



Welcome message

The UNV programme in Viet Nam saw many changes in 2006. In this annual report we will focus on our four ongoing projects. We will also report from the two International Volunteer Day events, which were celebrated in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Last year UNV mobilized 116 volunteers, of which 40 were national ones. This is a slight decrease from the year before, which is due to the closing of the Associate Volunteer modality. The majority served within the UN agencies, with UNDP being the largest recipient of UNVs. The feedback we receive from our partners is that the UNVs represent a highly skilled and motivated workforce.

The GIPA (Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS) project, which is being implemented by Vietnam's Women's Union, has now been running for more than a year. Both national and interna-

tional UNVs are involved in the project, some of them being People Living with HIV themselves. The 'English Language and IT Training for Employment' project at the Ba Vi Rehabilitation Centre for Women finished its first pilot phase last year, and a second phase was planned. Two partner organizations, Education for Development and Health Volunteers Overseas, received the MDGs Small Grants Facilities for their work in promoting of volunteerism for development. This has led to some exciting new partnerships.

In December 2006, Viet Nam was appointed the first pilot country in the roll out of the UN reform. UNV Country Office Team has participated in the planning of this important event, and we will share some of the exciting possibilities, and challenges, this concerted UN initiative has opened for the



Ms. Ida Munck
UNV Programme Officer

Country Office.

The Country Office Team would like to thank all the volunteers for their untiring work in helping Viet Nam to reach the Millennium Development Goals through their excellent work performances and continuous, practical solidarity with the most vulnerable people in the country.

“For the Love of Life” – marking WAD, IDD and IVD

On 3 December 2006 the Hanoi Disabled People's Association, UNV and other organizations co-organized the 'For the Love of Life' event in Ha Noi with the participation of about 2000 people.

This continued the tradition of marking the World Aids Day (WAD), International Day of Disabled People (IDD) and International Volunteers Day (IVD) in one large event.

The program, with its humane message, was organised for and by disabled people, people living with HIV/AIDS and enthusiastic volunteers who had actively supported the disadvantaged people as well as serving in other social fields.

Attending the event were leaders of the government, representatives from concerned ministries, the UN, international and na-

tional non-governmental organizations, disabled people, people living with HIV/AIDS and national and international volunteers.

There were 30 booths displaying products made by people with disabilities; information booths of organizations involving disabled people, people living with HIV/AIDS and other volunteers.

The program "ICT-Lighten the Belief", which introduced achievement of people with disabilities in learning and applying ICT also contributed to the overall success of the event.



International Volunteers Day 2006, Thong Nhat Park, Ha Noi

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UNV and the One UN Initiative in Viet Nam

Many of you may have noted that there has been an increasing demand from the member states on the UN to become a more efficient organization in assisting nations to reach their development goals. Indeed, the new Secretary General, Ban-Ki Moon, has made it one among his main objectives. The Vietnamese Government was one of the first to set forth such a demand in 2005, and in December 2006 Viet Nam was appointed the first pilot country in implementing the reform, known as the One UN Initiative.

UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA have been the lead agencies in the initiative, closely followed by UNV, UNAIDS and UNIFEM. The objective is to create one coherent body of the participating UN agencies, led by the Resident Coordinator. This will lead to a stronger and more effective assistance to the Vietnamese development agenda.

Other important benefits are increased cost

effectiveness and less duplication of interventions. Five areas have been identified as the most central in the change process. These are the joint programmes, joint budget, the one leader, one set of management practices and common premises (One UN house). In the case of Viet Nam, the communications officers have also joint forces to become the UN Communications Team.

The UNV Country Office was invited to participate in this exciting experiment right from the start, as the only Country Office so far. Team members have contributed to the discussions in all five areas, and our communications officer is a member of the UN Communications Team. The UNV team sees the initiative as a golden opportunity to promote Volunteerism for Development, V4D, in many of the UN programme areas, such as Youth, HIV and Popular Participation (civic engagement). It also opens for closer col-

laboration with all the UN agencies, with an increased number of joint programmes and of serving UNVs.

We do face important challenges as well, and in the Country Office we often ask ourselves if we have the skills needed to give meaningful input to the process, and, more importantly, if we have the time and resources sufficiently to do so. The Team sees UNV headquarters, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Viet Nam and UNDP as key partners in meeting the challenges.

The UNV Country Office Team is confident that the One UN Initiative will lead to a much-improved assistance to Viet Nam's endeavours in reaching its Millennium Development Goal commitments, and we are proud to be part of this important human experiment. We look forward to the implementation of the Initiative sometime later this year, and the positive impact it will have.

UNV annual workshop 2006

In October UN Volunteers Viet Nam organized its annual workshop in Tuan Chau Island, Quang Ninh Province.

The workshop was attended by 27 serving UNVs working in different areas, such as UNV management, cleaner production, environment, HIV/AIDS, ICT, development, health nutrition, communications, social work/children, and public health. This year, the workshop was facilitated in both English and Vietnamese languages.

During the workshop the participants had a chance to gather, to get to know each other, discuss volunteerism, and to share their life experiences and personal development processes.

They also joined a practical role-play exercise in the volunteer management fair, where they acted as supervisors, host agencies, UNV country office team and UNV Headquarters. This brought better understanding not only of the conditions of service but also in dealing with issues of volunteer management.

To broaden the knowledge of the volunteers, UNV invited guest speakers: Youth Union



UNVs are enthusiastic to join the Volunteer Management Fair section at the workshop

representative Ho Kien spoke about the Youth Union's role in promoting volunteerism as a mass organization. Mr. Huu Ngoc, a well known cultural researcher, gave a lecture on Vietnamese cultural identity and a senior researcher from CIVICUS spoke about the current status of the Civil Society in Viet Nam.

Besides empowering UNVs with updated information on UN systems and sharing professional experience, the retreat has built strong networks and linkage amongst UN Volunteers. Although they work for different organizations and in various professional fields, they share the same goals by volunteering for development.



English Language and IT training for Employment

August 2006 marked the end of the first pilot phase of the “English Language and IT training for Employment” managed by the Social Education and Labour Centre N0.2 in Ba Vi, with technical assistance from UNV and financial support from UNDP and the Finnish Embassy.

This initial pilot period included two consecutive IT and English courses. In total, 39 women have received 5 months training in IT essentials alongside 5 months English Language training. To ensure the sustainability of the project and to increase the ownership of the Centre, 11 Centre staff members received separate IT training.

To date one woman has successfully gained full-time employment as a social worker with in a national gender project. In addition, another woman was placed in an internship in a UN agency, while 4 women were offered additional IT training in Ha Noi to further improve their job opportunities.

The first pilot phase of the project was successful in terms of meeting the objective of providing the residents of the Centre and staff, with basic IT and English language skill training. In relation to job placement support and facilitation of the residents’ socio-professional reintegration there is still a lot to be done. A lesson learned is that assis-



An IT class at the Social Education and Labour Centre No.2, Ba Vi

tance in finding employment must be combined with stronger social support ,since staying away from drugs is a precondition for the women’s successful reintegration.

An internal project review recommended a 18-month project extension to improve the quality of the training provided by the project, to identify and develop strong linkages between the training and the labour market,

and to develop a model that can be sustainable. The partners agreed that the project would continue in a new form in 2007, with UNV contributing with a national volunteer and other technical assistance, including a volunteer management course. This course will assist the Centre to develop and manage its own volunteer scheme, ensuring the Centre’s future ownership of the project.

Local social organizations empowered to tap volunteers to improve the lives of disadvantaged children

The international NGO ‘Education for Development’ was one of the recipients’ of UNV’s MDG Small Grants Facilities in 2006, for its project in empowering volunteer involving organisations.

“Education for Development” (EFD) celebrates the successful implementation of the project “Enhancing Volunteer Contributions towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals” on Friday, 4 May 2007 in Ho Chi Minh City.

The project encourages and empowers local organisations, working on improving the lives of children and young people, to tap into the great potential of using volunteers within their organisation and in their activities in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals outlined by the UN.

“As Viet Nam continues to work towards improving the lives of disadvantaged children and youth, it is critical to mobilize the vast knowledge and talent of its people. Volunteers have a tremendous role to play in this effort. We need to continue to raise awareness about the need for volunteers and the benefits volunteers contribute to in the Vietnamese society. This project has made an important and lasting contribution to this effort.”

UNV Programme Officer –
Ms. Sandra Veloso,

Starting in November 2005, the project has achieved the following successes:

- Provided small grants to local social organizations in Ho Chi Minh City to support innovative projects that improve the lives of disadvantaged children and youth by giving them access to basic education, vocational training, social services and employment
- Provided two training courses in volunteer management in Ha Noi,
- Developed a Volunteer Management Manual that has been made available to over 250 social organizations
- Promoted the benefits and diverse roles of volunteers in development efforts throughout Ho Chi Minh City .





Health Volunteers Overseas and volunteers to help attain the Millennium Development Goals

The last twelve months have been a period of significant change and progress for the Disability Forum. After many years of help from various donors and logistical support from Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO), Disability Forum changed into a Vietnamese organization: Inclusive Development Action - IDEA for short. We come under the the umbrella of the Vietnam Foundation for Science and Technology.

Although this was the major change for us, there were many other highlights. We challenged perceptions held by many, when we helped organize a major cross country trip of disabled people in modified motor vehicles. They started in Ho Chi Minh City and went northwards, stopping in Dien Bien Phu and Yen Bai, before reaching Ha Noi. Each night, they met with local disabled people's organizations and government officials. Many local and national newspapers covered these visits, which provided a lot of positive coverage.

We also had a "fun day" celebrating Vietnam Day for Disabled People in Bach Thao Park, where organisations and volunteer groups joined together to share in various activities such as wheelchair racing (for non-wheelchair users), booth decorating, and a fashion show. There were many stalls selling various products produced by disabled self-help groups. It was also used as an opportunity to hold training sessions on how to work with people with disabilities, such as the

correct way to approach and guide someone who is blind.

A key part of the funding for this project was for the funding of a foreign volunteer as advocacy advisor. Voluntary Service Overseas, the British volunteer sending agency sent us Richard O'Brien, who is disabled himself. "Viet Nam is certainly a country on the move, and I am working with everyone else at IDEA, to make sure that people with disabilities have the same chance to partake in the opportunities as mainstream society" – says Richard.

IDEA is very much aware that as an information exchange, it has subscribers throughout the country. Our National Conference therefore was held in Ho Chi Minh City, enabling many southern groups to come and join in discussions and workshops. It was useful to have so many representatives from many different organizations in one place. The conference was also used as a venue for one of several participatory meetings to contribute ideas about disability issues.

IDEA have visited several communities that expressed an interest in setting up disabled women's groups. Several groups are in the process of being set up, under the auspices of the Women's Union. HIV awareness trainings



People With Disabilities in the cross-country MDG trip

were undertaken, where we provided information in an accessible form to disabled people.

Volunteerism is undoubtedly one of the strengths of modern Viet Nam. Many groups would be unable to exist without the volunteer input of time, enthusiasm, and expertise. IDEA has tried over the past year to help groups improve and develop their use of volunteers. It has held gender awareness workshops for volunteers, and a volunteer management workshop for their managers, run with the assistance of Education for Development of Ho Chi Minh City.

After such an active year, it would be easy to rest on our laurels. We have many exciting projects however in the pipeline. We are already planning our next national conference

A writing competition has been launched, where we ask for life stories, and the best stories will be published.. This acts as an awareness building exercise, as well as sharing success stories. We will also run a workshop on micro business skills for disabled women, run by disabled women with successful business experiences to share

With the help of the MDG Small Grants Facilities from the UNV, IDEA has been able to assist people with disabilities to participate more fully in society. We look forward to another year of success.



Enjoying the event marking Vietnam Day for Disabled People, 2006





Greater Involvement of People Living With HIV/AIDS Project highlights 2006

In 2006, the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) project, which is implemented by the Vietnamese Women's Union in partnership with UNV and technical assistance from UNAIDS, carried out activities in Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh and Ho Chi Minh City. There are 11 UNVs serving in the project.

The project's main objective is to involve PLHIV in voluntary HIV activities through capacity building.

Over the year, training courses on the new HIV/AIDS Law, basic knowledge of HIV, home-based care, counseling skills, advocacy skills, etc. were provided to UNVs, Women's Union staff members and People Living with HIV (PLHIV) community based on their needs. This helped increase awareness of the GIPA concept in the PLHIV community which also increased their meaningful participation in HIV/AIDS activities. Many of the trained PLHIV have been able to talk about GIPA and other HIV/AIDS related issues at trainings, workshops, public events and the media on HIV/AIDS.

An exchange visit to GIPA Cambodia was organized for the project participants to share information, learn and compare the GIPA initiatives, replicate the best practices. As the project had been run on different lines in Cambodia, this proved to be fruitful experience for the Vietnam team.

National UNVs, with support from local



UNV, USAID and Women's Union staffs join the opening of a local young women's club

volunteer groups and provincial Women's Union staff provided counseling and referred a considerable number of PLHIV to available care and support services. A supporting network for referral system has also been set up through these activities.

Meetings with local service providers were organized in the provinces to share information, raise awareness and increase the understanding of GIPA. The meetings aim to reduce stigma and discrimination toward PLHIV and their families, thus contributing directly to the increased access to the services for PLHIV.

Empathy Clubs and other PLHIV groups in the four provinces were supported through regular trainings on home-based care and sup-

port, ARV treatment and adherence etc. Training on Group management skills, Counseling and community advocacy skills, Planning and reporting skills were also provided based on their needs.

Understanding and support of the GIPA concept has increased in the partner organization. This is one of the aims of the project, and will be promoted to other stakeholders in 2007..

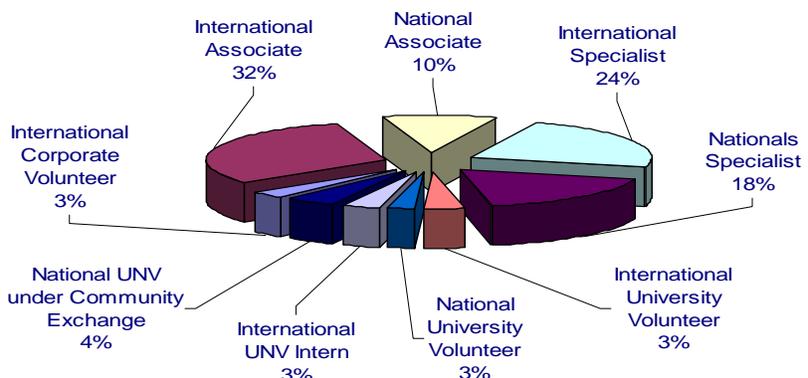
The first GIPA Annual Workshop was held in October 2006. It brought all the partners together to review the project progress, and discuss future challenges.

The project will continue until October 2008.

In the year 2006, 116 UNVs served in different UN agencies and partner organizations. Of those, 65% were international UN Volunteers (including Corporate Volunteers, UNV Associates, UNV Specialists, University Volunteer and UNV Intern).

Meanwhile, 35% of serving UNVs in the year 2006 were Vietnamese. They worked as UNV Associates, UNV Specialists, University Volunteers and UN Volunteers under Community Exchange Programme.

UNV Statistics 2006



Facts & Figures



Volunteers in Viet Nam's Economic Centre commits to the country's development

The International Volunteer Day 2006 was celebrated early in Ho Chi Minh city, attracting hundreds of people, especially young volunteers who were keen to find out about volunteering.

25 national and international volunteer agencies, groups and organizations gathered at the city's Children House to mark the day in an open-door event named 'Develop Viet Nam – Develop Yourself'.

The event aimed at sharing information on volunteering, as well as marking the distinctive contribution of volunteers to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) achievements.

"Volunteers often make their contribution in silence, so we need to have such event like this to acknowledge their meaningful work", said Thuy, a volunteer at Education For Development.

"Many people wants to contribute their time and effort to help less-fortunate people and contribute to the country's development, but they don't know how and where to start"- said Sandra Veloso – United Nations Volunteer Programme Officer - "This is the place where they can get a lot of information on volunteering opportunities".

"We always try our best to match volunteers, especially the young and disadvantaged ones, with volunteering opportunities as we understand that development can only succeed when it is inclusive, where everyone can participate, where there is no discrimination and stigma and where a strong spirit of cooperation between citizens and the gov-



Young volunteers in Ho Chi Minh City enjoy the celebration of International Volunteers Day 2006

ernment exists", Sandra added.

UNV joined this event with an information booth focusing on volunteering opportunities to help people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). At the booth, UN volunteers shared information about volunteering with UNV, its GIPA project (Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS). Also, a self-help group of PLWHA actively participated in the booth and raised fund by selling their products.

Participating agencies contributed to the event by bringing various performances of young people with traditional folk songs, music, drama and modern dance.

In between the performance, the organizers ran a panel discussion with the theme "Develop Vietnam, Develop yourself", in which five national and international volunteers shared their volunteering experience with the general public.

Visitors actively joined the celebration by participating in a MDGs quiz competition, where they had fun testing their knowledge on the MDGs.

This was also the first time International Volunteers Day was organized and celebrated in the country's faster economic developing centre.



We want to volunteer!



This annual report has been put together by the collective effort of United Nations Volunteers in Viet Nam .

UN Volunteers in Viet Nam:

25-29 Phan Boi Chau

Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Phone: (84-4) 942 1495

Fax: (84-4) 942 2267

Email: unv@undp.org.vn

Website: <http://www.un.org.vn/unv>

