

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**AIP Foundation and partners gather for STABLE Trial launching Event**

Safe Mobility NGO AIP Foundation and its partners launch STABLE trial in Ho Chi Minh City on the occasion of World Sight Day 2024 to safeguard university students on the road.

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam – October 8, 2024

Ahead of World Sight Day 2024, AIP Foundation in collaboration with its partners, including the National Traffic Safety Committee, the Transport Development & Strategy Institute, Vietnam Ministry of Transport as well as the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ho Chi Minh City hosted the launching event of the STABLE Trial.

STABLE launching event for a safer future

The STABLE (Slashing Two-wheeled Accidents By Leveraging Eyecare) trial is a preliminary study examining the intersection of vision and road safety, employing contemporary methodologies and focusing on the most vulnerable populations in road safety, namely youth. It brings together a series of international funders and partners including The Chen Yet-Sen Family Foundation, Clearly, The Hyundai Motor Chung Mong-Koo Foundation, Wellcome Trust, Queen's University Belfast and Yonsei University.

“STABLE aims to investigate innovative strategies in road safety, focusing on addressing the challenges young drivers face, such as safely accessing education and improving overall road safety,” shares Sangchul Yoon, Professor at Yonsei University.

The objective of the launching event was to introduce the new program to national and local government partners, project universities and media and to strengthen the engagement among all government partners and university collaborators in the program implementation. In addition, during the launching event, national and local governments gathered with five universities in Ho Chi Minh City including the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Nong Lam University, Ho Chi Minh University of Education, College of Foreign Economic Relations, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Education.

Promoting World Sight Day 2024 for healthier eyes

World Sight Day, which takes place annually in October, focuses the world's attention on the importance of eye care in young people. This day also marks an opportunity to advocate for eye health as a global issue, raise awareness on the importance of eye care within families, individuals and communities and help to activate demand for eye health services globally. Our key message for this World Sight Day was 'healthy eyes now, beautiful life ahead.'

“On behalf of the National Traffic Safety Committee, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to participate in today's event. Hopefully, the project's research results will contribute to providing innovative and practical solutions to promote knowledge and skills to ensure health conditions for safer traffic of young people, our future generation of Vietnam,” shares Ms. Trinh Thu Ha, Deputy Chief of Office, National Traffic Safety Committee.

Before the launch event, students from different participating universities took part in the eyes screening using the WHOeyes App. WHOeyes is a free mobile application that checks near visual

acuity, checks distance visual acuity, is language agnostic (uses the tumbling E chart) and provides educational messages on how individuals can protect their eyes.

Visual acuity is the most common assessment of visual function. It is a simple, non-invasive measure and critical to determine the presence of vision impairment (WHO 2023).

Engaging young drivers across Ho Chi Minh City for safer mobility

The launch event began with opening remarks from the National Traffic Safety Committee, and speeches from Yonsei University and Queen's University Belfast. It was a unique opportunity for government partners and key stakeholders from the universities to further discuss safe commuting for young drivers in their communities.

The closing remarks were delivered by Mirjam Sidik, Chief Executive Officer at AIP Foundation who highlighted the urgent importance of embracing our youth as active participants, not beneficiaries in our society. In her closing remarks, she emphasized that change is only possible if it is brought about for youth by youth.

"AIP Foundation is proud to be part of this pioneering trial in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. We are joined today by an international array of partners who are dedicated to safeguarding university students and their journeys to study. Our shared commitment will continue to shine this World Sight Day 2024 and beyond to ensure their safety," shares Mirjam Sidik, Chief Executive Officer at AIP Foundation.

The launch event of the STABLE Trial represents a pivotal moment in our ongoing efforts to make safe mobility a reality for young drivers. This innovative initiative is poised to drive significant progress for road safety across Ho Chi Minh City.

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About AIP Foundation

AIP Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing road injuries and fatalities in low and middle-income countries. For over 20 years, AIP Foundation has been delivering effective road safety programs in locations across Asia and Africa. To find out more, visit www.aip-foundation.org or connect with us on X @AIPFoundation. <https://www.aip-foundation.org/>

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