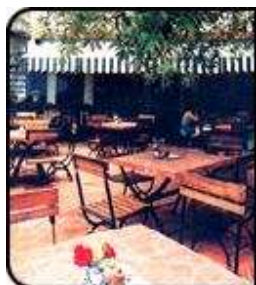


UNV in Vietnam : Projects



Name:
Strengthening the Capacity of the Hoa Sua Training School
Number:
VIE/98/V01
Site:
Hanoi
Start Date:
February 1998
End Date:
November 2002
UNV Inputs:
\$310,000
Total Budget:
\$310,000
Executing Agency:
UNV
Implementing Agency:
Hoa Sua Vocational Training School
Government Counterpart:
Ministry of Education and Training

Strengthening the Capacity of the Hoa Sua Vocational Training School

Hoa Sua Vocational Training School is a nonprofit training centre managed by Vietnamese women. The School was established in April 1995 by a group of retired teachers and a French/Vietnamese UNV, Ms Song Thu Bideaux Nguyen.

The School provides vocational training in Asian and European cooking, catering, patisserie, baking, domestic service, industrial sewing, embroidery and restaurant service for disadvantaged youth in Hanoi. In addition, during the six-month training program, students study primary education and foreign languages.

Because the School receives no government funding, it relies on the successful management of three income generating businesses - an outdoor cafe and restaurant, a bakery and a professional catering service - to cover the salaries of 89 staff, administration costs and scholarships for over 300 students.

UNV funds the project, which provides support for Hoa Sua's five-women management team, short-term UNISTAR volunteers and basic administration equipment.

With some 90% of graduate students placed in full-time work, Hoa Sua is possibly one of the most successful vocational training school in Viet Nam. By the end of 2000, 574 graduates had been placed in restaurants, embassies and private homes throughout the country.

In a few short years, due of the nature of the project and the quality of the food and service, Hoa Sua restaurant has become one of the most popular eating places in Hanoi. And "Trained at Hoa Sua" is now a top selling point for job seekers. The School has also built an extensive network of supporters, including European NGOs and catering schools, cultural organizations, embassies and volunteer chefs.

Nevertheless, despite this success, UNV Song Thu says they are reluctant to expand the "business".

"While we could easily grow into a thriving business, we shouldn't lose sight of our goals: to provide high quality, vocational training to disadvantaged kids. A new building for the School would be nice, but we are not planning a chain of Hoa Sua restaurants."

