

Dear readers,

This is the second newsletter of the education programme of VVOB Vietnam. We want to thank you for your positive reactions to our first newsletter. We hope that by sharing our plans and experiences, more people will get involved, lessons learned can be widely used and people who are interested can attend our planned activities.

The past months have been very busy for our team, the coming weeks will not be different. We are almost at the end of our first phase and busy making sure the balance of our budget is being well spent for activities mainly organized by our partners in the five provinces. You can find an overview of these activities and the ones that are still planned for this year, in the center pages of this newsletter. One of the upcoming events, organized in the five TTIs is a bit special: we want to use the opportunity of the World AIDS Day to create more awareness, especially about stigma attached to HIV and AIDS, with the students of the colleges. The WU, YU and colleges are the main organizers. At the same time we are – with a lot of input from all our partners – preparing the start of the second phase. The planning workshop on 27 November is an important step in this process.

The contributions for this newsletter are coming mostly from our team-members. But our goal is also to provide an opportunity to our partners in the 5 provinces to share relevant information. So we invite you to send us your contributions. If we receive too many for this brief newsletter we will provide space on our website.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. Let us know.

The VVOB team

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 VIỆT NAM

Add: Phòng 307 A3, Nhà khách Thảo Viên
Số 1B Bắc Sơn, Ngọc Hà, Ba Đình, Hà Nội
Tel: 84-4 3.848 9394
Fax: 84-4 3.734 7290
Website: www.vvob.be/vietnam

VVOB PROGRAMME 2008-2013

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

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)



Quarterly NEWSLETTER



2. VVOB is...
3. STUDY ON THE BASIS FOR ATL DEVELOPMENT IN DOET AND IN LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION

4. ACTIVITIES OF PAST QUARTER

5. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

6. EDUCATIONAL GAME CORNER
7. STAKEHOLDER IN THE PICTURE



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.

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

ICT TOOLS OF THE QUARTER

Vietnamese toolkit ICT for Active Teaching and Learning is ready

After many meetings with the software designers, finally VVOB can launch the interactive e-course on ICT for Active Teaching and Learning. This toolbox is an introduction to some tools which can be used for Active Teaching and Learning (ATL). The starting point of the selection of these tools is that they are easy to use by teachers and learners, easy to find and (freely) available. The tools all have the potential to innovate and/or transform teaching and learning practice. The different tools can for example support collaborative learning, problem solving, meaningful learning, ...

The following tools and instructional designs are introduced in this toolkit:

- Mind Mapping
- Photo Story Telling
- Shared Writing
- Simulation
- Practice and Drill
- Webquest
- Presentation

Each module gives a short introduction to a particular tool and instructional design. It includes information on where to find the resources, examples of/ideas for use in teaching and learning practice, reflections on the added value of the tools by education practitioners, and illustrative example materials.

The e-learning collection can be used:

- As a self-study package on ICT for ATL
- As a training tool;
- As a stimulus for collaborative work;
- As a starting point for reflecting on pedagogy and technology enhanced instructional design;
- To access resources that support learning objectives

Links of the quarter

VVOB Vietnam online glossary

<http://www.vvob.be/vietnam/?q=en/glossary>

UNEXPECTED OUTCOME

VVOB collaborates with MOET on Project in Most Disadvantaged Areas

In the process of developing the toolkit on ICT for Active Teaching and Learning (ATL), VVOB gets more and more involved in the LSE for the Most Disadvantaged Regions Project of the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) of Vietnam. Several meetings took place to reflect on a training programme for 170 key trainers from 17 provinces participating in the project. Inspired by the VVOB approach on teacher professional development on integration of ICT in teaching and learning, experts from Hanoi National University of Education designed a 6-day training workshop where different ICTs are introduced to key trainers. VVOB's learning materials on integration of ICT in teaching and learning are provided to support this training programme.

Two coordinators of the VVOB education programme recently attended the workshops for key trainers in Nghe An and Ninh Thuan, where they introduced these materials and where they announced the upcoming launch of the ICT 4 ATL toolkit. The toolkit will be available for all key trainers as a supplementary self-study package on integration of ICT in education.

Key trainers and teachers from different remote and disadvantaged areas like Lao Cai, Gia Lai, Yen Bai and Kontum already requested additional materials to support the trainings in their respective provinces. VVOB did send them ICT basis skills manuals, a video collection of examples from primary to upper secondary education, the ICT 4 ATL toolkit and VVOB's lesson observation/assessment tool.

Papers and publications

- * Reference to conference proceedings Thai Nguyen TTI "ATL and integration of ICT in education"
- * Reference to conference proceedings Nghe An TTI "Publication on 65 years of school foundation of the former interzone."
- * Reference to conference proceedings Quang Nam TTI "Innovating the teaching and learning pedagogy toward ATL"
- * Reference to conference proceedings Quang Ngai TTI "Improving the learning capacity of students"

Study on the basis for ATL DEVELOPMENT

IN DOET AND IN LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION

Introduction

In October and November 2010 VVOB will visit the DOET-s and three schools for Secondary Lower Education in each of the five provinces to study the context and the basic conditions for ATL at DOET and at school level, and the preconditions for ATL use at school level.

The study is carried out to find out what the ATL situation is in lower secondary schools in the five provinces, to investigate the advantages as well as the disadvantages for the ATL application in secondary schools in different urban, rural and remote areas and what possible options are for improvement of the use of ATL.

School site selection

In order to have an overview of the ATL situation in the 5 selected provinces, and taking the various conditions and differences of the schools in the process of using ATL into consideration, 3 secondary schools were chosen in 3 different areas: one in the city, one in the countryside and one in the remote/mountainous area. Knowing the advantages and disadvantages of these various schools will enable VVOB to provide appropriate support for the ATL enhancement. Besides supports to improve the capacity of teachers and school managers in applying ATL within school, VVOB also supports mass organizations such as women's union to set up parents' clubs, in which parents explore the concepts and practices of ATL. In a number of communes these parents' clubs are operating with the support of VVOB. Where possible and in order to have a more comprehensive picture of child friendly school management, we selected some of these demonstration communes for our survey.



Methodology

This study employs the qualitative approach with semi-structured interviews with DOETs and school principals/management teams and the Lesson Observation/Assessment Tool (LOAT) during the classroom visits/observation as the main data collection tools.

Progress of the activities

In October DOET-s and schools in Quang Ninh and Thai Nguyen were visited. Quang Ngai, Quang Nam and Nghe An will follow in November 2010.

The report of the results of the survey is expected in December 2010.

Visit of the DIRECTOR GENERAL

VVOB Director-General Mr. Bart Dewaele made his first visit to Vietnam in September this year. The Director-General was accompanied by Mrs. Kristine Smets, our Programme Officer for Vietnam in Brussels. In Hanoi they met representatives of the MOET and our donor DGD. They spend a lot of time listening to the VVOB personnel explaining their present work and the preparations for phase 2. The Director made sure everyone could discuss their personal/personnel issues with him in person.

On September 7 some of the VVOB team traveled with the Director to Da Nang. After an early dinner and a little delay because of sudden heavy rain we travelled on to Quang Nam. In the morning of September 8 the TTI of Quang Nam allowed us to attend a very interesting meeting of the Education Innovation Plan Board. We made a long tour through the institute which ended by the beautiful new guesthouse. Our Director wanted to visit a school, so after a wonderful lunch the DOET accommodated this request by arranging for a visit to a secondary school. Our Director had a long discussion with the principal and vice-principal. In the evening we visited the Club Education and Life of Tien Xuan 1 hamlet, Tam Anh Nam Commune. The meeting was a bit delayed because of power cut off, but this did not diminish the enthusiasm of the singers and the chair woman (also one of the singers). After one and a half hour we were sorry to have to leave the club, the members were still debating education objectives for their children.



Early next day we left to the South to visit the VVOB Agricultural Extension Programme. In HCMC we met our partners of IAS after which we travelled on to Can Tho. The next morning we travelled to Soc Trang where we had an interesting meeting with representatives of DARD, AEC, FA and WU. We received a friendly welcome by the Farmers' club of Dong Tam which consists of only female farmers since it is a Women's Union Club. A farmer showed us how he is growing a fungus which is used as an environmentally friendly insecticide by the members of the Farmers' Club. After yet another excellent meal, we went back for a last meeting with MDI in Can Tho University. Our director and programme officer left for Brussels on Saturday, exhausted but happy with what they saw and heard. Mr. Bart Dewaele is looking forward to bringing his family on a holiday visit to Vietnam.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

After being trained in collaboration with NIEM, in August the DOET core groups delivered the last multiplication trainings on "ATL for school management". In all districts of the five provinces school managers of LSE have been trained on this subject. In September five DOET core groups were trained by consultants of NIEM to deliver trainings on "Innovation in Evaluation". These DOET core groups will start soon to deliver this training in each district of the five provinces.

A field study in the five provinces is carried out to find out what the ATL situation is in lower secondary schools in the five provinces, to investigate the advantages as well as the disadvantages for the ATL application in secondary schools in different urban, rural and remote areas and what possible options are for improvement of the use of ATL.

See page 3.


MASS ORGANISATIONS

To strengthen the capacity of women union related to the community mobilization in education support there was a Workshop on "Organization of Club activities" with 40 participants from provincial core-group and extended districts. The workshop focuses on coaching practical skills of facilitating as well as finalizing the basic topics for monthly club meetings. The workshop also benefited the education team of the Women's Museum to develop and run the Discovery room, a type of a child friendly library, with technical pro-ATL assistance provided by VVOB Vietnam.

Multiplication of this workshop for district level was carried-out in August and Septembers.

In parallel a club manual for the Management Board is being developed with objective to equip the Women's Union for not only running the Education clubs but also integrating these topics into the existing clubs.

TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTES

In June, UNESCO Bangkok, Hanoi University of Education and VVOB Vietnam jointly organized the UNESCO Next Generation Curriculum Development workshop. Two educational managers from each TTI were invited to get an introduction in curriculum development on integration of ICT. The methodology core group met in Tam Dao to discuss the final teacher training manual on Problem Based Learning and the outline of the manual on Corner Work.

In July, 4 research group members working on environmental education and a representative from the MOET, participated in the Regional Seminar on Education for Sustainable Development in Action, organized by UNESCO in Bangkok. Two weeks later the entire research group gathered in Hanoi to participate in a training on Action Research. Also in July, a second monitoring workshop with mini-projects owners was organized in Hanoi, where the owners presented progress and received expert feedback.

In August, as part of the M&E of the programme, VVOB visited the 5 institutes to conduct focus group discussions with managers, lecturers and students. At the end of the month multiplication trainings on Problem Based Learning have been organized at 4 institutes; Nghe An conducted its training in September.

In September, VVOB coordinators attended Education Innovation Plan board meetings in the five partner TTIs where topics like professional development, incentives, infrastructure and multiplication workshops were discussed. In the first week of October educational managers of the five TTIs travelled to Quang Ninh TTI and Quang Nam TTI to learn and share on the education innovation processes. During this TTI Open Door Study Tour, the colleges presented their education innovation plan for 2011-2012.

All TTIs are still organising trainings and workshops on Basic ICT skills, ICT for ATL, ICT for sharing and collaboration, and e-learning for teacher trainers and student teachers... An Environmental Education Basic Course is being organized in Thai Nguyen for participants from Thai Nguyen, Quang Ninh and Nghe An. Right after this the methodology core group will discuss the final version of the teacher training manual on Corner Work.



Activities planned for THE NEXT QUARTER

Activity	Date - Location	Participants
Conference "Education for Human development"	20-25 October 2010, Bangkok	10 staff members of DOET and 3 cooperators of VVOB
Multiplication "Innovation in evaluation"	October/November 2010, five provinces	School management of LSE
Training of Trainers "Soft skills for school managers"	15-17 November 2010, Tayho Hotel, Hanoi	DOET Core groups
Multiplication "Soft skills for school managers"	November/December 2010, five provinces	School management of LSE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

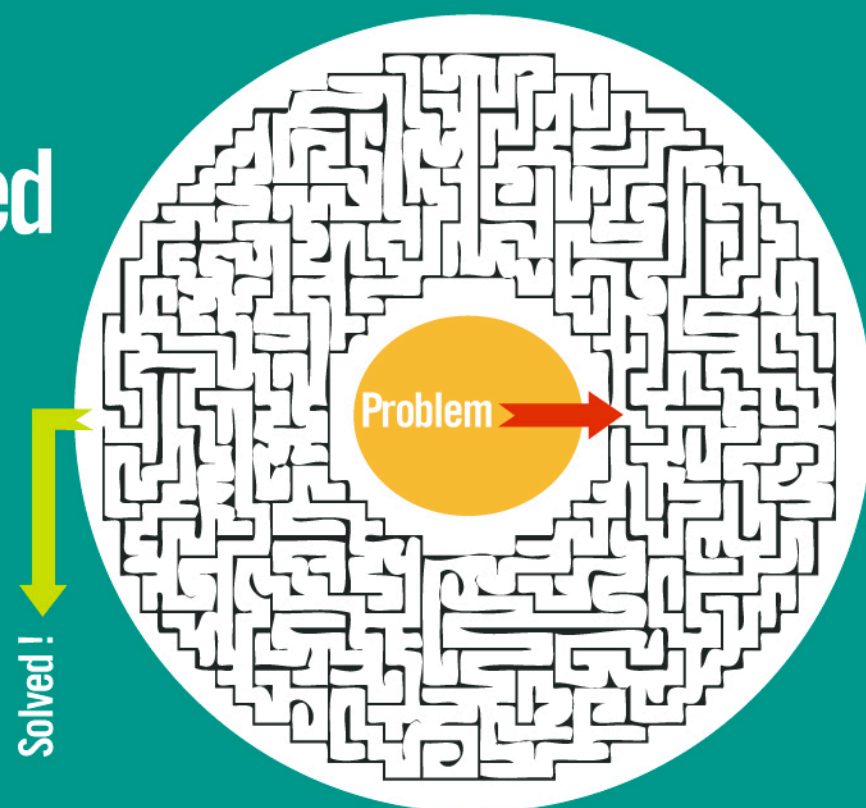
Activity	Date - Location	Participants
Study tour Korea	1-6 November- Seoul, Korea	Education managers TTIs MOET representative
Revision test ICT4ATL	December 2010-Provincial TTIs	Trained Teacher Trainers ICT 4 ATL multiplication WS
Launching Toolkit ICT4ATL	December 2010-Hanoi	Representatives TTIs, ICT core group members, ...

TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTES

Activity	Date - Location	Participants
Support the setting up of discovery room – a child friendly library	18 October 2010 Women's Museum	Women's museum
Situation analysis for phase II	October and November 2010- 5 provinces	PPU, District women's union, Commune women's union, Education clubs, and Education support boards
Operation of Education clubs	October – December 2010- 5 provinces	Parents and women's unions at provincial, district and commune levels

MASS ORGANISATIONS

Problem-Based Learning



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Facts about HIV and AIDS

Did you know that?

- HIV and AIDS are not the same. Often, the acronyms HIV and AIDS are used together but they are not one and the same things. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS is a disease in which the body's immune system breaks down and is unable to fight off certain infections, known as "opportunistic infections," and other illnesses that take advantage of a weakened immune system. It can take up to 12 years after HIV infection before people develop AIDS.
- Most people infected with HIV don't know because they have not been tested. As a result they can be spreading the virus to other without being aware of it.
- AIDS has replaced malaria and tuberculosis as the world's deadliest infectious disease among adults and is the fourth leading cause of death worldwide.
- There has never been a case where a person was infected by a household member, relative, co-worker, or friend through casual or everyday contact such as sharing eating utensils and bathroom facilities or hugging and kissing.
- Mosquitoes, fleas, and other insects do not transmit HIV.
- Having a sexually transmitted disease can increase your risk of acquiring and transmitting HIV. This is especially true whether you have open sores or breaks in the skin (as with e.g. syphilis and herpes).
- Women are at greater risk of HIV infection through vaginal sex than men, although the virus can also be transmitted from women to men.
- The red ribbon was created by a number of artists in New York in 1991. They wished to create a visual symbol to demonstrate compassion for people living with AIDS and their caregivers. Inspired by the yellow ribbons honoring American soldiers serving in the Gulf war, the color red was chosen for its "connection to blood and the idea of passion -- not only anger, but love, like a valentine."
- Studies from around the world show that young people provided with correct information, knowledge and skills, will not only delay starting their sexual activity, but once they start having sex, they will also be more likely to protect themselves against sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV



Stakeholder in the picture

We would like to introduce Mrs. Hua Thi Chau Giang, Provincial Coordinator of Social Participation component – Head of Family-Society Department of Thai Nguyen's Women's Union (WU). The cooperation between VVOB Vietnam and the WU of Thai Nguyen has been successful also thanks to the determination and leadership of Mrs. Chau Giang. The followings are some of her thoughts about piloting the model of "Education & Life skills" clubs in Thai Nguyen province.



1. The WU of Thai Nguyen province has been piloting a model of "Education and Life skills" club provincial-wide. Could you comment on the process?

In 2009, the pilot model was established in Dac Son commune (Pho Yen district). After a year of operation, review and evaluation, the Provincial WU decided to multiply the model to 12 communes in 6 out of 9 districts. Up to now, the number of clubs has increased to 28 with 1400 members, including 453 male members.

Several factors facilitated the implementation process namely the thorough guidance of local Municipal Communist Party, the strong collaboration of local authorities and related government agencies, the devotion, enthusiasm, and responsibilities of WU's officers at all levels. In addition, an Education Support Board (ESB) is established in each commune, which members include representatives from local authorities, school, and organizations such as WU, Youth Union, Association for Promoting Education, etc. This ESB clearly assigns specific duties to personnel, develops a detailed plan and thus plays an active role in the Child friendly school (CFS) movement.

However, obstacles still remain, affecting the process negatively. Some of the main challenges are different educational background, low standard of living, scattered population, insufficiently equipped venue; irregular attendances of club members; misconception that children education is the responsibility of Education Sector solely, etc.

To overcome these challenges ESB tried to boost advocacy, communication, monitoring club's activities as well as resource mobilization in support of education.

2. Could you share with us your experience in supporting and M&E to ensure the quality of club's activities?

Both ESB and Club Management Board (CMB) of "Education and Life skills" club have clearly defined their responsibilities and enthusiastically taken initiatives to organize activities suitable to local context. However, insufficient knowledge of Active Teaching and Learning (ATL) together with limitations in facilitation skills is limiting factors.

Therefore, to ensure the quality of club's activities, the Standing Board of Provincial WU has assigned its officers to monitor specific districts. These officers are cooperating with district WU in the M&E of club's activities and promptly resolving problems at grassroots levels. They report the progress in monthly office meetings and submit M&E reports to provincial coordinators. This has become a regular activity of the program unit, which helps to improve the quality of club's activities at grassroots levels.

3. Can you share any valuable lessons regarding the operation of pilot club?

As this is a newly implemented activity, I myself find it necessary to study further and accumulate much more experience to consult with the Standing Board of Provincial WU. If we want to have effective clubs I believe three important factors require intensive attention: First, advocacy about the positive effects of the CFS movements as well as the practical meanings of the clubs must be thorough, to all communities, and especially to women.

Second, Municipal Communist Party and local authorities should pay attention, provide regular guidance and coordinate related agencies. Third, WU officers at all levels are dynamic, responsible and well-known within the community, especially in organizing community-based activities.

Thank you very much! Let us look forward to a continued successful cooperation between VVOB Vietnam and the WU of Thai Nguyen in the upcoming Phase II.