



DISABILITY RESEARCH AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Newsletter

October 2015

INTRODUCTION

Established on 03/12/2005, DRD is a non-governmental and non-profit organization working for the rights of PWDs and operated by people with disabilities (PWDs).

DRD and the community are building a support model based on the rights of PWDs in an effort to foster equal opportunities for PWDs, encourage and create favorable conditions for PWDs to participate fully in all activities like other members in society.

Until now, DRD has been supported over 3,500 PWDs in HCM City and a network of over 30 disability groups in the southern of Vietnam. With many diverse services of providing internships, employment, skills training, advocacy campaign, moving assistance, scholarships, computers, assistive devices, consultation, peer counseling, propagations, seminars and events raising awareness on disability issues, ... DRD is rated as one of 20 non-governmental organizations that efficiently operate in Vietnam and is the leading one in supporting PWDs to integrate into the community.

DRD would like to send to all sponsors, partners, friends and PWDs community the Newsletter as a channel of information sharing.

Kind Regards.

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Mr. Joakim Parker presenting six new projects to support people with disabilities in Vietnam - Photo Source: Lao Dong Thu Do newspaper



Mr. Joakim Parker presenting six new projects to support people with disabilities in Vietnam - Photo Source: Lao Dong Thu Do newspaper

1. DRD receives help from the American Government

On October 27, 2015, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the launch of six new projects to support people with disabilities in Vietnam.

The main objectives of these projects are to help improve the health, promote social inclusion as well as the rights of peoples with disabilities (PWD). This includes support to implement the Convention of the United Nations regarding the rights of PWD, to strengthen the coordination and implementation of the Law on PWD in Vietnam, to improve the system of rehabilitation services and provide direct assistance to PWD in the fields of physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy.

Thanks to its 10 years of experience in the field of supporting PWD, the Disability Research and Capacity Development Center (DRD) was one of the recipients of this support from the US Government to implement the project “Reach integration of people with disabilities” in Binh Dinh and Tay Ninh provinces during the period 2015-2017.

The objectives of this project are to create a society without barriers for PWD, including the respect of their rights and the possibility to take part in all social, economic and educational activities in an egalitarian way. By applying the social model based on the legal rights of PWD and enhancing the application of social work and of an approach based on community resources, this project focuses on activities that need the participation of the local authorities to raise awareness for PWD and the members of the community through behavior change communication to ensure that everyone has a proper understanding of the rights of PWD, of the capacity building for local PWD to help them to integrate society in an appropriate way. The project will also establish monitoring teams including PWD and local authorities to check and improve the access of public facilities.

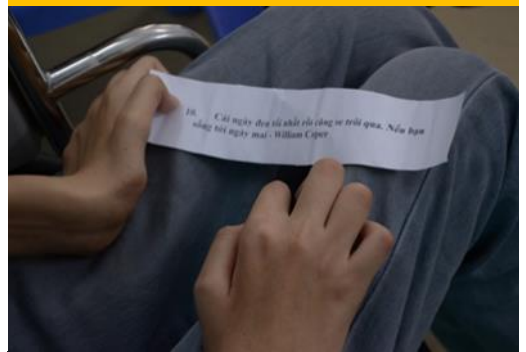
The project is an important element in the promotion of DRD mission: help PWD to be more confident, and have a better quality of life in a non-discriminatory society by improving their skills and advocacy.

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2. Topic “Quotations and life”

On September 20, 2015, at the Disability Research and Capacity Development Center - DRD, the Independent Living project organized a meeting on this topic with the participation of 20 people with disabilities under the support of the Nippon Foundation and the Human Care Association Japan. It was an opportunity to help the participants to share successes and failures, meaningful lessons for their life. It also was the occasion for everyone to recognize their own problems.

Some topics have been inspired by quotations such as: “If you are self-confident, you will inspire trust to others – German proverb” or “Accept responsibility for your own life. Remember, it is you who will get you where you want to be. No one else – Les Brown”. Everything aimed to what is considered as valuable, important and meaningful to everyone.



One of the quotations shared by the participants

Mrs T. M. confided: “In my hands, I have this quotation: “There is no desperate situation, there only is people desperate by the situation – Anonymous”. Currently, my health is not good; I can die at any moment. However, I think that each person is a unique individual with different personalities, with different feelings of joy and sadness. In my opinion, the life is in an impasse only because we easily lost confidence and stop to try. So, if our health is good, if we still can live, breath, make what we like to do, this is a priceless gift.” [>> Read more](#)

4. Strengthening the Capacity of the Association of Disability Rights

From October 12– 16, 2015, a training session titled “Strengthening the Capacity of the PWD organization ‘Association of Disability Rights’” in Hanoi was held.

This training course belongs to the ongoing project titled “Implementation of the rights of people with disabilities”, by the Mobility International USA



(MIUSA) and the Center for Action to the Community Development Center (ACDC), designed to promote the implementation and monitoring of rights for people with disabilities in Vietnam.

In the span of a week, the participants shared and discussed about American Disability Law, as well as compared the politics of people with disabilities in Vietnam to other countries. In addition, the delegation also visited and met representatives of five ministries. Of those ministries included: Health, Transport, Education, Construction, Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs. These ministries offered their opinions, suggestions, and concerns.

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Mr. Duong Van Sau – vice-president of Tay Ninh Department of Education

3. First working meeting of the project “Reach integration of people with disabilities” in Tay Ninh

On October 15, 2015, the Disability Research and Capacity Development Center (DRD) participated in a meeting in the office of the Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs of Tay Ninh Province. The participants were Mr. Nguyen Van Qua – Vice-president of the Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs of Tay Ninh Province; Mr. Duong Van Sau – Vice-president of the Department of Education and Training; Mrs. Duong Thi Thu Hien – Chairwoman of the Tay Ninh Union of Science and Technology; and representatives of different other services. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss about the feasibility of the project “Reach integration of people with disabilities” – a project that DRD would like to realize in Tay Ninh. The objectives of this project are: - 1/Raise awareness about disability to the members of society and people with disabilities (PWD) themselves to promote the rights of PWD and to help build the

foundation for a disability-friendly environment in the future. - 2/Improve accessibility to enhance rights of PWD in the use of social services so they can fully access and contribute to society like people without disabilities. - 3/ Capacity building for non-profit organizations working with PWD in the province so they become effective and sustainable and can contribute to the movement for PWD in the country.

During the meeting, the representatives of the different departments and services gave a positive feedback about the feasibility and the very specific objectives of the project. Mr. Duong Van Sau – vice-president of the Department of Education, said: “I am very excited with this project not only because it will have a certain impact for PWD but also because the different services of the Department of Education and Training will receive information about disabilities issues. This will increase our capacities and allows a better service for the questions related to disabilities.”

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Sharing of GES

5. Project of improving manual wheelchair of Global Equipment Services Company

On October 22, 2015, at the Disability Research and Capacity Development Center (DRD), representatives of DRD had a meeting with the management of the project as well as the engineers of Global Equipment Services Company (GES) under the High Tech Park of District 9. GES is specialized in semiconductor products and technologies. GES will soon implement a project to improve wheelchairs. This is a non-profit project of the company under its social responsibility program. GES will first focus on manual wheelchairs and if it is successful, the company will extend the project to electric wheelchairs.

The aim of this workshop was to understand the needs of people with severe disabilities in using manual wheelchair in order to improve this type of wheelchairs and propose a better service for them. The company would like to propose a finished product which reaches the required technical standards, has

enough durability and a beautiful design. This will contrast with the models currently available on the Vietnamese market.

In this project, DRD will act as a bridge, supporting GES in the following areas:

- Create 2 groups to represent the 2 different models that will be designed: 1 model for people suffering from polio (with normal spinal cord, movements of the back and hands) and 1 model for people suffering from a spinal cord injury.
- Arrange time for GES engineers to meet and exchange practices with the sample group for this research.
- Check trial models during the development process.
- Establish centralized locations for people with disabilities to receive wheelchairs, guidance about their utilization and maintenance. In a first time, 3 centers will be opened in different strategic areas of HCMC.

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6. Training for Lecturers: Equality and Integration for People with Disabilities

From September 28, 2015 to October 2, 2015, DRD and with the International Labour Organization offered a training course about equality and integration for people with disabilities. Dr. Maureen Gilbert led the course. The content was professional and scientifically designed to make sure every participant understood the most basic issues others after 5 participating days. Participants of the training are lecturers from universities and delegates from organizations of people with disabilities in Hanoi and Cantho.

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List of Donors 1forchange campaign Sep & Oct, 2015

1. Mrs Mỹ Hằng — 10.000.000 VNĐ
2. Mrs Lê Thiên Hương — 500.000 VNĐ
3. Mrs Thảo — 5.000.000 VNĐ
4. Mrs Bùi Thị Lệ — 50.000 VNĐ
5. Mr Đặng Hữu Nguyên — 100.000 VNĐ
6. Mr Hồ Huy Sơn — 200.000 VNĐ
7. Mr Ivan Khánh — 100.000 VNĐ

2. Obstacles prevent necessary treatment of autistic children

Misperception, lack of early detection and low awareness of parents are the main obstacles that hinder the social integration of autistic children in Viet Nam, experts said at a recent seminar on autism in Ha Noi.

Speaking at the seminar, which was part of an event held on Sunday for 300 families with autistic children to interact and discover, health experts said that the biggest challenge in tackling autism was the limited understanding of autism spectrum disorders.

Autism was often perceived as sickness and a 'domestic problem' rather than a long-term developmental disability which needs support from the government, they said.

The experts also said it was difficult to access services for early detection, early intervention and social inclusion due to lack of services, low awareness of people and discrimination.

Many parents were unaware of the signs of autism to take early action; development screening has not been incorporated into routine care for young children. In addition, intervention services for children were insufficient and exceed the affordability of many families, they said.

Dr Nguyen Thanh Mai, a pediatrics lecturer of Ha Noi Medical University, said in the courses for doctors, her university had recently added to the curriculum the content related to examination and diagnostics to detect early signs of autism.

However, doctors in remote and disadvantaged areas did not often have opportunities to update knowledge on this issue, she added.

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Special day: Forty couples with disabilities were married in a group wedding held in HCM City on Tuesday.

1. VN disabled couples get dream wedding in HCMC

Nguyen Hoang Linh and Truong Thi Diem Phuong, a visually impaired couple from Binh Duong Province, had their dream wedding after 17 years of living together.

The couple work as lottery vendors and have two children.

"Because of poverty, we could never dream of having a wedding," Phuong said, crying.

Tu and Phuong finally got their wish when the HCM City Association for Support of People with Disabilities on October 20 held a group wedding.

Forty couples were married at the Him Lam Palace in the city's Go Vap District.

Ten of the couples are visually impaired and the others use wheelchairs because of various kinds of physical disability.

Most of them work as lottery vendors

or at centres that support the disabled.

The couples were provided wedding dresses, suits and ao dai, wedding rings, flowers, photography services, a wedding feast and gifts donated by sponsors.

The organiser also offered each couple VND7 million (\$340) to help them start a business or new life.

"The wedding helps make their dream come true," said artist Kim Cuong, vice chairwoman of the association, who spent more than three months with partners and friends to prepare for the function.

Celebrities like MC Thanh Bach and pop star Dam Vinh Hung performed for free at the group event.

The Viet Nam Book of Records gave a certificate and trophy to the organiser for holding the largest-ever group wedding for people with disabilities in Viet Nam.

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Recruiting People With Disabilities For Positions at Convenient Stores

1. Sales officer

Location: Him Lam apartment, District 6, HCMC

Quantity: 02 people (Priority to males)

Job descriptions:

- Display goods and clean up counters
- Restock counters and shelves
- Check goods to make sure the quantity and quality follow store standards
- Have knowledge about the products
- Answer questions of the customers

2. Accounting/Cashier

Location: District 12, HCMC

Quantity: 02 (Female or Male)

Job descriptions:

- Welcome the customers; guide wholeheartedly; consult and answer the questions of customers about goods, products and services at store
- Operate cash register
- Maintain a professional standard when dealing with customers
- Report the turnover of the store to the manager
- Keep the area of the cash counter tidy
- Work as a team with coworkers

3. Connection Analyst Intern

Location: Pasteur Street, Ward 6, District 3, HCMC

Quantity: 02 people (Priority to males)

Time working: Following shift and flexible hours (to be able to work at night)

Job requirements:

- Proficient in English, especially speaking and writing skills
- Familiar with tools that support the making of. CHM files/ Mastering Microsoft Office
- Able to work solo or as part of a team
- Can work under high pressure
- Analytical and strong troubleshooting skills

Able to work in a dynamic and fast-paced environment

Working knowledge of Windows XP and Microsoft Office required

Job descriptions:

Resolve technical issue/errors related to DiCentral web services

Work with EDI mapping in upgrading EDI maps

Track support inquires through the support CRM insuring the customer issue is resolved

Follow up on unacknowledged transactions

Set-up and maintain EDI trading partner relationship as needed

Any other duties as assigned by supervisor

For further information, please contact:

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DRD's employment news in October

1. Job seekers with disabilities: From January 2015 to present, Employment Department of DRD approached 247 people with disabilities who were looking for the job. Particularly, on this October 2015, there were 15 job seekers with disabilities and among these number, 2 people with disabilities introduced jobs at company with these positions: polish and ticket plane seller.

2. Recruitment employers: From January 2015 to present, Employment Department of DRD built networking with over 67 employers. From October 2015, there were 7 enterprises initially registered recruiting people with disabilities to work including accountant, cashier, sale person, packing designer, customer service, leather garment.

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