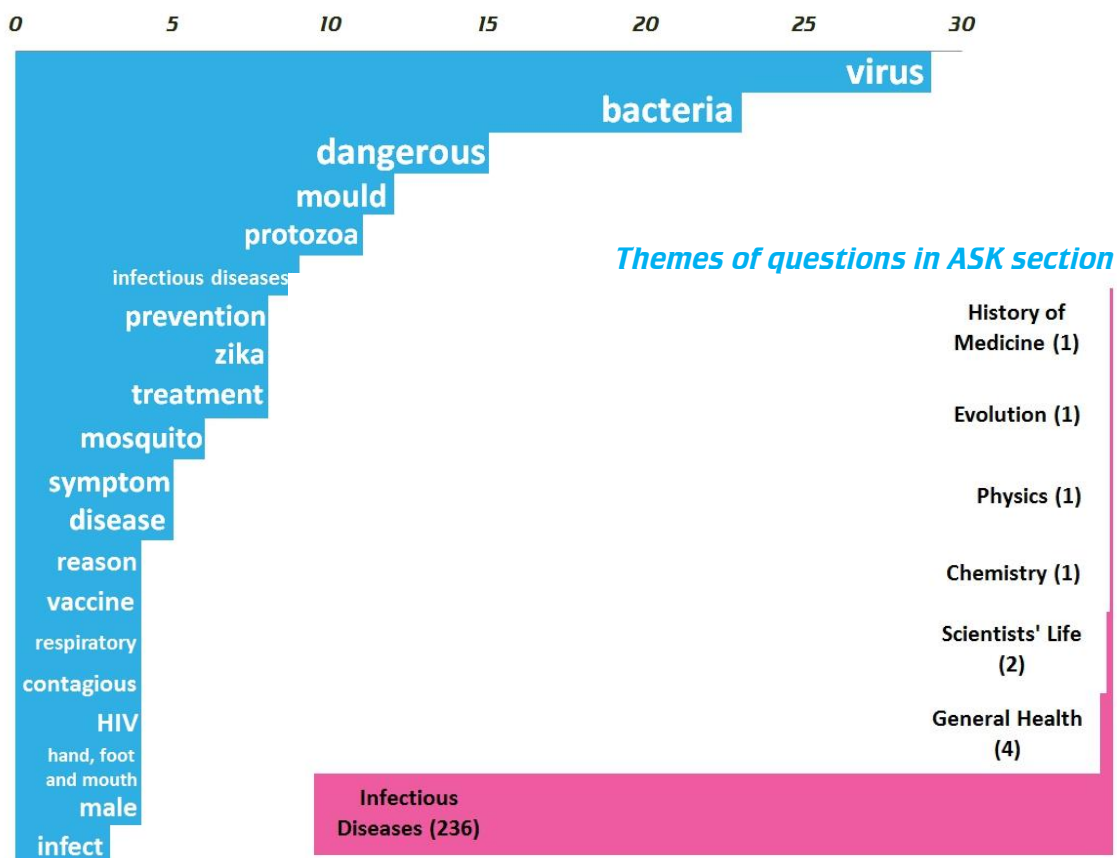
From the feedback from these discussions it was recommended that the name of this project should be in Vietnamese as CHAT VỚI NHÀ KHOA HỌC and its first event would take place in the first two weeks of May 2016. And three out of 5 schools contacted also agreed to participate in the first event, and each was provided with a teacher pack, which included notes on how the event works and individual log in cards for the students.

A group of 5 scientists, 4 from OUCRU and 1 from a University, who met with the project team to talk about how researchers could take part agreed to be part of the first event on Infectious Disease. It was also agreed that all scientists would remain in the competition until the final Friday, when the winner would be announced. This meant there would be no eviction element to the event, differing from the UK events. The scientists also stressed the importance of getting support from their group heads.

4. What was asked?

During the two weeks of the event the majority of questions asked by students related to the theme of infectious diseases, such as on enteric diseases, zoonosis and dengue fever. However, the students also showed their interest in other topics outside of this theme such as physics and the history of medicine. In the live chats more informal conversations developed with interest in people and films, for example, however this wasn't reflected within the ASK section.

Keywords of questions used in ASK section, length of bar represents frequency of use



Example questions on Infectious Diseases (click for links):

Does the HIV virus have similarities with other viruses?
Why is the Zika virus dangerous for children and not for adults?
Do infectious diseases have an effect on our gene structure?
What are H5N1 and H7N9?
Where does the most bacteria live at home?
How would we identify a mosquito?
What can we do to prevent the spread of hand, foot and mouth disease?
How are vaccines created?
Can hot weather cause the spread of infectious diseases?
Why does diarrhoea affect malnourished children?

Example questions on other topics:

Are you still going to school?
When did science medicine develop?
Why is there permanent magnet?
Which one is more dangerous out of acid and base?
Why do we use medicated oil when we have a stomach ache?
Do you think we should modify our DNA?

5. Feedback from teachers

Feedback was positive from teachers and other members of staff at participating schools, who were encouraging about the potential of the event and were keen to take part again.

"It is a new project, very attractive and engaging! I think this project has a lot of potential to develop more...It surprised me because the scientists look quite young but they have good knowledge outside their expertise and also are good at communicating with my students." – **Ms Nguyen Minh Thuy, Teacher at Bach Dang school**

"My students found it very interesting. They were very excited to talk to scientists." – **Mr Tran Duc Thong, Teacher at Tan Tao A school**

"I think this is a very interesting project. We would be happy to welcome to the project back to my school." – **Mr Phan Ngoc Phuong, Principal at Tan Tao A school**

"This project is good for my teachers to learn about how to teach their students about science." – **Ms Le An, Principal at Nguyen Du school**

6. Feedback from Scientists

Feedback was positive from scientists, who were all very enthusiastic and expressed. They would be keen to recommend taking part in the project to other scientists.

"I feel that I know a bit more about what the students and public as a whole think about science and what they really want to know about science. The students showed great curiosity and enthusiasm which inspired me." – **Lam Tuan Thanh, PhD student, CNS Group**

"This has been a good opportunity for me to discuss science with students." – **Dr Nguyen Minh Nguyet, PhD student, Dengue Group**

"I think this engagement method is very interactive, it creates many advantages that work well to engage other groups like university students or farmers." – **Phan Nha Uyen, PhD student, Zoonoses Group**

"There are always surprising things in life and I found them through this project!" – **Dr Nguyen Le Viet Hung, PhD student, University of Medicine Ho Chi Minh City**

"I would recommend to those who like to work with school students about science to join this project." – **Chung The Hao, PhD student, Enteric Group**

7. Recommendations for Phase II

Potential changes and improvements for the next phase:

- School recruitment: the system worked, the format went well and the first event generated a lot of good engagement between scientists and students, therefore we anticipate the number of schools participating in Phase 2 will be doubled or more. We found that the project was mostly led within the school by IT teachers, rather than science teachers. There will be a requirement for schools taking part in the future that science teachers must act as key event coordinators, even if the project is done within an IT lesson. Teachers seemed to be treating the project as something fun to do in the post-exam period, which is not an entirely bad thing - we're more likely to get schools running it in a less pressured time of the school year. But for the schools to get real value they should be doing the preparation and involving the science teachers.
- Promotional films: films about the project were produced during the pilot event and these films will be used as one of the key approaches in explaining how the event works for teachers and scientists.
- Teacher packs: the packs will be redeveloped with more activities for teachers to organise with their students. The tone of the language used in the packs may also be revised to be more informal and exciting to reflect the voice of the website. There should be a small section explaining about how 'key words' works for both teachers and students. The teacher notes and access codes should be printed professionally in order to hopefully encourage teachers to value the project more.
- Scientists: will be encouraged to use the "comment" function much more with students as well as with other scientists to develop a sense of engagement and better relationships.
- Moderation: moderators will be expected to summarize the content of every live chat, providing feedback on key topics, interesting questions and anything out of the ordinary that happened. Within the chat moderators would also encourage students to post questions in the ASK section, if their question did not get answered by the scientists within the chat, promoting further engagement with the event after a chat session has finished.