



DISABILITY RESEARCH AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Newsletter

August 2017

INTRODUCTION

Disability Research and Capacity Development (DRD) was established on December 3rd, 2005 under the sponsorship of the Ford Foundation. DRD functions as a non-governmental and non-profit organization and is operated by and for people with disabilities.

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

Until now, the 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 activities such as introducing internships, employment, skills training, advocacy campaign, moving assistance, scholarships, computers devices, assistive devices, information consultation, peer counseling, propagations, seminars and events raising awareness on disability issues, ... DRD is rated as one of 20 non-governmental organizations efficiently operated in Vietnam and is the leading one in supporting the 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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Ông Craig Hart - Quyền giám đốc USAID phát biểu tại hội thảo



1 Workshop “Information sharing and coordination among disability support project in Vietnam”

In Aug 24th-25th 2017, in Tay Ninh, U.S Agency for International Development (USAID) in coordination with National Coordination Committee on Disabilities (NCCD) held the workshop “Information sharing and coordination among disability support project in Vietnam”. Workshop is held annually to report implementing result in disability support work which carried out in 7 provinces over the country by 6 partner organizations. The projects mainly focus on health and rehabilitation for PWDs which implemented by VNAH, VietHealth, IC, MCNV and HI; the other 2 projects focus on promoting the rights of PWDs and access to public works implemented by ACDC and DRD.

The workshop took place under the lead of Mr.Nguyen Trong Dam – Deputy of MOLISA, Mr.Nguyen Van Hoi – Director of Social Protection,

MOLISA, Mr.Craig Hart – Mission Acting Director of USAID in Vietnam, Mr.Nguyen Thanh Ngoc – Vice-chairman of Tay Ninh Province People’s Committee. Besides, there was the participation of Ms.Dinh Thi Thuy – Representative of NCCD, many relevant Ministries and Departments, Department’s representative of Tay Ninh, Binh Dinh, Binh Phuoc, Quang Nam, Hue, etc.

In the workshop, except that the organizations presented about achieved results of projects in 2017 and work plan in 2018, policy-driven presentations from relevant Ministries were also shared and exchanged. Besides, organizations of

PWDs shared about the way to establish and the business model of PWDs. This was an opportunity for organizations of and for PWDs who could share mutually experience as well as exchange and learn together, bring into play cohesion spirit to promote disability support in comprehensive inclusion.

Huynh Kim Phụng



Mr.Nguyen Trong Dam - Deputy of MOLISA listen and gave comment for organization's work plan in 2018



2 New windows for students with disabilities

On the morning of June 3, the event "One World for All", belonging to the project "Access to education for students with disabilities", took place at the Reading room of the Library of the University of Social Sciences and Humanities.

The participants of the event were Ms. Luu Thi Anh Loan, Managing Director of the Disability Research and Capacity Development Center (DRD), MSc. Pham Thi Hong Hoa - Deputy Director, International Cooperation and Development for International Project, MSc. Bui Thu Hang - Director of the Library; MSc. Dao Duc Ha - Project Coordinator, Mr. Nguyen Tat Toan - School Secretary, and more than 100 lecturers and students from different faculties and departments.

Speaking during the program, Ms. Luu Thi Anh Loan emphasized: "Currently, the proportion of people with disabilities with a college degree or above is only 0.1%. Most people with disabilities face many difficulties in learning, traveling, using materials, as well as expressing their individual roles in the group or the organization. Recognizing these shortcomings, from 2013, we launched the project "Access to education for students with disabilities" for students from

these universities: University of Pedagogy, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, RMIT University, together with universities in Tay Ninh and Binh Dinh provinces. The project is still going on and will continue to bring equality and to support the maximum of limitations that people with disabilities are facing. "

During the event, attendees experienced the daily difficulties of people with disabilities through wheelchair mobility, blindfolding, etc. At the same time, there were some other activities, such as sign language instruction, provision of learning aids, materials ... for people with disabilities in the university.

Ms. Tran Thi Thu (Department of Library - Informatics) shared: "Through the activities of the program, I feel respect for the students with disabilities, especially those who have visual impairment. It was very difficult for me to cover my eyes and move in the hall. However, people with disabilities have to travel in many areas such as roads, places with many obstacles ... it really is a challenge. "

In addition, 4 packages of initiatives to support students with disabilities have been launching during the event:

1. The souvenir shop (Faculty of Social Work): it will help students with disabilities to have the opportunity to be self-employed, to study group business models and it will create employment opportunities for them to cover cost of living and studying.
2. Ready to accompany (Faculty of Education): a service center for students with disabilities providing counseling as well as support services at school will be created.
3. Building information products for learning and research needs of those who have visual impairment (School Library): Organizing and exploiting information products for people with disabilities; training staff on skills to support students with disabilities.
4. Creation of a learning, entertainment, and leisure information channel for people with disabilities (Library and Information Science): it will help children with disabilities to access books while implementing a life manual for students from the Ho Chi Minh City National University.

In an effort to remove the barriers of people with disabilities in general, and students with disabilities in particular, the initiatives promise to be one of the bridges to help people with disabilities stay closer to the community.

The event is a part of the project "Access to education for students with disabilities", funded by the Embassy of Ireland, the University of Social Sciences and Humanities – the HCMC National University, in collaboration with the Disability Research and Capacity Development Center (DRD), to help students understand the difficulties faced by people with disabilities at school and in public. In addition, the event sought to find solutions that help people with disabilities integrate into the community effectively, especially in the university.

Post and photos: PHUNG HAO

3 The Workshop "Models to support People with Disabilities", Can Tho City 2017



Picture: Mr. Nguyen Minh Tri – The Director of Employment Service Center Can Tho city spoke at the workshop.

Capacity Development (DRD); Models to support PWDs from DRD; Activities and the role of families in supporting PWDs to integrate into the community of the Can Tho Association of People with Disabilities; and support activities for people with disabilities at Can Tho Employment Service Center during the year 2017.

After the workshop, the Center would like to receive the coordination and support in career counseling and PWDs startup from DRD Center, Can Tho Association of People with Disabilities, vocational education institutions, universities and local authorities. In the coming time, the Center will continue to implement career support programs in line with the aspirations of PWDs to provide the best support, so that PWDs to have their own jobs and earn a stable income to ensure their living.

Lê Hữu Thương

On the morning of July 20, 2017, at the Can Tho Job Service Center, a workshop entitled "Models to Support People with Disabilities (PWDs)" in Can Tho City 2017 was organized by the Employment Service Center Can Tho City.

Attending the conference, there were representatives from the DRD Center; Representative of Can Tho City

Association of People with Disabilities; Officials who work in providing professional assistance and employment for the laborers of 85 communes, wards and townships; Officials working in support employment for students of vocational education institutions and universities in Can Tho city and officials of DRD.

The workshop program includes: The legal basis to support PWDs and current barriers to this work by the Disability Research And



Picture: Ms. Huynh Ngoc Hong Nhung – Vice President of Can Tho City Association of People with Disabilities spoke at the workshop.



Picture: The workshop overview

1 Orange Village for AO victims to open in HCM City



A new centre that will offer rehabilitation and post-surgery care to Agent Orange victims will open by the end of the year in HCM City, according to the HCM City Association of Victims of Agent Orange.

The Orange Village, also called the Centre for Care, Support, Nourishment and Treatment, and Vocational Training for Agent Orange Victims, will open in Hoc Mon District. Major General Tran Ngoc Tho, chairman of the association, said the centre would provide shelter and vocational training for AO victims to help them integrate into society. Tho spoke at a ceremony held on August 4 to mark the 56th Agent Orange Day in Vietnam, which falls on August 10. For years, AO victims have been taken care of at the Thien Phuoc Centre for Disabled Children in Cu Chi District and Hoa Binh Village at Tu Du Hospital. Although the Party and State have offered monthly financial aid and healthcare support, AO victims still face significant challenges, Tho said. Domestic and foreign support for AO victims play a vital role in helping them integrate into society, he said.

The ceremony honoured organisations, enterprises and individuals that have worked with the Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin to support AO victims, including the HCM City Women's Union, Tu Du Hospital, My Duc Hospital, Vietnam Red Cross Society's HCM City chapter, and the Korean Cultural Centre in Vietnam. In Vietnam, around three million people have been affected by Agent Orange. Two million AO victims have severe disease or various forms of disability.

Source: [VNA](#)

ble and enabling environments and conditions, said the Molisa representatives.

Molisa in cooperation with other ministries plans to mainstream the Convention, noted the representatives, to secure equal opportunities for participation by all persons with disabilities and achieving the future the government wants for all Vietnamese citizens.

Source: [VOV](#)

2 Vietnam mainstreams convention on rights of persons with disabilities

The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs cosponsored a seminar regarding the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities today (June 23) in the capital city of Hanoi.

The Convention was the first human rights treaty of the third millennium and it requires countries that endorse it promote and protect the human rights of persons with disabilities.

It also requires that countries adopting the Convention periodically submit national reports delineating the status of its implementation.

The Convention was adopted by the Vietnam government in 2015 and entered into force that same year. Molisa has now begun preparing its first national report on the status of implementing it for submission to the UN.

Just two years on, remarkable progress has been seen in the implementation of the Convention, said representatives of Molisa, at the seminar.

It has guided the government in the formulation and enforcement of their legislation, strategies, policies and programs that promote equality, inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities in society and development.

Still more need be done, as studies revealed that far too many people experienced limitations in terms of completing day-to-day activities as the result of disability or long-standing ill health.

Those studies also suggested that the country has a long way to go in terms of fully meeting the obligations set out in the Convention.

Moving forward, more concrete actions and measures shall and can be taken to further remove barriers, create accessi-

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