Dear reader,

In this first newsletter of the year, on behalf of the programme team, we are sending our best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year to all our readers. This year also marks the beginning of phase 2 of our 6-year programme between VVOB and the five provinces: Thai Nguyen, Quang Ninh, Nghe An, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai.

The final planning for the second phase of the education programme was done during the planning workshop for 2011 in November 2010, in this workshop we were honoured with the presence of Mr. Nguyen Van Thien - vice-minister of MOET and Mr. Doan Van Phong - deputy director of teachers and Educational Managers Department. We are grateful for their expression of support and for their suggestions on the orientation of the second phase.

In January 2011, each of the five provinces organised a meeting to report on the results of the cooperation during the first phase of the programme. We are happy to report that the operational partners in five provinces highly appreciated the programme results. All partners expressed their enthusiasm to continue the cooperation and as a result, partners and VVOB agreed to officially extend the MoU of the first phase until 2013.

At the start of this new phase we looked back at phase 1 and said a lot of good things have been accomplished and a lot of lessons can be learnt. Our cooperation with partners in the five provinces will become more effective, more efficient, and our common activities more effective and efficient. We also want to further strengthen our cooperation with MOET to improve our impact and sustainability and our chances to contribute to the educational quality in our partner provinces and hopefully to contribute to the quality of the educational system of Vietnam as a whole.

We are hopeful and looking forward to the next years of cooperation with all of our Vietnamese partners.

William Thwaites
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A communication event of the Education Club in CaI Dan Ward, Song Cong Town, Thai Nguyen Province.

The Education Club is the first model to support parenting skills for parents with children in adolescence. The pilot model was initiated by the Provincial Women's Union (PVW) of Thai Nguyen Province, Nguyen Thi Binh An, Nguyen Nam, Nguyen Ngoc with technical support from the WTO Education program. Starting in 2009 in 10 communes in five provinces, this club model serves as a bridge for parents to help their children thrive in knowledge and parenting skills and support their children's active learning.

Each monthly club activity is like a training session for each of us, providing us with specific knowledge and skills to educate our children in general and to support their learning at home. We then recognize the necessity to share between spouses on child education. We feel less reluctant and unsure when talking to or calling the teacher to discuss about school activities.

Realizing the effectiveness of this model from 2 pilot clubs in each province, the Provincial Women's Union has replicated the model to other districts and communes, bringing the total number of Education to 76 clubs by the end of 2010. Clubs organize communication activities monthly, covering a variety of topics related to parenting skills.

On March 8th, we were invited to attend a club activity in CaI Dan Ward, Song Cong Town, Thai Nguyen province. This month, the club promoted a communication booklet developed by the Vietnam Ministry of Education (VOt) in collaboration with the United Nations called “Facts on Children and HIV/AIDS”.

It was a cold and rainy day. 03 WTO members together with 2 guests from the Save the Children went on a trip to CaI Dan Ward. The trip was exciting. No chance would worry as the weather was not very good. Club members came to the meeting hall with enthusiasm and excitement.

The event began with a warm-up activity called “Tell the ball game” where the person that caught the ball would give an introduction about themselves. The club members were asked about their opinions related to things HIV/AIDS issues. Since the drill was not easy, members had to think whether they agreed with the statement; those people who would move to the left of the MI fundraiser or disagreed those people would move to the right of the MC or not move. The idea of the event was to increase communication and reduce stigma and discrimination against children affected by HIV/AIDS.

The event was a success. The club members shared their knowledge and experience with other members. The event was held on 8 March, the Women's Day, which is a day to celebrate women's rights and achievements. The club members expressed their joy and support to all the members who participated. The event was a success.
TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTES

In January, the second Steering Committee Meeting of the Education Innovation Plan was hosted by the teacher training college in Vinh, Nghe An. The meeting was attended by all members of the Education Innovation Board consisting of senior management of VIOB's 5 partners. Back-to-back with this meeting, the first meeting of the Monitoring & Evaluation Core Group took place, which included the attendance of the members for each institute.

During this time, the complete ICTATL toolkit and manual were delivered to the ICT core group members of all VIOB. The learning activities were focused on the online ICTATL survey on the evaluation of ICT professional development training programs and on the toolkit itself.

In February, after Tet holiday, all teacher training institutions prepared for the Extended Education Innovation Plan for the school year 2010-2011. During March, VIOB participated in the preparation and organization of the workshop "Sharing experience and facilitating collaboration among the network to support Climate Change Education in Vietnam" which was co-organized by the Ministry of Education and Training and Live & Learn, the Children Plan International and VIOB, and in which a number of international and national partners participated. The workshop, which took place on 29 March in Hanoi, was opened by MDT Vice Minister Nguyen Vinh Dien and Dr. Quoc Tran, Assistant Director General for Education of UNESCO, who was just visiting Vietnam at the time of the workshop.

The VIOB coordinators conducted a small research on the roll-out of teaching practice in the 5 partner provinces. The results led the further interventions on monitoring teaching practice in ATL this year.

March was a busy month. During this time, cooperating with Teacher Training (TT), an expert developed a course in facilitation skills and peer coaching was selected based on the wildly advertised TOL. The participation of VIOB staff in the series of Professional Teacher Meetings organized by Bac Giang DOET as part of JICA's pre-project was very useful, providing much input for EM and TT further operation. In the end of March, a one-day meeting was organized with the five PPU members. During the meeting, important issues were discussed, namely, Open Resource Centers (ORCs), in-service training for teachers, and bridging the gap between theory and practice were discussed in detail.

At the end of April, together with the TT and Social Participation OCP group, a 5 day workshop was organized, where issues such as vision, mission making, and planning were discussed. For the EM team, the workshop extended to two days and a half, where apart from the above mentioned topics, the topics of IGE were addressed in detail with the PPU members.

Also in April, DOET further developed the OCP with support from VIOB and prepared for the upcoming trainings for in-service teachers in summertime.

During the whole period of time, the training materials on ATL for School managers, innovation in Evaluation and Soft skills were further developed and they are all expected to be finalized in the second quarter of the year. Together with experts, EM team is developing a set of criteria of good ATL school, an important part in bridging the gap between theory and practice.

MASS ORGANIZATIONS

In March a workshop titled "Facilitation skills for club meetings" was organized for 25 participants from provincial core group and extended districts in order to strengthen the capacity of women's union related to the community mobilization in education support in general and facilitating meetings of Education and Life Clubs in specific. The workshop consisted of 2 parts, the first part focused on coaching practical skills of facilitating topics that were identified for club meetings; the second part focused on IGE issues including the introduction of the IGE framework of VIOB Vietnam. March 2011 also saw the introduction of the HIV/AIDS prevention program being taken up by the WU through introducing the booklet "Facts on children and HIV/AIDS" during club meetings in the 5 provinces. On 18 March 2011, some staff of VIOB and World Vision made a field trip to observe such a club meeting session in Can Dan wards, Song Cong Township, Thai Nguyen province.
**Educational Game Corner**

**Name:** Knotty of People

**Duration:** 15 minutes – 20 minutes

**How to play:**
- Divide the participants into 2 teams of 15-20 members.
- Ask a person to be the leader in each team.
- Have each person joining eight hands with another person in the group, but it has to be someone who is NOT standing immediately to the left or right.
- Then have each person piling left hand with another person in the group, but it has to be someone who is NOT standing immediately to the left or right and someone other than before.
- Now the team has to untangle themselves without letting go of hands. They may try to loosen their grip a little to allow for twisting and turning. They may have to step over or under other people.
- *Team 90:* the leader is allowed to discuss with the team.

**Questions for thought after the game:**
- How did the members of each team feel when untangling the knot? Any differences between the two groups? Yes, which one and why?
- Which team seems to be more efficient? Why?
- What do you think the meaning of the game is?

**Conclusion:**
- In working, team work and 2-way communication rather than playing M/W's. Loyalty is important.
- In supporting ATL & Social Participation in education, community involvement is useful involvement rather than stand-alone-vector

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**Transversal Themes**

**Using the Impact Chain Model in Climate Change**

The impact chain model is used to analyse the causes and the proposed solutions for adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts. The model (along with the problem) supports researchers and planners to clarify the elements of climate change, direct and indirect impacts, vulnerable groups, and response measures.

Below is an example of the impact chain analysis about signs and effects of Climate change in a specific region (The sea)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climate change elements</th>
<th>Direct impact</th>
<th>Indirect impact</th>
<th>Vulnerable groups</th>
<th>Response measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salt Affliction</td>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td></td>
<td>fishermen</td>
<td>Change the production structure and production method.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td>farmers</td>
<td>Planning integration of climate change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salt production</td>
<td></td>
<td>salt workers</td>
<td>Diversification of livelihoods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increase migration</td>
<td></td>
<td>coastal habitats</td>
<td>Managed forest planning / protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Loss infrastructure quality</td>
<td></td>
<td>especially poor people</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence area</td>
<td>Livelihoods (at risk)</td>
<td></td>
<td>farmers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other livelihoods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood risk</td>
<td>Urban planning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drainage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase level</td>
<td>Underground water pollution</td>
<td></td>
<td>coastal habitats</td>
<td>Providing clean water, sanitation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Changing the coastal ecosystem</td>
<td></td>
<td>especially poor people</td>
<td>Policy (supporting).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health shortage of clean water, underground water pollution, disease</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Building models to predict the different scenarios.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Stakeholder in the Picture**

In this stakeholder in the picture, we are going to have a conversation with Mr. Nguyen Dinh Duc, 3991 member of Pham Van Dong University, Quang Ngai about his thoughts and feelings on the Educational Program of VVOB.

1. **How do you evaluate the cooperation between VVOB and TTIu, particularly with Pham Van Dong University?**

The collaboration between VVOB and the TTIu to implement education projects in the past academic years has brought concrete benefits to the managers, teachers and students. The program has also contributed to the effective implementation of the teaching & learning innovation, teaching that integrates ICT and Environmental Education. For Pham Van Dong University, VVOB has created great opportunities for teachers to participate in the workshops and training courses in various fields, to share experience and teaching methodology innovation. We have benefited from many ATL theory and practices, teaching with ICT and EE integration. The support from VVOB for teaching & learning activities also contributes to solve the initial difficulties of the school, and this approach has also fostered the university to continue to equip and upgrade the computer network...

2. **Can you share the most maximal impact / most significant activity of VVOB education program to the teachers and students in the university?**

In my opinion, the teachers have mastered the ATL theory and ICT application, but the shift from the theory to the teaching practice is not very long way. The training organized by VVOB gives the teachers the ability to know, and then apply the theory effectively. The training and workshops have a strong impact on the school leaders, teachers and students. Perhaps it is the most significant impact in the education program of VVOB.

3. **As a coordinator, what advantages and disadvantages do you meet when participating in and implementing the activities of VVOB?**

In the first phase of the program, the leaders of Pham Van Dong University appointed Mr. Pham Nhut, head of the training department, to be the PPI for Teacher Training – Environmental education and the head of the scientific management and international relations, to be the PPI for teacher training ICT. With our tasks and responsibilities, it is convenient for us to advise the university managers about the implementation plan, relevant documents, mobilizing teachers and students to participate in the activities. In addition, we have enthusiastic colleagues and faculty staff to support us in organizing workshops and training courses at university and the trainers are capable. However, in the implementation process, we have encountered difficulties in the organizational stage, especially the implementation of ICT for ATL training. For example, the number of participants is only half of the number of initial expectations. This makes the organizational plan priorities, for example, 2 training classes have to be divided into a class, changing the number of trainers, etc...

4. **Can you tell us the most memorable experience in the process of working with VVOB?**

The most memorable experience during my work with VVOB was the workshop held in Hanoi at La Thanh Hotel on 30/10/2008. With the heaviest rain in the history, that morning Hanoi was flooded. We went through the water with our umbrella, to the Hall (on the 1st floor) to attend the workshop. Meeting Toon, he said in Vietnamese:

- *Hello. Today is too sunny.*
- *Seeing us smile Toon also laughed and said.*
- *Sorry. It was confused. Today it is too rainy.*

The workshop lasted till 10 am when the water went in the hall. The hotel receptionist came to notify:
- *Can all teachers hold their bags to avoid electric shocks because the power socket in the lower rooms has been flooded?* However, the workshop continued as planned and the result was a developed work plan for 2009.

*Thank you very much.*