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**Educational Game Corner,**  
and **Food for Thought**

Stakeholder in the picture •



# VVOB

## education for development

### VVOB =

VVOB 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.

### ICT TOOLS OF THE QUARTER

**Mind Mapping:** The all-time favorite for educators and educational managers alike: Digital Mind Mapping tools allow to "map your mind", to get a discussion started, to brainstorm, to classify, to take notes, to summarize, ... The tool is used by teachers and learners in classroom situations, during meetings, in reports, ...

Freeware can be downloaded from the following websites:

[http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)

**Google sites:** Google sites provides a plentiful of templates to set up a platform for sharing and collaboration. Whether you want a classroom website, a platform to share about school fieldtrips, an intranet for colleagues of your department, or a library for your published papers, for all of that you can start with Google sites for free.

Have a look at the online platform for research on education innovation, set up by the members of the VVOB research group: <https://sites.google.com/site/rgvvob/>

#### Links of the quarter

<http://giaovien.net> (Vietnamese)

This website is initiated by the Centre For Teachers (CENTEA) and aims to be a platform by and for teachers. The objective of the website is to support teachers in their daily teaching practice, to share and collaborate.

<http://www.cego.be> (Dutch/English)

This is the website of the Centre for Experiential Education with whom VVOB cooperates in designing the second methodological teacher training module on corner work.

<http://www.unescoapceiu.org> (Korean/English)

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Centre for Education for International Understanding and VVOB jointly support a teacher trainer of Vietnam to participate in a training workshop on Education for International Understanding.

ASEAN Environmental Education Inventory Database (English)

<http://aeeid.aseansec.org> (English)

The ASEAN Environmental Education Inventory Database is a rich resource for Environmental Education in the Southeast Asian region.

<http://www.unesco.org/education/tlsf/> (English)

UNESCO Teaching and Learning For a Sustainable Future is an online training programme for teachers on Education for Sustainable Development. Unexpected outcomes

### 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

### UNEXPECTED OUTCOME:

At the start of the professional development programme on ICT for ATL, VVOB established an ICT core group in all TTIs. The only selection criteria were to have teacher trainers who were ICT enthusiasts (and not technical experts per se), who were willing to share their experiences and who were representing different subject departments of the TTI. In Nghe An TTI all the (number) members of the ICT core group are female. This makes that for the multiplication workshops it is now a group of experienced, only female experts, who introduce their peers and colleagues in the use of ICT for Active Teaching and Learning.

### PUBLICATIONS – PAPERS

*Professional Development on Integration of ICT in Teaching Practice. VVOB Step by Step Professional Development Programme.*

Vietnamese: [http://www.vvob.be/vietnam/files/ProfessionalDevelopment\\_CapacityBuildingICTIntegration\\_VN.pdf](http://www.vvob.be/vietnam/files/ProfessionalDevelopment_CapacityBuildingICTIntegration_VN.pdf)

English: <http://www.vvob.be/vietnam/files/ProfessionalDevelopment-CapacityBuildingICTIntegration.pdf>

*Factors Influencing Integration of ICT in Higher Education in Vietnam*

English: [http://www.vvob.be/vietnam/files/SubmissionGlobalLearnJP\\_v2.pdf](http://www.vvob.be/vietnam/files/SubmissionGlobalLearnJP_v2.pdf)

*Using Understanding by Design (UbD) Framework and Modeling with Concept maps, Spreadsheets and Hypermedia in EFL lesson plan design*

English: [http://www.vvob.be/vietnam/files/Paper3\\_UsingUbDandmodellinginEFLclass.pdf](http://www.vvob.be/vietnam/files/Paper3_UsingUbDandmodellinginEFLclass.pdf)



### A DAY AT THE RIVER BANK OF QUANG NGAI

Very early in the morning of Wednesday 31 March a group of 20 excited students gathered in a classroom of Phạm Văn Đồng Teacher Training University in Quang Ngai City.

Teachers provided some introduction to the activity that was bound to happen that day: a try-out of a module for outdoor activities related to Biology and Chemistry with the title "Investigation of pollution issues at Tra Khuc River - the stretch from the Sugar Factory to Tra Khuc Bridge 2". The location for this try-out activity was set at the bank of the Tra Khuc river, which is the home of the 'Ca Bong'. These tiny little fish are one of the main food specialties of the province.

The module has been designed applying the Problem Based Learning approach. VVOB is supporting Teacher Training Institutes (TTIs) in applying Problem Based Learning (PBL) for the organization of outdoor activities. In short, Problem Based Learning means that students learn from the results of the process of solving problems. This approach is particularly useful for the organization of outdoor activities, although it is not limited to those.

After the short introduction delivered by their teachers, the students - who themselves will be a teacher one day - mounted the bus to arrive 10 minutes later at the river bank. While the rising sun was clearly promising a hot day, the students started their assignments in different groups. One of the assignments was to collect water samples from the river and to test the water quality by using some chemicals and specific devices. The groups had to decide themselves how to organize the tests.

After collecting the samples, conducting tests and interviewing a number of residents living along the river bank, the students looked for some shadow in a nearby park to prepare the presentation of the results. Finally some volunteers of each group presented the results of their activities.

One of the students entrusted the VVOB staff attending the try-out that this is for sure the kind of activity she wants to organize for her students later on.





## Activities of the past quarter

### DOETs

In February a **study tour was organized for school principals**. It was the conclusion to the Singapore training (**7 topics for school principals**) which was delivered in collaboration with NIEM. During this study tour, the participants attended a workshop on “ATL for school principals” and visited some pilots schools in Nghe An or Quang Ninh province.

In March the DOET core groups were trained (**ToT**) to deliver an “**ICT for ATL**” training.

In April, after having been certified, the 5 DOET core groups started **multiplying the ICT for ATL training** in each district.

Still in April, NIEM's lecturers, in collaboration with WOB and an external consultant, **revised and improved the “ATL for school principals”** training. The feedback collected during the Study Tour (see above) were incorporated in this revised version.

Finally in May the DOETs core groups were trained to deliver an “**ATL for school principals**” training in their respective provinces. This training was organized in collaboration with NIEM.



### TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTES

At the start of 2010, ICT core group members were introduced in **facilitation techniques** to prepare for the multiplication workshops on integration of ICT in teaching and learning. A group of about 70 trained experts from the ICT core group started **multiplying trainings and workshops on ICT for ATL**.

During a **workshop on e-learning**, ICT core group members and ICT enthusiasts came to a common understanding of the concept of e-learning in the higher education context in Vietnam. During the **workshop on ICT for sharing and collaboration**, the same ICT core group got an introduction in web 2.0 tools and put their heads together to set up online platforms to share their experiences of integrating ICT and to collaborate on projects.

28 teacher trainers from the ICT core group and methodology core group were consulted in the **revision process of the ICT for ATL toolkit**. The toolkit will be further developed in collaboration with the ADB project from the MOET targeting the most disadvantaged regions in Vietnam.

The new members of the research group doing research on integration of ICT attended the **Global Learn Asia-Pacific 2010 conference**. Two papers by WOB Vietnam were presented during the conference.

Between January and March, each institute organized a **try-out of the modules** that were developed during the sharing workshop together with students.

In January, **11 Mini-project owners** gathered in Hanoi and received expert feedback on the implementation of their projects and a short training in **Results Based Management**.

In March, the **newly established methodology core groups** were consulted on the outline of the **teacher training manual on Problem-Based Learning** by Dr. Le Huy Hoang from the Hanoi National University of Education.

In March, it was agreed to broaden the developed ICT instructional technology plans to cover **the process of education innovation** in the TTIs in general. Aspects of teaching methodology and pedagogic change initiatives now have a more central place in the planning documents.

The research group is extended with 10 extra teacher trainers who are currently setting up research on education innovation processes taking place in their respective TTIs. A **research skills workshop** took place in Hanoi in April to give some orientation to the research group. An online platform (<https://sites.google.com/site/rgvvob/>) should encourage the members to share and collaborate.



### MASS ORGANIZATIONS

In January, Provincial Core Group members were introduced to **Facilitation & Communication** skills to prepare for the **multiplication workshops on mobilization of family and community participation for education support**.

In March, a workshop on **Life Skills for Youth** was organized to introduce concepts, roles of stakeholders and benefits to provincial core groups so that provinces are ready for the **multiplication workshops on integration of parent support for education of children**.

The booklet “**Mobilization of families’ and community’s participation in children’s active learning**” has been finalized in terms of content and design. The launch of the publication will follow soon..

June saw the provincial **Mid-term review** of the pilot model “**Educational clubs**” with participation of mass organizations and representatives, school principles and club members.





## Activities planned for the next quarter

| Activity   | Date - Location               | Participants                                  |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Certification DOETs core groups<br>"ATL for school principals" | July – DOETs in 5 provinces   | DOETs core groups                             |
| Multiplication "ATL for school principals"                     | July – 5 provinces            | Vice-school principals and school principals  |
| Training of Trainers "Soft skills training 1"                  | August - Hanoi                | DOETs core groups                             |
| Certification DOETs core groups "Soft skills training 1"       | August – DOETs in 5 provinces | DOETs core groups                             |
| Multiplication "Soft skills training 1"                        | September – 5 provinces       | Vice- school principals and school principals |

DOETs

| Activity  | Date - Location                                 | Participants  |
|---|---|---|
| Revision test ICT4ATL   | July 2010 – 5 provinces                         | Trained Teacher Trainers ICT 4 ATL<br>multiplication WS |
| Research skills training  | Summer - Hanoi                                  | Members of the research group                           |
| Workshop Peer-coaching  | September 2010                                  | Members ICT- and methodology core group.                |
| 10th Asia-Pacific Training Workshop on Education<br>for International Understanding                                     | 24/06/10–03/07/10<br>– Seoul, Republic of Korea | One member of methodology core group<br>Quang Nam       |
| ESD in Action Workshop  | 12–14 July – Bangkok, Thailand                  | 5 new research group members                            |
| Monitoring workshop for mini-project owners   | 20–21 July - Hanoi                              | 11 Mini-project owners                                  |
| Case studies on the use of innovative teaching<br>and learning methodologies  | August 2010 – 5 provinces                       | PPU members + selected research group<br>members        |
| Training of teachers trainers at teacher training<br>institutes in Problem-Based Learning by<br>methodology core groups | August 2010 – 5 provinces                       | Interested teacher trainers in 5 institutes             |

TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTES

| Activity   | Date - Location                   | Participants  |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Multiplication of pilot model "Educational Clubs"<br>in selected districts   | June-July - 5 provinces           | WU members at provincial, district and<br>commune level |
| Workshop "Club monthly meeting facilitation"                                 | Week 3 of July - Nghe An province | Provincial and district core groups                     |
| Multiplication of "club monthly meeting<br>facilitation" at grassroots level | August - The provincial WU        | WU members at provincial, district and<br>commune level |

MASS ORGANIZATIONS



As one of the capacity building activities of the Social Participation (SP) component, a Training of Trainers (ToT) course on "Life Skills for youth" was organized in March 2010 for SP provincial core members. The course not only provided participants with knowledge on Life Skills including Communication and Interpersonal Skills, Decision-Making and Critical Thinking Skills, Coping and Self-Management Skills, but also gave them the chance to practice these skills through a variety of fun educational games.

Within this newsletter, we would like to share with you one of the educational games that made us thrilled. The game which is called Active Listening is simple and easy to play. This is how it works:

**Name:** Active Listening

**Duration:** 20 minutes

**How to play:** Participants are divided into two groups and sit down along 2 parallel lines, in pairs. The members of Group 1 describe a picture which is shown only to them. The members of Group 2 try to draw this based on the description of the other group. During the 1st round, the pairs sit facing each other's while during the 2nd play through they will sit back to back.

**Questions for reflection after the game:**

- Which round is more difficult and why?
- Which round has more correct drawings and why?
- What do you think the meaning of the game is?

**Conclusion:**

In order to achieve desirable outcomes, message transmission as well as receiving must be precise. Besides verbal language, sign/body language is also important.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In this issue we will introduce two terms between which people are often confused: **sex and gender**

**Gender** is used to describe those characteristics of women and men, which are socially constructed. People are born female or male but learn to be girls and boys who grow into women and men. Each culture defines a set of characteristics and behaviors which are seen as masculine or feminine. Since they are socially constructed, they can change over time.

**Sex** refers to the biological characteristics that define humans as female or male e.g. chromosomes, hormonal profiles, internal and external sex organs. While someone's sex can not be changed, certain sexual characteristics can be altered to resemble that of the other sex through surgery.



## INDICATE FOR EACH OF THE BELOW ITEMS IF IT IS RELATED TO SEX OR GENDER:

| No  | Items   | Sex related | Gender related |
|-----|---|-------------|----------------|
| 1.  | Women can breastfeed  |             |                |
| 2.  | Men often have a moustache  |             |                |
| 3.  | Women have a monthly period   |             |                |
| 4.  | Men often have larger bones than women  |             |                |
| 5.  | Women can secrete milk, men can not   |             |                |
| 6.  | Men have short hair, women have long hair                                     |             |                |
| 7.  | Women are gentle, men are strong  |             |                |
| 8.  | Men often smoke and drink wine  |             |                |
| 9.  | Women often like housework  |             |                |
| 10. | Women and men are equal in making decisions related to family and social life |             |                |

You can find the correct answers on the website of VVOB Vietnam [www.vvob.be/vietnam](http://www.vvob.be/vietnam)



VVOB is pleased to introduce you to Mr. Nguyen Van Loc – the coordinator of the Education Management Component at Quang Nam DOET.

Quang Nam DOET has proven to be an active and reliable partner in the cooperation with VVOB. The enthusiasm, professional attitude and hard work of Mr. Nguyen Van Loc can not be overstated in that respect. Whoever meets him for the first time will be impressed by his gentle smile and outgoing personality.

During a recent training of VVOB in Hanoi, we took the opportunity to talk to him about workshops on ICT for ATL that VVOB recently deployed to the provinces.

### 1. Please tell us something about yourself and your work with VVOB?

My name is Nguyen Van Loc, Deputy Head of the Department of Secondary Education – Quang Nam DOET, in charge specifically of lower secondary education. I have been working with VVOB since 2009 in the capacity of provincial coordinator of the education management component.

### 2. We understand that you combine the function of provincial coordinator with the one of core trainer. What are the advantages and disadvantages of doing so?

It is convenient for me to be in charge of the planning and the training content, to directly take part in the selection of our core groups, to supervise the training quality and to take the lead in the multiplication process at provincial level. The only difficulty is to arrange the time because I am quite busy with my other professional work in the Department.

### 3. Can you tell us something more about the Trainer-of-Trainers training on ICT for ATL?

This training is necessary and practical. The content is very useful and the methodology is very effective. It also contributes to sustainability at the local level because VVOB has helped us to train the trainers on ICT for ATL. The training is followed by a pilot and afterwards by multiplication in the province towards lower secondary teachers. Those teachers in turn will share their experience with other colleagues. The effects of such activities will spread like when we throw a stone into the water.

### 4. Can you share with us the results of pilot and multiplication classes in the province?

So far, our province has completed 18 classes with a total of 540 students. After the training, most students were able to use the software actively while teaching specific lessons. As target group, we selected principals, vice-principals and heads of subjects with the aim that those core groups will deliver the training to their colleagues at school. We also want to build an Open Resource Centre. For that reason we requested each participating school for a lesson plan on the application of one learning software.

### 5. How do you assess the partnership with VVOB ?

We are very grateful for all VVOB's support. This is a great and efficient collaboration. I am happy that VVOB always appreciates our contribution in the design and implementation of programme activities. VVOB is also very supportive to our initiatives. For example, after the training for principals under the Vietnam-Singapore programme, VVOB has supported our initiative of expanding the training to our educational managers in DOET and BOETs.

After the pilot and multiplication of ICT for ATL, we would like to hold a teaching contest using ICT for ATL and we hope to receive continued support from VVOB.

I personally find it very pleasant to work with VVOB in general and the EM component in particular. Please send my sincere thanks to them.

### 6. Do you have anything else to share?

I want to reiterate that the support from VVOB to us is extremely practical and valuable. Let's hope for good results in 2010 and good prospects for cooperation for the second phase of the programme from 2011 to 2013. Good luck to the cooperation between Quang Nam DOET and VVOB!

Thank you.





## Dear readers,

You arrived at the end of the first newsletter of the education programme of VVOB Vietnam. We did not compile this newsletter because we have spare time on our hands. On top of our usually full calendar, we are already planning for the next three years. Our programme is nearing the end of its first phase and before starting the next three years a lot of planning, explaining and budgeting has to be done.

So you can imagine we have thought long and hard before deciding to spend the time we do not have on this newsletter. Why are we doing this to ourselves? Because we believe that this (small) extra effort will allow our work to become more effective. By sharing our plans and experiences we hope that more people will get involved, lessons learned can be widely used and people who are interested can attend our planned activities.

The contributions to this first newsletter are almost all from our team-members. But our goal is not to fill 14 more of these. We want to provide an opportunity to our partners in the 5 provinces to share relevant information. This would make your efforts more effective. So you are very welcome to send us your contributions. We hope we will receive so many that there will not be enough space, but we can provide a full list on our website. When I am writing this, I do not know yet what it will look like and I do not know all the content yet, but I hope you liked it.

Let us know.

The VVOB team

### STRATEGIC PARTNERS:

- MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INVESTMENT (MPI)
- MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING (MOET)
- MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MARD)
- VIETNAM NATIONAL WOMEN'S UNION (VWU)



## 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](mailto:vvobnewsletter@gmail.com)