



**SPECIAL VOLUME TO CELEBRATE
THE VIETNAMESE TEACHERS' DAY 20/11**



5th Oct 2011
World Teachers' Day

*Teachers for
gender equality*

♀ = ♂

PARTICIPATE IN OUR PHOTO COMPETITION



In June 2012, VVOB celebrates 30 years of existence (1982-2012). We would like to take this opportunity to organise a photo contest capturing VVOB's support in Vietnam. We are looking for images of VVOB's activities through the eyes of the stakeholders. These images will tell us how people involved in the VVOB programmes, would describe our activities and how they feel about them... all through their or your eyes. The resulting pictures can, among others, be used in a slideshow during the 'closing' workshop, in a small booklet illustrating our activities...

GUIDELINES

Entries:

Everybody can participate. All the pictures are uploaded by their owners on the VVOB Vietnam website. The upload form opens on October 15th 2011. On January 15th 2012 we will close it. The next day the online voting will start (see below).



Themes:

Submit your photo capturing the activities in our programmes could be classified in one of these themes:

1. Teaching methodology
2. Integration of ICT in education
3. Educational management
4. Social participation
5. Participatory Agricultural Extension
6. Other

Voting

From January 16th till February 28th 2012 the photos will be open for public vote on this website to chose the best photo. VVOB will select from the 20 most voted photos, the best photos (picture quality and description) and the best illustration of VVOB's support in Vietnam (picture quality, description and its story).



Prizes

The total of 5 digital cameras will be awarded for:

- Best picture by online voting (1)
 - Best picture by VVOB selection (1 about Education Programme and 1 about Agriculture Extension Programme)
- Best illustration for VVOB support in Vietnam (1 about Education Programme and 1 about Agriculture Extension Programme)



WVOB is a Belgian non-profit organization. Our core business is to provide technical assistance in educational programmes contributing to the quality of education. We support capacity building leading to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

GIÁO DỤC VÌ SỰ PHÁT TRIỂN | education for development

What?

- develop learning contents
- improve learner centered teaching methods
- promote efficient learning environments
- support policies for quality education
- strengthen teacher training.

How?

- align with policy
- guide/support learners, teachers, lecturers, support staff, parents, communities
- strengthen capacity of partner institutions
- partner decides course and is responsible
- technical assistance (national and international)

Facts:

- budget of about € 9 million/year
- 9 partner countries
- 40+ international associates
- 90+ national associates
- 14 staff at head office

Dear readers,

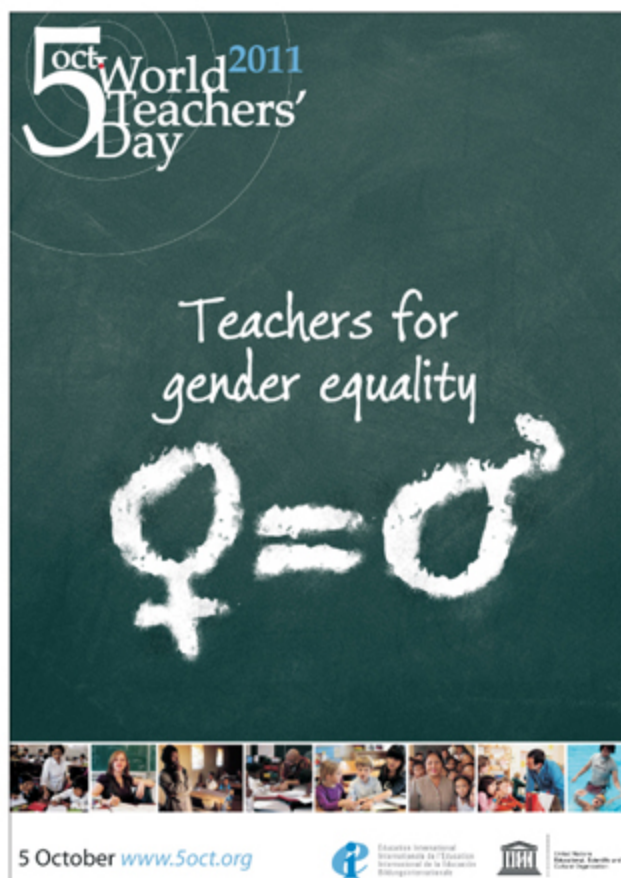
We would like to send you this "Special volume". Why "special"? Because it is a contribution to the jubilant atmosphere all over Vietnam to celebrate Vietnamese Teachers' day of November, 20.

As an organisation focusing on innovative education, we have chance to work with enthusiastic educational managers, devoted teachers and active Women's Union members, all concerned about the innovation of teaching and learning. On this occasion, we would like to extend our thanks to our partners, who are together with us to contributing to the educational innovation, by showing you pictures of cooperative activities. Therefore, as you will see, this volume is presented differently from the previous ones. It is more of a photo book with short stories. This idea stems from the photo contest that we recently launched.

We do hope to receive your appreciation for this special volume and the photo contest as well. (More details about the photo contest can be found in the back)

Wilfried Theunis

Programme Director- WVOB Vietnam



Do you know?

World Teachers' Day and its theme of 2011

Since 1994 World Teachers' Day is celebrated on 5 October. It is an opportunity for UNESCO and Education International to celebrate the profession and to promote international standards for the teaching profession. The theme for this year is: Teachers for gender equality.

Despite the teaching profession being made up largely of women, inequality remains an issue. Even if measures to ensure equality are enshrined into the policies and constitutions of many states, for millions of female teachers, the goals remain unfulfilled. The teaching profession, both men and women, must unite and urge governments to implement their commitments. Let's move from words to action: WTD is your day!

You can find more information about the activities for World Teachers' Day of this year at <http://www.5oct.org>.



● **DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
 In the period of August – October, after attending the **training on Facilitation and Peer Coaching**, the TOT group of DOET organised 95 multiplication workshops to reach nearly 3000 lower secondary school- LSS teachers to approach these skills.
 More details can be found on the website of WOB Vietnam.

At the end of September 2011, the **second TOT workshop on LSS Principals with the management of Life Values-Life Skills education and Effective Communication** was organised. At present, the training material is being finalised and will be disseminated broadly to all LSS principals in 5 provinces in the period of November- December 2011.
 More details can be found on the website of WOB Vietnam.



In the middle of **July**, a TOT workshop was organized for the core group in **Facilitation and Peer Coaching**, followed by 95 multiplication workshops to reach nearly **3000 LSS teachers** in the five provinces in the period of **August-October**. As with the topic ICT 4 ATL, this topic was highly appreciated. Though the material was at the beginning designed as a module in the package of teaching methodologies, educational managers also consider it useful and practical in their school management practice. All the products of this competition and developed and upcoming materials on ATL will be uploaded on the Open Resource Center of the DOETs, which WOB has supported to upgrade and administer.
 More details can be found on the website of WOB Vietnam.



● **TEACHERS TRAINING INSTITUTES**

Following the training workshop "Innovative Leadership" for educational managers in April 2011, an Education Innovation Plan (EIP) Steering Committee meeting was held in Thai Nguyen Teachers Training Institute (TTI) in July 2011 with the purpose to prepare for the new EIP for the academic year 2011-2012. Currently, TTIs are already implementing activities of this new EIP, such as multiplication trainings on teaching methodologies...





WOMEN'S UNIONS

The part 2 of deep guidance on organisation of club communication activities for provincial TOT is the third workshop (28/6-2/7) in the series "Facilitation skills for club groups" which focused on building capacity for provincial core groups on the 12 themes for monthly club events/activities as well as participatory methods and techniques. During the workshop, 5 provinces also shared experiences about the implementation of each theme and commented on the ongoing club manual. This TOT group have organise the multiplication workshops in districts, communes in the period of August- October 2011. The representatives of provincial Women's Unions, DOET, BOET and WOB staff. This is one of the effort to improve the link between DOET and WU in response the movement "Child friendly school, active student".

More details can be found on the website of WOB Vietnam.

On July 29th, 2011, WOB Vietnam and the Vietnam Women's Union (VWU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which formalises the partnership of the two organizations. Our mutual interest is to improve the capacity of mothers with children under 16 years old on parenting skills related to child rearing and education in the areas of the 5 provinces of Quang Ninh, Thai Nguyen, Nghe An, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai (the overlap between National scheme No.704 to build capacity for 5 millions mothers on child education and rearing and WOB Vietnam Education Programme)

More details can be found on the website of WOB Vietnam.



In September 2011, evaluation workshops of WOB materials including "Environmental Education", ICT for ATL, Problem-Based learning" and "Learning stations" were organized in Phu Tho and Bac Giang provinces by the MOET. The participating teachers and educational managers highly appreciated the use of these materials for MOET's trainings for in-service teachers. As a result, MOET decided to include these 4 materials in the MOET reference list for national in-service teacher training materials.

More details can be found on the website of WOB Vietnam.



On 25 and 26 October, WOB organized the introduction workshop of the teacher training module on "Assessment and Evaluation of Active Teaching and Learning (ATL)", which is one of the modules in the ATL Teacher Training Package, in Hoi An with the participation of 25 members of the methodology core group, together with Ms. Nguyen Thi Thuy and Dr. Bui Van Quan of the Department of Teachers and Educational Administrators of the MOET.

This new module introduces some perspectives on broad, holistic and competency oriented evaluation, based on a social constructivist and situated cognition view on learning. This view forms the foundation of the methods and approaches introduced in the other modules and of ATL in general.

More details can be found on the website of WOB Vietnam.



FACILITATION SKILLS AND PEER COACHING – SKILLS NECESSARY FOR EVERY DAY TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

In 2011, Quang Ngai DOET and WOB jointly organised multiplication workshops in Facilitation and Peer Coaching for teachers Lower Secondary Education (LSE). The training/module addresses eight specific skills: group work management, questioning, feedback, active listening, observation, presentation, negotiation, and working with difficult people. All together, these skills highlight the role of a teacher as facilitator with focus on the learners and they are the skills necessary for peer coaching which has been considered to be effective in teachers' professional development.

In Quang Ngai provinces, in total 18 classes were organised for 540 LS Teachers, and well received by participants who praised the interesting and useful content, necessary for all the teachers in their daily teaching practice, and the well designed manual. The module Facilitation and Peer Coaching is said to bring a "new wind" to the teachers. Teacher Lê Văn Hiếu, Subject Manager of Physics-Technology from Hành Phước LSS says: "I really like the topic of the training course. The training course has helped me to look back at my skills in a systematic way. For example, after the training course, when putting a question, I try to pay attention to question types and techniques so that they can be more diverse and draw out the pupils. At the beginning I thought that negotiation skills were not used much in teaching practice. However, the practice has shown that I can apply this skill in my teaching practice quite effectively."

Facilitation Skills and Peer Coaching was developed as a module in the package of teaching methodologies intended for teachers. However, it is interesting that many of the school managers who attended this training in their role as teacher also find in this module necessary for their school management practice.

According to Mr. Nguyễn Phúc Lộc, Principal of Nghĩa Lâm LSS Tư Nghĩa District, "Having studied the training manual, I think much about myself as a school manager. There are many things that I have been unconsciously applying for long, now I am aware of them so that I can do my work better. For me, the skills in working in difficult people are really very important and useful for school managers. And so are presentation skills, negotiation skills, etc."

It needs time to assess the effectiveness of a programme or a project. However, right now we can see the effectiveness that the training course in Facilitation Skills and Peer Coaching has brought into the teaching and educational management practice in Quang Ngai.

Huynh Hau

Quang Ngai Department of Education and Training



Multiplication training WORKSHOPS in Quang Ninh TTI

With support from WOB Vietnam, in 2011, Quang Ninh TT organized a lot of multiplication workshops on teaching methodologies for its lecturers and students. Many lecturers and last-year students actively participated in the trainings that were facilitated by members of the methodology core group.

During the training workshops, trainees had the chance to explore and share theoretical ideas, watch video clips, practice skills and design lesson plans. Trainees worked in groups of various subject matters such as Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Maths, Literature, Technology, English, History, Geography (mainly at lower secondary level, some at primary and pre-school levels), etc. in preparing lesson plans.

Through these training workshops, trainees were introduced to new teaching methodologies which can be applied to their daily teaching practice at teacher training institutes, lower secondary and primary schools, and kindergartens.

Nguyen Thi Xung
Quang Ninh TTI





ROLES OF MANAGERS IN DESIGNING THE VISION AND MISSIONS OF THAI NGUYEN TEACHERS TRAINING INSTITUTE

By designing the TTI's vision and mission, managers define the TTI's potential in obtaining desired objectives that meet social demands on education and training for a certain period of time. Managers play very important roles in this matter, because they:

1. Make a comprehensive assessment of the TTI's resources, especially human resources, in order to objectively identify strengths and weakness of the resources to set up a feasible vision and mission.
2. Grasp development trends of the education sector (especially trends of the TTI's disciplines) in the process of innovation and globalization. This is the basis for determining the TTI's vision and mission to meet the social needs as well as to ensure employment opportunities for graduates.
3. Promote democracy by creating opportunities for everyone to participate in discussions and in building the vision and mission. In this way, everyone can fully realize their functions, tasks and roles in the TTI's development.
4. Build a roadmap, a system of solutions, to be implemented during a certain period of time. It requests managers to persist on the objectives, overcome challenges, gradually make changes/adjustments to ensure quality education, and at the same time always be flexible in the implementation to achieve the set objectives.
5. Encourage, make full use of inside resources as well as engage support from outside to build a TTI of high quality in achieving the set objectives.

Nong Khanh Bang
Thai Nguyen TTI



"Thank you Education and Life club", said Mrs. Le Thi Hoa, group 7 of Nam Hoa commune Women's Union, Yen Hung district, Quang Ninh.

She has twins, two boys. She used to shout at her sons whenever she was informed that they fought with classmates. But after joining the club, she learnt about life skills, especially the psychological changes during adolescence. Applying theory to practice, she knows how to and does control her anger, listen to her sons, and discuss with the school about the progress. Now that her sons are wellbehaved, happiness returns to the family, she even has more time to engage in club activities passionately, etc...

Phuong Ngoc
Quang Ninh Province Women's Union



Vietnam – Belgium Education Project and VVOB Vietnam have introduced new teaching methods that encourage learners' active learning, including group work, problem-based learning, learning stations and contract work. Together with these innovative teaching methods, it is necessary to provide teachers with tools and teaching techniques. VVOB met this demand by training teachers on how to use ICT tools to develop lesson plans and exploit knowledge on the internet.

Now it is time to put into use VVOB's training materials and organize multiplication trainings for teachers in other provinces and teachers who have not yet participated so that all teachers can make contributions to teaching and learning innovation at schools.

Pham Thi Loan
Lecturer of Quang Ninh TTI

The first time I touched a computer was in 1999 when I studied a Master's degree at Hanoi National University of Education. The first exercise was to type a text of about 5 lines which I could hardly complete. Honestly, at that time I did not have any passion for ICT because computer was a luxury for me and I myself did not see the tremendous value that ICT can bring.

My ICT skills have been significantly improved since I participated in VVOB's ICT activities. I exploit the facilities of the Internet and use software for teaching activities more and more often. Furthermore, I have changed my perception: using ICT is not merely a tool for more effective teaching but also an alternative to the traditional teacher-centered way. Thank you VVOB for giving me this great chance.

Lam Ngoc Phu
Lecturer of Thai Nguyen TTI



Quang Ngai: TEACHING BY USING MIND MAP

Teaching using Mind-map is a new teaching method which is especially promoted by MOET in this 2011-2012 school year. In Quang Ngai, some schools have introduced this new teaching method.

As expressed in its name, the lesson using mind map requires students to develop their critical thinking ability. Having the opportunity to witness how students and teachers from Nghia Thuan Lower Secondary School (Tu Nghia district, Quang Ngai province) used mind map in their lesson, we were really surprised by this active method. Ms. Nguyen Thi Xuan Hoai gave lesson of Biology for students of class 8B (Nghia Thuan Lower Secondary School). Students were divided into three groups to practice mind map. For the introduction part of "Circulatory System", with the knowledge obtained from the self-study at home, each group tried to draw the mind map expressing the blood circulation on A3 paper. They were eager to discuss and think during the process of drawing. Student Bui Thi Tinh (Class 8B) shared: "I feel really interested during the lessons with the use of mind map. Mind maps help us to learn faster and we remember the content for longer".

After students completed the mind map of the circulatory system, Ms. Nguyen Thi Xuan Hoai analyzed and summarized the knowledge by using an electronic mind map presented on big screen with the support of a projector. Every branch of the mind map is different in colours which is easy for students to recognize and help them summarize the whole lesson in just one simple and easy to remember map. Ms. Nguyen Thi Xuan Hoai said: "Teaching using mind maps can help students to be more active and proactive. Mind maps are useful in reinforcing old knowledge as well as introducing new knowledge".

Mind maps have been introduced at Nghia Thuan Lower Secondary School since the beginning of this 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Nguyen Mau Chuan – Principal of Nghia Thuan LSS said: "At first, school managers and the core group of the schools attended the trainings organized by DOET in



Students class 8B Nghia Thuan LSS (Tu Nghia district, Quang Ngai province) are learning using mind map.

using mind maps. Then, we multiplied the method to the whole school. With its advantages of helping students to be active and making the lesson easier to remember, many teachers of our school prefer this teaching method". At Nghia Thuan Lower Secondary School, mind maps are applied in nearly all the subjects.

This method is easy to apply. At the same time, it brings effectiveness, contributing to enhancing the education quality by creating opportunities for students to be active, proactive and confident. Mr. Huynh Hau – Vice Head of Secondary Education Department (Quang Ngai DOET) said that: "Mind maps are evaluated to be an advantage in renovating teaching methods. This method makes students be active, makes the lesson easier to remember and for a longer time". According to Mr. Huynh Hau, with the support of VVOB project and in cooperation with Quang Ngai DOET, school managers and teachers from all the lower secondary schools have been introduced to the use of mind maps in the multiplication trainings in ICT 4 ATL. As this method has received special attention from MOET, in October 2011, Quang Ngai DOET extended similar multiplication workshops to school managers and teachers from Primary and Upper Second Schools as well so that the method can have a wider reach./

Ms. Phuong Ly

Journalist of Quang Ngai newspaper

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Announcement of Career Guidance programme of VVOB in 2012-2013

In the middle of September 2011, VVOB Vietnam has recruited a Coordinator for its Career Guidance programme - Mrs. Nguyen Thi Chau. To kick off the programme, Mrs. Chau will together with other members of VVOB Vietnam visit the partner provinces (initially Nghe An and Quang Nam) to further explore priorities of the provincial partners on Career Guidance for their provinces and their needs and expectations in participating in the VVOB Career Guidance programme. Besides, VVOB Vietnam will organize a number of consultation meetings with the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) and other organizations, projects who have relevant experience in career guidance to acquaint more knowl-

edge and experiences, and to establish future collaboration. Two major activities will be implemented during the remaining time of this year in order to lay the foundation for the actual program which will be implemented during the next 2 years (2012 and 2013). The first activity seeks to explore and define the provincial approaches to Career Guidance and the role that VVOB Vietnam will/can play in this matter. The second one is a baseline study on VVOB's Career Guidance programme. It is expected that the new programme will also come to a good cooperation with VVOB's current partners and also contribute to reach jointly objectives of VVOB and its partners.



Gratitude sent to international and national trainers who accompanied VVOB staff, lecturers and teachers in the training of trainers

Painter: **Nguyen Duc Hoan**, 13 years-old, grade 7 at La Ha Lower Secondary school, Quang Ngai, son of a club member of Nghia Dong Education and Life club



Prof. Dr. Le Hoang Quan (on the right)



Prof. Dr. Le Huy Hoang
National University of Education



Prof. Dr. Nguyen Tuyet Nga (3rd from the left),
Vietnam National Institute of Education Sciences



Trainer Leen Pil
Centre for Experiential Learning,
University of Leuven

Planning workshop

Annually, the partners and VVOB sit together in a planning workshop to discuss and come to an agreement on the activity plan of next year in the period of mid November- early December. This year, this workshop will take place on December, 3 in the Army hotel, 33C Pham Ngu Lao, Hanoi.

Study tour on "Child friendly school" model in Chiang Mai, Thailand
From the 30th October to the 3rd November, the DOET's core group of 5 provinces in VVOB programme will take part in a study tour to Chiang Mai, Thailand. The purpose of this trip is to get deeper understanding and learn about the model on child friendly school, the integration of the active teaching and learning (ATL) in life skill education in some local lower secondary schools.



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<http://www.vvob.be/vietnam/?q=vi/node/1114>.

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VVOB celebrates 30 years of existence (1982-2012).



Dear reader,

We are happy to invite you to contribute to this newsletter. Is there an activity in your province, in your organisation, in your institute that you would like to report about or that you would like to announce to the readers? The reported events should be related to innovative education and should also be interesting for people outside the institute and possibly outside the province.

Because of the limited space we cannot guarantee your contribution will be printed but we will add it to our website for sure. Please send your contributions to our head office preferably via e-mail to vvobnewsletter@gmail.com

VVOB PROGRAMME 2008-2013

(FLEMISH ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - VVOB)



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